



**English courtesy translation**  
**In case of controversy, the Italian version of the present**  
**announcement shall prevail as the official one (Rector's Decree n. 284 of 1<sup>st</sup> March**  
**2021)**

### **University Corridors for Refugees - 3.0 (Ethiopia - 2021/2023)**

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 Florence, Academic Years 2021-22 and 2022-23

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 31, 2021**

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## ART. 1 - Subject, amount and duration

The general objective of the University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 3.0 project is to promote the right to high education for refugees through study corridors from Ethiopia to Italy.

### Art. 1.1 National Project Partners

The project is jointly promoted by a consortium of partners:

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Caritas Italiana
- Diaconia Valdese
- Centro Astalli
- Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)
- University of Florence
- All the other universities signing the cooperation agreement for the project "University Corridors for Refugees - 3.0 (Ethiopia - 2021/2023)" (see art. 9)

The benefits are intended for holders of International Protection living in Ethiopia and admitted in a programme among those offered at one of the partner universities for the Academic Year (A.Y.) 2021-22.

UNICORE 3.0 benefits are assigned for the A.Y. 2021-22 and 2022-23. Maintenance merit requirements and additional renewal conditions are listed in Art. 6.

The full list of the programmes available at University of Florence is specified in Art. 10.

### Art. 1.2 Local Partners of the Project

University of Florence will be supported in the project by the following local partners: Diaconia Valdese, Centro di Salute Globale, Associazione di Studi Giuridici sull'Immigrazione, Associazione Progetto Arcobaleno. Their support is the result of the partnership with the above-mentioned institutions.

Details of the service offered by the partners are better specified in the protocol, by which the partners have agreed to join the partnership.

### Art. 1.3 Benefits and supports

Eligible candidates will receive full support during all the steps of the application, including financial coverage for all the expenses prior to their arrival in Italy.

Winners will receive financial coverage for the travel expenses to Italy and full support during their studies.

Among the benefits offered:

- Monthly scholarship.
- Free housing and free student pass in the metropolitan area of Florence
- Full tuition fee reduction.
- Coverage of extra expenses as better specified in Art. 1.4.
- Mentoring service for all the duration of the studies.
- Full support from the International Desk staff and by the teaching staff in charge of the project.

Detailed services offered by the University of Florence are listed in Art. 1.4.



The above-mentioned academic benefits are applicable only to the beneficiaries of the scholarship and cannot be extended for any reason to relatives or third parties.

#### Art. 1.4 Benefits offered by the University of Florence

- € 5,000 per year of study. Payments will be divided in five instalments. Winners will be provided with more information upon enrollment.
- Free accommodation in one of our student dorms, in a shared room from the month of August 2021.
- Meal card with two meals a day (reduced fee) from Monday to Saturday in our student canteens.

#### Art. 1.5 Benefits offered by the project partners

- Full coverage of the expenses to be faced before the arrival in Italy (flight tickets, Visa and preparation of supporting documents), offered by Caritas Italiana
- A personal computer, offered by Caritas Italiana.
- € 2,400 per year of study covered by Diaconia Valdese to cover additional expenses, such taxes for the registration to the National Health Service or the residence card application.

### ART. 2 – Incompatibility

The UNICORE 3.0 study grants cannot be combined with:

- merit-based study grants/prizes issued by the University of Florence for the support 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 by foreign governmental bodies or institutions, on the basis of agreements with the University of Florence, aimed at assisting the enrollment of international students at the University of Florence.
- grants or any other benefit provided by DSU TOSCANA

### ART. 3 – Admission requirements

Application is open exclusively to candidates who:

1. are residing in Ethiopia 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 by March 31, 2021; the degree must be issued by a higher education institution, accredited by the local government;
3. have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 24/30, according to the Italian higher education grading system. The conversion into the Italian GPA will be carried out according to the formula described in the attachment 1.
4. the degree must not have been obtained before the year 2016;
5. meet the specific admission requirements of the Second cycle degree program of interest; for more information about specific requirements see Art. 10;
6. have never been enrolled before in a degree program at the University of Florence or at any of the Partner Universities.



## ART. 4 – Selection criteria and application documents

### Art. 4.1 Selection criteria and evaluation committee

Candidates are selected on the basis of merit requirements.

For the University of Florence, the evaluation will be carried out by a Committee of Experts composed by professors Ivana Acocella and Alberto Tonini (Teaching staff in charge of the project), two members of the International Desk, the Professor in charge of the Master Programmes concerned - or her/his delegates – and any other teaching staff the Professors will consider appropriate.

