



**Politecnico
di Torino**



PolITO & UNICORE 8.0

UNIVERSITY CORRIDORS FOR REFUGEES

***from Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India,
Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda,
Zambia and Zimbabwe***

**Call for applications for 3 study grants and welcome
services for refugee students enrolling in a
Master of Science Program taught in English
for the Academic Year 2026-2027**



BACKGROUND

The project University Corridors for Refugees UNICORE 8.0 is promoted by Italian universities with the support of UNHCR, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Caritas Italiana, Diaconia Valdese, Centro Astalli and other partners. It aims at increasing opportunities for refugees currently residing in Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe to continue their higher education in Italy.

Art. 1 – Objective and Project Partners

The general objective of the UNICORE 8.0 Project is to promote the right to higher education for refugees through study corridors from Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe to Italy.

The project is jointly promoted by a consortium of **National** and **Local** partners:

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Caritas Italiana
- Waldesian Board (member of the Italian Federation of Protestant Churches)
- Centro Astalli per Rifugiati (Italian branch of the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS))
- Gandhi Charity
- Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)
- Italian universities signing the cooperation agreement for the project “University Corridors for Refugees - 8.0, including the Politecnico di Torino
- Ufficio per la Pastorale dei Migranti (UPM) dell’Arcidiocesi di Torino

Art. 2. – Admission requirements

The benefits are intended for students who:

- currently **live in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe;**
- have been recognized the refugee status in these countries in collaboration with UNHCR;
- **Bachelor’s degree (level 6 EQF) or an equivalent academic qualification** corresponding to the Italian qualification *Laurea*, awarded by an accredited foreign university and giving access to second-cycle courses (level EQF 7));
- hold a degree obtained in or after 2021 and no later than April 17th, 2026;
- have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.0 according to the Country of graduation tertiary education grading system and equivalent to 24/30 referred



to the Italian System, according to the comparable table (**Annex 2**) issued by the Italian Ministry of Education;

- meet Politecnico di Torino curricular requirements and have an academic performance considered suitable for admission to the Master's degree program they want to apply for (**please check the ENTRY REQUIREMENTS PER COURSE 2026/27 as listed in Annex 1**);
- have never been enrolled in a Degree Program at Politecnico di Torino or any other Italian University;
- hold an English Language Certificate (level B2 or higher, see table Table of 23/09/2019 updated on 22/12/2022 https://www.polito.it/en/education/services-and-life-at-politecnico/polito-language-centre-cla/certificates#par_249689) or a signed declaration about English language proficiency (see **Annex 3**).

Art. 3. - Supports and benefits offered to the winners

3.1 - Amount, number and duration of the scholarships

Politecnico di Torino will support winners with **3 scholarships supported by a legacy in memory of Guido and Alessandro Bonicelli** in case of Engineering students or by the **University funds** in case of Architecture/ Urban and Regional Planning students.

The Gross Amount of the scholarship is **10.000 €** per year for the 2 years of the program. **The amount net of all charges for the beneficiary account is 9.216,58 € per year.**

The awarding of the scholarship for the second year is subject to the achievement of academic merit requirements (art. 7.2).

The 3 available scholarships will be distributed with at least 1 to a female student enrolled in Engineering/Architecture/ Urban and Regional Planning MSc. If there are no female candidates all scholarships may be awarded to candidates from other categories.

3.2 – Other benefits

Beneficiaries of the UNICORE 8.0 project will benefit from the following services:

Provided by Politecnico di Torino:

- exemption from Politecnico tuition fees for a.y. 2026/27 and 2027/28;
- free Italian language Course provided by the Language Center of the Politecnico;



- assistance of the staff of the Politecnico for any problem related to academic career and enrolment procedures;
- bureaucratic assistance in the application for the Italian residence permit provided by Politecnico Immigration Desk;
- accommodation in housing facilities designated by the Politecnico. The monthly cost is approximately € 300, which will be paid directly by the student.

Provided by DIACONIA VALDESE CSD:

- coverage of the expenses for the taxes collected by the Politecnico and transferred to other institutions (premium for accident insurance, enrollment revenue stamp and EDISU Piemonte);
- full coverage of the expenses to obtain and renew the Residence Permit (118,46 euro per year);
- coverage of the expenses to take out Health Insurance for the entire duration of the master of science program;
- annual City Public transportation subscription for the first months prior to the payment of the scholarship;
- support for the bureaucratic procedures and for the access to local and extra-academic services;
- purchase of a telephone SIM and payment of the first month's subscription;
- orientation to extra-academic activities and support for social inclusion;
- pocket money (100 euro) upon arrival;

Provided by UFFICIO PASTORALE MIGRANTI (UPM) dell'Arcidiocesi di Torino:

- facilitation space for listening, information, orientation and support to access local services with reference to healthcare services provided by the volunteer associations with which it operates in collaboration;
- social inclusion through socialization and cultural activities;
- didactic support and Italian language courses provided by volunteers with adequate skills and professionalism;
- monthly supply of food parcels;
- makes the equipped study room Spazio 26 available
- arranges the transfer of the students from the arrival airport to the designated housing facilities, also covering all transportation costs.

