PoliTO&UNICORE 4.0

UNIVERSITY CORRIDORS FOR REFUGEES
from Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon

**Call for applications for 3 study grants and welcome
services for refugee students enrolling in a
Master of Science Programme taught in English
for the Academic Year 2022-2023**

BACKGROUND

University Corridors for Refugees (UNICORE) are aimed at promoting and increasing opportunities for refugee students living in countries of first asylum, to obtain student visas and scholarships in Italy, through initiatives offered by universities and/or higher education organizations. The project also is aimed at strengthening a safe and legal entry for refugees who hold an academic degree and want to continue their studies in Italy by attending a Master of Science Programme.

The project partners are committed to support refugee students who entry in Italy with a scholarship and primary services (assistance, accommodation etc.) during their stay, as well as to accompany them during their studies and social inclusion process in Italy, in order to contribute to the strengthening of inclusive and welcoming societies.

Art. 1 – Objective and Project Partners

The general objective of the UNICORE 4.0 Project is to promote the right to higher education for refugees through study corridors from Nigeria, Niger and Cameroon to Italy.

The project is jointly promoted by a consortium of **National** and **Local** partners:
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Caritas Italiana
- Diaconia Valdese
- Centro Astalli
- Gandhi Charity
- Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)
- Italian universities signing the cooperation agreement for the project "University Corridors for Refugees - 4.0, including the Politecnico di Torino
- Ufficio per la Pastorale dei Migranti

Art. 2. - Beneficiaries

The benefits are intended for students:
- who reside in Nigeria, Niger and Cameroon;
- who have been recognized the refugee status in these countries in collaboration with UNHCR;
- who will meet the application requirements in art. 4.1 below and have been admitted to a Master of Science Programme (2nd level cycle - Laurea

Magistrale) of Politecnico di Torino taught in English (see list in Annex 1) for the A.Y. 2022/2023

Art. 3. - Supports and benefits offered to the winners
3.1 - Amount, number and duration of the scholarships
Politecnico di Torino will support winners with **3 scholarships supported by a legacy in memory of Guido and Alessandro Bonicelli** in case of Engineering students or by the **University funds** in case of Architecture students.

The Gross Amount of the scholarship is 7.000 € per year for the 2 years of the program. **The amount gross of all charges for the beneficiary account is 6.451,6 € per year**.
The Politecnico reserves the right to increase the amount of the scholarship up to 10.000€ per year (Politecnico Gross Amount) in case of new funds availability because of waivers or non-assignments.

The awarding of the scholarship for the second year is subject to the achievement of academic merit requirements (art. 7.2).

The project will award 3 scholarships distributed as follows:
- 2 scholarships to male students enrolled in Engineering/Architecture MSc;
- 1 scholarship to a female student enrolled in Engineering/Architecture MSc.

The scholarship covers the two years of the Master of Science Programme (A.Y. 2022/2023 and 2023/2024).

3.2 – Other benefits
Beneficiaries of the UNICORE 4.0 project will benefit of support in:
- full coverage of the expenses to be faced before the arrival in Italy: flight tickets, Visa and preparation of supporting documents provided by CARITAS;
- Politecnico tuition fee exemption;
- free accommodation for the 2 years of the program in a local student apartment in a shared room from October 2022;
- € 500 to buy a personal tablet provided by DIACONIA VALDESE;
- annual CITY Public transportation subscription, provided by DIACONIA VALDESE;
- psychological support;
- free Italian Course provided by the language center of the Politecnico;

- assistance of the staff of the Politecnico for any problem related to academic career and the enrolment procedures;
- bureaucratic assistance in the application for the Italian residence permit provided by Politecnico Immigration Desk;
- support and guidance for the bureaucratic procedure and for the access to local and extra-academic services (provided by DIACONIA VALDESE).

Beneficiaries will be asked to cover the following costs:
- students will only be asked to pay € 161,00[1] per year for the taxes collected by the Politecnico and transferred to other institutions (Premium for accident insurance, Enrollment revenue stamp and EDISU Piemonte);
- administrative expenses for the issuing and renewal of the residence permit for study reason (approximatively € 101,00 per application/year);
- meals;
- enrolment in National Health Service (approximatively € 149,00 per calendar year);
- mobile phone plans;
- other personal expenses.

