



University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 6.0 (2024-2026)
(Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe)

**Call for applications for 1 (one) study grant and welcome services for refugee students eligible for admission to English taught master degree programs at Polytechnic University of Bari.
aa. yy. 2024-2025, 2025-2026**

Application period: from March 8th to April 15th, 2024

ART. 1

Goals

The general aim of the project named **University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 6.0** is to promote the refugees' right to higher education through university corridors from Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe to Italy.

The project is jointly promoted by a consortium composed of:

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
- Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);
- Caritas Italiana;
- Diaconia Valdese;
- Centro Astalli - JRS Jesuits service for refugees in Italy;
- Gandhi Charity
- Università per Stranieri di Perugia
- Università per Stranieri di Siena
- Italian universities listed in the National cooperation agreement.

The Polytechnic University of Bari supports the project and offers **1 (one) scholarship** for students admitted to one of the master degree courses listed in article 2.

The call will be published on the university website www.poliba.it and, specifically, on the web page <https://www.poliba.it/didattica/ammissioni>.

ART. 2

List of English taught master degree programs participating in the initiative

The project addresses to candidates with refugee status living in Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe that want to enroll in one of the following English taught master degree programs (two years, 120 ECTS) at Polytechnic University of Bari for the a.y. 2024/2025:

- **Industrial Design** (<https://orientami.poliba.it/industrial-design-laurea-magistrale-poliba/>)
- **Automation Engineering** (<https://orientami.poliba.it/en/ingegneria-dellautomazione-laurea-magistrale-poliba/>)
- **Telecommunications Engineering** (<https://orientami.poliba.it/en/ingegneria-delle-telecomunicazioni-laurea-magistrale-poliba/>)
- **Computer Engineering** (<https://orientami.poliba.it/en/ingegneria-informatica-laurea-magistrale-poliba/>)
- **Mechanical Engineering** (<https://orientami.poliba.it/en/mechanical-engineering-laurea-magistrale-poliba/>)



Scholarship and benefits will be awarded for the academic years 2024/2025 and 2025/2026. Requirements for scholarships and benefits renewal are indicated under art. 9.

ART. 3

Local Partners of the Project

Polytechnic University of Bari is engaged in the search for local partners available to support the project and offer services to the selected student. Any additional services offered by the partners will be communicated to the winner before her/his arrival or during her/his stay.

ART. 4

Benefits and supports offered to the winner

The winner will be awarded scholarship and benefits as follows:

- full coverage of expenses to be faced before arriving in Italy: flight tickets, costs for getting Visa and costs involved in preparing documents concerning foreign academic qualifications (by Polytechnic University of Bari);
- Yearly scholarship of € 10.000,00 (by Polytechnic University of Bari). The scholarship is to be considered all-inclusive of expenses related to the study and permanence in Bari (meals and accommodation services; registration in Italian health care system);
- Full exemption from university fees (paid by Polytechnic University of Bari);
- Assistance for the procedures related to registration in Italian health care system;
- Assistance for the procedures related to the issuance of Italian study permit (both first application and renewal) over the standard duration of the study;
- Counselling for enrollment procedures by *Ufficio concorsi, immatricolazioni, iscrizioni e diritto allo studio* of Polytechnic University of Bari to the following e-mail address: foreign-qualifications@poliba.it;
- Senior students' tutorship, aiming at supporting administrative procedures, learning activities and inclusion in the students' community;
- Free of charge registration in Italian language courses organized by the *Centro Linguistico di Ateneo* of Polytechnic University of Bari in the 2024/2026 period;
- The Universities for Foreigners of Siena and of Perugia will offer online Italian language courses in the month of July/September 2024 to selected students who request it and are leaving for Italy. The activity is free of charge for the participants;
- Further support services, such as psychological counselling;
- A personal notebook (offered by Polytechnic University of Bari);
- Support to facilitate online interviews and to obtain the travel documents and other documentation necessary for entry into Italy for students selected by the universities; information to students on rights and duties related to the visa for study purposes and on the communication of the project; pre-departure cultural orientation of selected students, information on rights and duties, individual interviews for the knowledge of the socio-health situations of the beneficiaries (by UNHCR and Caritas Italiana).

ART. 5

Incompatibility

The UNICORE 6.0 scholarship cannot be combined with:

- Merit-based or income-based grants/prizes offered by Polytechnic University of Bari;
- Study grants issued by Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);
- CRUI grants for holders of international protection;



- Scholarships addressing to international students and issued by foreign governments and bodies upon agreements with Polytechnic University of Bari;
- Scholarships for the right to study offered by ADISU Puglia.

