**Call for Applications for International Study Mobility under the**

**PNRR/TNE Project - PNRR/TNE Project - TNE UNITAFRICA - Empowering the Academic Cooperation between Italy and Africa for fostering the quality and effectiveness of the higher education systems in a mutual learning environment**

**Codice MUR: TNE23-00050 - CUP: D81I24000280007**

**Introduction**

Within the framework of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), Mission 4 "Education and Research", Component 1: "Enhancement of Educational Services: from Early Childhood Education to University", Initiative 3.4: "University Didactics and Advanced Competencies", Sub measure T4 "Transnational Initiatives in Education", the Ministry of University and Research (MUR) issued Directorial Decree No. 167 on 03/10/2023, announcing the funding allocation for Transnational Educational Initiatives (TNE).

The general objective is to foster cooperation with foreign universities to promote the internationalization of Italian universities and establish the Italian higher education model as an international best practice. More specifically, this initiative aims to:

* Promote scientific activities within the geographical areas specified in the call, covering various topics aligned with the overall objectives of the PNRR strategy.
* Foster an international perspective through cooperation between Italian universities and extra-EU university institutions, encouraging interdisciplinary and intercultural knowledge exchange via international educational programs aimed at establishing and consolidating permanent higher education centers abroad.

To achieve these objectives, the following initiatives may be implemented:

* **Faculty mobility (TNE Faculty):** Periods ranging from 5 days to 3 months, facilitating exchanges between foreign and Italian institutions.
* **Student mobility (TNE Study):** Including PhD students, allowing study or research periods from 2 to 6 months between foreign and Italian partner institutions.
* **Collaborations for Double/Joint Degree programs.**
* **TNE Advanced Skills:** Development of advanced post-graduate training programs, jointly designed and delivered by collaborating institutions, targeting faculty members, non-teaching staff, and researchers, without necessarily requiring affiliation with any of the participating institutions.

**Art. 1 – Announcement**

1. In reference to the PNRR/TNE Project - UNITAFRICA and within the framework of the cultural and scientific cooperation agreement between the University of Florence and the University of Nairobi, an internal selection call is announced for students enrolled at the University of Nairobi for the allocation, through PNRR/TNE funding, of n. 2 international mobility positions for study activities. The mobility period at the University of Florence will have a duration of 3 months (minimum 2 months, maximum 6 months) and must be completed by 31/01/2026.
2. The mobility period may only begin after the selection process has been completed and the student has signed both the Grant Agreement and the Learning Agreement, which must be approved by the relevant academic structures.
3. During the mobility period, students will be exempt from paying tuition fees at the host university; however, they must continue to pay tuition and any related fees to the University of Nairobi.

### **Art. 2 – Purpose of the international mobility**

* 1. As part of the TNE Project UNITAFRICA, the activities to be carried out at the partner institution may include:

● A study period: Attending courses and taking exams upon completion of the respective teaching units. It is also possible to include a traineeship period, where applicable, according to the academic regulations.

● Thesis research: Conducting research for a thesis or part of it, based on a work plan approved by the supervisor at the home university and the responsible faculty member at the host institution.
● Doctoral research activities related to the candidate’s field of study, in accordance with the approved research plan.

* 1. The activities to be carried out abroad must be specified in the Learning Agreement and approved by both the University of Nairobi and the University of Florence before departure.

Upon completion of the mobility period, all successfully completed activities abroad will be fully recognized, provided they were previously approved in the Learning Agreement.

### **Art. 3 – Eligibility requirements for the call**

1. Students from the University of Nairobi may apply for this call if:

● They are regularly enrolled (including part-time) in a first, second, or third-level degree program, including PhD programs and specialized schools.
● They have an adequate proficiency in English (and/or Italian), as declared in a self-certification. This self-declaration must be based on a language certificate issued by an accredited external certifying body, which the candidate must already possess at the time of application.

**Art. 4 – Eligibility requirements for mobility**

1. Departure for study mobility under the TNE UNITAFRICA project is contingent upon regular enrollment at the University of Nairobi for the academic year 2025/2026.
2. The mobility period must conclude before the candidates obtain their degree.
3. Students participating in the 2025/2026 mobility program are not eligible for additional EU-funded grants for the same mobility period during the 2025/2026 academic year.
4. International mobility is subject to obtaining a visa, for which the student is responsible.

**Art. 5 – How to Apply and Deadlines**

1. Applications must be submitted together with a copy of a valid identification document, and sent exclusively via email from the institutional email address to: associatedean-feng@uonbi.ac.ke, duncan.mbuge@uonbi.ac.ke and elena.bresci@unifi.it no later than 30th July 2025. The email subject line must follow this format: Name Surname\_Application TNE-Project UNITAFRICA– Student Mobility.
2. In the application, candidates must declare, under their own responsibility, the following information:

● Surname and first name
● Date and place of birth
● Place of residence
● Degree program and current enrollment status
● Confirmation of meeting the eligibility requirements set out in Articles 3 and 4.

Failure to comply with these requirements will result in exclusion from the selection process.

