

A pathway for refugees in Europe to study for a fully accredited graduate degree in English

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

# OPEN LEARNING INITIATIVE UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY PROGRAM (OLive-UP)

**An eight-month education program for refugees in Europe designed to prepare students for entry to European Master's Programs based at Central European University (CEU) in Vienna.**

CEU's Open Learning Initiative (OLive) invites individuals based in the European Economic Area<sup>1</sup> who have refugee status or are in a refugee-like situation<sup>2</sup> to apply for its full-time 8-month fully-funded university preparatory program (OLive-UP). The aim of the program is to assist students make competitive applications to [CEU Master's programs](#). All instruction is in English.

If you have an upper-intermediate (B2) level of English or above, a Bachelor's degree<sup>3</sup> and a desire to continue to graduate studies in the social sciences, humanities or business, OLive-UP may be for you. We are now accepting applications for our program running from 10 January 2022 to 26 August 2022.

While OLive-UP focuses on preparing students for entry to CEU, skills and knowledge learnt are transferable to other Master's programs.

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<sup>1</sup> The program is restricted to refugees or those in refugee-like conditions in the Europe Economic Area ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European\\_Economic\\_Area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Economic_Area)) due to visa issues that non-EU residents face entering Austria..

<sup>2</sup> We follow the UNHCR's definition of 'refugee-like situation': The category of people in a refugee-like situation is descriptive in nature and includes groups of people who are outside their country of origin and who face protection risks similar to those of refugees, but for whom refugee status has, for practical or other reasons, not been ascertained.

<sup>3</sup> If you have finished at least 2/3 of your degree (e.g. 2 years out of 3) you may be eligible to apply, contact [olive@ceu.edu](mailto:olive@ceu.edu) for further details.

OLive UP will help prepare students to apply to CEU Master's programs. Entry to a CEU Master's program will be determined by that program solely on academic merit. OLive is not involved in assessing entry to Master's programs. Full scholarships for Master's study at CEU, Vienna will be available for successful applicants should they be accepted.

**Deadline** for people not based in Austria but in another country of the EEA and who need a visa to live and study in Austria: **Sunday 26 September 23:59.**

**Deadline** for applicants based in Austria is: **Friday 29 October 23:59.**

Webinars to share information on OLive UP will be held on: September 15 and October 20 (contact [olive@ceu.edu](mailto:olive@ceu.edu) for more details).

**The application form** is here:

[https://sits.ceu.edu/urd/sits.urd/run/siw\\_ipp\\_lgn.login?process=siw\\_ipp\\_app\\_crs](https://sits.ceu.edu/urd/sits.urd/run/siw_ipp_lgn.login?process=siw_ipp_app_crs)

## THE PROGRAM

OLive-UP **runs in two stages** - a 6 month intensive academic preparation focusing on disciplinary training in a specific subject supplemented by English for Academic Purposes (January to June 2022), followed by a 2 month individually-tailored summer module to sharpen key skills (July-August 2022).

The **goals** of the program are (1) to ensure that students will be able to make a competitive application to CEU or other European Master's programs and (2) to ensure that students will have the academic and academic English skills and knowledge to succeed in the Master's degree program should they be accepted.

**At the end of May, students will submit an application to [CEU Master's programs](#).** Students will be closely guided as they do so, but the application and its contents will be the student's and will reflect the level of academic and English learning they have reached.

OLive UP's classes are conducted as small-group seminars, similar to classes in European Master's programs. **We aim to cultivate an environment that is welcoming to students of all faiths, genders, sexual orientations and ethnicities.**

**OLive-UP students will be fully registered non-degree students** of Central European University, with access to all facilities such as the library, career services and IT.

OLive-UP has run since 2017, and approximately **70% of graduates have gone on to study for a degree program at a university in Europe.**

Central European University is fully accredited in Austria and in the United States. The medium of instruction is English.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID**

Students accepted to the program are eligible for a scholarship to cover living and accommodation costs in Vienna as well as health insurance and all tuition fees. This scholarship is available for all accepted students except those already receiving funding for studying from a government or any other body.

