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

Call for applications for 2 study grants and welcome services for refugee students applying for second-cycle degree programmes taught in English at the University of Padua, for the Academic Year 2021/22

Application period: From March 1st, 2021 until April 1st, 2021

ART. 1 - Subject, amount and duration.

The general objective of the University Corridors for Refugees - 3.0 pilot project is to promote the right to high education for refugees through study corridors from Ethiopia to Italy. University Corridors for Refugees – UNICORE 3.0 is jointly promoted by a consortium composed by the following partners:

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Caritas Italiana
- Diaconia Valdese
- Centro Astalli – JRS Jesuit Refugee Service
- Ghandi Charity
- Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)
- University of Padua
- 23 Italian higher education institutions (the complete list is included into the national agreement)

The benefits are intended for holders of International Protection certified by UNHCR living in Ethiopia, applying for one of the Second cycle degree programmes taught in English at one of the partner university for Academic Year (A.Y.) 2021/22.
The full list of the programmes available at the University of Padua is provided in Article 13.

1.2 Local Partners of the Project

The University of Padua will be supported in the project by the five local partners: Caritas, Diaconia Valdese, Associazione Popoli Insieme, Associazione Migranti, and Fondazione IRPEA. The support is conditional to the signing of the cooperation agreement between the parties which will be done by the end of June.

1.3 General Benefits and supports offered

- support for pre-enrolling at the Italian Embassy in Ethiopia and carrying out immigration procedures;
- support for applying for admission to second-cycle degree programmes listed in Art. 13;
- financial benefit, housing and board as better specified in article 1.4;
- mentoring service for the duration of the studies;
- support for integrating in the local student life and community.

1.4 Specific Benefits offered by University of Padua and local 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
- Tuition fee waiver for the whole duration of the master's degree, offered by the University of Padua
- Free accommodation in student dorms / private affiliated colleges / university residences offered by the University of Padua
- Access to two free meals a day, from Monday to Friday, in student canteens or affiliated restaurant offered by the University of Padua
- Free language course at the University Language Centre, offered by the University of Padua
- Italian language learning support offered by Associazione Popoli Insieme
- A personal computer offered by Caritas
- Coverage of the expenses for books and study materials, offered by the University of Padua
- Registration to the National healthcare system and coverage of residence permit expenses, offered by Caritas
- Dedicated support for all the administrative procedures offered by Diaconia Valdese and Associazione Migranti
- A family selected by Caritas as a support in everyday life
- Mobile phone SIM card and first month subscription, offered by Diaconia Valdese
- Annual Public transportation subscription, offered by Diaconia Valdese
- Pocket money (200€/month - 24 months), offered by Diaconia Valdese
- Psychological support, offered by Diaconia Valdese
- Support in the integration in everyday life, social inclusion, orientation to access extra-curricular activities and services offered locally jointly offered by Diaconia Valdese, Caritas, and Associazione Popoli Insieme
- Support in the integration in student life and assistance for any problem met during the studies, offered by local students, with the supervision of the University of Padua
- Post-lauream job placement facilitation and orientation through the support of an OML (Labour Market Operator) responsible for evaluating the beneficiaries' access to active policy measures or paths, offered by Fondazione IRPEA.

The above-mentioned benefits are applicable only to the beneficiaries of the scholarship and cannot be extended for any reason to relatives or third parties.
UNICORE 3.0 general and specific benefits are assigned for A.Y. 2021/22 and A.Y. 2022/23. Maintenance merit requirements and additional renewals conditions are listed in Art. 9.

ART. 2 – Incompatibility.
The UNICORE 3.0 study grants cannot be combined with:
- Padua Excellence Scholarship;
- Study grants offered 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 Padua, aimed at supporting the enrolment of international students at the University of Padua;
- Regione Veneto scholarships.

ART. 3 – General and specific admission requirements.

The application is open exclusively to candidates who meet the following requirements:

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
3. the qualification must be awarded by a higher education institution duly accredited and must grant access to a second-cycle degree programme in the relevant foreign system
4. have obtained their qualification not before 2016 and no later than March 31st, 2021
5. have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.0 according to the Ethiopian tertiary education or equivalent according to the conversion table issued by the Italian Ministry of Education
6. meet the specific admission requirements of the second-cycle degree programme of interest, or will meet such requirements by the deadline of enrolment
7. have never been enrolled before in a degree programme at any of the Partner Universities listed in the national agreement
8. comply with applicable provisions and deadlines, including enrolment regulations established by the Memorandum issued by the Italian Ministry of University and Research concerning foreign students' access to university degree programmes.

