

COMPETITION FOR 20 GRANTS

UNICREDIT FOUNDATION SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMME FOR UNICREDIT EMPLOYEES

12th Edition – Year 2026

1 Program Overview

UniCredit Foundation is offering **20 (twenty) grants** exclusively to UniCredit Group employees to attend a **summer school program** in 2026 at one of the following academic institutions:

- **Barcelona School of Economics (BSE),**
- **London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), or**
- **University College London (UCL).**

All programs consist of **advanced, high-level courses** designed for participants who already possess a solid academic or professional background in the relevant fields. They are **not suitable for candidates approaching these subjects for the first time** or for those who would require foundational or entry-level training, not introductory or basic courses.

Selected participants will have the opportunity to **deepen and strengthen** their skills in economics, finance, data science, and related disciplines through academically rigorous modules taught by leading international faculty.

2 Regulation and Terms

2.1 General conditions

The program offers selected applicants the opportunity to attend, **free of charge**, advanced summer school courses at one of the three above-mentioned institutions, according to the following scheme:

- **Barcelona School of Economics** - Participation in **1–2 advanced courses**, subject to availability within the academic schedule (each BSE course is an intensive one-week module; participants may enroll in a **maximum of two courses**);
- **London School of Economics and Political Science** - Participation in **one session** (one three-week course), subject to availability (only 200- and 300-level courses are eligible, as they correspond to intermediate and advanced academic content);
- **University College London** - Participation in one session (one three-week module), subject to availability.

The summer schools will take place **between June and August 2026**, in accordance with the academic calendars of the host institutions (see Annex).

2.2 Value of Grant

The grant **covers the full cost of participation in the summer school program**, including tuition fees, travel, and living expenses. Detailed payment and reimbursement procedures are outlined in Section 5 (Grant Payment and Reimbursement Guidelines).

A total of **20 grants** will be awarded, allocated as follows:

- **Barcelona School of Economics:** 8 grants;
- **London School of Economics and Political Science:** 8 grants;
- **University College London:** 4 grants.

2.3 Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- **Employment status.** Be a **full-time or part-time employee** of UniCredit Group with **open-ended or fixed-term** employment contract;
- **Educational Background.** Hold a **bachelor's degree or higher**, in economics, finance, banking, management engineering, political science, law, or related fields;

- **English proficiency.** Be proficient in English, as all Summer School courses are taught in English. Applicants must meet the minimum English language requirements established by the host institutions (see Annex – English Language Requirements);
- **Availability.** Be available to attend a Summer School program lasting **one to three weeks** between June and August 2026, depending on the duration of the sessions provided by each university.

2.4 Incompatibility Clause

The following categories **are not eligible** to apply:

- Interns, and trainees (including individuals currently undertaking internships or stages);
- Employees with **less than 2 years of professional experience within UniCredit Group** (internships and traineeships do not count toward these 2 years);
- Employees **currently enrolled in external education programs**, such as postgraduate studies or executive master's programs;
- Employees **currently participating in UniCredit-sponsored development programs** that are still **ongoing** (e.g. UniCredit Talent Program, UniCredit Graduate Program, UniCredit Master in Client Solution, etc.)
- Employees who **have won** the UniCredit Foundation Summer School in either of the **previous two years**.

3 Application Process

3.1 How to Apply

Candidates may only apply online using the application available on the UniCredit Foundation's website at <https://www.unicreditfoundation.org/en>

The application **must include**:

- Applicant's **personal details** (first name, surname, nationality (-ies), taxpayer's code, date and place of birth),
- **Mailing address**, including post code, as well as telephone number and company e-mail address;
- **Preferred university(-ies)** and a list of **up to three courses** (in order of preference), selected from those indicated in the Annex or the university's official website. Please note that course allocation is not guaranteed and depends on availability;
- **Preferred summer school period**, within June and August 2026;
- **Name of the applicant's responsible manager** within UniCredit Group company;
- **Declaration** authorizing UniCredit Foundation to transmit application information to the relevant summer school(s) and to the Evaluation Committee, as specified in Section 4.1, for the admission process;
- **Declaration** authorizing UniCredit Foundation to process personal data, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR).

All documentation accompanying the application must be submitted online (PDF format) **and written in English**. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in exclusion from the selection process.

