



UNIVERSITÀ DI PARMA

University Corridors for Refugees – UNICORE 5.0

(Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe 2023-2025)

Call for Applications for two study grants and the admission to the International Interuniversity second-cycle (Master of Science) Degree Course in

FOOD SAFETY and FOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

Reserved to applicant refugees residing in Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Academic Year 2023-2024

Deadline for the submission of applications:

19 May 2023 at 12:00 pm (CET)

Application must be submitted through an online form at
https://www.idem.unipr.it/secure/pre_admission

Further information and requests may be addressed to the following e-mail address: refugees@unipr.it



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Art. 1 – Objective

The general objective of the [University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 5.0](#) (Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe 2023-2025) project is to promote the right to higher education for refugees through study corridors from Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe to Italy. In addition to the benefits described below, the winners of this selection will be entitled to enroll in the International Interuniversity MSc Degree Programme in Food Safety and Food Risk Management, which is taught entirely in English, at the Department of Food and Drug of the University of Parma (UNIPR) – <https://cdlm-fsafrm.unipr.it>.

UNICORE 5.0 applicants are recommended to apply for a maximum of 2 Italian universities among the participants to the UNICORE 5.0 project, available at the link <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/> to have the opportunity to be reassigned to the second university.

Art. 2 – National Partners

The project is promoted by a consortium of partners: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Italian Caritas, Diaconia Valdese, Centro Astalli, Gandhi Charity, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MAECI) and other Italian Universities better described in the national protocol to which the University of Parma (UNIPR) is committed to adhere, by resolution of the Board of Directors of 30th March 2023. The official approval of the UNICORE 5.0 National Cooperation Agreement is currently underway.

Art. 3 – Local Partners

[ER.GO - Agenzia Regionale per il Diritto agli Studi Superiori dell'Emilia Romagna](#) (Regional Authority for the Right to Higher Education) and other local partners support the University of Parma and contribute to the local development of the project. The support to the project is aimed at the creation of a partnership with the afore-mentioned institutions. More details on the services offered by the partners may be found in the agreement letters declaring to join the partnership.

- **ER.GO**
- **Comunità di Sant'Egidio**
- **Fondazione Caritas Sant'Ilario**
- **CIAC Onlus**

Art. 4 – Benefits and supports offered

The beneficiaries of UNICORE 5.0 will receive specific economic aid and support by UNIPR and local partners, as listed in detail below:

- Study grant of at least € 7.655 per year, financed by the University of Parma. The amount will be paid in annual instalments and will be subject to the achievement of merit requirements. The grant includes the cost of accommodation at a university residence of € 190 per month that will be deducted each month from the scholarship. The cost for accommodation for the month of September 2023 and the month of August of subsequent years will be covered by ER.GO. The two winners will be provided with more information by the time of enrolling.



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- Tuition fee waiver (UNIPR);
- Regional fee of 140 euros and Virtual stamp duty of 16 euros (156 € per year) waiver (UNIPR);
- Advance payment of € 1.000 for each student to manage their expenses upon arrival (UNIPR);
- Free accommodation in a university residence for the month of September 2023 and the month of August of subsequent years (ER.GO);
- € 300 annual allowance for the catering service (ER.GO);
- Support for socialization and integration initiatives, hospitality actions (Fondazione Caritas S. Ilario);
- Tutorship and support during socialization and integration meetings; activities to promote student's health and well-being (CIAC Onlus);
- Welcome kit (ER.GO);
- PC on a free loan (UNIPR);
- Smartphone on a free loan (ER.GO);
- Initiatives of socialization and knowledge of the territory, conversation meetings in Italian language, opportunity to carry out volunteer activity with the S. Egidio Community (S. Egidio);
- Legal guidance and support (CIAC Onlus);
- Medical and psychological care (UNIPR);
- Discounted rate for public transports (UNIPR);
- € 1.500 allowance for a possible post-graduate internship (ER.GO).

Art. 5 – Incompatibility

UNICORE 5.0 grants are **NOT compatible** with other study grants provided by any public or private institution, including study grants awarded to international students by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAECI), as well as any other money contribution and/or provision of services with the same purposes. If already beneficiary of another study grant in the framework of the aforementioned cases, the selected candidates 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 available grants will be awarded to one male and one female student, unless only one gender (either male or female) results represented among the selected applicants. Eligibility conditions to apply for the selection are the following:

- having official residence in Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe and having obtained the status of refugee by virtue of the intervention of UNHCR;



