



UNIMORE
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI
MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA

University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 8.0

Call for Application for a study grant and the admission to the Master's Degree Programme

INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT

Reserved to applicant refugees residing in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Academic Year 2026/27

Applications must be submitted from March 2nd to April 17th, 2026 - 12 pm (noon, UTC+2)

The International Relations Office will use the masculine for simplification purposes only. The form is intended to be inclusive of all persons addressed by the Call for Application

Art. 1 Purpose

The general purpose of the **University Corridors for Refugees project - UNICORE 8.0 (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe)**, is to promote the right to higher education for refugees through study corridors towards Italy. In addition to the benefits described below, the winner of this selection will be entitled to enrol in the master's degree Programme in International Management, which is taught entirely in English, at the Department of Economics Marco Biagi of UNIMORE

<https://www.economia.unimore.it/en/education/masters-degree-programmes/international-management>

Art. 2 National Partners

The project was approved by the Board of Directors of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia on January 27th, 2026 and is promoted by: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Italian Caritas, Diaconia Valdese, Centro Astalli, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) and the Italian Universities acting upon the memorandum of understanding for the project, whose realisation and assignment of the benefit provided is subject to the signing of the above mentioned memorandum.

Art.3 Local Partners

ERGO -Azienda Regionale per il Diritto agli Studi Superiori (Regional Agency for the Right to Higher Education), Manager Italia Emilia – Romagna, Approdi ODV, Association "Casa delle Donne OdV", Comune di Modena and Caritas Modena will support the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia and contribute to the local development of the project. More details on the services offered by the partners may be found in their agreement letters to join the partnership and provided for in art. 4. Local Partners will sign an Integration Contract with the selected student.

Art.4 Benefits and supports offered

The beneficiary of the Unicore 8.0 project will receive specific economic aids and supports by UNIMORE and local partners, as listed in detail below:

- Study grant of €7.495,78 per year (gross amount) financed by the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, disbursed in instalments and subject to the student meeting the merit requirements;
- Exemption from University fees;
- Free accommodation;
- Catering service;
- Student management expenses upon arrival;
- Social and Integration meetings;
- PC on a free loan;
- Italian language course;
- Healthcare insurance;
- Public transport pass;
- Psychological assistance.

Art. 5 Incompatibility

The UNICORE 8.0 project cannot be used in conjunction with other study grants from public or private institutions, including the study grants given to international students by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI), as well as any other money contribution and/or provision of services with the same purposes. If awarded another study grant, the student may still choose the benefit provided for in this call of applications, entailing documented withdrawal from the other study grant.

Art. 6 Eligibility requirements

The selection is reserved to applicants meeting the following requirements:

1. are residing in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and have obtained the status of refugees in these countries;
2. have obtained a university degree (Bachelor level) valid for admission to the master's degree in International Management, awarded by a university recognised by the Ministry of Education of the Country issuing the qualification and allowing for the admission to a local master's degree programme;
3. have been awarded the Degree not earlier than 5 years as of the expiry date of the call for application;
4. have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.0 according to the country of graduation tertiary education grading system or equivalent according to the comparable table issued by the Italian Ministry of Education as for annex 1;
5. knowledge of the English language at least at level B2 (Common European Reference Framework);
6. have never been enrolled in a degree programme at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia or any other project partner before;
7. Meet the specific admission requirements of the master's degree programme: Business Administration, Marketing, Management, Economics, Statistics and Mathematics, Fundamentals of Law.

Art. 7 – Applications

Applicants must submit the following documents:

1. The application for the call through the UNHCR website <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>;

2. Copy of a valid *Refugee Identity Card* issued in collaboration with the UNHCR or *Proof of Registration Card*;
3. University degree certificate (Bachelor level) proving that the applicant holds the qualification required for admission to the master's degree programme in International Management;
4. Transcript of Records including exams passed and corresponding marks;
5. Motivation letter;
6. Curriculum Vitae;
7. At least B2 English language certificate (Common European Reference Framework) if the skill level is not clearly inferable from the transcript of records, alternatively, the language skills will be assessed in an interview.

All submitted documents must be in English or in Italian. Any document submitted in any other language must be supported by their English or Italian translation (eventually issued by an official translator).

