



## DECRETO RETTORE

### University Corridors for Refugees – UNICORE 5.0 (2023-2025)

Call for applications for 2 study grants and welcome services for a refugee student, from Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, registering for the master degree programme Medical Biotechnologies, taught in English, at the University of Piemonte Orientale, for the Academic Year 2023-2024.

**DEADLINE OF APPLICATION: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

### THE RECTOR

Noted that on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 University of Piemonte Orientale joined the “Manifesto of Inclusive Universities” promoted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);

Noted that the Manifesto aims to promote the right to high education and to encourage the integration of holders of International Protection;

Considered that, according to point 3 of the Manifesto, Universities can establish scholarships reserved for students and researchers’ holders of International Protection;

Considered that, according to point 4 of the Manifesto, to promote the legal entry for refugees Universities can assign reserved places to students’ holders of International Protection in third countries;

Noted that pursuant to the Manifesto, UNHCR, Caritas Italiana, Diaconia Valdese, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) together with a joined group of Italian universities, including the University of Piemonte Orientale, promoted the project *University Corridors for Refugees – UNICORE 5.0*;

Considered that the project aims to promote the right to high education for refugees through study corridors from Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia e Zimbabwe to Italy;

Noted that, the amount of €12.000,00 is registered whit the UPB RCVgaidanogESAMILAB, Preimpegni 13164/2023 e 13165/2023;

Noted that on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023 the Board of Directors approved joining the Local UNICORE 5.0 partnership (resolution no. 4/2023/11.2);

### ANNOUNCES

It is approved the Call for applications, available as an attachment, for 2 study grants and welcome services for two refugee students, from Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia e Zimbabwe, enrolling on the Master Degree programme Medical Biotechnologies, taught in English, at the University of Piemonte Orientale, for the Academic Year 2023-2024.

THE RECTOR  
(Prof. Gian Carlo AVANZI)

**Att. a)**

Call of Application "**University Corridors for Refugees 5.0**" for 2 study grants and welcome services for 2 refugee students, from Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia e Zimbabwe, registering for the Master Degree programme Medical Biotechnologies, taught in English, at the University of Piemonte Orientale, for the Academic Year 2023-2024.

**ART.1 Subject, amount and duration**

The general objective of the University Corridors for Refugees – UNICORE 5.0 project is to promote the right to high education for refugees through study corridors to Italy. The project is jointly promoted by a consortium of partner

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR);
- Caritas Italiana;
- Diaconia Valdese;
- Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);
- The Italian Universities better specified in the Cooperation Agreement (see Art. 9);

The benefits are intended for holders of International Protection admitted to the Master Degree programme in Medical Biotechnologies.

UNICORE 5.0 benefits are assigned for the academic years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. Maintenance merit requirements and additional renewals conditions are listed in Art. 6.

**1.1 Local Partners of the Project**

The University of Piemonte Orientale will be supported in the project by three local partners:

- Arcidiocesi di Vercelli and its sections based in Vercelli (Pastorale Universitaria, Pastorale Migrantes and Caritas Diocesana);
- Chiesa Metodista section based in Novara and section based in Vercelli;
- Ente Regionale per il diritto allo studio della Regione Piemonte;

The support is conditional to the signing of the cooperation agreement between the parties.

**1.2 Benefits and supports offered**

Benefits included in the scholarship to the winner will be the following:

- Full coverage of the expenses to be faced before the arrival in Italy: flight tickets, Visa and preparation of supporting documents (CARITAS);
- € 6,000 per year of study (for accommodation and living expenses). Payments will be divided in instalments and subjected to the achievement of merit requirements: 50% upon arrival; 30% in March, at least 15 ECTS (university credits); 20% in August, at least 25 ECTS (special conditions will be considered);
- Winners will be provided with more information upon enrollment (UNIVERSITY OF PIEMONTE ORIENTALE);
- No tuition fees (UNIVERSITY OF PIEMONTE ORIENTALE);
- The staff of the University will be at the student's disposal for assistance and will support them in the admission procedures (UNIVERSITY OF PIEMONTE ORIENTALE);
- Italian Language course (PASTORALE UNIVERSITARIA);
- Accommodation and restaurant services (EDISU Piemonte);
- Legal support offered (PASTORALE MIGRANTES);

