

## University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 4.0 (Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria 2022-24)

# Call for applications for 2 study grants and welcome services for refugee students eligible for admission to English taught master's degrees at University of Catania 2022-2023 a.y.

Application period: from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022

#### ART. 1

#### Goals

The general aim of the project named **University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 4.0** (Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria 2022-24) is to promote the refugees' right to higher education through university corridors from Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon to Italy. The project is jointly promoted by a consortium:

- United nations High commissioner for refugees (UNHCR)
- Italian Ministry for foreign affairs and international cooperation (MAECI)
- Caritas Italiana
- Centro Astalli JRS Jesuits service for refugees in Italy
- Diaconia Valdese
- Gandhi Charity
- Italian universities listed in the National cooperation agreement.

The University of Catania supports the project and offers two scholarships for students admitted to one of the master degree courses listed in article 1.1.

The call will be published on the University bulletin board <a href="http://ws1.unict.it/albo/">http://ws1.unict.it/albo/</a> and on the University website www.unict.it/it/didattica/unicore-university-corridors-refugees

The English version of the call has been drafted exclusively for purposes of publicity. For call implementation, dispute resolution and for all legal purposes, only the Italian version is valid.

The official approval of the UNICORE 4.0 National cooperation agreement is currently underway.

#### ART. 1.1

#### List of English taught master's degrees participating in the initiative

The project addresses to candidates with refugee status living in Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon and aiming at enrolling in one of the following English taught master's degrees (two years) at University of Catania for 2022/2023 academic year:



- LM -17 Physics
- LM -22 Chemical Engineering
- LM -25 Automation Engineering
- LM -27 Communications Engineering
- LM -33 Mechanical Engineering
- LM -62 Global Politics and Euro-Mediterranean Relations (Glopem)

Scholarships and benefits will be awarded for 2022/2023 a.y. and for 2023/2024 a.y. Requirements for scholarships and benefits renewal are indicated under art. 6.

#### ART. 2

#### **Local Partners of the Project**

University of Catania will be supported in the project by:

- Associazione Ricreativa e Culturale Italiana (ARCI)
- Azienda Metropolitana Trasporti e Sosta Catania S.p.A. (AMTS);
- Caritas Diocesana Catania;
- Centro Astalli Catania;
- Community Center Diaconia Valdese;
- Comunità di Sant'Egidio;
- Consiglio Italiano per i rifugiati (CIR);
- Cooperazione Paesi Emergenti (COPE);
- Ente Regionale per il Diritto allo Studio Universitario (ERSU) Catania;
- Ferrovia Circumetnea (FCE)
- Refugees Welcome Italia Onlus;
- Save the Children Italia Onlus.

#### **ART. 2.1**

#### Benefits and supports offered to winners

#### The two winners will be awarded scholarships 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 (CARITAS Italiana e UNHCR);
- Italian language course of 40 hours, free of charge, delivered online in synchronous mode by University for foreigners of Siena, Perugia and University of Notre Dame in July / August 2022;
- Yearly scholarship of € 5,257.74. For the first year the scholarship will be paid: 50% within 45 days from registration in 2022/2023 a.y. and for the remaining 50% upon obtaining 9 CFUs. The scholarship for the second year



will be paid in a lump sum upon registration in 2023/2024 a.y.after verification of obtaining the CFUs provided for in art. 6 (UNICT);

