

University Corridors for Refugees - 8.0 (2026/2027)

Call for applications for **4 study grants** and welcome services for refugee students registering for Second cycle degree programs taught in English (Master of Science Programs) at Università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi (herein after referred to as “Bocconi University”), Milan, Academic Year 2026-27.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 17 April 2026

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ART. 1 - Subject, amount and duration

The general objective of the University Corridors for Refugees - UNICORE 8.0 project is to promote the right to high education for refugees through study corridors from Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe to Italy.

Art. 1.1 National Project Partners

The project is jointly promoted by a consortium of partners:

- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Caritas Italiana
- Diaconia Valdese
- Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI)
- Centro Astalli
- Bocconi University
- All the other universities signing the cooperation agreement for the project “University Corridors for Refugees 8.0 (2026/27) (see art. 9)

The benefits are intended for holders of International Protection living in and admitted in a programme among those better specified at art.10

UNICORE 8.0 benefits are assigned for the A.Y. 2026-27. and 2027-28 maintenance merit requirements and additional renewal conditions are listed in Art. 6.

The full list of the programs available at Bocconi University is specified in Art. 10.

Art. 1.2 Local Partners of the Project

Bocconi University will be supported in the project by Diaconia Valdese as local partner. The support of other local organizations is currently being evaluated. The support provided by the organizations is conditional to the formation of a local partnership with the different institutions.

Art. 1.3 Benefits and supports offered to the winners

Each student will be granted the following support:

- Full coverage of the expenses to be faced before the arrival in Italy: flight tickets and preparation of supporting documents (UNHCR, CARITAS, DIACONIA, BOCCONI UNIVERSITY AND POSSIBLE OTHER PARTNERS)
- Approximately € 8000 cash stipend⁽¹⁾. Payments will be divided in five bimonthly installments. Winners will be provided with more information upon enrollment. (BOCCONI UNIVERSITY).
- Free accommodation in one of our student dorms or student apartment in a shared room from August 2026 (BOCCONI UNIVERSITY)
- A Meal card with a pre-charged amount of one meal per day, to cover the first month upon arrival (Monday-Saturday).
- A personal Pc (BOCCONI UNIVERSITY)
- Enrollment in the NHS for the years 2027, 2028 and 2029 or other medical insurance (BOCCONI UNIVERSITY and DIACONIA VALDESE)
- Italian Course organized by the language center (BOCCONI UNIVERSITY)
- Dedicated support for the length of the academic program (BOCCONI UNIVERSITY)
- Psychological support through Bocconi Counselling Service (BOCCONI UNIVERSITY)
- Coverage of the administrative expenses for the issuing of the permit to stay for study reason, for maximum 2 renewals (DIACONIA VALDESE)
- Annual public transportation pass for 24 months (DIACONIA VALDESE)
- Coverage of the administrative expenses for the renewal of the permit to stay for study (DIACONIA VALDESE)
- Support for the bureaucratic procedure and for the access to local services (DIACONIA VALDESE)

⁽¹⁾ Please note that the scholarship may be subject to taxation due to agreements between Italy and the students' the country of origin.

- Mobile SIM card and first month of subscription (DIACONIA VALDESE)
- Guidance to the local and extra-academic services (DIACONIA VALDESE)
- 100 euros pocket money allowance upon arrival (DIACONIA VALDESE)

Necessary additional support that might be required at a later stage will be evaluated with the partner organizations.

The staff of the Students Outreach and support Division of Bocconi University will be at the students' disposal for assistance in any bureaucratic step of the project.

The abovementioned academic benefits are applicable only to the beneficiaries of the scholarship and cannot be extended for any reason to relatives or third parties. The beneficiaries will not be able to apply for Family Reunification ("Ricongiungimento familiare") while being part of the UNICORE 8.0 program.

ART. 2 – Incompatibility

The UNICORE 8.0 study grants cannot be combined with:

- merit-based study grants/prizes issued by Bocconi University 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, on the basis of agreements with Bocconi University, aimed at assisting the enrolment of international students at Bocconi University;
- Regional scholarship offered by Lombardy region (DSU).

ART. 3 – Admission requirements

Application is open exclusively to candidates who:

- are residing in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe and have been recognized the refugee status in these countries.
- Hold a qualification valid for admission to the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programme by 31 October 2026.
- The degree should preferably be obtained in one of the 13 countries (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) Unicore 8.0 is targeting. Alternatively, applicants who graduated from other countries can be considered, only if their degree title is issued by a higher education institution accredited in the country where the degree has been awarded. The qualification must also consent to access a second level degree course in the country of issuance.
- Have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 24/30 – referred to the Italian System. Regarding the conversion of the GPA into the Italian system, Bocconi relies on its experience in international qualifications by considering all the information it possesses about the candidate's university of origin and the country. The attached conversion formula issued by the Italian Ministry of Education is to be considered only as a reference (attachment 1 of this call).
- The degree must not have been obtained before the year 2021
- Meet the specific admission requirements of the Second cycle degree program of interest; for more information about specific requirements see Art. 10.

