



Università
degli Studi di
Messina

CEMI - Centro per la Migrazione, l'Integrazione sociale e la comunicazione interculturale

The Rector

President of the Center for Migration, Social Inclusion and Intercultural Communication

- Noted that the University of Messina promotes the inclusion of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers through the initiatives of the CEMI Interdepartmental Center "Center for Migration, Social Inclusion and Intercultural Communication";
- considered that the University of Messina has joined the "Manifesto of Inclusive Universities" promoted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with the aim of facilitating access to higher university education and promoting inclusion of beneficiaries of international protection;
- considered that, based on art. 3 of the aforementioned Manifesto, the Universities reserve specific scholarships for students and researchers who are beneficiaries of international protection;
- considered that art. 4 of the manifesto provides for actions for the legal entry of refugee students also in third countries to whom specific scholarship are reserved;
- noted that the University of Messina has joined, with other Italian universities, the National Protocol among the same universities, UNHCR, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Italian Republic (MAECI), Italian *Caritas*, Diaconia Valdese, Gandhi Charity and other associations, linked to the University Corridors for Refugees project - UNICORE 8.0 (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe 2026-28) involved in the project;
- considered that the aim of the Project is to promote university corridors for the right to study in favour of refugee students in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe;
- according to the guidelines of the Project and the agreements shared with all the participating universities, even in relation to the criteria and methods for selecting students referred to in this enrolment call;
- considered that the University of Messina, by deliberation of the Rector 526/2026 prot. 29340/2026 del of March 2th 2026 gave CEMI a mandate to start all the activities useful for the achievement of the UNICORE Project.

ANNOUNCES

UNiversity Corridors for REFugees - UNICORE 8.0 (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe 2026-28)

Call for admission for 2 study grants for refugee students admitted to second cycle degree courses in English at the University of Messina for the academic year 2026-2028.



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Art. 1 Objectives, subject and terms

The general objective of the **University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 8.0 (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe 2026-28)** project is to promote the right to higher education of refugees through the creation of educational corridors from Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe to Italy. The Project is promoted by a consortium of partners:

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Caritas Italiana

Diaconia Valdese

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)

The Italian Universities better specified in the Cooperation Agreement

The University's commitment has been formally sanctioned with the adhesion to the Cooperation Agreement for the realization of the UNICORE 8.0 project.

The beneficiaries of the Project are holders of international protection residing in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe and admitted to one of the master's degree courses listed in article 9.

The benefits will be awarded for the 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 academic years. The merit requirements for the maintenance and renewal of the study grant are specified in article 6.

1.1 Local partners

The University of Messina, on the basis of the commitments that will be formalized with a specific local Cooperation Agreement, is supported in the Project by the following local partners: Arcidiocesi of Messina Lipari S. Lucia del Mela (hereinafter called Arcidiocesi), Diaconia Valdese, ERSU, Community of Sant'Egidio.

1.2 Benefits and supports offered

Benefits included in the scholarship to all the winners will be the following:

- € 4,000 annual scholarship for the two-year master's degree (8,000 in total), plus € 2,000 for a 6 months extended period if necessary. Payment will be divided in instalments and subject to the achievement of merit requirements. Winners will be provided with more information upon enrolment (University of Messina);
- exemption from academic fees (University of Messina);
- accommodation in a university residence starting from October (University of Messina);
- free meals at university canteens on opening days (ERSU);
- public transportation subscription (University of Messina);



- university tutor to support integration into university life and in solving problems related to study (University of Messina);
- Healthcare coverage through National Health System or private (or mutual) health insurance (Arcidiocesi);
- economic contribution at the beginning of the project to meet the first needs in the period between the arrival in Messina and the payment of the first instalment of the scholarship (Arcidiocesi);
- further economic contribution for the purchase of study material, clothing, medicines (Arcidiocesi);
- legal and health support, advice on migrant and refugee rights, social integration, orientation to social and health services (Arcidiocesi);
- accompanying the students through administrative procedures and local services. Guidance on local extra-academic activities and services (Diaconia valdese);
- coverage of the administrative expenses related to the application for the required residence permit for study reasons (Diaconia valdese);
- economic contribution for the purchase of food during the Christmas and summer break (Diaconia valdese);
- further social and cultural services (additional Italian language classes, meetings with linguistic-cultural mediators, free access to cultural events and more) may be provided by all the local partners in order to facilitate the students' integration and well-being.