Art. 4 - Requirements to apply and incompatibility

4.1 – Requirements to apply

Application is open for holders of International Protection, certified by UNHCR, residing in Nigeria, Niger and Cameroon who have been recognized refugee status in these countries and meet the following requirements:

1. have a Bachelor Degree in a foreign education system, outside Italy, providing access to a postgraduate degree program in the Country of issuance; the qualification must have been issued by a higher education institution accredited in the higher education system of the Country where the degree has been issued;
2. hold a degree obtained in or after 2017 and no later than April 30th, 2022;
3. have a grade average of at least 24/30 – referred to the Italian System. For the conversion of the average to the Italian grading system it will be used the official conversion formula of the Italian Ministry of Education (see Annex 2);

---

[1] The amount may change due to updates made every year by the Institutions involved

4. fulfill the access requirements for admission to a Master of Science Programme of Politecnico di Torino and have been admitted to a Master of Science Programme in the A.Y. 2022/2023 (taught in English) as listed in Annex 1;
5. have never before been enrolled in a Degree Programme at Politecnico or any other Italian University;
6. proficiency in the English language is required.

4.2 - Incompatibility
The UNICORE 4.0 study grants cannot be combined with:
- merit-based study grants/prizes issued by the Politecnico di Torino for the support of international students;
- study grants issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);
- Scholarships offered by the Conference of Italian University Rectors - CRUI in favor of international protection holders;
- study grants issued by foreign governmental bodies or institutions aimed at assisting the enrolment of international students at Italian Universities;
- Scholarships offered by Ente Regionale per il Diritto allo Studio Universitario (EDISU Piemonte);
- any other scholarships that infringes the regular participation to the project UNICORE 4.0.

Art. 5 – How to apply and deadlines
Students are allowed to apply for only **two** Master of Science Programmes taught in English offered by Politecnico di Torino (see Annex 1) and for only two universities among those participating in the UNICORE 4.0 project including the Politecnico di Torino.
In case of vacant seats due to lack of suitable candidates or withdrawal of the admitted candidate, the Politecnico di Torino reserves the right to search for eligible candidates from rankings of other University partners. Eligible candidates from external rankings must meet specific requirements of the Politecnico di Torino (see Art. 4.1)

5.1 - Application Form
Candidates who meet the requirements listed in Art. 4.1 are invited to fill in and attach all mandatory documents in the online application form at this link
https://didattica.polito.it/pls/portal30/sviluppo.pkg_apply.registrazione

Application form opens **on April 8th 2022, 12:00 (noon – Italian time) and closes April 29th 2022, 12:00 (noon – Italian time)**.

List of **MANDATORY DOCUMENTS** to attach in the application form:
1. A copy of the passport and the currently valid Refugee Identity card issued by or in collaboration with UNHCR or copy of the Proof of Registration (POR) Card;
2. A copy of the Bachelor Degree certificate OR official university document stating the date of graduation and programme;
3. Official Transcript of Records OR any other official document proving academic career and GPA with the list of passed exams and related marks;
4. Any relevant and additional document required by the specific programmes chosen (i.e. Syllabus and/or Portfolio, please see Annex 1);
5. English Language Certificate (IELTS 5.5 or equivalent https://didattica.polito.it/inte/en/apply_msc_lang) or signed declaration about English language proficiency (see Annex 3);
6. Curriculum Vitae

List of **NON-MANDATORY DOCUMENTS** to attach in the application form:
7. Motivation letter (max one A4 page);
8. Letter/s of reference written by a supervisor/advisor supporting the application;
9. Applicants are warmly recommended to shoot a short video CV (e.g. using mobile phone) where they introduce themselves and their motivations. The link of the video must be put in the CV document (document n. 6). Examples on how to create a video CV can be found in Google.com

The attached documents must be pdf, jpeg or png.
For more information about documents format and samples visit:
https://didattica.polito.it/inte/en/apply_msc_step1_docs

In this phase, any translation of documents edited in languages other than English, Spanish, French or Italian can be done directly by the candidates.

