

SAFE – foSter cooperAtion For improving access to protection

Selection Criteria for study grants for Master's Degree at the University of Cagliari

Context

SAFE is a three-year project aiming at fostering the collaboration between stakeholders at a transnational level in order to develop and improve access to protection through private sponsorship schemes and complementary pathways, such as humanitarian corridors, family reunification and student mobility for beneficiaries of international protection.

Funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), it is coordinated by Forum réfugiés (FR) and gathers the following partners: Federation of Protestant Mutual Aid (FEP), French Red Cross (CRF), Italian Red Cross (CRI), Italian Federation of Protestant Churches (FCEI), Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED) and Oxfam Italy.

Scope

Within this project, operational information and support desks were set-up at the University of Sétif 2 (Algeria), as the sending institution, and at the University of Cagliari (Italy), as the hosting institution.

The purpose is to facilitate the access of one young refugee to higher education, in particular to a Master's Degree (2 years) at the University of Cagliari. Therefore, those support desks were established to design and implement University corridors for the benefit of a young refugee.

The student can choose up to two Second Cycle Degree Programmes taught in English (fully or partially) among those available at the University of Cagliari (ANNEX A), provided that he/she meets the entry requirements.

For Master Programmes fully taught in English the student must hold a B2 English language certification. The candidate must autonomously check the entry requirements of the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programmes.

Art. 1 - Benefits and supports offered

The selected student will receive full support during all the steps of application as well as during his/her studies, including financial coverage of all the expenses.

The winner will receive financial coverage for the travel expenses to Italy and full support during his/her studies. Among the benefits offered:

- Full coverage of the expenses to be faced before the arrival in Italy: flight tickets, visa and preparation of supporting documents, declaration of value, translation and legalization.

- Full coverage of the expenses related to the stay permit request and health insurance for 2 years in Italy, public transportation and telephone number.
- Annual scholarship. Payments will be subject to the achievement of merit requirements. The winner will be provided with more information upon enrolment.
- Full tuition fee exemption.
- Free accommodation.
- One free meal a day from Monday to Saturday in a student canteen.
- Free Italian language courses by the University Centre for Italian Teaching to Foreigners (CIS).
- Full support from the International Student Office staff.
- Free opening of a bank account.
- Psychological Counseling Service by the University of Cagliari.

Local students will support the winner in the integration process in the student life and will assist for any problem met during the studies.

The above mentioned benefits are applicable only to the beneficiary of the scholarship and cannot be extended for any reason to relatives or third parties.

Art. 2 - Admission requirements

Application is open exclusively to candidates who:

1. have been recognized the refugee status in collaboration with UNHCR;
2. hold a qualification valid for admission to the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programme (Master's Degree-2 years);
3. have been awarded a qualification by a higher education institution accredited in the higher education system of the Country where the degree has been issued;
4. have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 24/30 – referred to the Italian System. For the grade conversion to the Italian grading system the official conversion formula of the Italian Ministry of Education will be used (http://attiministeriali.miur.it/media/277372/allegato_5_conversione%20titoli.pdf)
5. hold a degree obtained in or after 2018 and no later than June 1st, 2023;
6. meet the entry requirements of the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programmes;
7. have a good proficiency in the English language.

Holding a national passport issued by the country of nationality will be considered as an asset.

Art. 3 – Selection criteria and application documents

3.1 Selection criteria and evaluation committee

The student is selected on the basis of merit requirements.

The desk of origin at the University of Sétif 2 is only responsible for an eligibility check.

At a second stage, the University of Cagliari is responsible for the merit assessment of the eligible applications. The evaluation will be carried out by a Committee of Experts composed by the Vice-Rector for International Affairs, Prof. Alessandra Carucci, a member of the International Student office, the Professors in charge of the Master Programmes concerned - or her/his delegates – and any other teaching staff the Professors will consider appropriate.

3.2 Application documents

Candidates are required to fill in the online application form at this link: <https://sites.unica.it/modulimobilita/safe-unimed-application-form/> and to upload the following mandatory documents:

1. Proof of refugee registration issued by national authorities or UNHCR;
2. A certificate confirming the qualification required for admission to the chosen degree programme.
3. Transcripts of exams passed and related marks.
4. Any relevant and additional document required by the specific programmes chosen (i.e. language certification).

