

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FOREIGN
STUDENTS
(ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027)

DEADLINE: 21/07/2026



PREMISE

ARDSU (Basilicata Regional Agency for the Right to University Education) offers scholarships for foreign students enrolled in one of the Master's degree (MSc) programs offered by the Department of Agricultural, Forestry, Food and Environmental Sciences (DAFE-UNIBAS), the Department of Basic and Applied Sciences (DiSBA-UNIBAS), and the Department for Humanistic, Scientific and Social Innovation (DIUSS-UNIBAS), for the 2026/2027 Academic Year.

This call for applications is part of the Memorandums of Understanding between ARDSU Basilicata and DAFE-UNIBAS (signed on June 15, 2026), between ARDSU Basilicata and DiSBA-UNIBAS (signed on June 15, 2026), and between ARDSU Basilicata and DIUSS-UNIBAS (signed on June 15, 2026), which are part of the internationalization strategies of the University of Basilicata aimed at attracting highly qualified international students and promoting international academic and scientific cooperation.

The scholarships in question are intended to cover the costs of room and board (by ARDSU Basilicata) for the entire duration of the 2026/2027 Academic Year, in addition to a *one-time* contribution (by DAFE, DiSBA, and DIUSS Departments of UNIBAS) to cover travel expenses, mandatory health insurance, visa fees, regional tax and any other living expenses. Each Department will provide the *one-time* contribution exclusively to students whose applications are received for their respective degree programs.

The one-time contribution in question is parameterized according to the distance from Italy of the student's country of origin, as specified in **Table 1**.

To receive the scholarship, successful applicants must enrol in one of the Master's degree courses offered by the DAFE, DiSBA, and DIUSS Departments of UNIBAS by October 1, 2026, and must regularly attend (in person) the lectures of the courses included in the study plan of the Degree course specified at the time of application.

Information regarding the Master's degree courses eligible for the scholarships in question, as well as the entry requirements and the number of available scholarships, are provided in **Annex 1** (Annex **1/a** DAFE-UNIBAS; Annex **1/b** DiSBA-UNIBAS; Annex **1/c** DIUSS-UNIBAS), which forms an integral and substantial part of this announcement.

ARTICLE 1: RECIPIENTS

A public call competition is issued for the awarding of n. 12 scholarships reserved for foreign students wishing to enrol, for the 2026/2027 Academic Year, in one of the Master's degree programs offered by the Departments DAFE (Annex **1/a**), DiSBA (Annex **1/b**), and DIUSS (Annex **1/c**) of UNIBAS, in accordance with the Guidelines approved by the ARDSU Joint Committee June 5, 2026.

ARTICLE 2: DURATION AND AMOUNT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarships will last 12 (twelve) months, starting from October 1, 2026.

The scholarship includes:

- free accommodation at one of the ARDSU residences in Potenza (Via della Pineta) or Matera, equipped with kitchens for week-end meals;
- free board consisting of two meal vouchers per day to be used at the University Canteen of the Potenza or Matera campuses, from Monday to Friday;

- a flat-rate grant (*one-time* contribution), parameterized based on the distance of the country of origin¹, as specified in **Table 1**.

The flat-rate grant² serves to cover travel expenses, consular visa, mandatory health insurance, and any other essential out-of-pocket expenses (e.g., tuition fees, transport costs, etc.) that the student will incur during their stay in Italy.

The aforementioned contribution will be provided by the Departments exclusively for the students whose applications are received for the respective degree programs.

The one-time fee will be paid by ARDSU Basilicata in two instalments: the first, equal to 50%, by October 31, 2026, subject to verification of the student's regular enrolment in the chosen MSc program; the second one, equal to the remaining balance, by December 31, 2026, subject to verification of regular class attendance. Students are required to regularly attend the scheduled educational activities.

