University Corridors for Refugees – UNICORE 2.0 (Ethiopia - 2020/2022)

Call for applications for 1 study grant and welcome services for refugee student registering for Second cycle degree programmes taught in English at the University of L'Aquila, for the Academic Years 2020-21

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APPLICATION DEADLINES: from April 20th, 2020 to May 20th 2020

ART. 1 - Subject, amount and duration

The general objective of the "University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 2.0" project is to promote the right to high education for refugees, through study corridors from Ethiopia to Italy. The project is jointly promoted by a consortium of partners, including: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Caritas Italiana, Diaconia Valdese, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), University of L'Aquila (Univaq) and other Italian Universities participating in the project.

The Regional Board for the Right to University Study (ADSU) and other local partners might also contribute to the development of the project at local level.

The benefits are intended for holders of International Protection certified by UNHCR living in Ethiopia, registering in one of the Second cycle degree programmes among those offered at the University of L'Aquila for Academic Year (A.Y.) 2020-21.

The Second cycle degree programmes participating in the call for University of L'Aquila is listed in Art. 10.

UNICORE 2.0 benefits are assigned for A.Y. 2020-21 and A.Y. 2021-22. Maintenance merit requirements and additional renewals conditions are listed in Art. 6.

1.1 Benefits and supports offered by the Programme

Eligible candidates will receive full support during all the steps of application, including financial coverage of all the expenses prior to the arrival and support for pre-enrolling at the Italian Embassy in Ethiopia and carrying out immigration procedures (see Art. 9).

Winners will also receive financial coverage for the travel expenses to Italy and full support during their studies (see Art. 9).

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

Services offered by the University of L'Aquila are listed in Art. 1.2.

1.2 Benefits and supports specifically offered by the University of L'Aquila (and/or local partners)

The University of L'Aquila will offer the winner:

- € 4.800 per year of study. Payments will be divided in installments and subject to the achievement of merit requirements. Winners will be provided with more information upon enrollment;
- full tuition fee reduction;
- free accommodation in one of our student dorms;
- meal card with two free meals a day from Monday to Sunday in our student canteen or affiliated restaurant;
- enrollment in NHS;
- annual Public transportation subscription;
- mentoring service for all the duration of the studies;
- Full technical support from the International Student Office staff;
- psychological support;
- local students and local associations will support the winner in the integration in the student life and will assist for any problem meet during the stay;
- an additional limited budget might be made available for the coverage of unforeseen and/or urgent expenses. The priority of the need will be prior discussed with and authorized by the University of L'Aquila.

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

ART. 2 – Incompatibility

The UNICORE 2.0 study grants cannot be combined with:

- merit-based study grants issued by the University of L'Aquila for the support of international students;
- study grants issued by the 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 L'Aquila, aimed at assisting the enrolment of international students at the University of L'Aquila;
- regional scholarship offered by ADSU.

ART. 3 – Admission requirements

Application is open exclusively to candidates who:

1. are residing in Ethiopia and have been recognized the refugee status/International Protection by UNHCR;
2. hold a qualification valid for admission to the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programme, issued by a higher education institution accredited in the Ethiopian higher education system;
3. have obtained their qualification in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 or 2020;
4. have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.0 according to the Ethiopian tertiary education grading system;

5. meet the pertinent admission requirements of the Second cycle degree program of interest, or will meet such requirements at the time of registration. For more information about admission requirements see specific links at Art. 10;
6. have never been enrolled before in a degree Programme at any of the Partner Universities of the UNICORE 2.0 Programme.

ART. 4 – Selection criteria and application documents

Art 4.1 Selection criteria and evaluation committee
Students are selected on the basis of merit requirements.

For the University of L'Aquila, the evaluation will be carried out by a Committee of Experts composed by the Vice-Rector to the sustainable development, a Professor of the Teaching staff in charge of the project, a member of the International Relations office, 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
Students are required to submit the following documentation:

1. the application form attached to this call (see Attachment 1);
2. a copy of their currently valid Refugee Identity card or a Proof of registration (PoR) issued in collaboration with UNHCR;
3. a certificate confirming the qualification required for admission to the chosen degree programme;
4. transcripts of exams passed and relative marks and certification of English language knowledge;
5. any relevant and additional document required by the specific programmes chosen (see Art. 10);
6. a curriculum vitae (CV);
7. a motivation letter (maximum two A4 pages);
8. letter/s of references written by supervisor/advisor supporting the application.