Provided by CAMMINARE INSIEME

- offers guidance and support for registration with the National Health Service and for accessing specific specialist care, when necessary;



- provides, while the student completes — at his/her own expense — the registration with the National Health Service (SSN), and within the limits of available resources, free healthcare services, including specialist and pharmaceutical care — at its own outpatient clinic;
- provides — within the limits of its available resources — linguistic and cultural mediation services;
- facilitates the management of any health-related issues, including through personalised pathways integrated with local services;
- actively collaborates with UniTo, PoliTO, Diaconia Valdese, and UPM for the joint management of situations of particular vulnerability and urgency, in order to develop appropriate responses to students' needs and to ensure their inclusion within Public Services.

Art. 4 – Incompatibilities

The UNICORE 8.0 study grants cannot be combined with:

- merit-based study grants/prizes issued by the Politecnico di Torino for the support of international students;
- study grants issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);
- scholarships offered by the Conference of Italian University Rectors - CRUI in favor of international protection holders;
- study grants issued by foreign governmental bodies or institutions aimed at assisting the enrolment of international students at Italian Universities;
- scholarships offered by Ente Regionale per il Diritto allo Studio Universitario (EDISU Piemonte);
- any other scholarships that infringe the regular participation in the project UNICORE 8.0.

Art. 5 – How to apply and deadlines

Students are allowed to apply to a maximum of **two** universities among those participating in the UNICORE 8.0 project, including Politecnico di Torino. This is a mandatory requirement: non-compliance with this clause will cause the immediate rejection of the application.

Moreover, students are allowed to apply for a maximum of **two** Politecnico di Torino **Master of Science programs entirely taught in English** (see **Annex 1**).

Application Form



Candidates who meet the admission requirements listed in Art. 2 are invited to fill in and attach all mandatory documents in the online application form available on the Unicore website: <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>

Once the application has been submitted, a confirmation email to the mailbox indicated in the online form will be sent. Incomplete or incorrect applications will not be taken into consideration.



Applications can be sent **from 2nd March 2026 to 17th April 2026 at 12:00 p.m. (noon, UTC+2).**

List of **MANDATORY DOCUMENTS** to attach in the application form:

1. UNHCR Refugee card or Proof of Registration
2. Official Bachelor's degree certificate or official university document stating the date of graduation and program
3. Official transcript of exams passed and grades
4. GPA documentation (each semester GPA)
5. GPA documentation (cumulative GPA including official information on the grading system adopted by the University such as minimum score to pass an exam and maximum obtainable score)
6. Curriculum Vitae
7. Motivation letter
8. English Language Certification: IELTS 5.5 or equivalent certificate (level B2 or higher, see table Table of 23/09/2019 updated on 22/12/2022 https://www.polito.it/en/education/services-and-life-at-politecnico/polito-language-centre-cla/certificates#par_249689) or signed declaration about English language proficiency (see **Annex 3**)

List of **NON-MANDATORY DOCUMENTS** to attach in the application form:

1. Italian Language Certification
2. Letter of Reference
3. Video CV: applicants are warmly recommended to shoot a short video CV (e.g. using mobile phone) where they introduce themselves and their motivations. The link of the video must be put in the CV document (document n. 6). Examples on how to create a video CV can be found on Google.com.



4. Any relevant and additional document required by the specific Master of Science program chosen (i.e. **Syllabus and/or Portfolio**, please see **Annex 1**). The Syllabus/Course description is a document issued by the university that you have attended that describes in detail the content of each subject you studied. PDF syllabi downloaded from your university website are accepted, but please ensure the link works correctly. Other documents you think are relevant to fully evaluate your profile

In this phase, any translation of documents edited in languages other than English, Spanish, French or Italian can be done directly by the candidates.

Art. 6 – Selection process and scholarship assignment

The selection process is divided into two steps:

1. Evaluation of the documentation
2. On-line interview

6.1– Evaluation of the documentation.

The Admissions Unit verifies admission requirements and that all mandatory documents are attached in the application.

Completed applications will be sent to the PIU-AEI BOARD. The PIU-AEI BOARD assesses applications considering academic qualifications, in order to verify if they meet the Politecnico di Torino entry requirements in terms of academic quality and coherence of curriculum for the specific program each candidate has chosen.

The PIU-AEI BOARD will evaluate the application 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 Master of Science program (score: 0-10).

Candidates receiving a score of less than 25 will not be admitted to step 2 of the selection process.

The maximum number of candidates admitted to the interview is set at 16, ensuring gender balance. Admission will therefore be determined through a proportional allocation of the available slots between the two gender lists, based on the percentage of eligible candidates in each list relative to the total number of eligible candidates.



If the proportional allocation results in decimal values, the quota assigned to each list will be rounded up or down according to the standard 0.5 rounding rule.
Candidates admitted to Step 2 will be notified by email.

6.2 – On-line Interview

Candidates admitted to step 2 will be interviewed by the PIU-AEI BOARD, who will evaluate their technical skills, knowledge of the subject and level of English. Interviews will be graded on a scale of 40 points.

Interviews will be held on-line in between **5th May and 5th June 2026**. Candidates will be notified by email about the exact date and time of the interview.