Distance of the place of origin ³	Additional gross amount
Between 500 e 1499 km	€ 1500
Between 1500 e 2999 km	€ 2000
Between 3000 e 5999 km:	€ 2500
Between 6000 e 8999 km:	€ 3500
Over 9000 km	€ 4000

Table 1. Flat-rate grant for the coverage of travel, visa, and health insurance expenses

ARTICLE 3: ADMISSION AND SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must attach to their application (as .pdf file):

(i) a copy of a valid passport

(ii) a self-certification of pre-enrolment for one of the Master's degree programs offered by the DAFE, DiSBA and DIUSS Departments of UNIBAS for the 2026/2027 Academic Year. The pre-enrolment application must be submitted by accessing the UNIVERSITALY portal

¹ For the calculation of distance, please refer to <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/distance-calculator>

² **Financial Safeguard Clause:** The one-time grant will be paid to the top-ranked winners, up to the limit of the initial available budget provided by the Departments DAFE-UNIBAS (€15,000.00; fifteen thousand/00), DiSBA-UNIBAS (€16,000.00; sixteen thousand/00), and DIUSS-UNIBAS (€4,000.00; four thousand/00). The one-time grant will be transferred from the different Departments to ARDSU Basilicata following the publication of the merit rankings and will be proportionate to the number of winners and adjusted based on the distance from their country of origin (Table 1). Each Department will provide the one-time contribution exclusively for the students whose applications are received for the respective degree programs. For candidates successfully placed in subsequent positions on the specific merit rankings, the possible disbursement of the aforementioned contribution will be subject to the capacity of the budget initially provided by the Departments or, if this was fully allocated to the top-ranked candidates, to the transfer of additional funds by DAFE-UNIBAS, DiSBA-UNIBAS and DIUSS-UNIBAS Departments (subject to authorization by the competent Committees) or by the Basilicata Region to ARDSU Basilicata. Failure to provide the one-off grant due to a lack of additional funds does not affect the winners' right to free room and board, nor does it constitute grounds for indemnity claims against ARDSU or the abovementioned Departments.

(<https://www.university.it/>) and following the instructions published on the UNIBAS portal regarding the admission of foreign students

(link <https://portale.unibas.it/site/home/studenti/ammissione-studenti-stranieri.html>)

For students who graduate (bachelor's degree) by August 1, 2026, the self-certification will attest their commitment to pre-enrol by August 31, 2026, under penalty of revocation of the scholarship.

(iii) motivation letter

Candidates must also possess the following requirements (on the date of their enrolment to UNIBAS):

- **Education qualification**

Only foreign students holding a valid qualification for the enrolment in the chosen MSc degree program are eligible for scholarships.

Specifically, to enrol in the first year of a Master's Degree program, the following are required:

- holding of a bachelor's degree in a subject area consistent with that of the chosen Master's Degree program;
- holding of specific curricular requirements, as specified in the Study Guidelines (Manifesto degli Studi) of the DAFE, DiSBA and DIUSS Departments of UNIBAS; links to Study Guidelines are provided in Annex 1 (Annex 1/a DAFE-UNIBAS; Annex 1/b DiSBA-UNIBAS; Annex 1/c DIUSS-UNIBAS).

For non-EU students, curricular requirements may be verified by evaluating appropriate equivalences between exams passed at the foreign university of origin and those in the scientific-disciplinary fields specified in the Study Guidelines (Manifesto degli Studi) of the DAFE, DiSBA, and DIUSS Departments of UNIBAS. Candidates are advised to carefully review the enrolment requirements in the Study Guidelines of the abovementioned Departments.

The bachelor's degree must be obtained by August 1, 2026. For the purposes of this announcement, students who do not yet have a bachelor's degree may attach a self-certification clearly indicating the expected date of its achievement, no later than August 1, 2026.

Note: To verify the validity of their foreign bachelor's degree, candidates can use the ARDI Certificate of Correspondence, which can be downloaded directly and free of charge from the ARDI – Automatic Recognition Database Italia database. Alternatively, they can request a Certificate of Verification and/or a Certificate of Comparability from CIMEA after reviewing the relevant documents and covering the applicable costs (the application procedure is available at link <https://portale.unibas.it/site/home/studenti/ammissione-studenti-stranieri/articolo13354.html>).

Interested parties can request a Certificate of Verification and/or a Certificate of Comparability directly from CIMEA using the English-language Diplome Platform (<https://cimea-diplome.it/sito/page-homepage>).

- **Age limits**

All adult candidates **not older than 26 years** on the deadline of this call may apply for a scholarship.

- **Academic merit requirements**

Candidates must have a **GPA (Grade Point Average)** of exams taken during the Bachelor's degree program (BSc) equal to **at least 70% of the maximum score** allowed by their academic system. The minimum admission threshold will be determined based on the information published in the CIMEA University Systems Database, accessible at <https://www.cimea.it/pagina-banca-dati-dei-sistemi-universitari>. If the degree was awarded in a country not included in the CIMEA database, the weighted average (GPA) of exams taken during the Bachelor's degree program (BSc) will be calculated, setting the 70% threshold based on the maximum/minimum score provided by the local system.