How to fill in the application form:
- REGISTER in the online application. Enter your personal information exactly as presented in your passport. It may take you approximately 20 minutes to

complete the application form. There is no time limit to fill it in and it can be completed in multiple sessions

- LOG IN the application with username and password received by email. If you don't receive the email, please double-check in your junk folder
- COMPLETE the sections sequentially
- SELECT up to two different MSc programmes (in order of preference)
- CHECK specific requirements per program (Annex 1)
- SELECT "Unicore scholarship" under the "Research and Academic scholarships" section and tick the buttons and upload in this specific section a copy of valid Refugee Identity card issued by or in collaboration with UNHCR or copy of the Proof of Registration (POR) Card
- ATTACH all other required documents according to Art. 5.1
- SUBMIT the application, clicking on SAVE and SUBMIT button

Once the procedure is completed applicants will receive a confirmation message by email, if they don't receive it, they have to check the SAVE AND SUBMIT section.

> Politecnico di Torino will be able to process only applications successfully submitted. Incomplete or incorrect applications will not be taken into consideration.

NOTE:
- the on-line form will be available only in during the application period.
- In no case it is possible to modify the application (selected programmes and/or documents attached) once the application has been submitted.
- Only complete applications with all the required documents, complying with the required format, can be considered for admission. In case of issues with documents and/or required format, please contact unicore@polito.it well in advance of the deadline to avoid submitting incomplete applications.

Art. 6 – Selection process and scholarship assignment
The selection process is divided into two steps:
- 1: Academic evaluation (Art. 6,1)
- 2: Interview (Art. 6.2)

6.1– Academic evaluation

Completed application will be sent to the Academic Evaluator of each Master of Science Programme. The Academic Evaluator assesses applications taking into account academic qualifications in order to verify if they meet the Politecnico di Torino entry requirements in terms of academic quality and coherence of curriculum for the specific program each candidate has chosen.

Evaluation outcomes (admitted/not admitted to the MSc program) will be available under section **EVALUATION** of each candidate APPLY personal page. Once the EVALUATION section is updated candidates get an automatic notification email.

6.2 – Interview

All candidates admitted to a MSc Program will be interviewed by the UNICORE BOARD, in order to evaluate the personal commitment, attitude and skills of the candidates and to ascertain the level of English.

The technical skills, subject competences and mastering of the English language will be assessed during the interview.

The interviews will take place online within June 10th 2022.

The day and time of the interview will be notified by e-mail directly to the candidates and to UNCHR.

During the interview, candidates will be asked to show their *Refugee Identity Card* or their *PoR Card* as indicated in Art.5 .

Only in the case that admitted candidates are more than 15, applicants will be ranked according to the GPA/GRADE AVERAGE (see art. 4.1 and Annex 2) and only the first 15 ranked candidates will be interviewed.

6.3 - Rankings and scholarship assignment

The UNICORE BOARD will assess candidates according to the following criteria:
1. GPA/GRADE AVERAGE as explained in Art. 4.1 and Annex 2 (score: 0-15)
2. Curriculum Vitae: education, professional experience and languages competences other than English (score: 0-15)
3. English language knowledge during the interview (score: 0-15)
4. Interview elements: specific skills or "technical skills", communication skills, critical thinking and problem solving, attitude and motivation, references. (score: 0-35)

As the three available scholarships are awarded on a gender balance ratio the UNICORE BOARD will elaborate two different rankings according to the gender of the candidates.

The rankings will be drawn up by the UNICORE BOARD summing up the results obtained in the four selections.

Candidates will be ranked in a descending order of scores and applicants who obtain a score of less than 50/80 will not be included in the final rankings.

Scholarships will be assigned according to the order of each ranking.

Only in the case that the list of eligible candidates does not include representatives of the two genders, the scholarships can be awarded to three representatives of the same gender.

For equal points, preference will be given to the younger candidate.

The **final ranking** will be published at the link https://international.polito.it/it/admission/prospective_students/polito_for_refugees/unicore_4_0 by **June 16th 2022**.

6.4 – Acceptance

Candidates must **accept** via written e-mail the scholarship **within June 30th, 2022**.

Failing to provide a feedback by the given deadline will cause the loss of the scholarship.

By accepting the scholarship, the candidate declares to be compliant with the benefits offered by UNICORE 4.0 as well as with the conditions indicated in this call for applications.