ART. 4 – Application submission: deadlines, modalities and documents needed for application

Art. 4.1 Deadlines and modalities

Applications that are not properly filled in or complete with all the required documentation will not be accepted. Students are allowed to apply for a maximum of two Universities and for a maximum of three programs for the University of Padua.

The application will be deemed valid only if the student completes the above procedure correctly.

Applications cannot be submitted on paper, by fax or by e-mail. Applications are considered valid only if all the required documents will be sent.

Applicants must be eligible for enrolling in the 1st year of a second -cycle degree (*Laurea Magistrale*) of the University of Padua (for details on the pre-requisites and procedures: https://www.unipd.it/en/how-apply).

Applicants must complete the online application between March 1st, 2021 and April 1st, 2021, by 11.59 pm - local time (GMT+1), on their personal area on apply.unipd.it

Detailed instructions for filling the application form are available in attachment 1.

For assistance or guidance, students can contact the Admissions and Welcome Unit - Global Engagement Office (international.admission@unipd.it).

Art. 4.2 Application documents

Applicants must upload the following documents to their application:

- **Motivational Letter(s)** in English;
- **Curriculum Vitae (Résumé)** in English;
- **Transcript of records**;
- **Academic title**;
- **Passport**;
- Refugee ID card / ration number card of the PoR ;
- **English Language** or **other language certifications** (if required - check entry requirements for each programme);
- **Any other document required** (check entry requirements for each programme)**.**

If admitted to the degree programme, students will have to submit other documents including legalised copies of previous qualifications. No legalised documents will have to be submitted at the application stage, but an English or Italian translation of the entry title should be uploaded as well.

All documents 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. The submission of the translated documents only is not enough, applicants must also provide the original document.
In the application phase it is not necessary to submit an official (sworn/certified) translation into Italian, or the relative legalization or the "declaration of value" of the study qualification.

ART. 5 Selection criteria

For the University of Padua, the evaluation will be carried out by a Committee of Experts. A second decree will define the members of the Committee.
Students are selected on the basis of merit requirements, which will be evaluated in two phases:
- Phase 1: preliminary evaluation of the documentation made available by the candidates
- Phase 2: in-depth evaluation and interview of candidates.

Art. 5.1 Phase 1 - evaluation of the documentation made available by the candidates

The Committee of Experts will evaluate the documentation received by each applicant based on the following criteria:

- Academic background and GPA (score: 0-15)
- Evaluation of CV: professional experience and personal skills (score: 0-15)
- Personal motivation and coherence between previous studies and selected second-cycle degree programme (score: 0-10)

Students receiving a score of less than 20 will not be admitted to phase 2 of the selection process.
Candidates admitted to Phase 2 will be notified by email by April 23rd, 2021.

Art. 5.2 Phase 2 - In-depth evaluation and interview of candidates

Applicants will be interviewed online by the relevant Committee, who will evaluate their motivation, expectations, and technical skills, as well as their mastering of the English language. Interviews will be

graded on a scale of 40 points. Shortlisted applicants scoring less than 20 points will be rejected. Those scoring 20 points or more will be eligible for the final ranking.

Interviews will be conducted in English; English proficiency will be assessed during the interview.

Interviews will take place online between starting from May 3rd, 2021.

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

Candidates are requested to join the interview with the Refugee Identity Card 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. 6 – Establishment and approval of the final ranking list

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

Beneficiaries will be notified by email by May 31st, 2021.

The list of eligible applicants for the University of Padua, including the ones not selected for the available seats, will be published by 30th June, 2021 on https://www.unipd.it/en/refugees and on www.unhcr.it/universitycorridors.

ART. 7 – Acceptance

In order to confirm acceptance of the UNICORE 3.0 project support and financial benefits, assignees must confirm their acceptance no later than 10 days from the reception, under penalty of loss of the project support and financial benefits.

