



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MESSINA

Call for Applications: Foundation Course

Preparatory Programme for Higher Education
Academic Year 2026/2027



Check-list

Application for Admission

**from 23 to 31 July
from 27 August to
7 September 2026**

Enrolment (via ESSE3 portal)

**Within 7 days of
receiving the
Admission Letter**

First Instalment Payment

**Simultaneous with
enrolment**

Second Instalment Payment

By October 5, 2026

Third Instalment Payment

**By January 30,
2027**

Scheduled Start of Activities

October 11, 2026

Where the masculine form is used in this document solely for the purpose of simplification, it shall be understood as inclusively referring to all members of the academic community.

In the event of any discrepancy or divergence of interpretation between the Italian and English versions of this Call for Applications, the Italian text shall prevail and be legally binding for all legal purposes.

ART. 1 – PURPOSE

1. This Call for Applications governs the enrollment procedures for the **first edition of the Foundation Course**, established by the University of Messina for the Academic Year 2026/2027 (hereinafter referred to as "UFC"), in compliance with Article 6, paragraph 1, of Ministerial Decree No. 270 of 22 October 2004, Directorial Decree No. 64169 of 18 May 2026, and the applicable regulatory framework.
2. The UFC is an English-taught program designed to prepare international students intending to study at Italian universities. **It is primarily addressed to candidates holding qualifications from foreign school systems with less than the 12 years of overall schooling** required for admission to university in Italy, or whose academic calendar does not coincide with the enrollment timeline of the national university system.
3. The UFC is furthermore open to candidates who, despite having already completed 12 years of schooling, **wish to enhance their academic background and language skills**. The courses offered will enable students to complete their preparation in both language and subject-specific domains, become familiar with the specialized terminology of the disciplines studied, and acquire the skills required to sit for entrance exams and career evaluations for enrollment purposes.

ART. 2 - AVAILABLE PLACES

1. For the 2026/2027 academic year, a maximum of **30 places is made available**.
2. The Foundation Course shall be activated upon reaching a minimum enrollment of 15 students. The University reserves the right to evaluate the potential activation of the course below the minimum threshold in the event of specific educational requirements linked to its internationalization strategy.
3. **The total fee for participation in the UFC is €5,000**, payable in three installments in accordance with the deadlines set forth in Articles 6-8. Admitted students shall be guaranteed **accommodation availability** at dedicated university residence facilities.

ART. 3 – COURSE ORGANIZATION

1. The total duration of the Foundation Course is one academic year, commencing in October 2026 and concluding in June 2027.
2. Students who pass all the examinations scheduled for each discipline within their study plan shall obtain: a. The final Certificate of Completion of the Foundation Course; b. The fulfillment of the minimum entry requirements for admission to Bachelor's Degree courses or Single-Cycle Master's Degree courses; c. An exemption from the pre-evaluation procedures required for admission to open-access Bachelor's Degree courses at the University of Messina.
3. The UFC provides for the award of 60 equivalent credits.
4. Educational activities shall be delivered in a hybrid mode: distance learning (remote lectures) during the first semester and in-person classes during the second semester.
5. The first semester shall begin on October 12, 2026, and end on December 15, 2026.
6. The curriculum for the first semester is structured as follows

COURSES	EQUIVALENT CREDITS
Italian Language and Culture (Levels A1/A2)	16
English Language	6
Critical thinking – reasoning on text and data	6
Total equivalent credits to be acquired	28

7. The second semester shall begin on February 8, 2027, and end on June 7, 2027.
8. The curriculum for the second semester provides for the total delivery of the following courses, from which students shall select four to attend

COURSES	EQUIVALENT CREDITS
Mathematics	8
Statistics	8
Computer Science	8
Economics and business	8
International and european law	8
Political Institutions	8
Biology	8
Chemistry	8
Physics	8
Total equivalent credits to be acquired	32

9. Examination sessions shall take place in person at the conclusion of the second semester.
10. During the second semester, students shall have the opportunity to attend an Italian language course free of charge in preparation for the B1 level language proficiency test.
11. Attendance of lectures, both online and in person, is mandatory and shall be monitored by the teaching staff. At the end of each teaching module, a final examination shall be held, which may be taken exclusively by students who have attended at least 75% of the total scheduled lectures.
12. The lecture timetable, as well as the syllabi of the individual disciplines included in the Foundation Course, shall be made available on the [website](#) prior to the commencement of educational activities. The start and end dates of educational activities may be subject to change.
13. In the event of a delay in the issuance of the study visa not attributable to fault on the part of the student, the student may submit a request for authorization to attend the Foundation Course remotely until the aforementioned visa is granted.
14. It is understood that, **for the purpose of obtaining the final certificate, students are required to sit for all examinations and the final evaluation in person at the University of Messina and to pass all examinations required for each discipline within their study plan.**
15. The certification issued upon completion of the Foundation Course does not automatically guarantee admission to other Italian universities. Students wishing to subsequently enroll at other institutions are therefore required to contact the competent offices of the destination university in advance to obtain the necessary information and verify the applicable admission requirements.