Students with child dependents will be eligible for added support.

## **DATES**

The program runs from January 10 to August 26 2022. OLive-UP is a full-time program, students must be resident in Vienna.

## **WHO CAN APPLY**

OLive-UP accepts applications from individuals who have:

- refugee status (or are in a refugee-like situation) in Austria or other countries in the European Union. If they are accepted to OLive-UP, it is the student's responsibility to apply for a visa if required. Assistance from CEU and OLive will be available.
- a strong interest in pursuing a Master's degree in English
- B2 English, corresponding to upper intermediate level
- a BA degree, or
- completed at least two-thirds of a Bachelor's degree<sup>4</sup>

Women and those who identify outside of binary gender identities are typically under-represented in programs like ours, and are particularly encouraged to apply.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

1. Look at the list of [CEU Masters Programs](#) and select one that fits your interests and future goals.
2. Complete the CEU online application here:  
[https://sits.ceu.edu/urd/sits.urd/run/siw\\_ipp\\_lgn.login?process=siw\\_ipp\\_app\\_crs](https://sits.ceu.edu/urd/sits.urd/run/siw_ipp_lgn.login?process=siw_ipp_app_crs)

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<sup>4</sup> CEU has a policy which enables students who have had to interrupt their studies near the end of a Bachelor's program to apply to Masters programs after intensive preparation in OLive-UP. The same policies allows students without copies of their diploma or transcript to apply. Please contact us for more details.

After you register for the online application form, please select “RGPP/OLive” when asked to select a course. You will then be guided to the OLive application form. If you have difficulty, please do not hesitate to contact us at [olive@ceu.edu](mailto:olive@ceu.edu).

3. In the online application, you will be asked to upload the following documents:
  - a. **CV** (in English) - please include details of your education and your previous work, including, volunteering and/or community engagement.
  - b. **Letter of Motivation (500 words in English)** - A letter of motivation should tell us what degree program you'd like to be prepared for at OLive-UP. You can mention more than one subject if you have many interests (we will help you narrow down your study area if you are accepted to OLive-UP). Please let us know what degree program at CEU you are interested in being prepared for, take a look at [this list](#). Let us know why you are interested in university study, how your previous education and work experience helps prepare you for further study and what your future plans are. We are interested in all relevant educational and work experience, including incomplete study and volunteer work.

d. **Degree certificate and Transcript of Grades**

Please upload scanned copies of your degree certificate and transcripts if you have these. If you do not have these, please upload a document stating clearly:

- The degree program(s) you studied
  - Date of completion (if you haven't completed the degree program, please tell us how much you have done)
  - The subjects you studied
  - The language of the program
4. In the online application system you will be asked if you qualify for exemption from providing proof of English proficiency. Please answer yes if your previous study at university was in English or if you are a native speaker of English.

OLive requires only that you have B2 level English. This will be tested at interview.

5. In the online application system you will be asked to provide the name of at least one referee.

The referee should be able to write about your academic study to date, and could, for example, be a former teacher. If you are not able to contact someone familiar with your studies, you can also provide recommendations from a previous employer or supervisor. We only require one reference letter but you can submit a second one if you'd like to (please do that in the section called 'Additional Supporting Documents').

In the application form, you should put the name of your referee and CEU will contact them directly. If this presents any problems, please contact us at [olive@ceu.edu](mailto:olive@ceu.edu).

**Your application will NOT be considered complete unless you fill in the online application form and upload ALL the required documents.**

## **DEADLINE**

Deadline for applications from the European Union who need a visa to live and study in Austria:  
**Sunday September 26 23:59 CET.** Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by 7 October

Deadline for applicants based in Austria is: **Friday October 22 23:59 CET.** Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed by 7 November.

## **CONTACT**

WEBSITE: <https://olive.ceu.edu/>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/OpenLearningInitiative>

EMAIL: [olive@ceu.edu](mailto:olive@ceu.edu)

CONTACT PERSON: Prem Kumar Rajaram, Head of the OLive unit at CEU