ART. 6

Admission requirements

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

1. Are residing in Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and have been recognized the refugee status in these countries, in collaboration with UNHCR;
2. Hold a qualification valid for admission to the chosen Second Cycle Degree Program. 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;
3. The qualification must as well consent the access to a second level degree course in the country of issuance;
4. Hold a degree obtained in or after 2019 and no later than the call deadline (April 15th, 2024);
5. Have a GPA (Grade point average) of at least 3.0, corresponding to, 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 (http://attiministeriali.miur.it/media/277372/allegato_5_conversione%20titoli.pdf);
6. Be in possession of the specific requirements of the chosen second level degree program;
7. Not being previously registered in an academic study program at Polytechnic University of Bari or at any other Italian university member of UNICORE 6.0 consortium;
8. Proficiency in the English language is required.

ART. 7

Admission board and application

Art.7.1 - Admission board

Student will be selected on merit-based criteria.

Assessment will be performed by the admission board officially appointed by Rectoral Decree.

The admission board will be composed by the Professors in charge of the Master Programmes concerned (or their delegates) and a member of the *Ufficio concorsi, immatricolazioni, iscrizioni e diritto allo studio* of Polytechnic University of Bari.

The admission board will be supported by any other teaching staff considered appropriate.

Art.7.2 - Application form and attachments

Candidates must submit the following scanned documents in Italian or English language (documents translated by candidates are accepted at application step):

MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:

1. Valid *Refugee Identity Card* issued in cooperation with UNHCR or valid *PoR Card*;
2. Certificate attesting to the achievement of the qualification required for admission to the master degree course selected;
3. Transcript of exams passed and marks obtained;
4. Detailed and signed Curriculum Vitae;
5. A Certificate or self-declaration about English language proficiency.

NOT MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:

6. A motivation letter (max two A4 pages) or a short video-CV (candidates can use their mobile phone for recording it), where they introduce themselves and explain their motivations;



7. Letter/s of reference written by supervisor/advisor supporting the application.

Art.7.3 - Applications submission

Applications can be sent from **March 8th to April 15th, 2024, 12 noon (noon, UTC +2)**. Students are due to send applications, including all the documents listed above, through the UNICORE website, at <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>.

Once the application has been submitted, a confirmation email to the mailbox indicated in the online form will be sent. Incomplete or incorrect applications will not be taken into consideration.

Students are allowed to apply for **1 (one)** of the second level degree programme offered by Polytechnic University of Bari (listed at art. 2) and for only **2 (two)** universities among those participating in the UNICORE 6.0 project, including Polytechnic University of Bari. This is a mandatory requirement: non-compliance with this clause will cause the immediate rejection of the application.

ART. 8

Selection process

The selection process will be performed in two steps:

- Step 1: assessment of CV and documents concerning foreign qualification;
- Step 2: online interview.

Art.8.1 - First step: assessment of received documents

The admission board will evaluate documents according to the following criteria:

- Academic background and GPA (score range: 0-15);
- Curriculum Vitae: evaluation of personal skills and professional experience (score range: 0-15);
- Coherence between previous studies and selected Master Degree Program (score range: 0-10);

The maximum score assigned in the first step will be 40 points.

At the end of Step 1 a provisional ranking will be published and only **the first 6 candidates will be admitted to Step 2** (online interview).

Candidates admitted to Step 2 will be notified by email; the provisional ranking list will be also published on www.poliba.it. and in the page <https://www.poliba.it/it/didattica/ammissioni>.

Art.8.2 - Second step: on-line interview

Candidates admitted to Step 2 will be interviewed by the admission board, who will evaluate their academic and technical skills, competence on the subject as well as their mastering of the English language.

Interviews will be graded on a scale of 40 points.

Candidates will be notified by email about the date and time of the interview.

At the beginning of the interview candidates will have to show the *Refugee Identity Card* or *PoR Card* sent along with the application form.

Art.8.3 - Preparation of the final ranking list

Candidates who will score less than 50/80 points will not be included in the final ranking.

Candidate ranking is drawn up by the admission board summing up the results of the two phases and are approved by Rectoral Decree.

The ranking is organized in decreasing order of points.

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

The winner will be notified by email and the final ranking list will be also published on www.poliba.it and in the page <https://www.poliba.it/it/didattica/ammissioni>.



Art.8.4 - Acceptance

In order to confirm scholarship acceptance, the winning candidate must reply to the university email within 10 days from receipt. Failing to provide feedback by the deadline will cause the loss of admission and financial benefits.

By accepting the scholarship, the winning candidate fully accepts without reservations UNICORE 6.0 project support and financial benefits at the conditions indicated in this call.

Upon acceptance, the winning candidate also confirms under her/his responsibility that she/he does not fall under any of the conditions of incompatibility established in the article 5 of this call.

Art.8.5 - Ranking scroll and assignment of available seat

In case the candidate winner of the scholarship will officially withdraw, the scholarship will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the ranking.

In case of vacant seats, the Polytechnic University of Bari reserves the right to search for eligible candidates from rankings of other University partners. Eligible candidates from external rankings must meet the specific requirement of the programs of Polytechnic University of Bari.

