



European
University
Institute

SCHOOL OF
TRANSNATIONAL
GOVERNANCE

MASTER OF ARTS IN TRANSNATIONAL GOVERNANCE

PROJECT: University Corridors for Refugee Students
(UNICORE 3.0)

(Ethiopia 2021/2023)

APPLICATION
PROCEDURE
2021/2022

I. Purpose of the Call

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.

The project is jointly promoted by a consortium of partners:

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Caritas Italiana
- Diaconia Valdese
- 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 Years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.

In this framework, the School of Transnational Governance (STG - <https://stg.eui.eu>) at the European University Institute (EUI – www.eui.eu) launches this Call for Applications for two scholarships for the Master of Arts in Transnational Governance (MTnG - <https://stg.eui.eu/Master>) with a duration of two years (Academic Years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023).

MTnG is a broad interdisciplinary programme focused on pressing international policy issues related to governance, politics, environment, economy, security, digitalisation and sustainability. Selected UNICORE 3.0 candidates will be welcome in a class of students from all over the world in an international post-graduate institute in Florence, Italy.

II. TIMING OF THE SELECTION PROCEDURE

Applications shall be submitted by **1 April 2021 (23h59 UCT+1)**. The selection process - including the pre-screening and the comparative review - shall not extend beyond the **end of April 2021**.

The post-selection procedures – including the communication of the decision made by the Selection Committee – shall take place at the **beginning of May 2021**.

The STG Admissions Officer shall notify, in writing, the selected candidates of the decision made by the Selection Committee. The selected candidates must confirm their acceptance within 14 days upon notification.

III. ELIGIBILITY

Application is open exclusively to candidates who:

- a. are residing in Ethiopia and have been recognized the refugee status in collaboration with UNHCR;
- b. hold a **Bachelor’s degree or equivalent, of at least 180 ECTS** valid by 31 March 2021;
- c. the degree must not have been obtained before the year 2015;
- d. have never been enrolled before in a degree program at any of the Partner Universities

Furthermore, students may not be registered at the same time for the Master's programme and another academic programme, unless a specific joint degree programme exists between the STG and that university or institution.

IV. THE APPLICATION FILE

Applications shall be submitted in electronic format **only** at applymaster@eui.eu.

The online application file is composed of:

- **Curriculum Vitae**
- **Copy of the University Diploma**

If the University Diploma is in any language other than one of the official EU languages, the candidate must submit a copy of the original together with a translation in English. Hard copies are not required at this stage.

If the University Diploma is not available prior to the submission deadline, the STG will accept a **Proof of Awarded Degree** issued by the awarding institution to verify educational credentials. A candidate, who is selected for admission, shall send the copy of the diploma by email, as soon as it becomes available.

- **Copy of the Transcript of Records**

The **Transcript of Records** shall list the courses taken per each academic term, the marks awarded and (if applicable) the final degree result.

If the Transcript of Records is in any language other than one of the official EU languages, the candidate must submit a copy of the original together with a translation in English. Hard copies are not required at this stage.

- **Letter of Motivation** (max. 600 words)
- **English International Language Certificate**

Candidates are invited to submit an English International Language Certificate. Candidates who are English native speakers or have a degree from a university programme taught entirely in English and who have written a thesis in English in such a programme are exempted. The expected level of English proficiency is level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). Should the candidates be shortlisted, the level of English might be evaluated by the Selection Committee over a call.

- **Copy of an Identity Document** including the Ration Card Number of their Proof of Registration or Refugee Identity Card, issued by Ethiopian authorities and UNHCR.
- **Two Reference Letters** to be submitted directly by the academic referees

All documents presented by applicants must be in English. All documents in any language other than English must be accompanied by a translation.

V. SELECTION CRITERIA

Candidates are selected based on merit requirements.

The STG will pursue a narrowly tailored selection-to-admission process where a wealth of information is considered to identify those most likely to benefit from the STG educational offer, and to weigh each candidate's potential contribution to the overall learning environment. The STG assumes the responsibility to treat all candidates fairly and transparently through an enabling system informed by equal opportunity to demonstrate relevant achievements and potential. The STG reserves the right to define **merit for admission** as not being limited to one factor but sitting at the intersection of multiple experiences, attributes and metrics that creates the individual context for each candidate assessment.