Candidates are requested to present themselves for interview with the Ration Card Number or the Refugee Identity Card uploaded in the on-line application. A third party must be present at the beginning of the interview to identify the candidate.

6.3 – Provisional ranking and scholarship assignment

The PIU-AEI BOARD will elaborate the ranking combining the score obtained in step 1 and step 2. Candidates will be ranked in a descending order of scores.

As the 3 available scholarships are awarded on a gender balance ratio, the PIU-AEI BOARD will elaborate different rankings according to the gender of the candidates. Scholarships will be assigned according to the order of each ranking.

Only in the case that the list of eligible candidates does not include any representatives of one gender, the scholarships can be awarded to representatives from other categories.

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

The provisional **ranking of eligible candidates** will be published at the link <https://www.polito.it/en/education/international-students/refugees-and-refugee-like/unicore> within **8th June 2026**.

6.4 – Acceptance and final ranking

Winners must accept the scholarship via written email by 15th June 2026.

By accepting the scholarship, the candidate declares to be compliant with the admission requirements established by UNICORE 8.0 as well as with the conditions indicated in this call for applications.

The candidate also declares under his own responsibility that he/she does not fall under any of the incompatibility conditions listed in Article 4 of this call for applications.

Failing to provide feedback by the given deadline will cause the loss of the scholarship.



If one or more final selected candidates withdraw from the scholarship program by the given deadline, the Politecnico di Torino will assign the scholarship to the next eligible candidate.

The final ranking will be published at the link <https://www.polito.it/en/education/international-students/refugees-and-refugee-like/unicore> **within 22th June 2026.**

6.5 – Ranking scroll and reserve list

If there are no more candidates in the reserve list, Politecnico di Torino might decide to search for eligible candidates from rankings of other University partners of UNICORE 8.0. and to award them the scholarship.

Eligible candidates from external rankings must meet the specific requirements of the degree programs offered by Politecnico di Torino (see Art. 2).

Art. 7 – Payment and maintenance of the scholarship

7.1 - Scholarship payment

The scholarship is finally assigned and paid only:

- after completion of all enrolment procedures in a Master of Science program of Politecnico di Torino in the first semester A.Y. 2026/27 as a full-time student;
- after student arrival in Torino.

Payment of the scholarship is subordinate to:

- the possession of the admission requirements and relevant documentation for enrolment for A.Y. 2026/2027;
- for the registration in the second academic year, the possession of the maintenance requirements explained in art. 7.2;



If the student does not complete all the enrolment procedures, for any reason, he/she will lose the right to the scholarship.

Payment of the scholarship will occur in monthly instalments, covering the academic year (October 2026 - September 2027) as follows:

- 1st payment period: October 2026 - September 2027;
- if scholarship is maintained for second year: October 2027 -September 2028.

In order to receive the payment, scholarship recipients will be required to open a bank account in their name in an Italian bank or post office.



7.2 - Scholarship maintenance

To obtain the confirmation of the scholarship for the second academic year, students must meet the following requirements:

1. **Academic performance:**

Achieve at least **30 credits (CFU) by 30th September 2027**.

Extra-curricular or recognized credits (e.g., exams from a previous academic career), as well as credits from language exams or recognized language certifications — including those obtained at Politecnico di Torino — will not be counted toward the minimum credit requirement.

2. **Enrolment status:**

Register as a **full-time student** in the **second year (A.Y. 2027/28)** of the *same Master of Science program* as the initial enrolment.

An internal transfer is allowed only to the second Master of Science program indicated in the online application, and only if the student met that program's eligibility requirements.

3. **Scholarship exclusivity:**

Not be a recipient of any other Italian or foreign scholarships, including those offered by EDISU Piemonte, MAECI, or similar institutions.



Students must graduate within the last available session of their cohort, i.e. December 2028

7.3 Additional Renewals

Students who do not manage to graduate by December 2028 may request a 12-month extension of the scholarship, if they have earned at least 80 university credits by 30 September 2028. The extension request must be submitted to unicore@polito.it, and the PIU-AEI Board will evaluate the additional renewal and its duration.

7.4 - Withdrawal

Selected refugee students who will withdraw from the degree program during their studies will automatically lose all benefits of the scholarship.

Art.8 - Treatment of personal data

In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU Regulation 2016/679 – GDPR) and the “Code on the protection of personal data” (D.R. no.196 of 30th June 2003 and further amendments), Politecnico di Torino (Data Controller) shall process applicants' personal data exclusively in pursuit of its institutional aims and for the transparency purposes imposed by the law. Personal data shall be processed in



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accordance with the principles of lawfulness, fairness and data minimization. The University policy on the processing of personal data is available at <https://www.polito.it/en/privacy/privacy-policies> or address to privacy@polito.it

Art.9 – Officer in charge of the administrative procedure

According to art. 5 of Italian Law n. 241 of 07/08/1990, the official in charge of the administrative procedure concerning this call for application is Alessandra Berlese.

Art.10 – Contacts

STUDI Department (Students and Education) - Admissions and Tuition Fees Unit:
unicore@polito.it