- Exemption from university contribution (UNICT);
- Accommodation in university residences (ERSU);
- Canteen service: 2 free meals per day for a maximum of 360 meals per year (ERSU);
- Senior students Tutorship, aiming at supporting administrative procedures, learning activities and inclusion in the students' community (UNICT);
- Counselling for enrollment procedures by O.U International Relations -International students' admission Unit (UNICT);
- Support and full coverage of expenses for the procedures related to the issuance of Italian study permit (both first application and renewal) over the standard duration of the master's degree (Comunità di Sant'Egidio);
- Support and full costs coverage for the procedures related to registration in Italian health care system over the standard duration of the master's degree (Comunità di Sant'Egidio);
- Free of charge registration in Italian language courses organized by the School of Italian Language and Culture of the University of Catania in the 2022/2024 period (UNICT);
- Free loan PC and study material (UNICT, Comunità di Sant'Egidio, Save the Children)
- Two-years subscription, free of charge, to public transport in Catania (AMTS and FCE);
- Monthly food pack (COPE);
- further support services for example psychological counselling, cultural and linguistic mediation, legal assistance, mentoring, tutoring, social and cultural (ARCI, Caritas Diocesana Catania, Centro Astalli Catania, Community Center Diaconia Valdese, Comunità di Sant'Egidio, CIR, COPE, Refugees Welcome Italia Onlus, Save the Children Italia Onlus).

#### **ART. 2.2**

#### **Incompatibility**

The UNICORE 4.0 scholarships cannot be combined with:

- Merit-based or income-based grants / prizes offered by University of Catania;
- 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 University of Catania;
- Regional scholarships (ERSU);

#### ART. 3

#### **Admission requirements**

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



- 1. Are residing in Cameroon, Niger or Nigeria and have been recognized refugee status in these countries;
- 2. Hold a qualification valid for admission to the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programme. 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 qualification not being obtained before 2017;
- 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, as for Annex 2 of this call;
- 6. Meet specific curricular requirements and, in accordance with the provisions established by Italian Ministerial Decree n. 270/2004, have an adequate educational background, for the program of interest, as further specified in each course information sheet provided in the Annexes;
- 7. Not being previously registered in an academic study programme at University of Catania or at any other Italian university member of UNICORE 4.0 consortium.

#### ART.4

#### Admission board and application

#### **Art.4.1 Admission board**

Students are 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 O.U. International Relations.

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

The admission board, according to the selection criteria, will issue a female and a male ranking in order to guarantee equal access opportunities. If there will be no candidates representatives of the two genders the available scholarships will be awarded to two candidates of the same gender.

With the same score, the younger candidate comes first.

#### Art.4.2

#### **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. Signed application form (use the attached form, only);
- 2. Valid *Refugee Identity card* issued in cooperation with UNHCR or valid *PoR Card*;



- 3. A Certificate confirming the qualification required for admission to the chosen degree course;
- 4. Transcript of exams passed and marks obtained;
- 5. Detailed and signed Curriculum vitae;
- 6. A Certificate or self-declaration about English language proficiency.

#### NOT MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:

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

#### Art.4.3

#### **Applications submission**

Candidates have to send the duly signed application form attached to this call, along with the mandatory documents listed in paragraph 4.2.

Applications must be sent via email to <u>unicore@unict.it</u> from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022 (noon, UTC+1).

The email must have as its object: UNICORE 4.0 - name and surname of the candidate

Applications will not be accepted if they are incomplete and / or are sent without the required documents and / or are received after the deadline.

Candidates can apply for

- one master's degree only held at University of Catania
- no more than two universities that are partners in the project UNICORE 4.0: if two universities are selected, candidates will have to present two different admission requests and must indicate the order of priority.

#### ART.5

#### **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.**5.1

#### 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's Degree (score range: 0-10)

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



At the end of Step 1 two provisional rankings will be published, according to the gender of the candidates, and only **the first 3 candidates of each ranking will be admitted to Step 2 (online interview)**. In the case that one of the lists of eligible candidates does not include enough representatives it will be possible to admit to Step 2 more than 3 representatives of the same gender up to the maximum of 6 candidates.

Candidates admitted to Step 2 will be notified by email; the provisional ranking list will be also published on <a href="https://www.unict.it/">www.unict.it/</a> and in the project page <a href="https://www.unict.it/it/didattica/unicore-university-corridors-refugees">www.unict.it/it/didattica/unicore-university-corridors-refugees</a>

#### Art.5.2

#### **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 and will be scheduled on-line from May to June 2022.

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.5.3

#### Preparation of the final ranking list

The two available scholarships are awarded on a gender balance ratio and the admission board will elaborate two different final rankings according to the gender of the candidates. Only in the case that the list of eligible candidates does not include representatives of the two genders, the scholarships can be awarded to two representatives of the same gender.