Applicants are warmly recommended also to shoot a short video CV (e.g. using mobile phone) where they introduce themselves and their motivations. Examples on how to create a video CV can be found in Google.com. Candidates can send the video via https://wetransfer.com/ to the email address uri@strutture.univaq.it, specifying in the object: CALL UNICORE 2.0. Applicants will be notified via email of the receipt of the video. The addition of the video to the requested documentation is not mandatory.

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

All documents in any language other than Italian or English must be supported by a translation into English or Italian on plain (non-letterhead) paper. During the application phase, the translation may be done directly by the candidate. The submission of the translated documents only is not enough, applicants also need to provide the original document.

ATTENTION The winner might be requested to provide an official (sworn/certified) translation, when enrolling in the chosen University of L'Aquila course.

Art. 4.3 Deadlines and modalities

Applications are opened from 20th April, 2020 at 12:00 pm (noon, UTC+1) to 20th May, 2020 at 12:00 pm (noon, UTC+1).

For University of L'Aquila, students are required to send all the documents to: uri@strutture.univaq.it specifying in the object: CALL UNICORE 2.0.

Applications cannot be submitted on paper or by fax. Applications that are not properly filled in or complete with all the required documentation will not be accepted.

For University of L'Aquila, students are allowed to apply for programmes listed in art. 10. We strongly suggest students to apply for no more of two different University 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 made available from the candidates;

- step 2: in-depth evaluation and interview of candidates.

Art. 5.1. Step 1 - Evaluation of the documentation

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

- academic background and GPA (score: 0-20);

- evaluation of CV: professional experience and personal skills (score: 0-10);

- personal motivation and 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 phase 2 of the selection process.

Candidates admitted to Step 2 will be notified by email by 31th May, 2020.

Art. 5.2. Step 2 – In-depth evaluation and interview

The second part of the selection process is regulated by the pertinent rules applicable for each of the Programmes chosen by the applicant. In any case, an online interview of the candidates will be carried out by the Committee of Expert, who will evaluate their motivation, technical skills and 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 1st June 2020.

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

Candidates are requested to come to the interview with the Refugee Identity Card or the Proof of registration (PoR) used during the on-line application. A third party must be present during the beginning of the interview for the identification of the candidate.

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. The rankings are organised in decreasing order of points.

The available seat is awarded on a gender balance ratio: for candidates obtaining an equal score, the seat will be awarded to women.

In case of equal points between candidates of the same gender, preference will be given to the younger candidate.

The list of eligible applicants (identified exclusively via refugee ID card number or ration number card of the PoR) for the University of L'Aquila, including the ones not selected for the available seats, will be published by 30th June on https://www.univaq.it/section.php?id=540 and on www.unhcr.it/universitycorridors.

Art. 5.4 – Acceptance

Winners will be personally notified by email.

In order to confirm acceptance of the UNICORE 2.0 project support and financial benefits, assignees must send an e-mail to uri@strutture.univaq.it accepting the scholarship no later than 10 days from the award notification sending date. Failing to provide a feedback by the given deadline will cause the loss of the project support and financial benefits (see also art. 7).

By accepting the scholarship, the student fully accepts without reserve the UNICORE 2.0 project support and financial benefits at the conditions established 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.

Candidates will receive from the International Relations office of University of L'Aquila detailed information about the procedure to follow in order to complete the matriculation.

IMPORTANT: students selected for the UNICORE 2.0 project support and financial benefits are not automatically enrolled in the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programme. Students must comply with applicable provisions and deadlines, including the enrolment regulations established by the Memorandum issued by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research concerning foreign students' access to university degree programmes.

Art. 5.5 – Ranking scroll and assignment of available seats

In case a candidate winner of the scholarship will officially withdraw by July 15th, 2020, the scholarship will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the ranking.

If after having scrolled all rankings the seat will still be available, University of L'Aquila 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 University of L'Aquila 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 to the benefits by e-mail.

All the benefits will be immediately suspended in case the student will stop to attend classes or will not be reachable by the University staff and Professors for more than one week without any reasonable explanation.

Art. 6.2 Renewal requirements

UNICORE 2.0 benefits are assigned for A.Y. 2020-21 and A.Y. 2021-22, under the condition of the maintenance of merit requirements, as follows:

- first year: within the 10th of August 2021: 30 CREDITS (CFU);
- second year: within the 10th of August 2022: 70 CREDITS (CFU).

Art. 6.3 Additional Renewals

If the student does not succeed to complete the Master Programme within the end of December 2022, an extra grant might be awarded by the University of L'Aquila for additional 6 (six) months. The request for this extension of the scholarship must be submitted to the International Relations Office by 30th October 2022.

