



**UNIVERSITÀ DI PARMA**

## **University Corridors for Refugees – UNICORE 8.0**

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

### **FOOD SAFETY and FOOD RISK MANAGEMENT**

**Reserved to refugee applicants residing in:**

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

**Academic Years 2026–2027 and 2027–2028**

**Deadline for the submission of applications:**

**17 April 2026 at 12:00 pm (CET)**

**Application must be submitted through the online form published at the following  
<https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>**

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



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## Art. 1 – Objective

The general objective of the University Corridors for Refugees – UNICORE 8.0 (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe 2026–2028) project is to promote the right to higher education for refugee students by awarding a scholarship to enrol in a master course in Italy.

The student candidates selected by the University of Parma will be awarded a scholarship to enrol on the [MSc Programme in Food Safety and Food Risk Management](#), taught entirely in English, at the Department of Food and Drug.

UNICORE 8.0 candidates can apply up to a maximum of 2 master courses in any of the [Italian universities that participate in the UNICORE 8.0 project](#), in order to have the opportunity to be re-assigned to a second university should they not be selected by the first university to which they apply.

## Art. 2 – National Partners

The UNICORE 8.0 project is promoted by a consortium of partners: UNHCR, Caritas Italiana, Diaconia Valdese, Centro Astalli, Gandhi Charity, MAECI (Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation) and the Italian Universities participating in the project, as described in the National Protocol subscribed by all the partner universities.

## Art. 3 – Local Partners

The University of Parma is supported by the following local partners:

ER.GO (Agenzia Regionale per il Diritto agli Studi Superiori dell'Emilia Romagna)

Comunità di Sant'Egidio

Fondazione Caritas Sant'Ilario

CIAC Impresa Sociale ETS

Diaconia Valdese

## Art. 4 – Benefits and supports offered

The student beneficiaries of UNICORE 8.0 will receive economic aid and support including a scholarship financed by the University of Parma. The amount will be paid in instalments, as defined at the time of allocation, and will be subject to the achievement of academic credits.

Cost item	Amount €	Years	
Scholarship Amount (current academic years)	5.655,00	2	Annual amount transferred by the University, in tranches, to each student.
Accommodation Cost (ER.GO)	2000,00	2	The amount will be transferred by the University directly to ERGO.
In case students do not complete the master course within two years, the University will consider providing an additional economic support as follows: scholarship Amount for 1 additional year, if required	1.827,50	1	Amount transferred by the University to each student, if necessary



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Accommodation Cost (ER.GO)	2.000,00	1	The amount will be transferred by the University directly to ERGO.
Security Deposit for Accommodation	250,00	1	The amount will be transferred by the University directly to ER.GO
Regional Tax and Virtual Stamp Duty	156,00	3	The amount will be transferred by the University directly to ER.GO
Initial Basic Living Expenses (maximum amount) upon arrival, to cover initial costs until the first tranche of the scholarship is paid	1.144,50	1	The amount will be transferred by the University to Caritas or another local partner, as agreed by the University
Travel Expenses (MAX)	1.500,00	-	The amount will be transferred by the University directly to the defined project partner

Further services provided to students include the following:

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tuition fee waiver for both academic years + 1 additional year, if required;  
a laptop on loan for the duration of the master course;  
medical and psychological care.

### ER.GO

Accommodation at a university residence from September 19<sup>th</sup> 2026 (or whenever the students arrive) to September 15<sup>th</sup> 2028 (or 2029, only if an additional year of study is necessary);  
Catering service grant (€500.00 per year for two years, up to a maximum of three years).  
Post-graduate internship grant (€1,500.00 per year for 2 years), to be awarded, if needed, upon verification of the eligibility requirements set out in the ER.GO Call for Applications.

### Fondazione Caritas S. Ilario

Support for socialization and integration activities;  
free access to the Caritas canteen and other services (second-hand shop with clothes and medical clinic), if needed;  
provision of a welcome kit upon arrival (hygiene products, breakfast items, essential clothing, if needed).

