



**NOTICE OF SELECTION PROCEDURE  
OF "SMILE NOW" SCHOLARSHIP  
A.Y. 2024/2025**

**THE PRO-RECTOR DELEGATE FOR INTERNATIONALIZATION**

HAVING REGARD TO the laws on university education and in particular Law No. 240 of December 30, 2010;

HAVING REGARD TO the Statute of the University of Cagliari, issued by Rector's Decree 339 of 27.03.2012 and published in the Gazzetta Ufficiale n.89 of 16.04.2012 and subsequent amendments and additions;

VISTO HAVING REGARD TO the Legislative Decree No. 101 of August 10, 2018, containing provisions for the adaptation of national legislation to the provisions of EU Regulation 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of April 27, 2016, on the protection of physical persons regarding the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data;

HAVING REGARD TO the University Regulations for access to documents, issued by R.D. No. 785 of 1.7.2014 and subsequent amendments and additions;

HAVING REGARD TO the University Teaching Regulations issued by Rector's Decree No. 696 of 13.06.2014 and subsequent amendments and additions;

HAVING REGARD TO the Student Academic Careers Regulations, issued by R.D. No. 1330 of 28.12.2020 and subsequent amendments and additions;

HAVING REGARD TO the University Regulations on student contribution for the academic year 2023/2024, issued by R.D. No. 834 of 29.06.2023, and in particular Article 14, which provides for ex officio exemption from paying the annual tuition fee also for foreign students who enrol in a course of study at this University and who have applied to the Italian State for international protection (asylum seeker) or have been granted refugee status or are holders of subsidiary protection;

HAVING REGARD TO the R.D. no. 427 of 7.05.2021 by which Prof. Alessandra Carucci, full professor, is nominated Pro-rector delegate for internationalization in the six-year period 2021/2027, with signatory power for the coordination of the University's activities aimed at pursuing the objectives in the field of internationalization;

HAVING REGARD TO the resolution of 21.12.2023 by which the Board of Directors approved the international student mobility plan for the a.y. 2023/2024 and provided, with the aim of fostering international cooperation and the dissemination of knowledge of UNICA's educational offer worldwide, allocating nr. 8 two-year SMILE NOW scholarships in favour of foreign students enrolled in the first year of a master's degree program at the University of Cagliari for the a.y. 2024/2025, giving priority to refugee students or those in disadvantaged economic conditions;

HAVING REGARD TO R.D. 808/2024 of 21.05.2024 which, in addition to the above-mentioned resolution of the BoD

R.D. 808/2024 of 21 May 2024 which, in addition to the above-mentioned resolution of the Board of Governors and in order to promote the integration of international students in economically disadvantaged conditions and foster social



CONSIDERED	inclusion, establishes that international students with refugee status, asylum seeker status and/or fleeing a country at war may also apply for the 8 "SMILE NOW" scholarships for the academic year 2024/2025, for a maximum of 6 months' salary, provided that they are enrolled in the second year of one of the master's degree courses at this University for the academic year 2023/2024;
CONSIDERED	that it is necessary to proceed with urgency to issue the first selection notice regarding nr. 8 available "SMILE NOW" scholarships in favour of international students with Bachelor's degrees obtained abroad who intend to enrol for the academic year 2024-2025, in the first year of a Master's degree program at the University of Cagliari;
CONSIDERED	that, following what was established by the Board of Directors with the resolution to allocate resources, it will be necessary to give priority to international students who have refugee status or are in difficult economic conditions;
CONSIDERED	the availability in the authorizing budget for 2024: account unit for educational projects - student interventions - UA 00.01.06 - EU 00.01 - level 09.07.01.02.03 - COAN: A15.01.03.03.01.01 - PROJECT: EDUCATION_BORSE_SMILE_NOW;
HAVING EVALUATED	all the reasons of necessity and urgency;

## DECREES

### ART. 1 - Subject, amount, and duration of the scholarships

The selection procedure based on qualifications only, within the framework of the project "**SMILE NOW**", is announced to award nr. 8 two-year scholarships for non-EU students (*foreigns in possession of Italian citizenship are excluded*), who intend to be enrolled at this University for the academic year 2024-2025 in the first year of a master's degree program following in-presence the educational activities of the study course.

International students with the status of refugee, asylum seeker and/or fleeing their country at war may also participate in the selection process, provided that they are enrolled at this University for the academic year 2023/2024 in the second year of one of the Master's degree courses and have already obtained CFUs equal to 60. The allocation of the "SMILE NOW" international scholarship for the benefit of these students may not exceed 6 monthly payments, in consideration of the time required to acquire the credits relative to the curricular requirements and will also be incompatible with other forms of financial support or scholarships covering the same cost.

