

UNICORE 8.0 – UNIVERSITY CORRIDORS FOR REFUGEES

Call for Applications

One Scholarship for Refugee Students

Admission to an English-taught Master's Degree Programme

Tor Vergata University of Rome

2026/2027 Academic Year

1. Project objectives and scope

The **University Corridors for Refugees (UNICORE 8.0)** project aims to promote access to higher education for refugees by establishing university corridors from:

Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe to Italy.

The initiative is implemented by a consortium including:

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – Italy
- Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)
- Gandhi Charity
- Waldensian Diaconia – Synodal Commission for Diaconia
- Centro Astalli
- Caritas Italiana
- Italian universities participating in the UNICORE 8.0 national agreement.

Within this framework, **Tor Vergata University of Rome** announces a call for applications for **one (1) scholarship** reserved for students holding international protection status and residing in the above-listed countries, enabling access to higher education in Italy.

The scholarship supports enrolment in one of the eligible **English-taught Master's Degree programmes** (with no-restricted access) listed in Section 3.

2. Scholarship benefits and duration

The scholarship, with an approximate total value of **€12,000**, is provided primarily in the form of services, including:

- full tuition fee waiver;
- accommodation in Italy;
- health insurance coverage;
- living allowance (“pocket money”) amounting to **€4,000**.

Additional services include:

- public transport pass (Metrebus subscription);
- access to university sports and recreational facilities (free or discounted);
- ICT services and digital facilities;
- psychological counselling;
- integration and student support services, including:
 - orientation and tutoring programmes;
 - welcome and integration activities;
 - administrative support for international students;
 - Italian language and culture courses supporting academic participation.

The scholarship covers the standard duration of the Master's Degree programme (**two academic years: 2026/27 and 2027/28**), subject to fulfilment of the academic requirements specified in Section 13.

3. Eligibility requirements and available programmes

Applicants must meet all the following requirements.

3.1 Residence and refugee status

Applicants must:

- reside in one of the eligible countries listed above; and
- hold international protection status (recognised in collaboration with UNHCR).

3.2 Educational qualification

Applicants must hold a qualification granting access to a Master's Degree programme under applicable regulations.

The qualification must:

- have been awarded **no earlier than 2021**;
- be issued by an officially accredited higher education institution;
- allow access to postgraduate studies in the country of issuance.

3.3 Academic performance

Applicants must demonstrate a minimum academic average equivalent to:

GPA 3.0 (24/30 in the Italian grading system).

Grade conversion will follow official Italian Ministry guidelines.

3.4 Eligible Master's Degree programmes (Academic year 2026/2027)

- Art History in Rome, from Late Antiquity to the Present (LM-89) [Link](#)
- Biotechnology for Industry and Health (LM-8-R) [Link](#)
- Business Administration (LM-77) [Link](#)
- Economics (LM-56) [Link](#)
- European Economy and Business Law (LM-90) [Link](#)
- Finance and Banking (LM-16) [Link](#)
- ICT and Internet Engineering (LM-27) [Link](#)
- Mechatronics Engineering (LM-29) [Link](#)
- Sport and Health Promotion (LM-68) [Link](#)

Applicants must meet the specific admission requirements of the selected programme.

3.5 Previous enrolment

Applicants must not have previously enrolled at Tor Vergata University of Rome or at any partner university participating in the UNICORE project.

4. Incompatibility

The UNICORE 8.0 scholarship cannot be combined with any other scholarship or financial award granted by Tor Vergata University of Rome or by public institutions (e.g. MAECI, CRUI).

5. Application procedure and deadline

Applications must be submitted online via:

<https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>

Deadline: 17 April 2026, 12:00 noon (Italian time).

Incomplete or incorrectly submitted applications will not be considered.

Applicants may:

- apply for only **one Master's Degree programme** at Tor Vergata University of Rome;
- submit applications to a maximum of **two UNICORE partner universities**.

In case of difficulties in completing the application, candidates may contact: unicore-torvergata@uniroma2.it (subject line: "CALL UNICORE 8.0").

Required documentation

Applicants must upload:

- refugee ID or UNHCR registration certificate;
- degree certificate;
- Transcript of Records;
- documentation of GPA (including both semester averages and cumulative average);
- English language certification;
- curriculum vitae;
- motivation letter;
- any additional documents required by the selected programme.

The University reserves the right to request additional documentation.

6. Selection Committee

The Selection Committee will be appointed by Rector's Decree and composed of academic experts supported by administrative staff.

7. Selection process

Selection is merit-based and consists of two stages.

Stage 1. Application assessment

Evaluation criteria:

- academic background and GPA (0-20 points);
- CV and professional/transversal skills (0-10 points);
- coherence between prior studies and chosen programme (0-10 points).

Only the **top four candidates** (minimum 25 points) will proceed to Stage 2. In the event of a tie, preference will be given to the younger applicant.

Stage 2. Online interview

Assessment criteria:

- subject knowledge (0-20);
- English proficiency (0-10);
- motivation and analytical skills (0-10).

Interviews will take place online between **May and June 2026**.

Candidates will be required to present, during the interview, the identification document declared at the application stage (e.g. Ration Card Number or PoR Card).

Maximum score: 40 points.

Candidates scoring below 25 points will be deemed ineligible.

8. Final ranking

Final scores are calculated by combining results from both stages.

Candidates scoring below **50/80** overall will not be included in the final ranking.

Results will be published on the University website by **the end of June 2026**, and the selected candidate will be notified by email by mid-June 2026.

9. Acceptance of the scholarship

The selected candidate must confirm acceptance by email within **7 days** of notification.

Failure to respond within the deadline results in forfeiture of the scholarship.

By accepting the scholarship, the candidate:

- agrees unconditionally to the terms and benefits of the UNICORE 8.0 project;
- declares, under their own responsibility, that none of the incompatibility conditions listed in Section 4 apply.

10. Reallocation of the scholarship

If the selected candidate withdraws, the scholarship will be reassigned to the next eligible candidate in the ranking.

If positions remain vacant, the University reserves the right to select an eligible candidate from partner university rankings.

11. Pre-departure preparation

The scholarship holder must:

- maintain contact with project coordinators;
- attend preparatory Italian language and orientation activities.

Failure to comply may result in revocation of the scholarship.

12. Final award conditions

Between June and September 2026, the selected candidate must:

- complete enrolment procedures via the **UNIVERSITALY platform** (“International Students” section);
- apply for a study visa through the competent Italian diplomatic authorities.

The scholarship cannot be granted if the student fails to enter Italy and complete enrolment procedures.

13. Renewal requirements

To renew the scholarship for the second year, students must obtain at least **25 ECTS credits** by **10 August 2027**.

The degree must be completed by **March 2029**. An extension until July 2029 may be granted, provided all requirements for graduation are met by March 2029.

14. Withdrawal

Withdrawal from studies results in automatic loss of:

- the scholarship;
- related benefits;
- the study residence permit.

15. Personal data processing

Personal data will be processed in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR). The full privacy notice is available on the University website.

16. Information and contacts

Further information: unicore-torvergata@uniroma2.it

17. Final provisions

Matters not expressly regulated by this call are governed by Italian higher education legislation and University regulations.

The Rector
Prof. Nathan Levialdi Ghiron