ART. 9 Scholarship

Art. 9.1 - Scholarship payment

For the first year, 50% of the scholarship will be paid within 45 days from when the bank account details will be notified by the student to the *Ufficio concorsi, immatricolazioni, iscrizioni e diritto allo studio* to the following e-mail address; foreign-qualifications@poliba.it. The remaining 50% will be paid within 45 days upon achievement of at least 10 ECTS.

Only in the event of initial difficulty in opening an Italian bank account, the first installment of the scholarship will be paid in cash.

The scholarship for the second year will be paid in a lump sum upon enrollment in the a.y. 2025/2026 after verifying the achievement of the ECTS required by art. 9.2.

Art. 9.2 - Renewal

Scholarship will be renewed provided that the student will gain, by September 30th, 2025, at least 30 ECTS.

Student is required to graduate by the last session available for her/his matriculation year, i.e. April 2027.

Art. 9.3 - Additional Renewal

Student who do not succeed to graduate within April 2027 can request a 6 months extension of the scholarship (for the amount of € 4.800,00), provided she/he has earned at least 90 ECTS by March 31st, 2027.

Extension request must be submitted to the *Ufficio concorsi, immatricolazioni, iscrizioni e diritto allo studio* to the following e-mail address: foreign-qualifications@poliba.it.

ART. 10 Enrollment

Information concerning procedures and deadline for enrollment will be sent to the winner by the *Ufficio concorsi, immatricolazioni, iscrizioni e diritto allo studio* (e-mail address: foreign-qualifications@poliba.it).

Document required for enrollment are as follows:



- Original diploma (or replacement certificate) concerning the foreign academic degree achieved, in Italian or English language, legalized by the authorities in the country of issuance and Declaration of value issued by the Italian Diplomatic Office in the Country where the qualification was awarded;
- Transcript with the list of exams taken and relevant marks, in Italian or English language, legalized by the authorities in the country of issuance.

Instead of Legalization and Declaration of value, Polytechnic University of Bari accepts respectively the Statement of verification and the Statement of comparability issued by CIMEA Italian Board. Authenticity of the foreign academic degree can be also proved by a direct contact with the University that issued the qualification.

Candidates must also submit study visa and travel documents suitable for entering Italy and for temporary residence, pursuant to current Italian regulations.

ART. 11 Withdrawal

Student who will withdraw from the study program after enrollment will lose all the benefits.

ART. 12 Protection of personal data

The processing of personal data provided by candidates for the aforementioned purposes is carried out by the Polytechnic University of Bari, as Data Controller, in compliance with the principles laid down by art. 5 of the EU Regulation - GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation).

Poliba data protection officer can be contacted at the following e-mail address: rpd@poliba.it.

Data must be provided for evaluation of the participation requirements, under penalty of exclusion from the selection procedure.

Legal basis of the processing art. 6 par. 1. lett. b and e), art. 9 par. 2. lett. g) of the GPDR, as identified by art. 2-sexies lett. e) and bb) of Legislative Decree 196/2003 (as amended by Legislative Decree 2018/101).

The data provided by candidates will be processed by means of appropriate guarantees and security measures - manual and / or electronic, in order to ensure their protection, confidentiality and integrity. Personal data will be processed by University personnel duly authorized and instructed by the Data Controller. Personal data collected will be communicated to UNHCR which will process the data in compliance with UNHCR Data Protection Policy available at <https://www.refworld.org/docid/55643c1d4.html> and its guidance available at <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b360f4d4.html>.

For what is not specified here or for what does not specifically concern this context, please refer to the information published at the following website address: <https://www.poliba.it/it/didattica/ammissioni>

To exercise their rights, the interested party can contact the Data Controller at rpd@poliba.it. For any complaint deriving from the processing of data, the interested party can contact the Guarantor for the protection of personal data and other competent public bodies as described at <https://www.poliba.it/it/privacy/protezione-dei-dati-personali>

Candidates are required to consent to the publication of their refugee ID card number or the ration number card of *PoR* in the list of admitted candidates and the final ranking list both on the website: <https://www.poliba.it/it/didattica/ammissioni>

The Administration reserves the right to verify the truth of the information provided without prejudice to the penal sanctions of article 76 of Italian Presidential Decree no. 445/2000, in the event of



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fraudulent information being discovered as a result of such verification the applicant will forfeit the right to the study grant.

ART. 13
Information request

Request for information about this call and enrollment procedures can be sent to the *Ufficio concorsi, immatricolazioni, iscrizioni e diritto allo studio* to the following e-mail address: foreign-qualifications@poliba.it.

ART. 14
Procedure manager

The person in charge of the administrative procedure referred to in this call is Mrs. Valentina Bozzi (foreign-qualifications@poliba.it; valentina.bozzi@poliba.it)

The Legal Representative
(Francesco Cupertino, Rector)