The Selection Committee will verify equivalencies during the comparative evaluation process using the following Linear Transformation Formula:

$$\text{Grade (IT)} = [(V - V_{\min}) / (V_{\max} - V_{\min})] * (I_{\max} - I_{\min}) + I_{\min}$$

where V is the candidate's grade, V_{min}/V_{max} are the minimum/maximum grades in the local system, and I_{min}/I_{max} are the Italian passing/maximum grades.

- **Language skills**

Italian language proficiency. For enrolment in MSc programs held in Italian, the candidate may attach a certificate (or other documentation) certifying Italian language competence, starting from level A1 based on the CEFR. Self-certification is permitted if language courses were attended. UNIBAS is committed to organizing Italian language courses for foreign students. Therefore, students who do not yet possess basic language skills upon arrival in Italy will be able to acquire them during the first few months by attending the abovementioned Italian language courses.

English language proficiency. In case of attending courses or modules in English, the candidate may attach a certificate or other documentation certifying English language competence starting from level B1 of the CEFR. For candidates from countries where English is an official language, a self-certification of English language knowledge may be attached.

ARTICLE 4: RENEWAL

Those who have benefited from an ARDSU scholarship in the 2026-2027 Academic Year may apply to continue their study (MSc degree) by submitting a specific application before the end of the current academic year. The renewal is granted only to regularly enrolled candidates who certify good academic progress with a minimum of 18 University Educational Credits (CFU) acquired by the deadline of the new call. To benefit from the scholarship, it will always be necessary to be enrolled full-time for the 2027-2028 Academic Year.

ARTICLE 5: EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarships have a duration of 12 (twelve) months, starting from October 1, 2026, and ending to September 30, 2027.

ARDSU Basilicata will notify applicants of the scholarship award via email.

The scholarship recipient must complete all enrollment procedures, including payment of university fees (if applicable) and the €150 Regional Tax, as well as submitting a visa application to the relevant Italian Embassy well in advance of the scholarship start date.

All documentation must be completed by October 31, 2026.

ARTICLE 6: SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION

Applications must be sent exclusively electronically to the email address of the Sole Responsible for the Procedure (RUP), Dr. Antonio Luongo: (antonio.luongo@ardsubasilicata.it), and for information (Cc) to the email addresses of the ARDSU Basilicata secretariat (info@ardsubasilicata.it) and the respective Departments (DAFE-UNIBAS, dafe.didattica@unibas.it; DiSBA-UNIBAS, disba.didattica@unibas.it; DIUSS-UNIBAS, diuss.didattica@unibas.it), indicating the following subject in the email: “*Call for scholarships for foreign students – Candidate: Name Surname*”.

The following documents (in PDF format) must be attached to the application, under penalty of rejection:

- **Application form** (written in English according to **Annex 2**).
- **Copy of a valid Identity Document** (Passport)
- **Bachelor's Degree Certificate (BSc)** or equivalent qualification, indicating the final grade (*If the BSc degree has not yet been obtained, self-certifications must be attached to the application attesting the expected date of its achievement, no later than August 1, 2026. If the BSc diploma has not yet been obtained, only the GPA of the exams consistent with the chosen MSc degree course will be considered*). The BSc Degree Certificate can be provided or translated in English, French, Spanish or Portuguese.
- **Official Transcript of Records:** an official document issued by the home University listing all exams taken and the respective, number of credits and grades achieved. The transcript of records can be provided or translated in English, French, Spanish or Portuguese.
- **Self-certification for fulfilling curricular requirements** (see **Annex 3**)
- **Self-declaration of pre-enrolment** for one of the Master's degree programs offered by the DAFE, DiSBA and DIUSS Departments of UNIBAS for the 2026-2027 Academic Year, via the UNIVERSITALY portal (<https://www.university.it/>). Alternatively, students who do not yet have a BSc degree may attach a self-certification confirming their commitment to pre-enrol by August 1, 2026, under penalty of revocation of the scholarship.
- **Grading Scale Statement:** an official document from the home University clearly specifying the number of hours per credit and the minimum passing grade (Vmin) and the maximum achievable grade (Vmax) for module exams and final degree examination.
- **(Optional) For reserved position (Lucanian origins):** Suitable documentation to prove Lucanian descent (e.g., birth or residence certificate of a parent or grandparent certifying birth in a municipality of Basilicata, together with a declaration of kinship). Documentation can be produced in English, Spanish or Portuguese.
- **(Optional) Letter of recommendation** from a professor of the Home Institution.