**SMILE NOW** scholarships will be awarded, as a priority, to foreign students who have applied to the Italian State for international protection or have been granted refugee status or are holders of subsidiary or special protection.

Winners of **SMILE NOW** scholarships will be exempt from paying tuition fees. The stamp duty and, if due, the regional tax for the right to study must be paid.

The period of use of **SMILE NOW** scholarships is from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025; renewal will be effective from October 1, 2025.



The scholarship will be paid monthly and as follows:

- the first annual amount (€ 7081.40, gross of any taxes charges borne by the beneficiary), after the effective enrolment, free of any reservation by the winning student in a master's degree program at UNICA for the academic year 2024/2025, under the condition that the student holds a regular study visa or the first application for the issuance of asylum permit, political asylum, subsidiary protection or complementary protection (e.g. special protection and special cases);
- the second annual amount (€7081.40 per year, gross of taxes to be paid by the student) for the academic year 2025/2026 will be provided if the student meets the following conditions:
  - maintains the residence permit;
  - enrolls by the deadline in the Study Manifesto - a.a.2025/2026 - in the second year course;
  - achieves, by August 10, 2024, at least 30 university credit points required in the study plan for the first-year course (a.y. 2024/2025). A student who succeeds in maintaining the scholarship also for the second year (a.y. 2025/2026) is exempt from paying tuition fees, but not from paying stamp duty.

The scholarship for international students in economically disadvantaged circumstances enrolled at this University is granted, for a maximum of 6 monthly immediate and retroactive payments, provided that these students are enrolled for the academic year 2023/2024 in the second year of one of the Master's degree courses and have already obtained, at the date of application, CFUs equal to 60.

Winning students will be guaranteed the support services listed below:

- ✓ complete exemption from the payment of university tuition fees;
- ✓ participation in Italian L2 courses, offered free of charge by the University Center for Teaching Italian to Foreigners (CIS);
- ✓ assistance of a bilingual cultural mediator who fosters interaction and dialogue between individuals and groups of different languages and cultures.
- ✓

### **ART. 2 – Incompatibility**

The scholarship cannot be combined with the following other benefits:

- scholarships provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);
- scholarships provided by the CRUI for students who are holders of international protection;
- le scholarships awarded by the ERSU of Cagliari;
- any scholarships provided by other institutions, on the basis of agreements with the University of Cagliari, aimed at supporting the enrolment of international students (e.g. FORMED, AICS).

### **ART. 3 – Requirements for admission to the selection**

In order to participate in the selection procedure, the following requirements must be met, under penalty of exclusion, on the expiry date of the notice (**July 10, 2024**):



### 3.1 Educational qualification:

Students who do not have the citizenship of one of the member states of the European Union and are in possession of a first-level foreign academic degree valid for enrolment in master's degree programs at the University of Cagliari may apply for the "**SMILE NOW**" grants (*for best guidelines see also <https://studyinitaly.esteri.it/Static/ProcedureIscrizione>, in Recognition of qualifications and titles and declaration of value*).

### 3.2 Age limits:

Students under the age of 35 years on the deadline date of this announcement are eligible to apply.

## ART. 4 – Submission of application

Applicants must submit, under penalty of exclusion, the following documents:

1. the application form (CV and motivation letter), duly completed according to the online form available at the link: [Application Form Smile Now 2024/2025 – Moduli ISMOKA UniCal](#)
2. copy of a valid official identification document;
3. copy of the first application for asylum permit, or the document proving possession of political asylum, subsidiary protection or complementary protection, or study visa, if held;
4. only for those intending to enrol: certificate/diploma documenting the possession of a degree required for admission to the chosen course of study or, if the candidate does not possess it, an equivalent document;
5. list of examinations passed with corresponding grades; the entry qualification, for those intending to enrol, or of the Master's degree course, for those enrolled in the 2nd year.

All documents submitted by the candidate must be compulsorily in English or Italian.

The application must be submitted from the day of publication of the present decree until **July 10, 2024**, submitting all the documents through the specific online form.

Applications not fully completed and lacking the required documentation will not be accepted.

## ART. 5 – Selection procedure

The rankings will be formulated by the University Examining Committee, nominated by Rectoral Decree, which will carry out the evaluation of presented documents based on the following criteria:

- academic background and average value of exams (score: 0-15);
- C.V. evaluation: professional experience and personal skills (score: 0-15);
- the personal motivation and coherence between previous studies and the study course chosen (score: 0-10).