ART. 4 – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Candidates meeting the following requirements may submit an application for enrollment:
 - a. **Upper Secondary School Diploma:** Applicants must hold a final upper secondary school diploma that, in the country where it was awarded, grants access to higher education degree programs. Candidates currently enrolled in the final year of their secondary education (e.g., 11th year for school systems structured over 11 years of schooling; 12th year for school systems structured over 12 years of schooling) may submit an application by attaching the official transcripts of records for all preceding school years.
 - b. **English Language Proficiency Certificate:** Certification of English language proficiency at level B2 of the CEFR or higher, issued by one of the following recognized bodies: IELTS, TOEFL, Cambridge Assessment, or Pearson Education. Native English speakers (please consult the webpage: <https://international.unime.it/study-us/application-and-admission/english-language-requirements>) shall be exempt from the aforementioned requirement.

2. **Students who have completed their secondary education cycle only partially within their respective school system (e.g., those who have completed 11 years of schooling in a system that requires 12 or 13 total years) shall not be eligible for enrollment.** Any higher education qualifications (such as Bachelor's or Master's degrees) shall not be taken into consideration for admission purposes and shall constitute grounds for exclusion from the Foundation Course.
3. **Age Requirement:** Minor students are eligible for admission provided that they turn 18 years of age no later than February 8, 2027. Consequently, only students born on or before February 8, 2009, may submit an application for enrollment

ART. 5 - APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND DEADLINES

1. Applications for admission may be submitted through the [UNIME platform](#) according to the following timelines:
 - a. **1st Call:** from July 23 to July 31, 2026 (by 23:59 CET).
 - b. **2nd Call:** from August 27 to September 7, 2026 (by 23:59 CET), provided that the maximum number of admitted students has not been reached.
2. The submission of the application requires the payment of an application fee amounting to €30.
3. Applications for admission **shall be evaluated in chronological order of receipt.** Should the maximum number of admitted students be reached prior to the deadline (during either of the two application windows), the University reserves the right to close the admission procedures early.
4. For evaluation purposes, the candidate must upload the following documentation to the platform:
 - a. **Final secondary school diploma** obtained after 11 years (or 12 years) of schooling, translated into English;
 - b. **Transcript of records for the final academic year**, translated into English, certifying a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 70% (in relation to the reference education system);
 - c. **English language proficiency certificate** at level B2 of the CEFR or higher, in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 1(b).
5. **Applications containing incomplete or missing documentation shall not be taken into consideration and shall be rejected.** In the event of a favorable evaluation, the student shall receive an Admission Letter containing instructions on how to initiate the enrollment procedure (see Article 6) and, for candidates requiring an entry visa to Italy for study purposes, instructions regarding the relevant study visa application on the University portal.

ART. 6 – ENROLMENT PROCEDURES

1. Candidates in possession of an **Admission Letter** must complete the enrollment process within 7 days of receipt thereof **EXCLUSIVELY** via the online portal at <https://unime.esse3.cineca.it/Home.do>.
2. Through the aforementioned procedure, candidates must complete the following:
 - a. Payment of the first installment amounting to €1,000 (one thousand/00 Euros);
 - b. Upload of a copy of their valid passport;
 - c. Upload of the documentation specified in Article 4 (Upper Secondary School Diploma and the B2 CEFR English Language Proficiency Certificate or higher);
 - d. Upload of the Admission Letter.

3. **Failure to pay the first installment within the prescribed deadline shall be deemed a formal waiver of participation in the UFC.**

