

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Top 10 students</b>
<b>Key words</b>	Grants, economic facilitations, talented students
<b>Objectives</b>	Encouraging talented students Exemption from paying university fees
<b>Phase of studies</b> ( <i>Choose all phases it applies</i> )	Access Retain Graduation
<b>Type of degree</b> ( <i>Choose all degrees it applies</i> )	Bachelor's Graduate Master's
<b>Level</b> ( <i>Choose all levels it applies</i> )	National Institutional
<b>Name of the institution</b>	University of Bergamo
<b>Location</b> ( <i>City and country</i> )	Bergamo (Italy)
<b>Target group/s</b>	University students
<b>Stakeholders involved</b>	Right to education office Scholarship Office
<b>Description of the organisational process</b> <i>Actors, triggering evidence, campaigns, graph... (max. 300 words)</i>	<p>The academic year 2014/2015, the University board activated the "Top TEN Student Program" for talented students. The program addresses both students already enrolled and freshmen.</p> <p>The Program aims to exonerate by paying taxes and university fees up to 10% of students enrolled in bachelor and master degrees.</p> <p>The students have to comply with the required qualifications</p>

with regard to the academic track and family income. Students can also benefit from the additional financial support guaranteed by the legislation 68/12. The student office directly identifies eligible students.

## A. FORMAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

<p><b>A1. ACCESS TO INFORMATION</b>  <i>Provide sources of information (URL, websites, literature, materials)</i></p>	<p><a href="http://www.unibg.it/sites/default/files/campus_e_servizi/bando_a.a._15-16_top_10_student_program.pdf">http://www.unibg.it/sites/default/files/campus_e_servizi/bando_a.a._15-16_top_10_student_program.pdf</a></p> <p>Right to education Office  Via dei Caniana, 2 - 24127 Bergamo  Tel: 035 2052870  Fax : 035 2052887</p> <p><a href="mailto:dirittoallostudio@unibg.it">dirittoallostudio@unibg.it</a></p>
<p><b>A2. TIMEFRAME</b>  <i>Since when has it been in use? What is its maturity level (initial, intermediate, advanced)? Describe if there is evidence of its duration in the long run. (max. 70 words)</i></p>	<p>This good practice has been active now for 3 years. Then, we may be deemed it at an initial level.</p>
<p><b>A3. NUMBER OF STUDENTS</b>  <i>How many students are involved? Is the number representative considering the target group?</i></p>	<p>The number of the students is decided every year by the students' office, on the basis of their academic track. The Program exonerate by paying taxes and university fees up to 10% of the students population per year.</p>
<p><b>A4. SCALABILITY</b> ("volume")  <i>Describe how it has been or can potentially be scaled up and practiced in a wider scale. Or, has it been or can it potentially be scaled down (e.g., from larger to smaller institutions)? (max. 70 words)</i></p>	<p>The good practice can potentially be scaled up according to the university available resources.</p>
<p><b>A5. TRANSFERABILITY</b> (from one context to another)  <i>Describe how it has been or can potentially be transferred and applied to different (a) target groups, (b) institutions, and (c) societies. If</i></p>	<p>The good practice might potentially be transferred and applied to other target groups different vulnerable groups and non-traditional learners.</p>

<p><i>possible, name also some practices that this initiative was developed from or has inspired to. (max. 70 words)</i></p>	
<p><b>A6. ASSESSMENT</b>  <i>Describe how it has been evaluated. How has it proved its relevance as the most effective way to achieve the objective? How it was successfully adopted? How it has had a positive impact on people? How the impact has been measured? Shortly describe how various forms of evaluations have been used in the assessment (A6.1 User evaluation, A6.2 Self-evaluation, A6.3 Peer evaluation, A6.4 External expert evaluation). Provide references, if possible. (max. 200 words)</i></p>	<p>Up to now, the good practice has not been evaluated.</p>
<p><b>A7. CONTACT</b>  <i>Who can be contacted so as to seek support and networks for implementing the practice (name, position, e-mail)?</i></p>	<p>VITTORIO MORES          Responsible of right to education del servizio and technical services for teaching.          vittorio.mores@unibg.it</p> <p>Tel.: 0352052871          Fax: 0352052887</p> <p>Sede: Caniana          via dei Caniana 2 - 24127 Bergamo (BG) - Italy</p>

## B. CONTENT EVALUATION CRITERIA

### B1. SOCIAL JUSTICE PRINCIPLES (see Nelson & Creagh, 2013)

<p><b>B1.1 Self-determination</b>  <i>Rate and Justify (max. 70 words)</i></p>	<p><i>Very weakly</i> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><i>Weakly</i> X</p>	<p><i>Well</i> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><i>Very well</i> <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><i>(how students have participated to its (a) design, (b) enactment and (c) evaluation and how they can (d) make informed decisions about the participation)</i></p>	<p>The students have not taken part to the design and enactment of the practice.                  The students are directly identified by the students office, which emails them about their eligibility for this measure.</p>			