Applications and all documents listed above must be submitted from March 2nd to April 17th, 2026, by 12 pm (noon, UTC +2) through the Unicore website <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>

The applications not properly filled out and not including all documents required will not be accepted.

Students are recommended to apply for a maximum of 2 Italian universities among the participants to the Unicore 8.0. project, including the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia. Failure to comply with this clause will result in the immediate rejection of the application.

Art.8 - Selection of applicants

The selection process based on merit requirements is entrusted to an examination board to be appointed by Rectoral Decree. The selection process includes two stages:

- Stage 1: documentation assessment (maximum score is 40 points)
- Stage 2: online interview (maximum score is 40 points)

8.1 Stage 1 - Documentation assessment

The examination board will assess the documentation received and check whether the applicant's qualification is suitable for the admission to the master's degree programme in International Management. A score will be assigned to it based on the following criteria:

- Evaluation of CV: professional expertise and personal skills (score: 0-10)
- academic background and GPA (score: 0-20)
- Personal motivation and coherence between previous studies and the master's degree programme in International Management (score: 0-10).

Applicants obtaining a score lower than 25 points will not be admitted to stage 2 of the selection process. Applicants obtaining a score equal to or higher than 25 points will be admitted to stage 2 and will receive a notification email by May 4th, 2026 with the invitation to take the interview.

At the end of Stage 1 a merit-based ranking list will be drawn up. Only the first 10 candidates in the partial ranking will be admitted to online interview (stage 2). The partial ranking list will be based on an equal opportunity criterion: where the score is equal, women applicants will be preferred. Where the score is equal between applicants of the same gender, the younger applicant will be preferred.

8.2 Stage 2: Online interview

Applicants admitted to stage 2 will be interviewed by the examination board to verify their motivation, skills, the specific admission requirements of the master's degree course and the English language skill.

The interview will be assessed on a 40-point scale. Applicants obtaining a score equal to or higher than 25 points will be eligible for the final ranking.

The interviews will be scheduled starting from May 5th, 2026 and will be held online by 5 June 2026. Applicants will be communicated the date and time of the interview by e-mail. At the online interview, applicants must show their *Refugee Identity Card* or *Proof of Registration Card*.

Art. 9 Ranking

The ranking of suitable applicants will be drawn up by the examination board and approved by Rectoral Decree, based on the sum of the scores obtained in stage 1 and stage 2. Applicants obtaining an overall score equal to or lower than 50/80 at the end of the two phases will not be deemed eligible.

The final ranking will be published on the website https://www.unimore.it/en/university/calls?field_categoria_target_id=175&title=

by 8 June 2026. The winner will also be notified by email.

The ranking will be drawn up without showing the applicants' names, as only their *refugee ID card number* or *ration card number of PoR* will be listed, and an equal opportunity criterion will apply :where the score is equal, women applicants will be preferred. Where the score is equal between applicants of the same gender, the younger applicant will be preferred.

Art. 10 Obligations

10.1 Accepting the study grant

The applicant ranked first will be assigned the economic and support benefits subject to the acceptance of the study grant, by sending an email to relint@unimore.it within seven (7) days following the notification email. Contemporary selected student will be asked to sign an Integration Contract, defined by the University and the Local Partnership.

If the applicant first in the ranking does not confirm his acceptance of the study grant or fails to send the acceptance email, and/or does not sign the Integration Contract by **15th, June 2026**, the right to the study grant will be lost and the study grant will be assigned to the eligible applicant next in the ranking.

By accepting the study grant, the winner confirms under his responsibility not to fall within any of the incompatibility conditions under Art. 5 of this call for applications. Should the winner applicant have applied for other study grants and is still waiting for the result, he must indicate it anyway.

If there are places still available after scrolling down the ranking, or in case of withdrawal by the admitted applicant, the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia reserves the right to search for a suitable applicant within the rankings of the partner universities in the project by July 31st, 2026. The applicant identified shall meet the specific requirements of the master's degree programme in International Management of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.

Potential candidates must undergo a selection interview, according to art. 6, to verify the specific admission requirements of the master's degree programme, with a 3 days' notice. Even if in this case, no suitable candidate is identified, the University reserves the right not to award the scholarship, and the procedure will be considered closed.