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

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

The ranking is organised in decreasing order of points.

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

The winners will be notified by email within 25<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and the final ranking list will be also published on <a href="https://www.unict.it/">www.unict.it/</a> and in the project page <a href="https://www.unict.it/it/didattica/unicore-university-corridors-refugees">www.unict.it/it/didattica/unicore-university-corridors-refugees</a>

#### Art.5.4

#### Acceptance

In order to confirm scholarship acceptance, candidates 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, candidates fully accept without reservations UNICORE 4.0 project support and financial benefits at the conditions indicated in this call.

Upon acceptance, candidates also confirm under their responsibility that they do not fall under any of the



conditions of incompatibility established in the article 2.2 of this call.

#### Art.5.5

#### Ranking scroll and assignment of available seats

In case a candidate winner of the scholarship will officially withdraw before 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022 the scholarship will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the ranking.

In case of vacant seats the University of Catania 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 programmes of University of Catania.

#### ART.6

#### Renewal

Scholarship will be renewed provided that students will gain, by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, at least 30 CFUs. Students are required to graduate by the last session available for their matriculation year, i.e.April 2025.

#### **ART. 6.1**

#### **Additional Renewal**

Students who do not succeed to graduate within April 2025 can request a 6 months extension of the scholarship (for the amount of  $\[ \in \]$  2,628.87), provided they have earned at least 80 CFUs by 31 March 2025.

Extension request must be submitted to the O.U International Relations -International students.

#### ART.7

#### **Enrollment**

Information concerning procedures and deadline for enrollment will be sent to the winners by the O.U International Relations -International students' admission Unit.

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, University of Catania accepts respectively the Statement of verification and the Statement of comparability issued by CIMEA Italian Board.

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



#### ART.8

#### Withdrawal

Students who will withdraw from the study programme after enrollment will lose all the benefits.

#### ART.9

#### Protection of personal data

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

Unict data protection officer can be contacted at the following e-mail: <a href="mailto:rpd@unict.it">rpd@unict.it</a> or <a href="mailto:rpd@unict.it">rpd@unict.it</a> or <a href="mailto:rpd@unict.it">rpd@unict.it</a>

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 <a href="https://www.refworld.org/docid/55643c1d4.html">https://www.refworld.org/docid/55643c1d4.html</a> and its guidance available at <a href="https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b360f4d4.html">https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b360f4d4.html</a>

For what is not specified here or for what does not specifically concern this context, please refer to the information published at the following address: <u>Informative e esercizio dei diritti | Università di Catania (unict.it)</u>

To exercise their rights, the interested party can contact the Data Controller at <a href="rettorato@unict.it">rettorato@unict.it</a>. 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 <a href="https://www.unict.it/ateneo/informative-e-esercizio-dei-diritti">https://www.unict.it/ateneo/informative-e-esercizio-dei-diritti</a>.

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: <a href="https://www.universitycorridors.unhcr.it">www.universitycorridors.unhcr.it</a> and on: <a href="https://www.universitycorridors.unhcr.it">www.universitycorridors.unhcr.it</a> and <a href="https://www.universitycorridors.unhcr.it">www.universitycorridors.unhcr.it</a> and <a href="https://www.universitycorridors.unhcr.it">www.universitycorridors.unhcr.it</a> and <a href="https://www.universitycorridors.unhcr.it">www.universitycorridors.unhcr.it</a> and <a href="https://www.universitycor

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



#### **ART 10**

#### **Information request**

Request for information about this call and enrollment procedures can be sent to <a href="mailto:e.magnano@unict.it">e.magnano@unict.it</a>

#### **ART. 11**

#### Procedure manager

The person in charge of the administrative procedure referred to in this call is Dott.ssa Erika Magnano, U.O. Relazioni Internazionali, - Direzione Generale (e.magnano@unict.it).