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- having been awarded a first-cycle university degree (Bachelor level) by a university officially recognized by the Ministry of Education of the Country issuing the qualification and allowing for the admission to a local second-cycle (master's degree) Degree Course;
- having been awarded the university degree between 1st January 2018 and 19th May 2023;
- having at least a 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) based on the university system on higher education of the Country issuing the degree;
- having a knowledge of English language equal or higher than level B2 of the [Common European Reference Framework](#);
- having previously never been enrolled in a degree programme (either Bachelor or Master level) at the University of Parma or at any other project partner;
- **possessing a suitable knowledge in the following subjects: food technology, food microbiology, food chemistry, primary production, human nutrition.**

Art. 7 – Applying for the grant

The application form consists of the following compulsory documents:

- [Online application duly filled out in English](https://www.idem.unipr.it/secure/pre_admission); applications must be submitted via the online form at https://www.idem.unipr.it/secure/pre_admission
- **Copy of a valid *Refugee Identity Card*** issued in collaboration with the UNHCR or *Proof of Registration Card*;
- **University bachelor's degree certificate**, containing the examinations passed and relevant scores (may also be provided in two separate documents, if necessary);
- **A personal CV** (either in English or Italian language). **As an addition**, applicants can also shoot a short video CV (i.e.: using a mobile phone) for introducing themselves and their motivations. Candidates may send the video via [WeTransfer](#) to refugees@unipr.it, specifying the first name and surname. **It is not compulsory to add the video to the requested documentation**;
- **A motivation letter**, written on plain paper and not longer than 500 words;
- **An English language proficiency certificate at least B2 (Common European Reference Framework)**, if English is not their mother tongue or the skill level is not clearly inferable from the study programme. Alternatively, the language skills will be assessed in an interview.

All submitted documents must be provided either in English or Italian. Any document submitted in a language other than Italian or English must be supported by an English or Italian translation on plain paper (not letterhead paper)

Online applications are accepted if submitted within 19th May 2023 at 12:00 pm (CET).

Incomplete applications (or not including all required attachments) will not be accepted.



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Art. 8 – Selection of applicants

For gender parity, the two available study grants will be awarded to one male and one female applicant, unless only one gender (either male or female) results represented in the rankings.

The selection process is based on the assessment and evaluation of merit requirements. The selection process is entrusted to an Examination Board officially appointed. The selection process includes two stages:

- **Stage 1:** documentation assessment (maximum score is 40 points)
- **Stage 2:** online interview (maximum score is 60 points)

8.1 Stage 1 - Documentation assessment

The examination board will assess the documentation received and check whether the applicants' qualification is suitable for the admission to the International Interuniversity MSc Degree Programme in Food Safety and Food Risk Management. A score will be assigned to it based on the following criteria:

- Academic background and GPA (score: 0-20)
- Evaluation of CV: professional experience and personal skills (score: 0-10)
- Personal motivation and coherence between previous studies and International Interuniversity MSc Degree Programme in Food Safety and Food Risk 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 31st May 2023 with the invitation to take the interview.

8.2 Stage 2: Online interview

Applicants admitted to stage 2 will be interviewed by the examination board to verify their motivation, skills, and mastering of the English language.

The interview will be assessed on a 60-point scale. Applicants obtaining a score equal to or higher than 45 points will be eligible for the final ranking.

The interviews will be scheduled starting from 12th June 2023 and will be held online. Applicants will be communicated the date and time of the interview by email. At the online interview, applicants must show their *Refugee Identity Card* or *Proof of Registration Card*.

Art. 9 – Rankings

The rankings of evaluated applicants will be drawn up by the Examination Board and officially approved by Rectoral Decree. The rankings results will be based on the sum of the scores obtained by the candidate in Stage 1 and Stage 2. Applicants obtaining an overall score lower than 70/100 will not be deemed eligible.

The rankings will be published on the website <https://www.unipr.it/unicore> by 7th July 2023. Ranked candidates will also be notified by email to the address provided in the application form.



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In respect of running legislation about personal data, the rankings will be drawn up without showing the candidate's name, but only the *refugee ID card number or ration card number of PoR*. As detailed in Art. 8 above, an equal opportunity criterion will apply: in case of parity, female applicants will be preferred. In addition, if the score is the same between applicants of the same gender, the younger candidate will prevail.

Art. 10 – Obligations

10.1 Accepting the study grant

The first two ranked candidates will be assigned the economic and support benefits listed in the present call for applications. The right to the benefits is subject to:

1. the acceptance of the study grant. The identified grant-holders are due to send acceptance e-mail to refugees@unipr.it within 10 days following the notification e-mail, or the right to the study grant will be lost and the offices will scroll the rankings to identify the following ranked candidate;
2. the regular matriculation to the International Interuniversity MSc Degree Programme in Food Safety and Food Risk Management

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

If one or both applicants ranking in the first two position in the ranking do not confirm his/her acceptance of the study grant or fails to send the acceptance email by 14th July 2023, the study grant will be assigned to the eligible applicant next in the ranking.