ART. 7 – VISA REQUIREMENTS

1. Candidates holding an Admission Letter who require an entry visa to Italy for study purposes must also submit a pre-enrollment application on the University portal (<https://university-private.cineca.it/index.php/registration/firststep>) **no later than November 30, 2026.**
2. Applications submitted on University shall be approved only following the **successful payment of the second installment.**
3. Candidates are strongly advised to contact the competent Diplomatic-Consular Representation well in advance to ensure the visa is issued in due time for the commencement of in-person lectures scheduled for February 2027.
4. Candidates must submit their application by accurately entering their personal data exactly as reported in their valid passport (verifying exact correspondence is essential, as this information shall be transmitted directly to the competent Diplomatic-Consular Authorities), specifying:
 - a. Academic Year 2026/2027;
 - b. University of Messina;
 - c. Foundation Course;
 - d. The Application ID (e.g., A26000...) stated in the Admission Letter (under the section “Account at the Institution”);
 - e. The Diplomatic-Consular Representation responsible for issuing the entry visa to Italy.
5. Candidates must attach the following documentation to their visa application:
 - a. Passport;
 - b. The documentation specified in Article 4 (Upper Secondary School Diploma and B2 CEFR English Language Proficiency Certificate or higher);
 - c. The Admission Letter.
6. **For the purpose of verifying the authenticity of the final upper secondary school qualification, candidates must furthermore attach to their application:**
 - a. **A Certificate of Verification issued by CIMEA**, or, if the country where the qualification was awarded is a signatory to the 1961 Hague Convention, an Apostille issued by the competent designated national authority;
 - b. **A Declaration of Value (*Dichiarazione di Valore*)** issued by the Italian Diplomatic Representation in the country whose educational system governs the qualification, or a **Certificate of Comparability issued by CIMEA** (in the case of a final qualification obtained in a non-signatory country of the Lisbon Recognition Convention)¹. If the final qualification was awarded in a signatory country of the Lisbon Recognition Convention, candidates must attach the ARDI Statement of Correspondence and Verification (*Attestato di Corrispondenza e Verifica ARDI*).
7. Applications lacking the documentation referred to in the preceding paragraphs cannot be approved or transmitted to the competent Diplomatic-Consular Representations for visa issuance purposes.
8. Once the application has been validated, the candidate must submit the visa request to the competent Diplomatic-Consular Representation. Candidates are therefore strongly advised to

¹ Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaigian, Bielorussia, Belgio, Bosnia ed Erzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croazia, Cipro, Repubblica Ceca, Danimarca, Estonia, Finlandia, Francia, Georgia, Germania, Grecia, Islanda, Irlanda, Israele, Italia, Kazakistan, Lettonia, Liechtenstein, Lituania, Lussemburgo, Macedonia del Nord, Malta, Moldavia, Monaco, Montenegro, Nuova Zelanda, Norvegia, Paesi Bassi, Polonia, Portogallo, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Santa Sede (Vaticano), Serbia, Slovacchia, Slovenia, Spagna, Svezia, Svizzera, Turchia, Ucraina, Ungheria, Regno Unito, Stati Uniti d'America

thoroughly check the specific instructions provided by the competent diplomatic authority in their country prior to submitting their application for admission to the Foundation Course

ART. 8 – TUITION FEES

1. Candidates shall pay the total cost of the course in accordance with the following deadlines:
 - **First installment:** €1,000.00, payable upon enrollment;
 - **Second installment:** €2,000.00, payable no later than October 5, 2026;
 - **Third installment:** €2,000.00, payable no later than January 30, 2027.
2. The payment of tuition fees entitles candidates to enrollment, course attendance, and accommodation.
3. Installment payments are strictly non-refundable in the event of withdrawal, exclusion, or failure to obtain an entry visa.
4. For the purpose of finalizing the enrollment, the payment of the first installment upon enrollment is mandatory.
5. Access to online lectures scheduled for the first semester is subject to the settlement of the second installment by the specified deadline.
6. Students who fail to effect payment by the prescribed deadlines shall be excluded from the program, without entitlement to any refund of fees previously paid

ART. 9 – PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROCEDURE

The Person Responsible for the administrative procedure (*Responsabile del Procedimento*) is Dr. Giuseppe Lucchese, Head of the International Mobility Organizational Unit: glucchese@unime.it

ART. 9 - PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

1. Personal data submitted will be processed, in compliance with the current regulatory framework, for the purposes of managing the procedure, to an extent relevant and strictly necessary for the performance of institutional functions.
2. For the information notice regarding the processing of personal data, please refer to the link: <https://www.unime.it/privacy-e-cookie-policy..>

ART. 10 - FINAL AND COORDINATING PROVISIONS

1. Participation in the procedure implies the unconditional acceptance of all provisions contained in this call for applications ; for anything not expressly provided herein, the current reference legislation applies.
2. Candidates have the right to access the records of the procedure in accordance with the modalities provided for by the "Regulations on the right of access to documents, simple civic access, and generalized civic access" of the University of Messina.
3. By submitting the application to participate in the procedure, the candidate gives consent to the release of documents relating to this procedure, requested pursuant to the legislation on access.
4. All communications regarding the procedure will be made through the institutional website of the University and serve as official notification to candidates.
5. This call for applications will be published in the "Bandi e concorsi" (Calls and Competitions) section of the University's institutional website.o.