The following documents are required:

1. A copy of a valid **identification document** (passport or national ID);
2. A detailed **Curriculum Vitae** including academic background and work experience;
3. A copy of the **degree certificate**, indicating the marks obtained in the individual exams and the final grade. If the document is not issued in English, a certified translation by an approved translator or authorized translation agency is required;
4. **Proof of English language proficiency**, in line with the requirements of the host institutions (see Annex);
5. **A motivation letter**, outlining the main reasons for applying and the candidate's interest in attending the Summer School;
6. **One letter of reference**, written by candidate's responsible manager within their UniCredit Group company;
7. **Declaration authorizing Unicredit Foundation to share the application information** with the relevant Summer School(s) and to the Evaluation Committee (as per Section 4.1).

3.2 Application Deadline

Candidates must submit their complete applications, including all required documentation, **by 13 March 2026**, following the procedure outlined on UniCredit Foundation website. Applications that are **incomplete** or **submitted after the deadline** will not be considered. Applicants will receive an email confirmation upon successful submission.

4 Evaluation and Awarding

4.1 Evaluation Committee

An Evaluation Committee composed of one or more professors and experts in economics and finance from leading European universities will assess all applications and select **20 winners and 20 substitutes**.

4.2 Award Notification

By 6 May 2026, UniCredit Foundation will formally communicate the list of selected winners based on the Evaluation Committee's assessment.

Subsequently, UniCredit Foundation will submit the applications of the selected candidates to the respective universities for their **autonomous admission procedures**.

The final awarding of the grants remains **conditional upon the universities' admission confirmation**. If any selected candidate is not admitted, the grant shall be offered to the first substitute, following the ranking established by the Evaluation Committee.

4.3 Required Documents After Award

Candidates identified as winners will be required to:

1. **Formally confirm their acceptance** of the grant, subject to prior approval by their responsible manager within their UniCredit Group company;
2. **Reconfirm the course** indicated in the application, which will then be communicated to the selected university for the admission process.

5 Grant Payment and Reimbursement Guidelines

- **Tuition Fees.** The full tuition fees for the Summer School program will be paid directly by **UniCredit Foundation** to the host universities.
- **Travel and Living Expenses.** Travel and living allowances will be **paid or reimbursed** by UniCredit Group company employing the participant, as the summer school period is considered a **business or training trip**. These expenses will be managed **by the employee's department, subject to prior agreement and approval from the employee's responsible manager** and in accordance with the company's internal procedures.

6 Acceptance of all the conditions of the regulations

Participation in the competition implies **unconditional acceptance** of all provisions contained in this call for applications¹.

Furthermore, UniCredit Foundation reserves the right to **publicly disclose the names of research grant recipients**, through its official communication channels — such as press releases, UniCredit or UniCredit Foundation's website, or other media — in full compliance with applicable data protection regulations, including Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR).

Milan, December 21, 2025

¹ For any further information: or contact UniCredit Foundation <https://www.unicreditfoundation.org/en>, Piazza Gae Aulenti - UniCredit Tower, Torre A- 20154 Milan - e-mail: info@unicreditfoundation.org

ANNEX

BSE, LSE AND UCL SUMMER SCHOOLS

SHORT DESCRIPTION AND PRACTICAL INFORMATION ON SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

1) English Language Requirements (Mandatory)

To participate in any of the Summer School programs, applicants must have an **excellent command of English**, as all courses are taught at an advanced academic pace.

All universities require applicants to meet **specific minimum English language criteria**, which may include standardized tests (e.g., IELTS, TOEFL, Cambridge), prior academic study in English, or proof of education in English-speaking institutions.

Because each university applies **different rules, accepted tests, minimum scores, time validity criteria, and exemptions**, it is essential that candidates verify the requirements **directly on the official pages** of the Summer Schools:

- **BSE – Barcelona School of Economics**

BSE does *not* require a formal certificate at application stage, but participants must have a level of English sufficient to follow high-level academic material without disrupting the class.

[\[bse.eu\]](http://bse.eu)

- **LSE – London School of Economics**

LSE requires non-native speakers to provide acceptable English-proficiency evidence unless exempt. Accepted certificates and conditions (including 2-year validity) are listed in the official “English language requirements” section.