### CIAC CENTRO IMMIGRAZIONE ASILO COOPERAZIONE INTERNAZIONALE DI PARMA E PROVINCIA IMPRESA SOCIALE ETS

Guidance and legal support, as well as orientation for access to local services;  
socialization initiatives and activities aimed at fostering knowledge of the local area;  
availability of a buddy volunteer to support integration (as provided for under the Community Matching programme promoted jointly with UNHCR);  
periodic meetings for discussion and social gatherings with other refugees and members of the local community;  
free participation in artistic and cultural initiatives, including museum visits and other city activities, together with other refugees and active members of the local community;  
activities promoting health and well-being;



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social and welfare support for students in case of temporary periods of difficulty (to be discussed with CIAC).

### DIACONIA VALDESE

Coverage of the cost of a private health insurance policy for 24 months, extendable up to 30 months if necessary;

purchase of a SIM card and payment of the first month of subscription;

purchase of a local public transport pass for 24 months, extendable up to 30 months if necessary;

assistance with administrative procedures and access to local services;

guidance on extra-academic activities and support actions aimed at fostering social inclusion.

### Comunità Sant'Egidio Emilia

Socialization activities and initiatives aimed at fostering knowledge of the local area;

language conversation meetings;

opportunities to engage in volunteer activities alongside its members;

assistance with administrative procedures and access to local services.

### Art. 5 – Incompatibility

The beneficiaries of the UNICORE 8.0 scholarship cannot simultaneously hold any study grants provided by a public or private institution, nor any MAECI scholarship.

### Art. 6 – Eligibility requirements

Applicants must:

- have official residence in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe and hold recognized refugee status in these countries in collaboration with UNHCR;
- hold a valid and suitable Bachelor's degree for the chosen master course (including degrees in food technology, food microbiology, food chemistry, primary production, human nutrition), obtained in or after 2021 and no later than the call deadline (April 17<sup>th</sup> 2026);
- have a GPA of at least 3.0 (or equivalent);
- have English language proficiency (at least B2 level);
- have never been enrolled at any of the UNICORE 8.0 Partner universities.

### Art. 7 – Applying for the grant

Applicants are required to provide the following documents:

- **Completed online application** to be submitted at <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>;
- **Copy of a valid Refugee ID Card** issued in collaboration with the UNHCR or Proof of refugee Registration;



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- **Bachelor's degree certificate;**
- **Transcript of exams passed, indicating grades and GPA;**
- **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](https://wetransfer.com/) to [refugees@unipr.it](mailto: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 level, according to the Common European Reference Framework)**, if English is not the candidate's mother tongue or the skill level is not clearly inferable from the Bachelor course attended. 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 must be submitted no later than April 17<sup>th</sup> 2026 at 12:00 pm (CET). Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.**

## Art. 8 – Selection of applicants

In order to promote gender equality, the two available study grants will be awarded to the first male and female candidates in the ranking, unless only males or only females candidates submit applications.

The selection process is based on the assessment and evaluation of merit requirements and will be entrusted to an Examination Board officially appointed by the University of Parma. The process will include the following two stages:

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

### 8.1 Stage 1 – Documentation assessment

The Examination Board will assess the documentation received and check whether the applicants' qualifications are suitable for admission to the International Interuniversity MSc Master Programme in Food Safety and Food Risk Management. A score will be assigned to each candidate 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 the International Interuniversity MSc Master 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



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notification email by 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2026, or as communicated, with an invitation to attend an online assessment 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 May 5<sup>th</sup> 2026 and will be held online. Applicants will be informed of the date and time of the interview by email. At the online interview, applicants will be required to show their Refugee Identity Card or Proof of refugee 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 candidates in Stage 1 and Stage 2. Applicants obtaining an overall score lower than 70/100 will not be deemed eligible for the scholarship.