### Art. 4.2 Application documents

By March 31, 2021, candidates are required to submit the following documentation:

#### MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:

1. The application form (attachment 2).
2. Their Proof of Registration, issued by UNHCR, or Refugee Identity Card, issued by Ethiopian authorities and UNHCR.
3. An official certificate of the first level degree, issued by the awarding university, confirming the qualification required for admission to the chosen master programme.
4. An official transcript of exams passed and relative marks.
5. Any relevant and additional document required by the specific programmes chosen (see Art. 10).

#### NOT MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:

Letter/s of references (in English or in Italian) written by supervisor/advisor supporting the student's application.

All documents presented by applicants must be in English or Italian.

**All documents in any language other than Italian or English must be accompanied by a translation.**

During the application phase, the translation into English or Italian can be done directly by the candidate.

### Art. 4.3 Deadlines and modalities

Applications, along with the documents listed in article 4.2, can be submitted from the day after the publication of this call to March 31, 2021 at 12:00 pm (Italian Official Time), exclusively via email to the following email address: [unicore@unifi.it](mailto:unicore@unifi.it)

The email must bear as object: **UNICORE 3.0 and the name and surname of the candidate.**

For guidance when filling the application for the Programmes offered by the University of Florence, candidates can contact the International desk:

Telephone: (+39) 055/2756.962/963/964/965 from Monday to Thursday 9.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. (Italian Official Time) or send an email to [unicore@unifi.it](mailto:unicore@unifi.it)

Applications that are not properly filled in or complete with all the required documentation will not be accepted. Applications cannot be submitted on paper, by fax or to an email address different from the above mentioned one.

For the University of Florence, candidates are allowed to apply for maximum two programmes. It is highly recommended that candidates apply for no more than two different Italian Universities



(including Florence) and to concentrate their choice on the programmes in which they meet the specific entry requirements.

## Art. 5 - Selection process

The application process is divided into two steps:

- Step 1: preliminary evaluation of the documentation
- Step 2: online interview

### Art. 5.1 Step 1 – Preliminary evaluation of the documentation

The Committee of Experts will evaluate the documentation according to the following criteria:

- academic background and Grade Point Average (score: 0-15);
- evaluation of CV: professional experience and personal skills (score: 0-15);
- coherence between previous studies and selected Second Cycle Degree programme (score: 0-10).

Candidates receiving a score of less than 25 will not be admitted to step 2 of the selection process. Candidates admitted to Step 2 will be notified by email by May 10, 2021.

### Art. 5.2 Step 2 – Online interview

The interviews will be conducted in English via web, on services such as Skype, Google Hangouts or WhatsApp. Candidates admitted to step 2 will be interviewed by the Committee of Experts, who will evaluate their 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.

Interviews will take place starting from May 17, 2021.

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

Candidates are requested to come to the interview with the Refugee Identity Card or Proof of Registration (PoR) Card used during the online application. A third party will be present at the beginning of the interview for the identification of the candidate.

Candidates with disabilities who need assistance during the interview must specify the type of disability they have and the kind of support they need in the application form. In this case, an official disability certificate is also requested.

### Art. 5.3 – Establishment and approval of the final ranking list

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

Candidate rankings are drawn up by the Committee of Experts, summing up the results of the two phases and are approved by decree. The rankings are organised in decreasing order of points.

The two available seats are awarded on a gender balance ratio and the committee will elaborate two different 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 seats can be awarded to two representatives of the same gender.

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

The list of eligible applicants for the University of Florence, including the ones not selected for the available seats, will be published by June 22, 2021 on [www.unifi.it/unicore](http://www.unifi.it/unicore) and on <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>. In this list, Refugee Identity Card number or the Proof of Registration (PoR) Card number instead of full name, will be used to identify the eligible applicants and the ones not selected.

Winners will be notified by email by June 22, 2021.



#### Art. 5.4 Acceptance

The winner candidates must reply to the University of Florence communication accepting the scholarship by 10 days from the reception. Failing to provide a feedback by the given deadline will cause the loss of the benefits.

By accepting the scholarship, candidates fully accept without reserve UNICORE 3.0 project support and financial benefits at the conditions established in this call for applications. With the acceptance candidates 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.

Candidates will receive from the International desk of the University of Florence detailed information about the procedure to follow in order to complete the enrollment.