- Psychological support offered (CARITAS DIOCESANA);
- Enrollment in National Health System NHS (CARITAS DIOCESANA);
- Annual Public transportation subscription or other means of transportation (CARITAS DIOCESANA);
- Clothes, if needed (CARITAS DIOCESANA);
- A personal PC and stationery (CHIESE METHODISTE);

### **ART.2 Incompatibility**

The UNICORE 5.0 study grants cannot be combined with:

- Merit-based study grants/prizes issued by the University of Piemonte Orientale 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, based on agreements with the University of Piemonte Orientale, aimed at assisting the enrollment of international students at the University of Piemonte Orientale;
- EDISU Piemonte Scholarship;

### **ART.3 Admission requirements**

Application is open exclusively to candidates who meet the following requirements:

1. Are residing in countries identified by UNHCR for this project, especially from Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia e Zimbabwe, and have been recognized the refugee status in collaboration with UNHCR;
2. Hold a qualification valid for admission to the Master Degree programme in Medical Biotechnologies. Students will normally hold an undergraduate degree in either: Biology, Biotechnology, Pharmacy, Veterinary Medicine, or closely related fields within the Health Sciences;
3. The degree must be issued by a higher education institution accredited in the higher education system in the countries identified by UNHCR for this project or in another country;
4. ***Have a grade average of at least 24/30 – referred to the Italian System. For the conversion of the average to the Italian grading system, it will be used the official conversion formula of the Italian Ministry of Education, as for attachment 2 of this call;***
5. The degree must not be obtained before the year 2017;
6. Meet the specific admission requirements of the Master Degree programme in Medical Biotechnologies;
7. Have never been enrolled before in a degree programme at Università del Piemonte Orientale or any of the Partner University;

### **ART.4 Selection criteria and application documents**

#### **4.1 Selection criteria and evaluation committee**

Students are selected on the basis of merit requirements (CV, transcripts and, if needed, interview).

The evaluation will be carried out by a Committee of Experts designated by the University of Piemonte Orientale.

#### **4.2 Application documents**

Students are required to submit the following documentation:

**MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:**

1. The application form (see Attachment 1);
  2. A copy of their currently valid Refugee Identity card issued in collaboration with UNHCR;
  3. A certificate confirming the qualification required for admission to the master degree programme Medical Biotechnologies;
  4. Transcripts of exams passed and relative marks;
  5. Additional document required by the master degree programme chosen;
- NOT MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:
6. A motivation letter (maximum two A4 pages);
  7. Letter/s of references written by supervisor/advisor supporting the application;
  8. Applicants are warmly recommended to shoot a short video CV (e.g. using a mobile phone) where they introduce themselves and their motivations [Examples on how to create a video CV can be found on Google.com];

In this phase, the translation of documents should be done directly by the candidates.

#### 4.3 Deadlines and modalities

Applications are opened from **3<sup>rd</sup> April at 12:00 pm (noon, UTC+1) to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 12:00 pm (noon, UTC+1)**. Students are required to apply through the website <https://forms.gle/fyxKfsS8ZPgex2Pv6>

In case they do not have access to google, they are required to send all the documents to: [director.medicalbiotech@uniupo.it](mailto:director.medicalbiotech@uniupo.it) specifying in the object: CALL UNICORE 5.0.

Applications that are not properly filled in or completed with all the required documentation will not be accepted.

#### ART.5 Selection process

The selection process is divided into two steps:

- Step 1: evaluation of the documentation
- Step 2: on-line interview

#### 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: 0-15);
- 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 **7<sup>th</sup> June 2023**.

#### 5.2 Step 2 Online Interview

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 mastery of the English language. Interviews will be graded on a scale of 60 points.

Interviews will take place starting on **13<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 10:00 am (Italian time, CET)** and will be held online.

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

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 PoR card used during the online application. A third party, representatives of the partnership, must be present during the beginning of the interview for the identification of the candidate.