- Have never been enrolled before in a degree program at any of the Universities member of the initiative.
- Proficiency in the English language is required.

ART. 4 – Selection criteria and application documents

Art. 4.1 Selection criteria and evaluation committee

Candidates are selected on the basis of merit requirements.

For Bocconi University, the evaluation will be carried out by an Admissions Committee composed by the Students' Outreach and Support Division Director and staff members, the Vice Rector for International Affairs, the Dean of the Graduate School and the MSc Program Director (depending on students' choices).

Art. 4.2 Application documents

By 17 April 2026, candidates are required to complete the online application available on the UNICORE website at <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/> by submitting the following documentation:

MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:

- A copy of their currently valid Refugee Identity card issued in collaboration with UNHCR or Proof of Registration
- An official certificate of the first level degree (bachelor's degree Certificate), issued by the awarding university (if available), confirming the qualification required for admission to the chosen master program.
- An official undergraduate transcript of exams passed and relative marks
- GPA documentation (cumulative GPA) if possible, explaining the grading system
- A curriculum vitae (CV): it must include all information related to the applicant (including education, knowledge of languages and IT skills, any past or current professional experiences and other general information). The document has to be in English.
- A Motivation letter addressed to the Directors of the Master of Science programs chose on the application: normally it should be around 1 to 2 pages (indicatively no more than 4000 characters, spaces included). If more than one choice is provided, one letter should be submitted, specifying the motivation for each Master of Science program in one file. We suggest applicants to be honest and feel free to write also about themselves, describe their ambitions, individuality, skills and experiences.

We kindly ask all applicants to check the mandatory documents for any further updates at <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>

Please note that a Declaration of Value (DOV) might be required upon admissions in case we need formal reassurance about the Degree title previously gained by the candidate.

NOT MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:

- Letter/s of references (in English) written by supervisor/advisor supporting the student's application.
- Any certificate of knowledge of foreign languages (i.e. English, Italian, Spanish, Chinese, Russian...)
- GPA documentation (each semester GPA)
- Any other optional document listed in the UNICORE application form at <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>

All documents in any language other than English must be accompanied by a translation. During the application phase, the translation into English or Italian can be done directly by the candidate.

Art. 4.3 Deadlines and modalities

Applications, along with the documents listed in article 4.2, can be submitted from March 2, 2026, to 17 April 2026 at 12:00 pm (Italian Official Time, GMT+1), exclusively via the online application available on the UNICORE website <https://universitycorridors.unhcr.it/>

For further information or guidance, candidates can contact the Bocconi Inclusion Programs Team at:

Telephone: (+39) 025836.5829/2366 from Monday to Friday 9.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. (Italian Official Time) or send an email to inclusionprograms@unibocconi.it

Applications forms that are not properly filled in or complete with all the required documentation will not be accepted.

For Bocconi University, candidates are allowed to apply for a maximum of **three programs** in order of preference. We remind students that it is possible to apply for a maximum of two different universities within the UNICORE program.

ART. 5 - Selection process

The application process is divided into two steps:

- Step 1: preliminary evaluation of the documentation
- Step 2: interview with the admissions committee (see art.4.1)
- Step 3 (only if needed): interview with the Program Directors

Art. 5.1 Step 1 - Evaluation of the documentation

The Admissions Committee will evaluate the documentation according to the following criteria:

- academic background and Grade Point Average (score: 0-20).
- Evaluation of CV and motivational letter: professional experience and personal skills (score: 0-10).
- Coherence between previous studies and selected Second Cycle Degree program (Master of Science Program) (score: 0-10).

Candidates receiving a score of less than 25 will not be admitted to phase 2 of the selection process. Candidates admitted to Step 2 will be notified by email by **15 May 2026**.

Candidates must prove the knowledge of the English language by holding a certificate of English proficiency at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (attachment 2). The English language competence of candidates who do not hold the above-mentioned certificate will be assessed during the interview.

Art. 5.2 Step 2 - Interview

The interviews will be conducted via web services such as Skype, Google Hangouts or Whatsapp. Candidates admitted to step 2 will be interviewed by the Admissions Committee, who will evaluate their motivation, technical skills, competence on the subject as well as their mastering of the English language. Interviews will be graded on a scale of 40 points.

Interviews will take place starting from the week of **11 May 2026**.

Candidates will be notified by email about the date and time of their interview.

Candidates are requested to come to the interview with the Refugee Identity Card used during the online application.