NOT MANDATORY DOCUMENTS:

5. A motivation letter (maximum two A4 pages).
6. Letter/s of references written by supervisor/advisor supporting the application
7. Applicants are warmly recommended to shoot a short video CV (e.g. using mobile phone) where they introduce themselves and their motivations. Candidates can send the video via <https://wettransfer.com/> to the email address foreignstudents@unica.it Applicants will be notified via email of the receipt of the application documents.

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

Presenting any fraudulent school certificates or university diplomas is a crime. All the documents that you submit will be carefully checked by experts. Should you present fraudulent documents, there will be serious consequences including your disqualification from this and other opportunities.

3.3 Deadlines and modalities

Applications can be submitted from the day after the publication of this call **until July 5th through [this form](#)**. The student is allowed to apply for a maximum of two programmes in which he/she meets the specific entry requirements.

Art. 4 - Selection process and final ranking publication

The application process is divided into three steps:

- Step 0: administrative check of the applications by the sending institution, University of Sétif 2.
- Step 1: preliminary evaluation of the documentation by the University of Cagliari.
- Step 2: interview by the University of Cagliari (online, through Skype or other video conferencing services). The Committee of Experts will evaluate the student's motivation, technical skills and competence on the subject. Interviews will be conducted in English; English proficiency will be also assessed during the interview.

4.1 Step 0 – Eligibility check

The sending institution has the task of making sure that the application is complete and formally eligible, which is to say that the candidates meet all the prerequisites. The desks of origin do not carry out a merit assessment, which is in charge of UNICA. Only the applications properly filled in and complete with all the required documents will be confirmed to UNICA to proceed with Steps 1 and 2.

4.2 Step 1 - Evaluation of the documentation by UNICA

The Committee of Experts will evaluate the documentation according to the following criteria:

- Academic background and GPA (score: 0-15)
- Evaluation of CV (as in the application form): professional experience, personal skills and motivation (score: 0-15)
- Coherence between previous studies and selected Second Cycle Degree programme (score: 0-10)

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

Only the first 3 candidates per each sending institution will be admitted to Step 2. For equal points, preference will be given to the younger candidate.

Candidates admitted to Step 2 will be notified by email by **July 14th**.

4.3 Step 2 – Online Interviews by UNICA

Candidates admitted to Step 2 will be interviewed (online, through Skype or other video conferencing services) by the Committee of Experts, who will evaluate their motivation, technical skills and competence on the subject. Interviews will be conducted in English; English proficiency will be also assessed during the interview. Interviews will be graded on a scale of 40 points.

Interviews will take place starting from **July 19th**. Candidates will be notified by email about the date and time of the interview.

Candidates are requested to come to the interview with the Refugee Identity Card (or the proof of registration) used during the on-line application. A third party must be present during the beginning of the interview for the identification of the candidate.

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

4.4 Establishment and approval of the final ranking list

Candidates who score less than 50/80 points will not be included in the final ranking.

Candidate rankings are drawn up by the Committee of Experts summing up the results of the two phases and are approved by decree. The rankings are organized in decreasing order of points.

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

Only one candidate will be selected for the complementary pathway between the University of Sétif 2 and the University of Cagliari.

This Call for application is established in the framework of the implementation of 3 complementary pathways with other countries, in addition to Algeria. In the event that the University of Sétif 2 submits no valid application, the second candidate in the ranking for another country will be selected, which means the next candidate with the highest score regardless of the country.

The list of eligible applicants for the University of Cagliari, including the ones not selected for the available seats, will be published by **July 27th** at https://www.unica.it/unica/en/unica_refugees.page. UNICA will communicate the winners to UNIMED and to the person in charge of the UNIMED desk in the country of first asylum.

4.5 Acceptance

In order to confirm the scholarship, the candidate must communicate the acceptance of the scholarship by 10 days from the notification to foreignstudents@unica.it. Failing to provide feedback by the given deadline will cause the loss of the benefits.

By accepting the scholarship, the student fully accepts without reserve SAFE project support and financial benefits at the conditions established in this call for applications. With the acceptance, the student also confirms under his/her own full responsibility that he/she does not fall within any of the conditions of incompatibility established in this call for applications.

The candidate will receive from the UNIMED desk of the University of Cagliari detailed information about the procedure to follow in order to complete the enrolment.

