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UNIVERSITÀ
DI SIENA
1240

Call for applications for Scholarships "Siena International Excellence Scholarships" for International Students enrolling in selected English-taught Master's Degree programmes at the University of Siena, Academic Year 2026/2027

Art. 1 - Subject and Purpose

In line with initiatives aimed at enhancing the international attractiveness of its academic programs, the University of Siena (the University) is providing grants to honor distinguished international students and encourage their enrollment in selected Master's degree programs (*Lauree Magistrali*). For the academic year 2026/2027, the University is offering scholarships tailored for international students eager to advance their education in Siena. This exclusive opportunity is available to individuals holding non-Italian citizenship and who have earned their entry qualifications from institutions outside Italy, underscoring the university's dedication to fostering an educational environment enriched by a variety of international insights.

This call for applications includes:

Five Siena International Excellence Scholarships, each worth €6,000.00 annually (gross amount), for a duration of one year, renewable for a second year and including full exemption from university tuition fees.

These scholarships are awarded to the most talented students admitted to selected Master's degree programs conducted entirely in English. One scholarship is available for each of the following three areas:

A. **Area of Economics and Law, which includes the following Master's degree programs:**
   - Economics
   - Finance
   - International Accounting and Management

B. **Area of Political, International, Social and Cognitive Sciences, which includes the following Master's degree programs:**
   - Language and Mind: Linguistics and Cognitive Studies
   - Public and Cultural Diplomacy

- Scienze Internazionali (curriculum: European Studies)

C. **Area of Biomedical and Medical Sciences, which includes the following Master's degree programs:**

   - Biotechnologies of Human Reproduction
   - Medical Biotechnologies

Two scholarships are available for two different courses of the following area:

D. **Area of Math and Experimental Sciences, which includes the following Master's degree programs:**

   - Applied Mathematics
   - Artificial Intelligence and Automation Engineering
   - Biodiversity, Conservation and Environmental Quality
   - Chemistry
   - Electronics and Communications Engineering
   - Engineering Management
   - Sustainable Industrial Pharmaceutical Biotechnology

Art. 2 - Admission Requirements

To be considered for selection, applicants must, under penalty of exclusion:

1. Hold a non-Italian Bachelor's degree that qualifies for admission to Master's degree programs (Lauree Magistrali) within the Italian University system;
2. Not hold Italian citizenship, except for individuals with dual citizenship that includes Italian;
3. Not be a resident of Italy. For the purposes of this call for applications, the following are considered residents of Italy:
   - Non-EU citizens with a valid residence permit that allows for enrolment in an Italian university without the need for a new student Visa, as per Italian Legislative Decree 286/1998;
   - EU and EU-equated citizens who have continuously resided in Italy for more than 9 months. Citizens of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, the Republic of San Marino, and Switzerland are considered as EU citizens.
4. Have applied for any of the Master's degree programs listed above, following the procedures and meeting the deadlines specified on the platform https://apply.unisi.it/. Candidates can apply for up to two programs.

Applicants who do not meet one or more of these requirements will be ineligible for scholarship selection.

Art. 3 - Application Submission

Candidates must complete and submit the on-line application form available at the following link: https://admission.unisi.it/?p=2283.

Applications must be submitted from May 5, 2026 to May 26, 2026, inclusive (Italian time).

For the submission of the application, a fee of 10 euros is required, payable through the instructions provided on the website.

In the application, candidates must provide the following information and documentation:

- Short self-made video in which the candidate should explain their motivations (**no longer than 1 minute**);
- Name(s) of the Master's degree program(s) for which they are applying for this call.

In addition to the above, the Evaluation Committee will use the documentation already uploaded by the applicant for their admission application through the same portal. The documents required for the admission are listed at the link: https://admission.unisi.it/?p=1193.

Incomplete applications will be rejected. It is not possible to send any document by email.