If there are places still available after scrolling down the ranking, UNIPR reserves the right to search for a suitable applicant within the rankings of the partner universities in the project by 28th July 2023. The applicant identified shall meet the specific requirements of the International Interuniversity MSc Degree Programme in Food Safety and Food Risk Management.

In case of vacant seats due to lack of suitable candidates or withdrawal of one or both admitted candidates, the University of Parma reserves the right to search for eligible candidates from ranking of other University partners. Eligible candidates from external rankings must meet specific requirement of the programmes of University of Parma.

10.2 Degree programme enrolment

The winner applicants confirming the acceptance of the study grant are automatically admitted to the International Interuniversity MSc Degree Programme in Food Safety and Food Risk Management.

To obtain a study visa, a pre-enrolment request must be submitted on the UNIVERSITALY website by clicking on the link <https://www.universitaly.it/index.php/registration/firststep>. The pre-enrolment application is automatically sent to UNIPR for validation. UNIPR 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 submitted **by 22nd December 2023**:

1. translation and legalization of the University Degree Diploma, issued by the relevant Italian



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Embassy/Consulate;

2. "Dichiarazione di Valore" (Declaration of Value) of the university degree diploma, in original, issued by the competent Italian Embassy/Consulate in the Country to which the school issuing the qualification belongs or, alternatively, statements issued by ENIC-NARIC centres (i.e.: [Diplo-Me](#));
3. copy of the visa and the certificate of allocation of the tax code, released by the Embassy.

The office responsible for enrolments is the Registry Office of the Department of Food and Drug, Parco Area delle Scienze, 27/A, 43124 PARMA, email: segreteria.scienzealimentari@unipr.it.

The grant-holders may contact the [UNIPR Coordinator](#) of the Working Group for Refugees (refugees@unipr.it) for information on any quarantine periods envisaged when arriving in Italy or for help with administrative formalities, including: residence permit request, tax code, opening of a current account, health insurance, etc...

Art. 11 – Merit requirements for the continuation of benefits

Merit requirements to maintain the annual benefits are as follows:

- For the first year: acquisition of **18 CFU** (University Credits) by **10 August 2024**.
- For the second year: acquisition of **54 CFU** (University Credits) by **10 August 2025**.

Students are required to graduate by the last valid session of their year of enrolment (**March/April 2026**). Students not planning to graduate by March 2025 may obtain the benefits for a **further year**, subject to the acquisition of at least **93 CFU** by **10 August 2026**.

Art. 12. – Withdrawal from studies

Selected applicants, after enrolling to the International Interuniversity MSc Degree Programme in Food Safety and Food Risk Management, withdraw from their studies, lose the right to all benefits.

Art. 13 – Personal data processing

The data collected will be processed in accordance with the regulations on personal data protection of the University of Parma <https://www.unipr.it>.

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 the relevant guidelines available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b360f4d4.html>

The Administration owns 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 Albo Online (University Registry) of the University of Parma and on the website <https://www.unipr.it/unicore>.



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Art. 15 – Miscellanea

Against the content of this provision, an appeal may be lodged before the Administrative Court of the Emilia-Romagna Region or extraordinary appeal 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: protocollo@pec.unipr.it.

Art. 16 – University unit responsible for the administrative management

The personal data of the candidates, communicated to the University of Parma, will be processed, in paper or electronic form, solely for the purposes related to the carrying out of the selection and the management of the eventual employment relationship, in compliance with the provisions in force. The provision and collection of data is mandatory for the instruction of the selection process and, in the case of special data, in accordance with art. 9 of EU Regulation 2016/679, the processing is carried out for the purposes of Law 68/1999 and Law 104/1992. The provision of the data indicated in the notice is mandatory and necessary for the purposes of assessing the admission requirements, under penalty of exclusion from the selection. The data contained and collected as part of this administrative procedure may be communicated to other offices of the University of Parma and other external parties only to the extent and within the limits strictly necessary to fulfil the purposes for which they are responsible, in accordance with the regulations in force. Candidates are entitled to the rights set out in Chapter 3 of EU Regulation no. 679/2016, in particular the right to access their personal data, to request their rectification, updating and deletion, if incomplete, incorrect, or collected in violation of the law, as well as to oppose their processing for legitimate reasons.

In accordance with Law 7.8.1990, no. 241, as amended and supplemented by Law 11.2.2005, no. 15, the person in charge of selection procedures is Daniela Barantani, UO Contributi e Diritto allo Studio (UO Grants and Right to Study) email daniela.barantani@unipr.it

ANNEXES:

- Information Sheet of the International Interuniversity MSc Degree Programme in Food Safety and Food Risk Management

The RECTOR

Prof. Dr. Paolo ANDREI

The document is signed in digital form pursuant to IT Law 82/2005