4.6 Ranking scroll and assignment of available seats

In case a candidate winner of the scholarship will officially withdraw, the scholarship will be allocated to the next eligible candidate in the ranking.

Potential candidates must meet the specific entry requirements of the University of Cagliari programmes.

Art. 5 – Access to the scholarship and renewal requirements

5.1 Access to the scholarship

The winner will receive detailed information on how to access the benefits by email.

He/she must comply with applicable provisions and deadlines, including enrolment regulations, established by the Procedures issued by the Italian Ministry of University and Research concerning foreign students' access to university degree programmes.

The benefits can be suspended in case the student will stop attending classes or will not be reachable by the University staff and Professors for more than one week without any reasonable explanation.

5.2 Renewal requirements

In order to renew or maintain the scholarship the student is required to acquire:

- First year- within the 10th of August 2024: 30 credits (CFU).
- Second year: within the 10th of August 2025: 70 credits (CFU).

Art. 6 – Information notice concerning data processing

In compliance with European data protection policy, personal data collected are processed as described in the “Informativa sul trattamento dati personali ai sensi del Regolamento UE 2016/679” available (in Italian) at: https://www.unica.it/unica/it/utility_privacy.page

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.**

ANNEX A

List of the Second Cycle Degree Programmes taught in English (fully or partially) available for the University of Cagliari (academic year 2023-2024)

Master programmes taught in English

- Computer Engineering, Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence
- Management, curriculum International Management
- Cellular and Molecular Biology, curriculum Advanced Cellular Studies

Master programmes partially taught in English and Italian

- Environmental Engineering for Sustainable Development, curriculum Environmental remediation technologies
- Electronic Engineering
- Chemical and Biotechnological Process Engineering
- Economics, Finance and Public Policy
- Sustainable Tourism Management and Monitoring
- International Relations
- Informatics

Students must have a B2 English language certification for certain Programmes. Candidates must autonomously check the entry requirements of the chosen Second Cycle Degree Programmes, as specified in Annex B.

ANNEX B

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SECOND CYCLE DEGREE PROGRAMMES TAUGHT IN ENGLISH (FULLY OR PARTIALLY) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAGLIARI

(ECTS= credits)

Master programmes taught in English

- **Computer Engineering, Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence**

Minimum admission requirements

- The SUM of credits in MATHS and PHYSICS must be equal to, or greater than, 12
- The number of credits in COMPUTER SCIENCE OR COMPUTER ENGINEERING must be equal to, or greater than, 18
- The SUM of credits in COMPUTER SCIENCE OR COMPUTER ENGINEERING and INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY must be equal to, or greater than, 36.

Students must have a B2 English language certification.

unica.it - [MSc in Computer Engineering, Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence](#)

- **Management, curriculum *International Management***

Applicants must have earned the qualification in Business Administration, Economics, or Management. Alternatively, applicants must have acquired at least:

27 ECTS in Business administration, Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions, Management or Organization Studies scientific sectors;

15 ECTS in Economic Statistics or Statistics, Mathematical methods of Economy, Finance and actuarial sciences or Operational Research (Mathematics) scientific sectors.

18 ECTS in Business Law, Economics Law, European Union Law, Private Law, Navigation and Air Law, Public law or Tax law scientific sectors.

Students must have a B2 English language certification.

unica.it - [Economia Manageriale](#)

- **Cellular and Molecular Biology, curriculum *Advanced Cellular Studies***

In addition to knowledge of the English language (at least B2), it is also necessary to have the following minimum curricular requirements:

- a) have acquired at least 12 ECTS in courses in the scientific sectors of Mathematics, Physics, Informatics, Informatic Engineering;
- b) have acquired at least 12 ECTS in courses of Chemistry;
- c) have acquired at least 48 ECTS in courses of the area of Biology.

unica.it - [Biologia Cellulare e Molecolare](#)

Master programmes partially taught in English and Italian

- **Environmental Engineering for Sustainable Development, curriculum *Environmental remediation technologies***

Applicants must have acquired at least:

- 15 credits in MATHS;
- 10 credits in PHYSICS;
- 5 credits in Chemistry and Material Science;
- 10 credits in Hydraulics, Hydrology and Hydraulic engineering;
- 5 credits in Geology, Applied Geology, Georesources;
- 5 credits in Sanitary-Environmental Engineering;
- 5 credits in Geotechnics and Geophysics;
- 5 credits in Construction Theory.