The candidate also declares under his own responsibility that he/she does not fall under any of the incompatibility conditions listed in Article 4.2 of this call for applications.

6.5 –Ranking scroll and reserve list

If one or more final selected candidates withdraw from the scholarship programme by the deadline of July 7th, 2022, the Politecnico di Torino will assign the scholarship to the next eligible candidate.

If there are no more candidates in the reserve list, Politecnico di Torino might decide to award the scholarship to a suitable candidate within the rankings of the partner universities of UNICORE 4.0. Eligible candidates from external rankings must meet the specific requirements of the degree programmes offered by Politecnico di Torino.

Art. 7 – Payment and maintenance of the scholarship

7.1 - Scholarship payment

The scholarship is finally assigned and paid only:

- after enrolment for the first time in a Master of Science Programme of Politecnico di Torino in the first semester A.Y. 2022/23, as a full-time student
- after student arrival in Torino.

In particular, payment of the scholarship is subordinate to:

- the possession of the admission requirements and relevant documentation for enrolment for A.Y. 2022/2023;
- the possession of the maintenance requirements explained in art. 7.2

> If the student does not complete all the enrolment procedures, for any reason, he/she will lose the right to the scholarship

Payment of the scholarship will occur in monthly instalments, after enrolment, covering the academic year (October 2022- September 2023) as follows:

- 1st payment period: October 2022- September 2023;
- if scholarship is maintained for second year (see art. 7.2): October 2023- September 2024

The payment of the instalments of the scholarship will start only after student arrival in Torino and after completion of enrolment procedures.

In order to receive the payment, scholarship recipients will be required to open a bank account in their name in an Italian bank or post office.

7.2 - Scholarship maintenance

In order to obtain the confirmation of the scholarship for the second academic year, students must meet the following requirements:

1. have a satisfactory academic performance level, in particular, achieve at least 30 credits (CFU) by September 30th 2023.

2. Please note that extra curricula or recognized credits (i.e. exams passed in a previous university career) credits related to language exams or recognized language certification even if taken in Politecnico di Torino will not be considered in the minimum number of achieved credits/exams;

3. register as a full-time student in the second year in the A. Y. 2023/24 of the same Master of Science Programme of first enrolment (internal transfer to another

program or suspension of studies is not compatible with the maintenance of the scholarship);

4. not having been assigned any other Italian or foreign scholarships (including scholarships of the Ente Regionale per il Diritto allo Studio Universitario – EDISU Piemonte, MAECI, etc.)

> Students must graduate within the last available session of their cohort, i.e. December 2024

7.3 Additional Renewals

Students who do not succeed to graduate within December 2024 can request a 12 months extension of the scholarship, at the condition to have earned at least 80 university credits by September 30th, 2024. Extension request must be submitted to unicore@polito.it and the UNICORE BOARD will evaluate the additional renewals and its duration.

7.4 - Withdrawal

Selected refugee students who will withdraw from the degree programme during their studies will automatically lose all benefits of the scholarship.

Art.8 - Treatment of personal data

The processing of personal data, pursuant to the General Data Protection Regulation (EU Regulation 2016/679) and the Code regarding the protection of personal data, Legislative Decree 30 June 2003 n. 196 and subsequent amendments, is carried out by the Politecnico di Torino exclusively for institutional purposes and for the purposes of transparency imposed by the law in force and will therefore be based on principles of correctness, lawfulness and relevance for the same purposes.

The data controller is the Politecnico di Torino di Torino - C.so Duca degli Abruzzi, n. 24, 10129 Turin, in the person of the Rector.

For information: https://didattica.polito.it/privacy/ or address to privacy@polito.it .

The Data Protection Officer of the Politecnico di Torino, to whom interested parties can contact for questions relating to the processing of their personal data and the exercise of their rights, can be contacted at: dpo@polito.it

Art.9 – Officer in charge of the administrative procedure

According to art. 5 of Italian Law n. 241 of 07/08/1990, the official in charge of the administrative procedure concerning this call for application is Francesca Brazzani responsabile.mobilita@polito.it.

Art.10 – Contacts

International Affairs Department - Incoming Mobility Office: unicore@polito.it