Art. 4 - Selection Procedure and Awarding Criteria

The Evaluation Committee evaluates eligible applicants and awards the most deserving candidates the scholarships, based on academic excellence in their field of study, quality, and records from their prior learning. In case of equal score, the youngest candidate will be given priority.

The outcome of the selection process will produce **a ranking list including up to ten eligible distinguished candidates for each area**. The ranking list will be used to determine the scholarship recipients, one for each area, in accordance with the provisions of Article 5.

The ranking lists will be published at the link: https://admission.unisi.it/?p=2283 starting from June 25, 2026.

The Evaluation Committee reserves the right to reject applications from candidates not considered sufficiently outstanding.

Other University departments (or external public entities) may use the ranking list derived from this call for applications to offer additional scholarships based on their own funds, including for grants or scholarships of lower or different values.

Art. 5 - Acceptance and Conditions for Obtaining the Scholarship

Candidates selected for a scholarship will receive an email containing a provisional scholarship offer from the University, **complete with instructions and a seven-day deadline to accept it**. This acceptance is preliminary and not final.

Should the candidate fail to accept the offer within the specified deadline, they will be removed from the ranking list and the University will proceed with the other eligible candidates in the same area, in accordance with their placement order.

Upon the preliminary acceptance, to secure the scholarship, the candidate must definitively accept it by meeting the following conditions by the firm and final deadline of December 15, 2026 (inclusive):

1. Be physically present in Siena;
2. Have completed the enrollment procedures for the program to which they applied, including the payment of the regional DSU Toscana tax (set at €140) and the virtual stamp duty (set at €16);
3. Not be a recipient of any other scholarships or grants from Italian or foreign entities.

Should the candidate fail to meet the requirements by the deadline, they will be permanently removed from the ranking list and the University will proceed with the other eligible candidates in the same area, in accordance with their placement order. In any case, the scholarship can only be awarded to candidates who meet the requirements of this article by December 15, 2026.

Extensions beyond the December 15, 2026 deadline are not permitted, even for reasons beyond the candidate's control (for example, illness or failure to obtain a visa in time).

In the event that the scholarship cannot be allocated to any of the eligible candidates in one area, the selection will proceed to the eligible candidates in the ranking lists of other areas, following the order of placement. In cases of equal placement, priority will be given to the younger candidates.

Art. 6 - Payment Method

Scholarships will be paid via bank transfer. Recipients are required to have a bank account within the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) or, as an alternative, a prepaid card with an IBAN where they are the account holder or co-holder to receive the funds.

Art. 7 - Payment Schedule and Conditions for Scholarship Revocation

Scholarships will be paid in two annual installments of €3,000.00 each (gross amount), following the schedule and conditions outlined below, as summarized in the summary table (Annex A):

1. If the candidate confirms their final acceptance of the scholarship by October 15, 2026 (inclusive), adhering to all conditions listed in Article 5, the payment of the first installment is scheduled for November 25, 2026. Should the candidate confirm their final acceptance between October 16, 2026, and December 15, 2026 (inclusive), the first installment's payment is planned for February 25, 2027. If the candidate has not yet established a valid payment

method as required by Art. 6, the payment will be made as soon as this condition is met. Failure to establish a valid payment method by June 15, 2027 (inclusive) will result in the revocation of the scholarship.

2. The second installment is scheduled for June 25, 2027, provided that the recipient has earned 12 ECTS credits by the end of March 2027. Failing to meet this requirement will result in the revocation of the scholarship.

In the event of enrollment with recognition of prior learning, credits obtained in a previous university career will not count towards meeting the scholarship maintenance requirements.

Art. 8 - Scholarship Renewal: Payment Schedule and Conditions for Scholarship Revocation

The scholarship is renewed for the second year, provided that the student has earned 39 ECTS credits by the end of September 2027. In case of renewal, scholarships will be paid in two annual installments of € 3,000.00 each (gross amount), following the schedule and conditions outlined below, as summarized in the summary table (Annex A):

1. The first installment of the renewal is due on January 25, 2028

2. The second installment of the renewal is due on June 25, 2028, provided that the recipient has earned 60 ECTS credits by the end of March 2028. Failing to meet this requirement will result in the revocation of the scholarship.