Candidates who do not reach the minimum score of 24/40 will not be included in the final rankings.

In order to ensure, as far as possible, gender balance, two separate rankings divided by gender will be drawn up and, only in the case of exhaustion of one of the two, will it be possible to assign the remaining places to candidates of the same gender.

In the case of tied scores, priority will be given to the younger candidate.



The list of successful candidates and those eligible under the reserve will be published by **July 15, 2024**, at the website: [https://www.unica.it/unica/it/smile\\_now.page](https://www.unica.it/unica/it/smile_now.page).  
The winners will be notified by e-mail about the awarding of the scholarship.

#### **ART. 6 – Acceptance and modalities of assignment and maintenance of the study grant**

Within the peremptory term of 7 days from the date of receipt of the notification about the awarding, the beneficiary must send, by e-mail to [foreignstudents@unica.it](mailto:foreignstudents@unica.it), the declaration of acceptance of the **"SMILE NOW"** scholarship under the conditions established in this selection notice without reservation, under penalty of forfeiture. In the declaration, the grantee must also give explicit assurance, under his/her own responsibility, that he/she is not subject to incompatibilities provided by the art. 2 of the present call and shall undertake to communicate any changes that may occur in the calendar year 2025 concerning what has been previously declared.

Grant recipients will receive detailed information about the scholarship and related benefits by email, so long as they comply with the deadlines and requirements.

Payment of the grants will be made by UNICA prepaid card with Italian IBAN to the beneficiary student. The scholarship and related benefits may be suspended if the student does not attend classes, cannot be tracked for more than a week by the teachers and/or staff of UNICA and has left the study centre without any valid justification.

To maintain and renew the scholarship for the following year as well, the student must acquire at least 30 credits (CFUs) by August 10, 2025.

#### **ART. 7 – Renunciation of the scholarship**

Renunciation of the scholarship must be communicated by e-mail to: [foreignstudents@unica.it](mailto:foreignstudents@unica.it)

In case the withdrawal is communicated by **30.09.2024**, the scholarship will be awarded to the first of the eligible non-assignees placed on the final list.

#### **ART. 8 – Processing of personal data and person in charge of the procedures**

The University of Cagliari is the controller of personal data, following the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on the protection of individuals regarding the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data and with the Italian legislation in force. The information on data processing is published on the website: [https://www.unica.it/unica/it/utility\\_privacy.page](https://www.unica.it/unica/it/utility_privacy.page).

The data are processed in the first instance and for fulfilment following the end of the competition procedure by the staff of the Student Mobility Sector for the Directorate for Didactics and Orientation of this University.

The right of access to the acts of the competition procedure may be exercised by candidates who have an interest in the protection of relevant legal situations. The Administration has the right to postpone, employing a reasoned decision, the exercise of access to the competition procedure at the end of the procedure if it considers that it may constitute a cause of serious delay, irregularity, impediment or obstacle to the competition procedures in progress.



The person in charge of the procedure, under Law no. 241 of 7 August 1990, is the official responsible for the Student Mobility Sector/Erasmus Office, Anna Maria Aloï, who may be contacted by e-mail at the following address: [erasmus@unica.it](mailto:erasmus@unica.it)

Appeal against this measure may be lodged with the Regional Administrative Tribunal with territorial jurisdiction within 60 (sixty) days of knowledge of the publication, following the procedures set out in Legislative Decree no. 104 of July 2, 2010. For citizens residing in a European State other than Italy, the beforementioned term is increased by 30 (thirty) days. For citizens residing outside of Europe, the same term is increased by 90 (ninety) days. Alternatively, you may lodge an extraordinary appeal with the President of the Republic, according to Presidential Decree no. 1199 of November 24, 1971, within 120 (one hundred and twenty) days of the same deadline.

The Administration reserves the right to carry out checks on the truthfulness of the declarations. Without prejudice to the criminal sanctions provided for by art. 76 of DPR 445/2000, if the check reveals that the content of the declaration is not true, the declarant will lose the scholarship.

#### **ART. 9 – Transitional rules**

Variations to the present notice will be promptly communicated on the Erasmus+ page of the University website: [https://web.unica.it/unica/it/smile\\_now.page](https://web.unica.it/unica/it/smile_now.page)

#### **HAVING REGARD**

The Director Manager  
Aldo Urru

#### **THE PRO-RECTOR DELEGATE FOR INTERNATIONALIZATION**

Alessandra Carucci  
*digitally signed*