#### 5.3 Establishment and approval of the final ranking list

Candidates who will score less than 60/100 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 Rectoral Decree.

The ranking is organized in decreasing order of points. For equal points, preference will be given to the younger candidate. Winners will be notified by email by **30<sup>th</sup> June 2023**.

#### **5.4 Acceptance.**

To confirm the scholarship candidates must reply to the University communication accepting the scholarship within 10 days from the reception. Failing to provide feedback by the given deadline will cause the loss of the benefits.

By accepting the scholarship, the student fully accepts without reserve UNICORE 5.0 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.

#### **5.5 Ranking scroll and assignment of available seats**

In case a candidate winner of the scholarship will officially withdraw by 10th July 2023, the scholarship will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the ranking. In case of vacant seats, the University of Piemonte Orientale reserves the right to search for eligible candidates from a ranking of other University partners of UNICORE 5.0. Eligible candidates from external rankings must meet specific requirements of the programme of University of Piemonte Orientale.

#### **ART.6 Renewal requirements**

##### **6.1 Renewal requirements**

In order to renew (for the academic year 2024-2025) scholarship students are required to earn 30 ECTS by the **10<sup>th</sup> of August 2024**.

In case the study plan of the first year of the Master in which the student is enrolled will be of less than 60 credits ECTS, the minimum credits required for the renewal will be half of the full amount of credits for the first year as indicated in the official study plan.

In order to maintain the scholarship, students are required to earn 60 university credits by the **10<sup>th</sup> of August 2025**. Students are required to graduate by the last session available for their matriculation year, e.g. April 2026.

##### **6.2 Additional Renewals**

Students who do not succeed to graduate by April 2026 can request a 6 months extension of the scholarship, with the condition to have earned at least 80 university credits by **31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**. An extension request must be submitted to the International Student Office.

#### **ART.7 Withdrawal from the course**

Candidates who will withdraw from the programme during their studies will lose all the benefits of the scholarship.

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

In compliance with European data protection policy, the personal data collected are processed as described in the “*Informative privacy*” available (in Italian) at: <https://www.uniupo.it/it/ateneo/regole-trasparenza-sindacati/normativa/protezione-dei-dati-personali/informative>.

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



UNIVERSITÀ DEL PIEMONTE ORIENTALE



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

Italia

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b360f4d4.html>.

The candidates will also give consent to publish the refugee ID card number or the ration number card of *PoR* in the list of admitted candidates and the final ranking list both on the website: [www.universitycorridors.unhcr.it](http://www.universitycorridors.unhcr.it) and on: [www.uniupo.it](http://www.uniupo.it).

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 5.0” (2023-2025) and to the specific cooperation agreement between University of Piemonte Orientale and the local partners.

THE RECTOR  
(Prof. Gian Carlo AVANZI)



**UNICORE 5.0 APPLICATION FORM**  
University of Piemonte Orientale

**PERSONAL DETAILS**

Name and Surname: .....  
Date and place of birth: .....  
Address: .....  
Mobile phone: .....  
E-mail: .....  
refugee ID card number; .....  
OR ration number card of *PoR*: .....

**HAVE YOU APPLIED TO ANOTHER UNIVERSITY?**

1. (university and programme of interest): \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL STATEMENT**

*Summarize in a short presentation your professional profile, future professional goals and motivation.*

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

From.... To....  
Job role  
Company name  
*Describe responsibility and what did you do in this role*

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Job role  
Company name  
*Describe responsibility and what did 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's 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**

*Levels of 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. A scanned copy of the certification must be attached to the application

**COMPUTER SKILLS**

.....

**PERSONAL SKILL**

.....

**HOBBIES**

.....

*I authorize the processing of personal data contained in my curriculum vite according to art. 13 of Legislative Decree 193/2003 and art. 13 GDPR (EU Regulation 2016/679) for the sole purpose of personnel research and selection.*

**ATTACHMENT 2**

Annex 2 Tabella ministeriale per la conversione:

[ALLEGATO 5 D.M. n.313 - 2016 SSM 2015-2016 - Conversione Titoli \(miur.it\)](#)