Candidates selected for the UNICORE 3.0 project support and financial benefits are not automatically enrolled in the chosen second cycle degree Programme. Candidates must comply with the applicable provisions and deadlines, including enrollment regulations, established by the Memorandum issued by the Italian Ministry of University and Research, concerning foreign students' access to university degree programmes.

More specifically, upon their arrival in Italy, to complete the enrollment process, candidates selected as winners will have to submit to the International desk the following documents:

- the original bachelor's degree certificate, or its certified copy, legalized by the competent Italian embassy/consulate, along with its translation in Italian and the **dichiarazione di valore in loco**;
- the original transcript of records, legalized by the competent Italian embassy/consulate, along with its translation in Italian.

#### Art. 5.5 Ranking scroll and assignment of available seats

Candidates selected as winners can withdraw by sending an e-mail to [unicore@unifi.it](mailto:unicore@unifi.it).

In case a candidate winner of the scholarship will withdraw by July 2, 2021, the scholarship will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the gender-based ranking.

If after having scrolled all the rankings, seats will still be available, the University of Florence reserves the right of searching for eligible candidates from other rankings issued by the Universities partners of the project. Potential candidates must undergo any additional selection process that the University of Florence will consider appropriate, in order to verify the specific entry requirements.

## ART. 6 – Access to the scholarship and renewal requirements

### Art. 6.1 Access to the scholarship

Winners will receive detailed information on how to access the benefits by email.

### Art. 6.2 Renewal requirements

- First year: by August 10, 2022: **18 CFU/credits**.
- Second year: by August 10, 2023: **54 CFU/credits**.



### Art. 6.3 Additional Renewals

The students who do not succeed to complete the Master Programme by December 2023 can request a 6 months extension of the scholarship for the amount of 3,750 euros. The extension is awarded only if, by 22 December 2023, the students have to pass two exams, university internship (if applicable) and defend the final thesis. The request must be submitted to the International desk by 22 December 2023.

### ART. 7 - Withdrawal from studies

Winners who, after their enrollment, apply for withdrawal from studies, will lose their right to all the benefits listed in Art. 1.4 and will be requested to return the PC.

### ART. 8 – Information notice concerning data processing

Personal data are processed according to the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) and according to the legislative decree 196/2003 and its subsequent amendments and additions.

Personal data collected are also processed 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 further information on personal data processing by the University of Florence, applicants can consult the webpage on the privacy policy and data protection (<https://www.unifi.it/vp-11360-protezione-dati.html>)

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. 9 – Conditional issuing of the call for applications

The implementation of the project and the assignment of the expected benefits are subordinate to the signing of the cooperation agreement and its addendum for the project “University Corridors for Refugees 3.0” (Ethiopia, 2021-2023) among the parties listed in Art. 1.

Additionally, this call might be suspended or withdrawn in accordance with the developments of the legal and epidemiological framework of the health emergency known as “Coronavirus” or “SARS-CoV-19”.

### Art. 10 – List of the Second Cycle Degree taught in English participating in the call for University of Florence

The Second cycle degree programmes taught in English at the University of Florence are:

#### **School of Agriculture**

- Natural Resources Management for Tropical Rural Development





**School of Architecture**

- Architecture (*Curriculum: Architectural Design*)

**School of Economics and Management**

- Design of Sustainable Tourism Systems
- Economics and Development
- Finance and Risk Management

**School of Engineering**

- Geoengineering

**School of Humanities and Education**

- Geography, Spatial Management, Heritage for International Cooperation

**School of Mathematical, Physical and Natural Sciences**

- Advanced Molecular Sciences
- Computer Science (*Curriculum: Resilient and Secure Cyber Physical Systems*)

**School of Political Science**

- International Relations and European Studies

Any candidate may opt for maximum two programmes. Candidates must autonomously check the entry requirements of the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programmes, as specified in the Admission criteria table (attachment 3).

Candidates must hold a certificate of English proficiency at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (attachment 4). The English language competence of candidates who do not hold the above-mentioned certificate will be assessed during the interview (see art. 5.2).

### Art. 11 - Publication of the Call

The present call and the four attachments will be published on the official University Register, on the website <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/> and at [www.unifi.it/unicore](http://www.unifi.it/unicore)

### Art. 12 - Procedure Manager

In compliance with the provisions of Law no. 241/1990, art.5, the person in charge of the procedure at the present call is Dr Maria Orfeo, Area Servizi alla Didattica, Piazza S. Marco 4 - Firenze, Italy.