The rankings will be published on the University of Parma website <https://www.unipr.it/unicore> by June 8<sup>th</sup> 2026. Selected candidates will also be notified by email to the address provided in the application form.

In respect of the current legislation about personal data, the final rankings will be drawn up without showing the candidate's name. An equal opportunity criterion will apply: in case of equal scores, female applicants will be preferred. In addition, if applicants of the same gender obtain the same score, the younger candidate will be selected.

## 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. acceptance of the study grant. After confirmation of the award of the scholarship, grant-holders are required to confirm, by email, that they accept the grant. Grant-holders must send their confirmation within 7 days of the notification of the scholarship. If grant-holders fail to communicate, their right to the study grant will be lost and the Examination Board will scroll down the rankings to identify the following ranked candidate;
2. the regular enrolment to the International Interuniversity MSc Master Programme in Food Safety and Food Risk Management

By accepting the grant, the awarded students confirm under their own responsibility not to fall within any of the incompatibility conditions under Art. 5 of this call for applications. Should the selected applicants have applied for other study grants and be waiting for the results, they must communicate it to the Examination



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Board immediately.

If places are still available after scrolling down the ranking, UNIPR reserves the right to search for a suitable applicant within the rankings of UNICORE 8.0 partner universities by June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2026 or as communicated. The applicants identified shall meet the specific requirements of the International Interuniversity MSc Master Programme in Food Safety and Food Risk Management.

## 10.2 Master Programme enrolment

The selected applicants confirming their acceptance of the study grant will be admitted to the International Interuniversity MSc Master Programme in Food Safety and Food Risk Management.

To obtain a study visa, a pre-enrolment request must be submitted on the [UNIVERSITY website](#). The pre-enrolment application is automatically sent to UNIPR for validation. UNIPR will inform the Italian Consular Authority of the candidates' admission to the study programme and the benefits awarded to them.

In order to complete the enrolment, the following documents must be provided by September 16<sup>th</sup> 2026, unless otherwise specified:

1. translation and legalization of the University Degree Diploma, issued by the relevant Italian Embassy/Consulate;
2. "Dichiarazione di Valore" (Declaration of Value) of the University degree diploma, in original copy, issued by the Italian Embassy/Consulate of the Country in which the University school issuing the qualification is based 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.scienzealimenti@unipr.it](mailto:segreteria.scienzealimenti@unipr.it).

The grant-holders may contact the [UNIPR UNICORE 8.0 Coordinator](#) for any information or any information regarding arrival. All information regarding the Master course and the University of Parma will be provided in due course. During the application period, applicants may contact the UNIPR UNICORE 8.0 Coordination through the dedicated UNHCR platform.

## Art. 11 – Merit requirements for the continuation of benefits

The scholarship will be provided upon achievement of the following merit requirements:

- For the first year: acquisition of **18 CFU** (University Credits) by **10 August 2027**.
- For the second year: acquisition of **54 CFU** (University Credits) by **10 August 2028**.

Students are required to inform the Coordinator at the following address to [michela.semprebon@unipr.it](mailto:michela.semprebon@unipr.it) and [uocentri@unipr.it](mailto:uocentri@unipr.it) when the credits have been achieved. Failure to do so will prevent the scholarship from delivering. Students are requested to graduate by the last valid session of their year of enrolment (**March/April 2029**).

Students who do not manage to graduate by March/April 2029 may obtain the benefits for a **further year**,



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following the decision of the University of Parma, subject to the acquisition of at least **93 CFU** by **10 August 2029**.

### **Art. 12. – Withdrawal from studies**

Grant-holders who withdraw from their studies after enrolling to the International Interuniversity MSc Master Programme in Food Safety and Food Risk Management, will 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 UNHCR available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/55643c1d4.html> . The relevant guidelines are 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>.

### **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](mailto: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



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person in charge of selection procedures is Prof. Michela Semprebon, Rector's Delegate for Refugees.

The RECTOR

**Prof. Paolo Martelli**

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