[How to apply for Summer School | LSE Summer School](#)

- **UCL – University College London**

UCL requires applicants who are not nationals of majority English-speaking countries to provide **recent** proof of English proficiency. Minimum scores vary by module (typically IELTS 6.5–7.0 or equivalent).

[\[ucl.ac.uk\]](http://ucl.ac.uk)

This requirement is essential: **only candidates who meet the official minimum standards will be eligible to join the Summer Schools.**

Applicants are therefore strongly encouraged **to check in detail** the specific English language requirements published on the official pages of each university before submitting their application.

2) BARCELONA SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

The Barcelona School of Economics (BSE) offers a diverse range of summer schools in economics and related fields. These short programs are designed for researchers, and professionals who wish to improve their competences in specific fields of knowledge. Courses are taught by renowned academics and leading practitioners.

The 2026 Summer Schools will take place **from June 22 to July 17**.

The full calendar is available at: https://bw.bse.eu/wp-content/uploads/summer_school_calendar.pdf

2026 Program includes the following programs:

- Banking Summer School
- CREI Macroeconomics Summer School
- Data Science Summer School
- Data Science in Finance Summer School

- Development Economics Summer School
- Digital Economy Summer School
- Finance Summer School
- Labor Economics Summer School
- Macroeconometrics Summer School
- Microeconometrics Summer School

All Summer Schools are taught in English, at the Ciutadella campus of BSE, site of Pompeu Fabra University. Each program consists of intensive **one-week course** that combines theory and applied sessions. Participants may select **up to two courses** within a program or combine courses across different programs, depending on scheduling compatibility.

Courses require a study workload of **approximately twice the number of lecture hours**, including readings, pre-readings, and class preparation. The modular structure allows participants to tailor their program to their individual professional objectives.

Applications will be evaluated by the program directors. Candidates will be notified of the decision directly by UniCredit Foundation, as stated in the announcement (art. 4).

At the end of the Summer Schools, participants will receive a certificate for the hours attended.

Further information is available at: <https://bse.eu/summer-school>

3) LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

The LSE Summer School offers students, researchers, and professionals the opportunity to study within LSE's tradition of academic excellence. The program includes a broad portfolio of courses taught by leading scholars and examined according to LSE academic standards.

Courses are offered across the following subject areas:

- Accounting
- Business and Management
- Data Science, AI and Research Methods
- Economics
- Finance
- International Relations
- Law

The Summer School is structured into three **three-week sessions**. The 2026 dates are:

- **Session One:** 22 June - 10 July
- **Session Two:** 13 July - 31 July
- **Session Three:** 3 August - 21 August

All courses are delivered in-person at LSE's campus in central London.

Each Summer School course is equivalent to a standard undergraduate course and corresponds to approximately 7.5 ECTS in the European system. Courses are available at 3 levels; however, **only 200- and 300-level courses are eligible** for this scholarship. Applicants may be asked to provide evidence of meeting specific prerequisite requirements.

Applications will be evaluated by the program directors. Candidates will be notified of the decision directly by UniCredit Foundation, as stated in the announcement (art. 4).

Further information and detailed course requirements are available at: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/study-at-lse/summer-schools/summer-school/how-to-apply>

4) UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

UCL welcomes students from around the world to its Summer School, offering the opportunity to study for credit at a world-leading institution located in the heart of London. Courses are taught by distinguished academics, and all modules are equivalent to 7.5 ECTS credits. Teaching takes place in person at UCL's Bloomsbury campus.

UniCredit Foundation will support participation in **one 3-week module from the following eligible list:**

- **Session One (29 June – 17 July 2026)**
 - Data science and Big Data Analytics (Level 2)
 - Mathematics for Machine Learning (Level 2)
 - Quantitative Finance: Mathematics in Investment Banking (Level 3)
- **Session Two (20 July – 7 August 2026)**
 - Data science and Big Data Analytics (Level 2)
 - Mathematical Finance (Level 2)

Applications will be evaluated by the program directors. Candidates will be notified of the decision directly by UniCredit Foundation, as stated in the announcement (art. 4).

Further details on each of the modules can be found under the **Sciences and Mathematics** section of the Module page here:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/summer-school/modules-search>

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/summer-school/>

Classes are student-centered with an emphasis on participation and interaction. At the end of the program, all students will receive a UCL transcript and certification of attendance. Upon completion, participants are also granted UCL Associate Alumni status.