The winner applicant, before arriving to Italy for the Unicore 8.0 project, must attend an online preparatory course to Italian Language issued by either the University for Foreigners of Siena or the University for Foreigners of Perugia.

10.2 Degree programme enrolment

The winner applicant confirming the acceptance of the study grant and signing the Integration Contract is automatically admitted to the master's degree programme in International Management.

To obtain a study visa, a pre-enrolment request must be submitted on the UNIVERSITY website by clicking on the link <https://university-private.cineca.it/index.php/login>. The pre-enrolment application is automatically sent to UNIMORE for validation. UNIMORE will inform the Italian Consular Authority of the admission to the study programme and the benefits awarded to the winner of the selection.

Documents required for the enrolment, to be made **by December 22nd, 2026**:

- 1) translation and legalisation of the University Degree Diploma, issued by the Italian Embassy/Consulate,
- 2) declaration of value of the university degree diploma, issued by the Italian Embassy/Consulate of the country where the qualification was awarded or in the country to which the school issuing the qualification belongs.

The office responsible for enrolments is the Registrar's Office of the Department of Economics, email segrstud.economia@unimore.it

The winner applicant may contact the International Welcome Desk of UNIMORE internationalwelcomedesk@unimore.it for help with administrative formalities, including residence permit request, tax code, opening of a bank account, health insurance, etc...

Art. 11 Merit requirements for the continuation of benefits

The continuation of the benefits is subject to the completion of the Integration Contract, defined by the University and the Local Partnership. The completion of the Integration Contract is a necessary condition for the benefits assignment, and the Integration Contract must be signed when accepting the study grant as detailed in art. 10.1.

Failure to comply with the commitments included in the Integration Contract may result in a review, suspension or loss of the benefits provided by the Unicore 8.0 Project, in accordance with the criteria of proportionality and after assessment of the individual circumstances.

Merit requirements to maintain the annual benefits are as follows:

- For the first year: acquisition of 18 CFUs (Crediti Formativi Universitari - University Credits) by August 10th, 2027, and mandatory attendance of the Italian language course organized by the University Language Centre (CLA). The attendance has to be certified by the CLA within July 31st, 2027

- For the second year: acquisition of 54 CFUs by August 10th, 2028, and mandatory attendance of the Italian language course organized by the University Language Centre (CLA). The attendance has to be certified by the CLA within July 31st, 2028

Students are required to graduate by the last valid session of their year of enrolment (by April 20th, 2029). The accommodation will be guaranteed until April 20th, 2029.

Students not planning to graduate by April 2029 may obtain the benefits for further 6 months, subject to the acquisition of at least 93 CFUs by August 10th, 2029.

Art. 12. Withdrawal from studies

The winner applicant of this selection who, after enrolling to the master's degree programme in International Management, withdraws from his studies, loses the right to all benefits.

Art. 13 Processing of personal data

The data collected will be processed in accordance with the regulations on personal data protection of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia- <https://www.unimore.it/en/privacy>

The personal data collected will also be processed under the data protection policy of the UNHCR available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/55643c1d4.html> and relevant guide available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b360f4d4.html>

The Administration reserves the right to verify the truthfulness of the information provided. Without prejudice to any penalties under Art. 76 of Pres. Decree no. 445/2000, if such verification detects any fraudulent information, the applicant loses his/her right to economic benefits.

Art.14. Publication of the call for applications

This call for applications is published in the University Registry and on the website https://www.unimore.it/en/university/calls?field_categoria_target_id=175&title= .

Art.15. Miscellanea

An appeal may be lodged against the content of this call before the Administrative Court of Emilia Romagna Region or an extraordinary appeal may be lodged before the President of the Republic in accordance with the law. Any appeal shall be notified to this Administration exclusively by sending an e-mail to the following certified e-mail address: direzionelegale@pec.unimore.it.

Art. 16: Person in charge of the procedure

Under Art. 5 of law no. 241 of August 7th, 1990, the person in charge of the procedure is Ms. Barbara Villani –e-mail: relint@unimore.it

ANNEXES:

- Conversion table for foreign titles (annex 1)

The RECTOR

Professor Rita Cucchiara

Digitally signed according to Leg. Decree n. 82/2005