Art. 2 Incompatibility

The UNICORE 8.0 study grant is incompatible with:

- any type of merit-based study grant/prizes promoted by the University of Messina in favour of international students;
- study grants issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);
- CRUI grants for beneficiaries of international protection;
- study grants issued for international students and promoted by foreign governments or institutions on the basis of agreements with the University of Messina;
- regional scholarship for the right to study offered by Sicily region (ERSU).

Art. 3 Requirements for admission

Application is open exclusively to candidates who meet the following requirements:

1. are residing in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe and have been recognized the refugee status in collaboration with UNHCR.
2. Hold a qualification valid for admission to the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programme, namely:
 - a. achieved in the residing country or in the country of origin;



- b. issued by a higher education institution accredited by the Ministry of Education of the country that issued the degree;
 - c. valid for access to an on-site second cycle level degree Course;
 - c. obtained in or after 2021 and no later than April 1st 2026.
3. Have achieved a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0, according to the tertiary education grading system of the country of graduation, or of at least 24/30 according to the comparable table issued by the Italian Ministry of Education (as for attachment 1 of this call).
 4. Meet the specific admission requirements of the Second cycle degree program of interest.
 5. Have never been enrolled before in a degree programs at the University of Messina or at any other partner university of UNI.CO.RE.
 6. Have proficiency in the English language.

Each student can apply to a maximum of two universities participating in the project, indicating the order of preference in the application.

Art. 4 Selection criteria and documents required for the application

4.1 Selection criteria

Students are selected on the basis of merit requirements.

The evaluation will be carried out by a committee of experts appointed by a specific Rector's decree.

4.2 Application documents

See the application procedure on the UNICORE website.

4.3 Deadlines and modalities

Applications can be sent from March 2nd to April 17th, 2026 following the procedure available on the UNICORE website (<https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>).

The manager of the administrative procedure is Dr. Marcella D'Arrigo.

Any requests for information can be sent to cemi@unime.it.

Art. 5 Selection process

The selection process is divided into two steps:

1. evaluation of the documentation;
2. online interview.

5.1 Step 1: evaluation of the documentation

The committee of experts will evaluate the documentation received according to the following criteria:



- academic background and GPA or equivalent grade point average (as for attachment 1 of this call) (score: 0-15);
- evaluation of CV (score: 0-15);
- coherence between previous studies and selected Second Cycle Degree programme (score: 0-10).

At the end of the first qualification session, a ranking will be drawn up and only the first 6 candidates will be able to access the interview step. With the same score, the younger candidate precedes.

Candidates admitted to the second step will be notified by e-mail by May 15th 2026; the partial ranking will also be published in anonymous form on the website www.unime.it on the same page where this announcement is published.

5.2 Step 2: online interview

All candidates admitted to step 2 will be interviewed by the committee of expert. Interviews will be performed in English. During the interview the technical-academic skills, as well as the level of knowledge of English required by the degree course, will be evaluated.

Interviews will take place starting from May 18th 2026 and will be held on line.

The date and time of the interview will be notified by e-mail directly to the candidates, as well as published on the website www.unime.it on the same page where this announcement has been published.

During the interview, candidates will be asked to show the Refugee *Identity Card or the PoR Card* indicated during the admission step. A third party is supposed to be present at the beginning of the interview to confirm the student's identity.

The maximum score assigned for the interview is 40 points.

5.3 Establishment and approval of the final ranking list

Candidates who at the end of the two steps will have obtained a score lower than 50/80 will not be considered suitable.

The merit ranking will be drawn up by the committee by adding up the partial results obtained in the two selection steps.

Candidates will be listed in decreasing order of score.

In order to guarantee equal access opportunities, two separate rankings will be drawn up based on the gender of the candidates. One of the 2 study grants will be awarded to the candidate with the first result of the two rankings; the second grant will be awarded to the candidate with the higher second result of any of the two rankings. In the absence of candidates in one of the two rankings, all the grants will be awarded to candidates of the other ranking.

With the same score, the younger candidate precedes.