The Rector
Prof. Francesco Priolo



#### Automation Engineering and Control of Complex Systems (Italian Code LM-25)

#### Curricular and educational background requirements:

To be admitted to this course of study applicants are expected to meet specific curricular requirements and have the knowledge and abilities as follows:

- a) A bachelor's or higher degree awarded abroad.
- b) An adequate knowledge in basic subjects as mathematical and numerical analysis, linear algebra and geometry, probability and statistics, physics, chemistry.
- c) An adequate knowledge in the subjects specific of the degree course as informatics, control and systems theory, electronics, information processing.
- d) The ability to use methodological and operational aspects of mathematics and other basic sciences to describe engineering problems.

Successful applicants come primarily from an academic background in the following Engineering fields: Automation, Electronics, Computer Science, Telecommunication, Electrical, Mechanical and Industrial.

#### **Language requirements:**



## Chemical Engineering for Industrial Sustainability (Italian Code LM-22)

#### **Curricular and educational background requirements**

To be admitted to this course of study applicants are expected to meet specific curricular requirements and have the knowledge and abilities as follows:

- a) A bachelor's or higher degree awarded abroad.
- b) Successful applicants come primarily from an academic background in:
  - chemical engineering;
  - petroleum engineering;
  - chemistry;
  - industrial chemistry;
  - industrial engineering;
  - mechanical engineering;
  - civil engineering;
  - environmental engineering;
  - materials engineering.

#### **Language requirement:**



#### Communications Engineering (Italian Code LM-27)

#### Curricular and educational background requirements:

To be admitted to this course of study applicants are expected to meet specific curricular and educational requirements as follows:

- a) A bachelor's or higher degree awarded abroad.
- b) An adequate knowledge in basic subjects such as mathematical and numerical analysis, linear algebra and geometry, probability and statistics, physics and chemistry.
- c) An adequate knowledge in the subjects specific of the course such as analog and digital communications, networking, electronics, computer engineering and programming, system theory.
- d) The ability to use methodological and operational aspects of mathematics and other basic sciences and to describe engineering problems.

Successful candidates have mainly an academic background in the following engineering fields: Electronic Engineering, Telecommunication Engineering, Automation Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering and Computer Science.

#### **Language requirement:**



#### Mechanical Engineering (Italian Code LM-33)

#### **Curricular and educational background requirements**

To be admitted to this course of study applicants are expected to meet specific curricular requirements and have the knowledge and abilities as follows:

- a) A bachelor's or higher degree awarded abroad.
- b) Successful applicants come primarily from an academic background in:
  - Mechanical Engineering;
  - Industrial Engineering;
  - Electrical Engineering;
  - Management Engineering;
  - Chemical Engineering;
  - Civil Engineering;
  - Environmental Engineering;
  - Materials Engineering.

#### **Language requirement:**



### Global Politics and Euro-Mediterranean Relations (Italian Code LM-62)

#### **Curricular and educational background requirements**

To be admitted to this course of study applicants are expected to meet specific curricular requirements and have the knowledge and abilities as follows:

- a) A bachelor's or higher degree awarded abroad.
- b) Successful applicants come primarily from an academic background in:
  - Political Science, EU studies, International Relations, Diplomatic Studies, Area Studies,
     Development studies;
  - Cultural and social studies, Humanities and history, Communication studies, Modern Languages;
  - International and/or EU law, international and /or EU economics.

#### **Language requirement:**



#### *Physics* (Italian Code *LM* – 17)

#### Curricular and educational background requirements

In order to be admitted to this course of study, applicants are expected to meet specific curricular requirements and have the following knowledge and skills:

- a) bachelor or higher degree awarded abroad;
- b) an adequate academic background in:
  - Basics Physics and Mathematics;
  - Quantum Mechanics;
  - Structure of Matter.

