**Call for Applications:**

1. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC), within the framework of the project “Academic Collaboration through Higher International Education for a Viable and Equitable Africa with ITaly (ACHIEVE-IT)” – under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), Mission 4 “Education and Research” – Component 1 “Enhancement of education services from early childhood to university” – Investment 3.4 “Advanced university teaching and skills” – Submeasure T4 “Transnational Educational Initiatives” – funded by the European Union – NextGenerationEU – **CUP: D91I23001030006**, announces a call for participation of of **nine (9) students** in a **master's student mobility program** for the **first semester of the academic year 2025/2026 (September 2025 – February 2026)**.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE MOBILITY ACTIVITY:**

A total of **nine (9) students** from partner universities in Africa will be hosted at UCSC as part of the Achieve-IT initiative:

* Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (Kenya)
* University of Sousse (Tunisia)
* University of Monastir (Tunisia)

The students will attend one of the following **English-taught master's degree programs** at the Piacenza/Cremona campuses:

**MSc in Food Processing: Innovation and Tradition**

* Food Microbiology
* Innovation in Food Packaging
* Food Processing
* Economics of the Agrifood System
* Physical Chemistry and Biochemistry of Food

**MSc in Agricultural and Food Economics**

* Economic Fundamentals of the Agrifood Systems
* Industrial Organization
* Agricultural and Food Marketing Institutions
* Economics of Agricultural and Food Markets
* Food Consumer Psychology and Market Intelligence

Each student has been selected through a public call issued by their home university and matched to one of the study programs based on academic background and interests.

**TARGET AUDIENCE**

This call is specifically addressed to master students from the following universities:

* Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (Kenya)
* University of Sousse (Tunisia)
* University of Monastir (Tunisia)

**BENEFITS OF THE MOBILITY GRANT**

Selected students will benefit from:

* Enrollment in an English-taught master’s degree program at UCSC for one semester
* Full coverage of **international travel**, **accommodation**, **daily subsistence (food and basic needs)**.
* Academic support and integration within the host department
* Exposure to international educational environments and research
* Strengthening of academic and professional skills

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT:**

The Achieve-IT Project will cover the following international mobility costs:

* Travel expenses
* Visa costs
* Subsistence and accommodation
* Health insurance

These costs will be either paid directly by the Italian host institution and/or reimbursed to the participant, in accordance with Italian law and university procedures. Full details will be specified in the Mobility Agreement, which the selected candidate must sign prior to the start of the exchange.

1. **REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

**ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants must:

Be enrolled as students at one of the following universities:

* Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (Kenya)
* University of Sousse (Tunisia)
* University of Monastir (Tunisia)

### APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applicants must send the registration form (Allegato A) to the following email address project.Achieve-IT@unicatt.it within the deadline: **29/07/2025**

The application **must** include:

* Copy of passport (valid for at least 6 months beyond the planned end of mobility)
* Proof of current enrollment in the university program at one of the listed universities
* Motivation letter

Optional:

In addition to the CV and motivation letter, applicants may submit supporting documents to be considered under the Academic and Professional Merit criterion (maximum 20 points). These may include English proficiency certificates issued by the home university or by external institutions (such as TOEFL, IELTS, or Cambridge), awards or academic prizes, peer-reviewed publications and participation in research projects or internships. If no official English certificate is available, a document issued by the home university confirming English proficiency will also be accepted.

1. **SELECTION PROCEDURE**

**Relevance of CV to the course objectives:** Max. 20 points.

1. **Fully Relevant**: The item is directly and entirely aligned with the specified topic of the course
2. **Mostly Relevant**: The item is significantly aligned with specified topic of the course with only minor deviations.
3. **Partially Relevant**: The item is somewhat aligned with the specified topic of the course but with notable gaps or inconsistencies.
4. **Not Relevant**: The item has no discernible alignment with specified topic of the course

**Academic and Professional Merit:** Max. 20 points.

The evaluation will consider the following elements (as applicable):

* Certified English proficiency (e.g., TOEFL, IELTS, Cambridge certificates)
* Awards, prizes, or recognitions relevant to academic or professional achievements
* Authorship or co-authorship in peer-reviewed publications
* Participation in collaborative research projects or professional internships
* Institutional or organizational assignments

**Motivation letter:** Max. 10 points.

Gender will be taken into account during the selection process. In cases where two candidates have equal qualifications and scores, preference will be given to promote gender balance and to the younger applicants.

**SELECTION COMMITTEE**

The Selection Committee will consist of:

* One official appointed by the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC)
* Two professors responsible for organizing the course.

The final ranking will be communicated to all applicants.

The Selection Committee will evaluate the submitted applications and compile a ranking list, which will be communicated to the participants in the competition by **30/07/2025**

1. **POST-SELECTION REQUIREMENTS**

The selected candidate will receive the Admission Letter by email from the respective Italian Host University, together with the Mobility Agreement detailing the procedures for the disbursement of the grant. Any further documentation necessary for the mobility program will be requested by email by the respective Italian Host University. The Mobility Agreement, and any additional documentation, must be countersigned for acceptance by the selected candidate in accordance with his/her Home University and sent to the Host University no later than 10 days upon notification.

Withdrawal from the mobility grant may be made provided it occurs prior to the purchase of the ticket fly and the disbursement of the planned funding. Any withdrawal after these steps will necessitate full reimbursement of the funds already allocated.

**GROUNDS FOR REJECTION:**

The host university reserves the right to refuse staff for the mobility grant on the basis of objective impediments that are inconsistent with its regulations. These may include:

1. Failure to submit the required information of the selected staff within the stipulated deadline;
2. Non-compliance with the application procedures set forth by the sending university;
3. Failure to meet the language proficiency requirements specified by the partner institution;
4. Incompatibility between the proposed teaching plan and the educational offerings of the host institution;
5. Issues related to entry and stay regulations in the host country.
6. **POST-SELECTION REQUIREMENTS**

Students will need a health insurance for the whole duration of the mobility.

Students will be required to comply with the disciplinary and safety regulations in force at the locations where the activities will be carried out.

If the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation advises against travelling to the destination location or if the Italian Host Universities, after consulting the involved parties, consider it unsafe for students to be sent/stay at the destination location, the mobility period may be suspended, modified, interrupted or cancelled. Students are invited to carefully assess the risks associated with the mobility period and to review the security measures adopted by the destination country.

1. **DISCLAIMER ON SAFETY AND FORCE MAJEURE**

In the event of travel restrictions, safety alerts from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or local emergencies, UCSC reserves the right to modify, suspend, or cancel the mobility period in consultation with the sending institutions.

1. **PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA**

In accordance with current legislation on the protection of personal data and, in particular, with EU Regulation 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR), the personal data provided by candidates will be collected by each Host University as Data Controller and processed for the purposes of managing the evaluation procedure and the possible programme admission process.

The information regarding the processing of personal data provided during the competitive selection procedure is available on the websites of the Host Universities at the following addresses: <https://www.unicatt.it/en/privacy/information-notice-for-calls-for-applications-and-competitions-for-admission-.html>

1. **INFORMATION CONTACT ON THE CALL**

For any additional information, clarifications or inquiry, please do not hesitate to contact: uff.ricerca-pc@unicatt.it