The winners will be notified by e-mail by June 8th 2026 and the final ranking will be published in anonymous form on the website www.unime.it on the same page where this announcement has been published.



5.4 Acceptance

In order to confirm the scholarship candidates must reply to the University's e-mail communication within 5 days of receiving the selection result. Failing to provide a feedback by the given deadline will cause the loss of the benefits.

By accepting the scholarship, the candidate fully approves the benefits offered by the UNICORE 7.0 project under the conditions indicated in this call for applications. With the acceptance students also confirm under their own full responsibility that they do not fall within any of the conditions of incompatibility established in article 2 of this call for applications.

5.5 Scrolling of rankings and assignment of available seats

In case a candidate winner of the scholarship officially withdraws, the University will proceed with the scrolling of the ranking by assigning the scholarship to the next suitable candidate.

If at the end of the scrolling of the ranking there are vacancies, the University of Messina reserves the right to search for an eligible candidate in the rankings of the partner universities of the project. Eligible candidates identified must meet specific requirements requested by the Degree Courses of the University of Messina.

Art. 6 Renewal

6.1 Requirements for renewal

In order to renew the scholarship for the second academic year, students are required to earn at least 24 University Credits (CFU) by July 31st 2027.

Students must graduate by December 2028.

6.2 Additional renewals

Students who do not succeed to graduate by December 2028 will be able to apply for an additional 6-month renewal. Renewal can be granted on condition that at least 100 university credits (CFU) have been acquired by July 31st 2028. The renewal request must be submitted by e-mail to protocollo@unime.it by July 31st 2028.

Art. 7 Withdrawal from the course

Students who withdraw from the program during their studies will automatically lose all benefits of the scholarship.

Art. 8 Information notice concerning data processing

Personal data will be processed in compliance with the European Data Protection Policy, on the basis of the "Piano per l'applicazione del Regolamento Europeo 679/2016 e del D.lgs 196/2003 modificato dal D.lgs.", available (in Italian) at the following link:



<https://www.unime.it/it/ateneo/privacy/evidenza/piano-rgpd> and according to UNHCR's personal data protection legislation, available at the link: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/55643c1d4.html> and its regulation: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b360f4d4.html>. Candidates also agree to the publication of the refugee identity card number or *PoR card* number in the ranking both on the website: www.unhcr.it/universitycorridors and on the website www.unime.it. The Administration reserves the right to verify the correctness of the data declared as indicated by art. 76 of Presidential Decree 445/2000. in the event of fraudulent information being discovered as a result of such verification the applicant will forfeit the right to the study grant.

Art. 9 List of the Second Cycle Degree courses taught in English at the University of Messina suitable for the selection of candidates

By clicking on the name of the course you access the presentation page in English on the website of the University of Messina, where it is possible to consult all the information on the course including study plans and specific access requirements. Info sheets with overviews of the courses are also available.

- [Master's Degree in Engineering in Computer Science \(info sheet\)](#)
- [Master's Degree in Business Consulting and Management \(curriculum in International Management\) \(info sheet\)](#)
- [Master's Degree in Physics: Condensed Matter Physics \(info sheet\)](#)
- [Master's Degree in Geophysical Sciences for Seismic Risk \(info sheet\)](#)
- [Master's Degree in Cognitive Science and theories of Communication \(info sheet\)](#)
- [Master's Degree in Data Science \(info sheet\)](#)



ATTACHMENT 1

Official conversion table for foreign exam grading systems

Candidates who have completed degree exams in a foreign university can dispose of this formula for converting their grades:

$$\text{Voto} = \frac{V - V_{\min}}{V_{\max} - V_{\min}} * (I_{\max} - I_{\min}) + I_{\min}$$

Voto = grade in the Italian system

V = grade to convert

V_{min} = minimum grade for passing in the university of origin

V_{max} = maximum grade in the university of origin

I_{min} = minimum grade for passing in Italian universities (= 18)

I_{max} = maximum grade in Italian universities (= 30)

For the evaluation based on an alphabetical scale, reference is made as follows:

Valutazione da convertire	Voto
A	30
B	28
C	26
D	23
E	18

Valutazione da convertire = grade to convert

Voto = grade in the Italian system