unica.it - Environmental Engineering for Sustainable Development

- **Electronic Engineering**

In the previous career (B. Sc.) the prospective student must have acquired 30 ECTS in foundational disciplines (Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science) and 45 ECTS in specific disciplines (Electronics, Circuit Theory, Computer Science, Electromagnetism, Telecommunications, etc.), according to the numbers provided in the following table:

Discipline type	Disciplines	Minimum ECTS
Foundational	Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Computer Science	30
Specific	Analog and Digital Electronics, Electronic Devices, Circuit Theory, Electromagnetism, Telecommunication, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Signal Processing, Instrumentation	45
Sum		75

unica.it - Electronic Engineering

- **Chemical and Biotechnological Process Engineering**

In the previous career (Bachelor Degree) the applicant student should have acquired **at least 30 ECTS** in the formation disciplines and **at least 45 ECTS** in specific disciplines, according to the numbers provided in the table:

Discipline type	Disciplines	Minimum ECTS
Formation	Algebra, Calculus, Computer Science, Probability and Statistics, Physics, General and Inorganic Chemistry	30
Specific	Metallurgy, Organic Chemistry, Applied Physical Chemistry, Transport Phenomena, Chemical Plants, Unit Operations, Industrial Chemistry, Fluid Dynamics, Fluid Hydraulics, Fluid Mechanics, Computer-Aided Design, Applied Mechanics, Automation, Industrial Bioengineering, Electronic Bioengineering, Electrical Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Measurements, Nuclear Plants, Fluid Machines, Applied Physics, Mechanical Design, Mechanical Industrial Plants, Structural Mechanics, Materials Science, Materials Technology, Electromagnetism, Mechanical Industrial Plants, Ecology, Geology, Geophysics, Economic-Management Engineering, Biochemistry	45
Sum		75

As a further requirement, a minimum number of ECTS is needed **for each** of the following disciplines:

Disciplines	Minimum ECTS
Calculus <i>or</i> Numerical Analysis	7
Physics	7
General and inorganic chemistry <i>or</i> Applied Chemistry	6
Transport Phenomena <i>or</i> Industrial Bioengineering <i>or</i> Thermodynamics	6
Computer Science	4

unica.it - [Chemical and Biotechnological Process Engineering](#)

- **Economics, Finance and Public Policy**

Applicants must have earned the qualification in either Economics, Business Administration, or Management. Alternatively, applicants must have acquired at least:

- 15 ECTS in Economics and Econometrics scientific sectors;
- 9 ECTS in Business administration, Finance, Financial Markets and Institutions, Management or Organization Studies scientific sectors; Business Law, Economics Law, European Union Law, Private Law, Navigation and Air Law, Public law or Tax law scientific sectors;
- 12 ECTS or Statistics, Mathematical methods of Economy, Finance and actuarial sciences or Operational Research (Mathematics) scientific sectors;
- English language certification level B1.

unica.it - [Economics, Finance And Public Policy](#)

- **Sustainable Tourism Management and Monitoring**

Admission requirements:

Bachelor (undergraduate) degree in one of the following: Economy and Management Sciences; Economic Sciences. Bachelor (undergraduate) degree in classes different from the former, provided that an adequate number of credits is earned in the following areas:

12 credits (ECTS) in Corporate Sciences area;

12 ECTS in Economic Sciences area;

9 ECTS in Mathematics and Statistical Sciences area.

unica.it - Management e Monitoraggio del Turismo Sostenibile

- **International Relations**

Curricular Requirements

Enrollment without verification of curricular requirements is possible for students with a degree in Political Sciences; Political Sciences and International Relations. For students holding different degrees, enrollment is conditioned to these curricular requirements:

- 12 ECTS in Politics and History Studies scientific sectors;
- 6 ECTS in Sociologic Studies scientific sectors;
- 6 ECTS in Law Studies scientific sectors;
- 6 ECTS in Economic Studies scientific sectors;
- English Language Proficiency of level B1.

unica.it - Relazioni Internazionali

- **Informatics**

Admission requirements to the Master of Science in Informatics, expressed in terms of the minimum number of credits:

▪ at least 18 ECTS in total in Mathematics and Physics;

▪ at least 96 ECTS in Informatics.

unica.it - Informatica

An evaluation on the fulfilment of the curricular requirements for each specific Master Programme will be done by the selecting Committee.