Online applications must strictly reach the candidate by 12:00 PM (Italian time) on 21/07/2026. Applications received after this deadline will be considered inadmissible.

ARTICLE 7: SELECTION PROCEDURES AND ASSIGNMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP

Selection of candidates

For each Departments, applications will be examined by an internal Committee composed of: the RUP nominated by the ARDSU Director, the Department Director or his delegate, 1-2 professors of the Department appropriately selected on the basis of the degree courses indicated in the application by the candidates.

Assignment procedures

Scholarships will be awarded based on a comparative evaluation of applications, considering the compliance with the admission requirements and academic merit criteria.

The final ranking will be established based on the Grade Point Average (GPA) of all exams passed (**Table 2**) and the Final Grade of the BSc degree (**Table 3**), converted to the Italian grading system (see Art. 3, academic merit), assuming the following evaluation criteria:

GPA grade	Rating
29-30	10
27-28	8
24-26	4
21-23	2
21 <	Not admitted

Table 2. GPA Rating (on a scale of 18 to 30)

Final degree grade	Rating
110 cum laude	10
105-110	8
96-105	6
86-95	4
76-85	2
66-75	1

Table 3. Evaluation of final degree grade (on a scale from 66 to 110 with honours).

In the event of a tie, the youngest candidate will prevail.

Up to 2 of the 12 scholarships will be reserved (as a priority) for foreign students with Lucanian origins (relatives up to the third degree) born in Basilicata, emigrated or resident abroad as identified by the rules and actions of the Regional Commission of Lucanians in the World, provided they meet the minimum admission requirements (age less than 26 years and GPA equal to or greater than 70%). If no scholarship is awarded to students of Lucania origins, the scholarship will be allocated to other eligible students.

Inter-departmental ranking list redistribution clause: *In the event that one or more scholarships under this call, or under calls relating to other Departments (primary structures) of UNIBAS, are not awarded due to a lack of applications or the candidates' failure to meet the minimum requirements, the remaining positions shall be made available to eligible candidates from the other primary structures. The redistribution of these remaining scholarships will be carried out in proportion to the number of positions initially assigned to each primary structure and the number of eligible candidates effectively placed in the respective ranking lists.*

Publication of results

At the end of the Commission's work, ARDSU Basilicata will publish a provisional merit ranking (and any objections) on its website (<https://www.ardsubasilicata.it/>).

The final ranking will be published on the ARDSU portal by August 1, 2026, after verification of compliance with the admission requirements of the selected MSc degree program.

Only successful candidates will be notified of the scholarship award via email.

ARTICLE 8: TUITION FEES

Foreign students who enrol in one of the courses offered by UNIBAS enjoy special benefits regarding the payment of university fees (flat rates established based on the country of origin). In this regard, please refer to the specific Rector's Decree for the classification of foreign countries into groups with different contribution levels, available on the University website.

Regardless of whether university fees are paid, students are required to pay a regional tax of €150.

ARTICLE 9: MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE

All non-EU students must take out adequate health insurance, valid for the entire duration of the scholarship, which also covers travel expenses for medical evacuation and repatriation. Students from EU countries are advised to obtain a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).

ARTICLE 10: DISBURSEMENT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

Housing assignment at one of the ARDSU university residences will take place upon the student's arrival in Italy after verification of university enrolment. Meal vouchers will be delivered by ARDSU to the student monthly.

The *one-time* contribution (see **Table 1**) will be paid according to what specified in Art. 2. The one-time contribution can only be paid following the submission of the required documentation by the scholarship holder, i.e.: (i) Italian tax code and (ii) Italian IBAN or rechargeable credit/debit card with IBAN (e.g., Postepay Evolution or similar).

ARTICLE 11: INCOMPATIBILITY

The assigned scholarship is incompatible with any other scholarship provided by the Italian Government or Italian public entities. The scholarship is compatible with European programs such as Erasmus Plus. In case of absence from Italian territory exceeding 15 days, the beneficiary is required to inform ARDSU.