<p><b>B1.2 Rights</b> Rate and Justify (max. 70 words)</p> <p><i>(how it is ensured that all participants are treated with dignity and respect. How have their individual cultural, social and knowledge systems been recognised and valued?)</i></p>	<p>Very weakly <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Weakly <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Well X</p>	<p>Very well <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>B1.3 Access</b> Rate and Justify (max. 70 words)</p> <p><i>(how it is ensured that there is an active and impartial access to the resources (e.g., curriculum, learning, academic, social, cultural, support, and financial resources))</i></p>	<p>Very weakly <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Weakly <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Well X</p>	<p>Very well <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>B1.4 Equity</b> Rate and Justify (max. 70 words)</p> <p><i>(how if it openly demystifies and decodes dominant university cultures, processes, expectations and language for differently prepared cohorts)</i></p>	<p>Very weakly <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Weakly X</p>	<p>Well <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Very well <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>B1.5 Participation</b> Rate and Justify (max. 70 words)</p> <p><i>(how it has led to socially inclusive practices. How does it increase students' sense of belonging and connectedness?)</i></p>	<p>Very weakly <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Weakly X</p>	<p>Well <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Very well <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>The respect of students equal opportunities is pursued by evaluating their academic track and family income.</p>	<p>The selection process is managed by the students' office according to the above-mentioned indicators.</p>			
<p>This good practice gives the opportunity to students whose academic track and family income is complying with the call to be eligible for exemption from taxes and university fees. However, two indicators are not enough to produce fair evaluation.</p>	<p>Even though it has been initially conceived as a mean to award deserving students, the current organisation of the practice may be regarded as reducing instead of increasing the students' sense of belonging and connectedness within the university, as the grant is provided on the basis of only two indicators (academic track and family income).</p>			

<p><b>B2. COLLABORATION</b>  <i>Describe what kind of collaboration there is between various stakeholders. (max. 70 words)</i></p>	<p>The practice is essentially based on internal resources. It is directly managed by the Right to education and students office.</p>
<p><b>B3. STUDENT SATISFACTION</b>  <i>Describe the student perception of this initiative. Is there evidence of their satisfaction? (see also A6.1) (max. 200 words)</i></p>	<p>Being a pilot project, evaluation of this recent activity needs to be still put in place.</p>
<p><b>B4. STUDENT WELLBEING</b>  <i>How does it influence on students' (a) psychological, (b) social, (c) academic, and (d) physical wellbeing? What kind of evidence there is? (max. 200 words)</i></p>	<p>The influence on students' psychological, social and academic wellbeing could be beneficial because this practice gives the opportunity to the deserving student to be eligible for exemption of taxes and university fees. However, see the critical reflections highlighted above and below.</p>
<p><b>C. FINAL REFLECTIONS</b>          (based on the previous description of you good practice)</p>	
<p><b>Success factors</b>  <i>What are the factors required for the successful implementation? (max. 200 words)</i></p>	<p>Success factors are linked to the availability of economic resources provided by the university in terms of fees exemption.</p>
<p><b>Sustainability</b>  <i>What is needed for the practice to sustain? What resources are required? How it contributes to environmental, economic or social sustainability? (max. 200 words)</i></p>	<p>The program has been initially promoted by a private association (Pro Universitate Bergomensis). It is now funded directly from the University.</p>
<p><b>Challenges</b>  <i>What are the constraints identified? How easy it is to learn and implement? (max. 200 words)</i></p>	<p>On the long term, university grants based exclusively on two indicators (grade point average and family income) may raise questions about the equity of this measure. A system of indicators based on more criteria would be preferable.</p>

## Sources

Kunttu, K. 2005. The study ability model. The Finnish Student Health Service (FSHS). ([http://www.yths.fi/filebank/692-ENG\\_OPISKELUKYKYMALLI\\_pdf.pdf](http://www.yths.fi/filebank/692-ENG_OPISKELUKYKYMALLI_pdf.pdf))

Nelson, K & Creagh T. 2013. A Good Practice Guide: Safeguarding Student Learning Engagement. Queensland University of Technology. Brisbane, Australia. ([http://safeguardingstudentlearning.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/LTU\\_Good-practice-guide\\_eBook\\_20130320.pdf](http://safeguardingstudentlearning.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/LTU_Good-practice-guide_eBook_20130320.pdf))