Art. 9 - Repayment of the Granted Funds

Students are required to reimburse the Siena International Excellence Scholarship funds they have already received in either of the following scenarios, as summarized in the summary table (Annex A):

1. If students fail to earn a minimum of 24 ECTS credits by the end of September 2027;

2. If students transfer to a different university or discontinue their studies.

In the event of non-repayment of the received funds, the student's academic record will be suspended.

Exceptional cases with valid justifications may be considered for review by the University of Siena's Rector.

Art. 10 - Information on the Processing of Personal Data

The University of Siena processes personal data exclusively for institutional purposes, in compliance with the principles set out in Article 5 of EU Regulation 679/2016 on the protection of personal data (GDPR), the Regulation just referred to, and applicable privacy and data protection regulation.

The Data Controller is the University of Siena, legally represented by the Rector (e-mail: rettore@unisi.it; PEC: rettore@pec.unisipec.it). According to the Regulations of the University of Siena

on the processing of personal data (R.D. no. Rep. 56/2022 prot. no. 14879 of 13/01/2022), the Data Protection Officer is prof. Gianluca Navone (email: rpd@unisi.it; certified email: rpd@pec.unisipec.it).

Data provision is mandatory for the purpose of awarding the scholarship. Refusal to do so would make it impossible to award the scholarship.

As the "Data Subject", the person submitting an application may exercise in respect of the University of Siena all the rights provided for in article 15 et seq. of EU Regulation 2016/679 by addressing the Data Processor or the Data Controller. You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Supervisory Authority pursuant to Article 77 of the EU Regulation. In Italy, the function of supervisory authority is exercised by the Data Protection Authority (https://www.garanteprivacy.it);

The privacy policy may be viewed at: www.unisi.it/ateneo/adempimenti/privacy

Art. 11 - Final Provisions

The person responsible for the procedure is Anna Majuri, Head of the Ufficio incentivi allo studio e tutorato.

ANNEX

1) Annex A: Summary table of deadlines, renewal and revocation conditions for the scholarship, and repayment of received funds

ANNEX A

Summary table of deadlines, renewal and revocation conditions
for the scholarship, and repayment of received funds

Date	Condition	Outcome if the condition is MET	Outcome if the condition is NOT MET
Up to October 15, 2026, inclusive	Final acceptance of the scholarship according to all conditions in Art. 5	Awarding of the scholarship and payment of the first installment for the first year on November 25, 2026 (Art. 5 and 7)	*None*
From October 16, 2026, to December 15, 2026, inclusive	Final acceptance of the scholarship according to all conditions in Art. 5	Awarding of the scholarship and payment of the first installment for the first year no earlier than February 25, 2027 (Art. 5 and 7)	Removal from the ranking list and loss of the opportunity (Art. 5)
By March 31, 2027, inclusive	Achievement of at least 12 ECTS	Payment of the second installment for the first year on June 25 2027 (Art. 7)	Revocation of the scholarship (Art. 7)
By June 15, 2027, inclusive	Availability of an accepted payment method (Art. 6)	*Regular disbursement of the scholarship*	Revocation of the scholarship (Art. 7)
By September 30, 2027, inclusive	ECTS achieved: at least 39	Renewal of the scholarship and payment of the first installment for the second year on January 25 2028 (Art. 8)	*See subsequent conditions*
	ECTS achieved: at least 24 but less than 39	*None*	Non-renewal of the scholarship for the second year (Art. 8)
	ECTS achieved: less than 24	*None*	Non-renewal of the scholarship for the second year and request for repayment of funds received during the first year (Art. 9)
By March 31, 2028, inclusive	Achievement of at least 60 ECTS	Payment of the second installment for the second year on June 25 2028 (Art. 8)	Revocation of the scholarship (Art. 8)