During the selection process, the Selection Committee will assess the following **elements**:

- **Academic record:** *Cumulative Grade-point Average (minimum 3.00)*
- **Academic and non-academic experience:** *Education Background, Life Experiences, Leadership Roles, Community Service and/or Civic Engagement*
- **Individual attributes:** *Intellectual Curiosity, Leadership Skills, Languages Spoken*
- **Overall compatibility level and potential for success** within the learning environment of the School of Transnational Governance

The Selection Committee will base its work on **the documentation submitted by the candidates** and will assess **merit for admission** as viewed in the context of the candidate's academic and personal circumstances

VI. THE SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process takes place in three consecutive stages:

Stage I: Pre-screening

At the first stage, the STG Admissions Officer pre-screens applications for completeness. In this respect, the STG Admissions Officer receives, processes, files and prepares all documentation in the necessary format. Upon completion of the pre-screening, the STG Admissions Officer draws up the preliminary shortlist and submits it together with the respective application files to the Selection Committee.

Stage II: Screening and selection

The second stage falls under the responsibility of the Selection Committee and consists of the comparative review of the application files.

Stage III: Post-selection procedures

Upon the completion of the comparative review, the Selection Committee will produce the final **ranking list**. The Selection Committee will submit the final list to the STG Admissions Officer, who shall notify in writing each candidate of the decision of the Selection Committee. The two highest ranked candidates will be considered eligible for the two scholarship made available by the STG.

Depending on the outcome of the selection procedure, candidates may receive:

- a **place offer** for the beneficiaries of one of the STG support opportunities,
- a **rejection letter**.

Ranking scroll and assignment of available seats

Candidates selected as winners can withdraw by sending an e-mail to the Admission Officer. In case a candidate winner of the scholarship will withdraw by 15 June 2021, the scholarship will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the ranking.

If after having scrolled all the rankings, scholarship placements will still be available, the STG 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 STG will consider appropriate, in order to verify the specific entry requirements.

VII. THE STG SCHOLARSHIP

The **STG Scholarship** represents the STG flagship funding initiative consisting of **full tuition fee waiver with a financial contribution** in the form of a monthly stipend of **€ 1.120,00¹**. Additionally, the STG will defray visa and travel expenses (lump sum up to **€ 1.450,00²**).

Purpose

The **scholarship** must be used only for the intended purpose, namely to cover the living expenses **in Florence** including but not limited to, housing, meals, medical and accident insurance, personal expenses.

Beneficiary

The beneficiary of the **STG Scholarship must be a registered student** of the Master's programme.

Extent and coverage

The scholarship will cover in full the normative time-to-degree for the Master's programme. Extensions of the submission deadlines for thesis/capstone project within the 90-day limit are compatible and allow retention of full fee waiver entitlement but without scholarship entitlement.

¹ The amount is liable to yearly adjustment.

² The flat-rate reimbursement for travel expenses will be calculated on the basis of the kilometric distance between Florence (as the student's temporary residence) and the student's permanent residence:

Distance in Km	Amount in EUR (roundtrip)
Over 2001 (outside Europe)	1.200,00

Upon acceptance of an intermission request for more than 30 days requiring the suspension of the registration period, the student retains the scholarship entitlement on return to the STG but does not benefit from the stipend during the absence.

Selection criteria

There are no additional selection criteria outside the admission criteria for the Master's programme.

Specific requirements

The selected candidate must secure full-time presence for the entire duration of the Master's programme in that any **preventable events** (e.g. compulsory military service) must not require, at a later stage, a long-term interruption of studies.

Requirements for retention of the full fee waiver and the scholarship entitlement under the STG Scholarship programme

Retention of full fee waiver and scholarship entitlement is conditional upon maintenance of the normative studying pace (i.e. full-time presence) and a 100% success rate during each examination session at the highest academic band score where the minimum performance limit is set by the Academic Director upon consultation with the faculty body.

VIII. STUDENT STATUS

Student status is automatically granted to all students duly registered in the Master's programme from the time they join the STG until the end of the programme. Those with student status may participate in all activities of the STG/EUI and benefit from all facilities and services provided to students.

Maximum length of registration for the Master's programme

For the Master's programme, student status may last up to **36 months (3 years)**.

Residence requirements

Students **must reside in Florence** or its immediate for the whole period of studies.

IX. WITHDRAWAL FROM STUDIES

Winners, who, after their enrollment, request a withdrawal from studies, will lose their right to all the benefits listed in Art. 7.

X. INFORMATION NOTICE CONCERNING DATA PROCESSING

Personal data collected are processed according to the provisions of data protection applicable to each of the Parties respectively. The EUI explicitly refers to its Data Protection Policy (President Decision 10/2019) which is based on data protection principles of EU legislation. (www.eui.eu/About/DataProtection)

XI. 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”.

XII. PUBLICATION OF THE CALL

The present call is published on the STG webpage <https://stg.eui.eu/Master> and on the UNICORE 3.0 Project website <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it>