



## DECRETO RETTORE

### University Corridors for Refugees – UNICORE 6.0 (2024-2026)

Call for applications for 2 study grants and welcome services for two refugee students, from Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, registering for the master degree programme Medical Biotechnologies, taught in English, at the University of Piemonte Orientale, for the Academic Year 2024-2025.

**DEADLINE OF APPLICATION: 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 12:00 p.m. (noon, UTC+2).**

## 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, 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 6.0*;

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

Noted that on March 01<sup>st</sup> 2024, the Board of Directors approves to join the programme for the 6<sup>th</sup> edition, the issue €13.400,00 scholarship for each year and to exonerate from the fee payment (resolution no. 2/2024/13.1);

Noted that, the amount of €13.400,00 is registered whit the UPB RCVgaidanogESAMILAB, Preimpegno 855/2024;

## ANNOUNCES

It is enacted the Call for applications, available as an attachment, for 2 study grants and welcome services for two refugee students, from Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, enrolling on the Master Degree programme Medical Biotechnologies, taught in English, at the University of Piemonte Orientale, for the Academic Year 2024-2025.

THE RECTOR  
(Prof. Gian Carlo AVANZI)

**Att. a)**

Call of Application "**University Corridors for Refugees 6.0**" for 2 study grants and welcome services for 2 refugee students, from Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, registering for the Master Degree programme Medical Biotechnologies, taught in English, at the University of Piemonte Orientale, for the Academic Year 2024-2025.

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

The general objective of the University Corridors for Refugees – UNICORE 6.0 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);
- 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 6.0 benefits are assigned for the Academic Years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. 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 winners will be the following:

- Full coverage of the expenses to be faced before the arrival in Italy: Visa and preparation of supporting documents;
- € 6.700,00 per year of study. Payments will be divided in instalments and subjected to the achievement of merit requirements: 50% upon arrival; 30% in March, at least 15 university credits - ECTS; 20% in August, at least 25 ECTS (special conditions will be considered);
- Flight tickets;
- Winners will be provided with more information upon enrollment;
- No tuition fees;
- The staff of the University will be at the student's disposal for assistance and will support them in the admission procedures;
- Italian Language course;
- Accommodation and restaurant services;
- Legal support offered;
- Psychological support offered;
- Support in the enrollment in National Health System NHS;

- Annual Public transportation subscription or other means of transportation;
- Clothes, if needed;
- A personal PC and stationery.

### **ART. 2 Incompatibility**

The UNICORE 6.0 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, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and 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 (GPA of at least 3.0). 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 **2019** and no later than the **call deadline**;
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;
8. Proficiency in the English language is required.

### **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. A copy of their currently valid Refugee Identity card issued in collaboration with UNHCR;
2. Official Degree Certificate (a certificate confirming the qualification required for admission to the master degree programme Medical Biotechnologies);

3. Official transcripts of exams passed and grades;
4. GPA documentation (cumulative GPA);
5. Curriculum Vitae;
6. Motivation letter (maximum two A4 pages).

**NOT MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:**

7. English Language Certification;
8. Italian Language Certification;
9. GPA documentation (each semester GPA);
10. Letter/s of references written by supervisor/advisor supporting the application;
11. 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];
12. Syllabus/Course description for each subject;
13. Other relevant documents.

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

#### **4.3 Deadlines and modalities**

Applications are opened from **1<sup>st</sup> March at 12:00 p.m. (noon, UTC+2) to 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 12:00 p.m. (noon, UTC+2)**. Students are required to apply through the website <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/> managed by UNHCR.

#### **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: 0-20);
- Evaluation of CV: professional experience and personal skills (score: 0-10);
- 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 **30<sup>th</sup> April 2024**.

#### **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 **01<sup>st</sup> May 2024 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 ranking 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 **03<sup>rd</sup> June 2024**.

### **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 6.0 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 2024**, 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 6.0. 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 2025-2026) scholarship students are required to earn 30 ECTS by the **10<sup>th</sup> of August 2025**.

In case the study plan of the first year of the Master in which the student is enrolled will be of less than 60 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 ECTS by the **10<sup>th</sup> of August 2026**. Students are required to graduate by the last session available for their matriculation year, e.g. April 2027.

### **6.2 Additional Renewals**

Students who do not succeed to graduate by April 2027 can request a 6 months extension of the scholarship, with the condition to have earned at least 80 ECTS by **31<sup>st</sup> March 2027**. 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



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<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 6.0” (2024-2026) and to the specific cooperation agreement between University of Piemonte Orientale and the local partners.

THE RECTOR  
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**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

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Annex 2 Tabella ministeriale per la conversione:

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