#### **Language requirement:**



#### ANNEX 1

## **University of Catania**

#### **UNICORE 4.0 APPLICATION FORM**

PERSONAL DETAILS	,			
Name and Surname:				
Date and place of birth:				
Address:				
Mobile phone:				
E-mail:				
refugee ID card number	L			
OR ration number card of <i>PoR</i> :				
PROGRAM OF INTEREST:				
□ LM -17 Physics				
□ LM -22 Chemical Engineering				
□ LM -25 Automation Engineering				
☐ LM −27 Communications Engineering				
☐ LM -33 Mechanical Engineering				
☐ LM −62 Global Politics and Euro-Mediterranean Relations (Glopem)				
I declare to have applied also to another university partner of UNICORE 4.0 project:				
University				
Study programme				
Order of priority: 1				
2				
PERSONAL STATEMENT				
Summarize in about 5 lines a presentation of professional profile, future prof	essional goals and your motivation.			
- <del></del>				



**EDUCATION** I declare to have obtained the following qualification suitable for accessing the master's degree selected **Degree** Degree in \_\_\_\_\_ At the university \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_ Duration of the study programme \_\_\_\_\_ Language \_\_\_\_\_ Year of graduation \_\_\_\_\_ Final GPA \_\_\_\_\_ **High school** *Date – name of high school and type of diploma –* score Other formative experiences From.... To....: School name, town, course title WORK EXPERIENCE From.... To.... Job role Company name Describe responsibility and what did you do in this role



**SPOKEN LEVEL** 

#### **LANGUAGES**

LANGUAGE

Levels of knowledge: M: mother tongue, A: elementary, B: intermediate, C: advanced

WRITTEN LEVEL

Language certifications:			
Please list here any language ce	rtification you have gained. Sc	anned copy of the certi	fication must be attached to
the application			
COMPUTER SKILLS			
PERSONAL SKILLS			
HOBBIES			
I hereby declare to have never been enrolled in any Italian university.			

I authorize the processing of personal data contained in my curriculum vitae according to art. 13 of Legislative Decree 196/2003 and art. 13 GDPR (EU Regulation 2016/679) for the sole purpose of personnel research and selection.

I hereby declare to accept without reserve all the terms and condition specify in the UNICORE 4.0 Call for applications for 2 study grants and welcome services for refugee students registering for Second cycle degree programmes taught in English at the University of Catania, for the Academic Year 2022-23.

I also declare to promptly inform the University about any change in the provided data.

Place, Date and Signature



#### ANNEX 2



## Il Ministro dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca

Allegato 5 - Tabella di conversione dei Titoli stranieri

#### Valutazione esami

I candidati che hanno conseguito esami di laurea in una Università straniera hanno a disposizione sul sito <a href="http://www.universitaly.it/">http://www.universitaly.it/</a> un sistema di conversione dei voti ottenuti sulla base della seguente formula:

$$Voto = \frac{V-Vmin}{Vmax-Vmin} * (Imax - Imin) + Imin$$

V= Voto da convertire

Vmin=Voto minimo per la sufficienza nell'Università di provenienza

Vmax= Voto massimo nell'Università di provenienza

Imin= Voto minimo per la sufficienza nelle Università Italiane (= 18/30)

Imax= Voto massimo nelle Università Italiane (=30/30)

Per le valutazioni su scala qualitativa si fa riferimento alla seguente scala di conversione:

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

#### **COURTESY TRANSLATION:**

Ministry of Education, University and research Attachment 5 – conversion table for foreign titles

Evaluation of exams grades

Candidates who hold a title conferred by a foreign University can refer to the conversion system available on the website www.universitaly.it. The conversion system is obtained using the following mathematical formula:

GRADE: G-Gmin/Gmax-Gmin \* (Imax-Imin) + Imin



#### Where:

G: grade to be converted

Gmin: Minimum pass grade in the foreign grading system

Gmax: Maximum grade in the foreign grading system

Imin: Minimum pass grade for the Italian grading System (18/30)

Imax: Maximum grade in the Italian grading system (30/30)

#### For qualitative grades the following table is used:

A = 30

B = 28

C = 26

D = 23

E = 18