By accepting the scholarship, the students fully accept without reserve UNICORE 3.0 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.

It is implied that any changes to the declared information must be promptly notified to the University.

Candidates will receive detailed information about the documents to be submitted in order to complete the enrolment.

ART. 8 – Ranking scroll and assignment of available seats

Applicants may withdraw by sending an e-mail to international.admission@unipd.it.

In case a candidate winner of the scholarship will officially withdraw by July 10th, 2021, the scholarship will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the ranking.

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

ART. 9 – Procedure for accessing the financial benefits and renewal requirements

Art.9.1 Access to the financial benefits

Beneficiaries will receive detailed information on how to access to the benefits by e-mail.

Beneficiaries are kindly invited to regularly check their mailbox for updates of the process.

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. 9.2 Renewal requirements
- First year: within the 10th of August 2022, the students must have obtained at least 30 CFU.
- Second year: within the 10th of August 2023, the students must have obtained at least 80 CFU.

Art.9.3 Additional Renewals
If the student does not succeed to complete the Master Programme within the second session of academic year 2022/2023, he/she can apply for a 6-month extension of the grant. Request must be submitted to the Admissions and Welcome Unit by October 30th, 2023.

The above additional grants will be awarded only if the student has obtained at least 90 cfu credits and they are subject to financial availability.

Any extension will be subject to a case-by-case approach.

ART. 10 – Withdrawal
In case of withdrawals, eligible students will automatically lose all benefits granted by this call for applications.

ART. 11 – Information notice concerning data processing
Personal data collected are processed as described at: https://www.unipd.it/en/privacy .

Personal data collected are also processed in compliance with UNHCR Data Protection Policy and its guidance.

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. 12 – 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 3.0" (Ethiopia –2021/2023) among all the parties listed in art. 1.

Art. 13 – List of the Second Cycle Degrees taught in English participating in the call for University of Padua
By clicking on the name of the programme you will get access to all the information about, including study plan and entry requirements.

Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine

- Forest science
- Food and health
- Italian food and wine

- Sustainable agriculture
- Biotecnologie per l'alimentazione, only for the path held in English "Biotechnologies for food science"

Economics and Political Sciences

- Business administration
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- European and Global Studies
- Human rights and multi-level governance
- Economics and finance

Engineering

- Computer Engineering
- Control Systems Engineering
- Energy engineering
- Environmental engineering
- ICT for Internet and multimedia
- Mathematical Engineering

Human and Social Sciences and Cultural Heritage

- Scienze archeologiche only for the path held in English "Applied sciences to cultural heritage, materials and sites"
- Lingue e letterature europee e americane only for the path held in English "English studies"
- Strategie di comunicazione, only for the path held in English "Communication strategies"
- Local development
- Scienze storiche, only for the path held in English "Mobility studies"

Sciences

- Astrophysics and Cosmology
- Cybersecurity
- Computer science
- Data science
- Geologia ambientale e dinamica della terra, only for the path held in English "Earth Dynamics"
- Geophysics for Natural Risks and Resources
- Molecular Biology
- Marine biology

- Physics
- Physics of Data
- Sustainable Science and Technology for Circular Economy

Il Rettore
Prof. Rosario Rizzuto

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ATTACHMENT 1 – APPLICATION DETAILS

The online application must be completed between March, 1st 2021 and April 1st 2021, by 11.59 pm – local time (GMT+1), at https://apply.unipd.it.

If applicants have already submitted an application to a Second Cycle Degree course at the University of Padua before April 20th, they are required to send an e-mail to international.admission@unipd.it.

Before starting the online application, applicants should prepare the attachments to be uploaded, as detailed in the call, art. 4.2.

To access the portal, applicants are required to create an account at: https://apply.unipd.it/applicant/register. By entering the email address, a PIN code is generated. After receiving a confirmation email at the address provided, applicants will need to enter the PIN code to continue with the registration procedure.

Applicants can choose up to three degree programmes, in order of preference, from among those listed in art. 13 on the call for applications. After selecting the degree programmes, applicants must click on 'Apply now', fill in all the required fields, upload the requested documents, and click on 'Submit' to finalise the application procedure.

Incomplete submissions will be rejected automatically.

Problems related to the online application can be reported by email (international.admission@unipd.it).