Candidates with disabilities who need assistance during the interview must specify the type of disability they have and the kind of support they need via email after sending their application. In this case, an official disability certificate is also requested.

Art. 5.3 – Establishment and approval of the final ranking list

Candidates who will score less than 50/80 points will not be included in the final ranking. Candidate rankings are drawn up by the Admissions Committee, summing up the results of the two phases. The rankings are organized in decreasing order of points.

Only in the case that the list of eligible candidates does not include representatives of the two genders, the seats can be awarded to two representatives of the same gender.

For equal points, preference will be given to the younger candidate. Winners will be notified by email by **11 June 2026**,

The list of eligible applicants for Bocconi University, including the ones not selected for the available seats, will be published by **22 June 2026** on www.universitycorridors.unhcr.it In this list, refugee ID card number or ration number card of PoR, instead of full name, will be used to identify the eligible applicants and the ones not selected.

Art. 5.4 Acceptance

The winning candidates must reply to the University communication accepting the scholarship **by 7 days from the reception**. Failing to provide feedback by the given deadline will cause the loss of benefits.

By accepting the scholarship, candidates fully accept without reserve UNICORE 8.0 project support and financial benefits at the conditions established in this call for applications. With acceptance candidates 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.

Candidates will receive from Bocconi Admissions Office detailed information about the procedure to follow in order to complete the enrolment.

Candidates selected for the UNICORE 8.0 project support and financial benefits are not automatically enrolled in the chosen Second-cycle degree Program (Master of Science). Candidates must comply with the applicable provisions and deadlines, including enrollment regulations, established by the Memorandum issued by the Italian Ministry of University and Research, concerning foreign students' access to university degree programs.

More specifically, upon their arrival in Italy, to complete the enrolment process, candidates selected as winners will have to submit to Bocconi Admissions Office the following documents:

- The original Bachelor's degree certificate, or its certified copy, is legalized by the competent Italian embassy/consulate, along with its translation in Italian and Dichiarazione di Valore in loco" only if required and after admissions.
- the original transcript of records, legalized by the competent Italian embassy/consulate, along with its translation in Italian.

Art. 5.5 Ranking scroll and assignment of available seats

Candidates selected as winners can withdraw by sending an e-mail to inclusionprograms@unibocconi.it

In case a candidate winner of the scholarship will withdraw by **19 June 2026**, the scholarship will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the gender-based ranking.

If after having scrolled all the rankings, seats will still be available, Bocconi University reserves the right of searching for eligible candidates from other rankings issued by the Universities partners of the project. Potential candidates must undergo any additional selection process that Bocconi University will consider appropriate, in order to verify the specific entry requirements.

ART. 6 – Access to the scholarship and renewal requirements

Art. 6.1 Access to the scholarship

Winners will receive detailed information on how to access to the benefits by e-mail. Upon accepting the admission and scholarship offer, students comply to participate in recurrent monitoring meetings with staff from the Students Outreach and Support area for the entire duration of the program, with the aim of tracking academic progress and scholarship renewal targets.

Art. 6.2 Renewal requirements

- To enroll in the second year: by 10 **September 2027**: 30 CFU/credits.

Students are required to graduate by the last session available for their matriculation year, e.g. April 2029.

Art. 6.3 Additional Renewals

Students can request an extension of partial benefits for up until April 2029 (with the cash stipend reduced to 50% of the standard scholarship amount), for a maximum of 4 bimonthly cash stipend installments (if graduating before April, installments will be given accordingly). In case of students graduating after April 2029, no additional installment after the 4th one is foreseen. The renewed benefits will not include pocket money dedicated to meals and the housing allocation might be different from what was assigned for the previous years. The scholarship extension request has to be submitted to the Inclusion Program Team and the Fees and Funding office no later than September 2028.

ART. 7 - Withdrawal from studies

Winners who, after enrollment, later decide to leave the program and the University, need to do so by notifying the university and UNHCR via email. The students who abandon the program will lose entitlement to all the support and benefits mentioned in Art. 1.4 and will be requested to return all the devices provided.

ART. 8 – Information notice concerning data processing

Personal data collected are processed as described in the “Regolamento di attuazione delle norme in materia di protezione dei dati personali” available at:

https://www.unibocconi.eu/wps/wcm/connect/Bocconi/SitoPubblico_EN/Navigation+Tree/Home/About+Us/Statute+Regulations+and+Documents/Data+Protection+Regulation+GDPR//?key=footer

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

<https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b360f4d4.html>

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.

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

ART. 9 – Conditional issuing of the call for applications

The implementation of the project and the assignment of the expected benefits are subordinate to the signing of the cooperation agreement and its addendum for the project “University Corridors for Refugees 8.0” (2026-27) among the parties listed in Art. 1.