The extra-grant will be awarded only if, at the date of the request of such extension, the student will have to take no more than 2 exams. In any case, the extra-grant is subject to financial availability by the University of L'Aquila.

ART. 7 – Withdrawal

Candidates selected as winners can withdraw by sending an e-mail to uri@strutture.univaq.it .

In case of withdrawals received by July 15th, 2020 the scholarship UNICORE 2.0 will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the ranking.

ART. 8 – Information notice concerning data processing

Personal data collected are processed as described in the Privacy Policy page of the University of L'Aquila at the following link: https://www.univaq.it/section.php?id=573. At the same page, you can also find the text of the GDPR (Regolamento Europeo in Materia di Protezione dei Dati Personali (UE) 2016/679) and the Informativa sul trattamento dei dati personali raccolti dall'Università degli Studi dell'Aquila per il trattamento finalizzato alla gestione della carriera studente.

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 .

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

This call for application is issued conditionally to the signing of the cooperation agreement and its addendum for the project "University Corridors for Refugees 2.0" (Ethiopia –2020-2022) among all the parties listed in art. 1.

University of L'Aquila shall not be held liable in case of events of force majeure. Due to current safety issues, in any case the benefits offered by the University of L'Aquila will be granted under condition of the regular functioning of all academic and administrative services.

Art. 10 – List of the Second Cycle Degree taught in English participating in the call for University of L'Aquila

By clicking on the link of the programme you will get access to all the information about, including study plan and entry requirements.

Mathematics, Information technology and Engeneering

- Applied Data Science
  (https://www.disim.univaq.it/didattica/content.php?laurea=14&pid=549&did=0)
- Computer Technology
  (https://www.disim.univaq.it/didattica/content.php?laurea=2&pid=549&did=0)

Physical and Chemical Sciences

- Atmospheric Science and Technology
  (https://dsfc.univaq.it/it/corso-magistrale-lmast.html)

THE RECTOR
Professor Edoardo Alesse

This document complies with the original available at the International Relations Office

ATTACHMENT 1 – APPLICATION FORM

University of L'Aquila
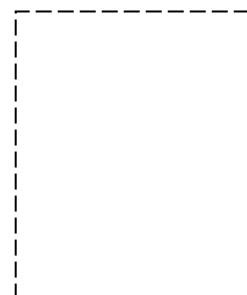
UNICORE 2.0 APPLICATION FORM

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name and Surname: ………………………………

Date and place of birth:………………………………..

Address: ………………………………..

Mobile phone: ………………………………

E-mail: ………………………………

PROGRAMMES OF INTEREST (MAX TWO CHOICES):

1. _____
2. _____

HAVE YOU APPLIED FOR OTHER UNIVERSITIES?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Summarize in about 5 lines a presentation of professional profile, future professional goals and your motivation.

WORK EXPERIENCE

From…. To….: **job role**

Company name

Describe responsibilities and what do you do in this role

From…. To….: **job role**

Company name

Describe responsibilities and what do you do in this role

EDUCATION

Degree

Date - University, Faculty/Department, Degree course: thesis title and score

Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) should be stated in the CV, and GPA documentation should be included in the application (including each semester GPA and cumulative GPA)

High school

Date – name of high school and type of diploma - score

Other formative experiences

From…. To….: **School name, town,** course title

LANGUAGES

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

LANGUAGE	WRITTEN LEVEL	SPOKEN LEVEL

Language certifications:

Please list here any language certification you have gained. Scanned copy of the certification must be attached to the application.

COMPUTER SKILLS

………..

PERSONAL SKILLS

……….

HOBBIES

………

I hereby declare to accept without reserve all the terms and condition specify in the UNICORE 2.0 Call for applications for 1 study grant and welcome services for refugee students registering for Second cycle degree programs taught in English at the University of L'Aquila, for the Academic Years 2020-21.

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

Place, Date and Signature

_____

DATA PROTECTION
In compliance with the GDPR and the Italian Legislative Decree no. 196 dated 30/06/2003, I hereby authorize the University of L'Aquila to use and process personal details contained in this application form and in all attached documents and I confirm to be informed of my rights in accordance to art. 7 of the above mentioned Decree.

I give consent to publish my refugee ID card number, or ration number card of my PoR, in the final list of candidates admitted to the project on the following websites: https://www.univaq.it/section.php?id=540 *and* *www.unhcr.it/universitycorridors*

Place, Date and Signature

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