**Art. 6 – Selection of candidates and formation of the ranking**

1. Candidates will be selected by an internal evaluation committee. The composition of the committee will be published on the website [www.uonbi.ac.ke](http://www.uonbi.ac.ke) within ten days after the application deadline.
2. The committee will draw up an eligibility ranking based on the following criteria:

Academic qualifications:

* Academic merit (average grades of completed exams at the home institution)
* Consistency of the proposed study program abroad.
* Relevance of the study period for the candidate’s academic development.
* Motivation.

Interview:

● Individual interview on the subject related to the mobility project: UNITAFRICA
● Evaluation of English proficiency.

The date and location of the interview will be announced on the university’s website.

Priority considerations:

* Mobility applications aimed at completing thesis research in the field of agricultural engineering
* Special consideration will be given to students with disabilities, those from disadvantaged backgrounds, and those applying under gender equality measures.

In the event of a tie in ranking, preference will be given to the younger candidate.

1. The ranking list will remain open until 31/08/2025.

**Art. 7 – Acceptance of mobility**

1. Eligible students will receive an invitation via the institutional email provided at the time of enrollment. They must confirm their acceptance of the mobility period within five days of receiving the email. At the same time, students must provide their consent for the processing of personal data.
2. Students who fail to confirm their acceptance within the given deadline will be considered to have withdrawn, without further communication. In such cases, the ranking list will proceed to the next candidate until all available spots are assigned.
3. The final ranking list will be published on the website [www.uonbi.ac.ke](http://www.uonbi.ac.ke)
4. In addition to the requirements stated in artt. 3 and 4, students must possess a passport valid for at least six months beyond the planned return date to Kenya.

**Art. 8 – Financial Support for Mobility**

1. Selected students will receive financial support through the PNRR/TNE UNITAFRICA project, which covers travel expenses (€ 1.500,00) and individual support (€ 1.200,00 per person/month), as specified by the project’s guidelines.
2. The above amount is to be considered gross of deductions according to law.
3. The mobility grant will be disbursed in accordance with the terms specified in the individual Grant Agreement. Where possible, the payment will be made in two installments:
	* The first installment will be transferred after the student’s arrival at the host institution, confirmed by submitting the Certificate of Start of Mobility.
	* The second installment will be paid after the completion of the mobility period.

**Art. 9 – Requirements before departure**

Eligible students who have formally been selected for the mobility must plan their departure only after completing the following steps:

* Ensure enrollment is regularized within the deadlines.
* Sign the individual Grant Agreement and the Learning Agreement, subject to prior approval by the relevant academic bodies.
* Verify passport validity, as required under Art. 7.
* Complete all necessary procedures for entry and residence in the host country (after receiving the acceptance letter, the students must apply for a study visa on University portal https://www.universitaly.it/. Within 8 working days of arrival in Italy, students must apply for a study residence permit).

**Art. 10 – Requirements upon return from the mobility period**

1. At the end of the mobility period, students must contact the relevant administrative office at the University of Florence.
2. The University of Florence will issue the following documents:
* the Transcript of Records (or an equivalent document/certification for thesis research activities), detailing the results achieved, in accordance with the Learning Agreement.
* the Certificate of Attendance, duly signed, confirming the completion of the planned activities and specifying the exact dates of stay (dd/mm/yyyy – dd/mm/yyyy).
1. The students will obtain by the home institution the credit recognition for the coursework or activities completed abroad.

**Art. 11 –Insurance coverage**

The Participant, while exercising the activities provided for in the agreement, must have an accident insurance, through an insurance policy taken out by the home institution or taken out by the participant himself/herself personally, or through inclusion in the accident insurance policy taken out by the University of Florence with a primary Insurance Company, upon request and approval of the Company.

The Participant, while exercising the activities provided for in the agreement, must also be insured for civil liability for damages to third parties and / or property of third parties, through an insurance coverage provided by the University she/he comes from or, if required by the participant’s country of origin's law, taken out by themselves personally. The University of Florence is in any case covered by a comprehensive third-party civil liability insurance covering involuntary damages to third party individuals and property during the fulfilment of its institutional activities with the exclusion of damages deriving from carrying out caregiving and/or healthcare activities involving diagnosis or cure.

As regards with health insurance (coverage for medical expenses and/or hospitalization) the Participant must provide her/his own insurance according to the rules for the health care of foreigners in Italy.

**Art. 12 – Reimbursement of the Financial Contribution**

1. The student must return the full amount of the awarded grant in the following cases:
* Withdrawal from the mobility program.
* Stay at the host institution for less than the mandatory minimum period of 60 days (full reimbursement required). Exceptions may be granted for early returns due to serious reasons, subject to evaluation.
* Failure to complete any educational activities abroad, as outlined in the Learning Agreement.
* For students enrolled in third-cycle programs (PhD or equivalent), failure to provide documented proof of academic activities conducted abroad.
1. A partial reimbursement of the received funds is required if the mobility period is shortened compared to the duration stated in the individual Grant Agreement. The refund amount will be proportional to the number of uncompleted days, provided that the minimum 60-day period has been respected.

**Art. 13 Processing of Personal Data**

To be completed on the basis of the Home Institution's data policy

**Art. 14 – Publication**

This call will be published on www.uonbi.ac.ke