ART. 10 – List of the Second Cycle Degree taught in English (Master of Science Programs) participating in the call for Bocconi University

The Master of Science programs taught in English at Bocconi University that are participating in the call are:

- [Accounting, Financial Management](#)
- [Data Science and Business Analytics](#)
- [Economics and Management in Arts, Culture, Media and Entertainment](#)
- [Economics and Management of Innovation and Technology](#)
- [International Management – Concentrations Track](#)
- [Economic and Social Sciences](#)
- [Economics and Management of Government and International Organizations](#)
- [Politics and Policy Analysis](#)^{*2}
- [Finance – Finance Track](#)
- [Marketing Management](#)
- [Master of Arts in Global Law for Organizations, Business Enterprises and Institutions](#)

Any candidate may opt for maximum three Programs.

² Excluding Double Degree programs

Candidates could be considered for additional programs (complete list at www.unibocconi.eu/graduateprograms) in case their profile better fits with those alternatives.

ART. 11 - Publication of the Call

The present call will be published on the UNICORE website and on the Bocconi website as well at this link https://www.unibocconi.eu/wps/wcm/connect/Bocconi/SitoPubblico_EN/Navigation+Tree/Home/programs/master+of+science/Guidance+Activities/unicore

ART. 12 - Procedure Manager

In compliance with the provisions of Law no. 241/1990, art.5, the person in charge of the procedure at the present call is Riccardo Taranto, Managing Director

Milano, 27/02/2026

Managing Director

(Riccardo Taranto)

ATTACHMENT 1



Il Ministro dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca

Allegato 5 – Tabella di conversione dei Titoli stranieri

Valutazione esami

I candidati che hanno conseguito esami di laurea in una Università straniera hanno a disposizione sul sito <http://www.university.it/> un sistema di conversione dei voti ottenuti sulla base della seguente formula:

$$\text{Voto} = \frac{V - V_{\min}}{V_{\max} - V_{\min}} * (I_{\max} - I_{\min}) + I_{\min}$$

V= Voto da convertire

V_{min}=Voto minimo per la sufficienza nell'Università di provenienza

V_{max}= Voto massimo nell'Università di provenienza

I_{min}= Voto minimo per la sufficienza nelle Università Italiane (= 18/30)

I_{max}= Voto massimo nelle Università Italiane (=30/30)

Per le valutazioni su scala qualitativa si fa riferimento alla seguente scala di conversione:

| Valutazione da convertire | Voto |
|---------------------------|------|
| A | 30 |
| B | 28 |
| C | 26 |
| D | 23 |
| E | 18 |

COURTESY TRANSLATION:

*Ministry of Education, University and research
Attachment 5 – conversion table for foreign titles*

Evaluation of exams grades

Candidates who hold a title conferred by a foreign University can refer to the conversion system available on the website www.university.it . The conversion system is obtained using the following mathematical formula:

$$\text{GRADE: } G - G_{\min} / G_{\max} - G_{\min} * (I_{\max} - I_{\min}) + I_{\min}$$

Where:

G: grade to be converted

G_{min}: Minimum pass grade in the foreign grading system

Gmax: Maximum grade in the foreign grading system

Imin: Minimum pass grade for the Italian grading System (18/30)

Imax: Maximum grade in the Italian grading system (30/30)

For qualitative grades the following table is used:

A = 30

B = 28

C = 26

D = 23

E = 18

ATTACHMENT 2

Applicants must meet one of the following requirements related to English language (the English language competence of candidates who do not hold the below mentioned certificate will be assessed during the interview):

- university qualification (or secondary school diploma) awarded in English or
- one of the recognized international English language certificates listed below or
- English exam at B2 level (or higher) passed in a university course.

| Recognized certificates | Test administrator | Minimum score required |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| BEC Higher Business English Certificate Higher | Cambridge Assessment English | 173 |
| BEC Vantage Business English Certificate Vantage | Cambridge Assessment English | Grade B or 173 |
| CAE Certificate in Advanced English | Cambridge Assessment English | 173 |
| CPE Certificate of Proficiency in English | Cambridge Assessment English | 180 |
| FCE First Certificate in English | Cambridge Assessment English | B or 173 |
| IELTS academic International English Language Testing System | British Council, IDP IELTS Australia, Cambridge Assessment English | 6 with at least 6 in every section |

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----|
| TOEFL IBT Test of English as a foreign language - internet based test | (ETS) Educational Testing Service | 88 |
| Duolingo English test | Duolingo | 110 |
| English Mother tongue* | - | - |

*Please note that students who are nationals from a majority English-speaking country are automatically assumed to meet the minimum English Language requirement. These countries are, for example, Australia, Canada, New Zealand.