

International Master's in Advanced Research in Criminology

2027-2028

A close-up photograph of a hand touching a soccer goal net. The net is made of a hexagonal mesh. In the background, a soccer player in a blue jersey is visible, but out of focus. The background is a clear blue sky.

Becoming a specialist in
understanding crime and
crime control, and finding a
balance between demands
for security and social justice

"As an IMARC student you develop fresh and critical views on the essential criminological issues."

What does this IMARC program offers you?

The International Master's in Advanced Research in Criminology (IMARC) IMARC is a learning programme in international criminology with a focus on the critical, cultural and global dimensions of border crossing, security and social justice. IMARC aims to address the need for internationally oriented and interdisciplinary trained researchers that can offer original insights and analyses as well as innovative, effective and ethical solutions to advance both policy and practice, and academic research.

IMARC brings together learning, research and practice through collaboration with partners such as governments, ngo's, corporate actors and other universities. You are trained in a variety of research approaches and methodologies. You participate in international conferences and intercultural and interdisciplinary exchange. As a graduate you will have a lot of expertise in the field of border crossing, security and social justice. As an IMARC student you develop fresh and critical views on the essential criminological issues.

A consortium of four European universities, Erasmus University Rotterdam (the Netherlands), Ghent University (Belgium), University of Málaga (Spain) and Middlesex University London (UK) offers this two-year, joint master's programme and brings together learning, research and practice through collaboration with already well-established partners among which governments, NGO's, corporate actors and other universities.

Erasmus Mundus

The IMARC programme has been selected as an Erasmus Mundus Joint Master (EMJM) programme. This award is a very prestigious recognition by the European Commission and a sign of top quality. The highest-ranked students who match the eligibility criteria will be offered an Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters (EMJM) Scholarship by the European Commission.

"Climate change, migration... they transcend national borders and require an international response."

Taavet Hinrikus, entrepreneur

Your future with IMARC

IMARC is an international, two-year postgraduate educational programme, with a focus on border-crossing, security and social justice and involves different Universities in Europe. Increasing flows of people, goods and information raise new questions about how governments and societies respond to perceived and actual treats of crime. Current developments in Europe and beyond challenge not only our understanding of crime and crime control, but also the balance between demands for security and social justice. IMARC trains students to develop fresh and critical views on terrorism, human trafficking, cybercrime, corporate and organized crime, to external and internal border control, EU criminal justice, policing and crime prevention, to migration policies, human rights, social exclusion and urban safety.

We offer

- Theoretical and practical perspectives on border-crossing, security and social justice;

- Scientific research of the highest quality: empirical research with quantitative and qualitative methods, dossier studies and discourse analyses.

- Engagement in research and being open minded to reflect and respond to new developments and current discussions in criminology and the work field of borders, security and social justice.

- The programme brings together learning, research and practice through collaboration with already well-established partners among which governments, ngo's, corporate actors and other Universities, which contributes to the employability of our students.

- Participation in international conferences, twice a year with students from other universities;
- International mobility, intercultural and interdisciplinary exchange

- Upon successful completion of the Joint Master's Programme, you will be awarded the national degree of the university you spent at least one semester.

- Two year programme, four semester: the programme starts at EUR, where you take several basic theoretical and methodological courses in criminology. In the second semester, you will move to one of the four universities according to your chosen thematic track. In the third semester you can opt for a research-based internship or to do fieldwork for your thesis. And in semester 4 you write your Master's thesis under supervision of the university at which you follow the track.

human trafficking
radicalisation
terrorism
geopolitics
human rights
border control
cybercrime
migration policies

Semester en tracks:

The 1st semester offers the basis for a broad and in-depth knowledge of criminology from a historical, critical and global perspective, which is followed by training in research methods.

Four thematic tracks in the 2nd semester will support students in the development of their specialist area and prepare for their research fieldwork and thesis. Each thematic track comprises 30 ECTS of taught modules.

- Track EUR: Global Criminology: Borders, Terrorism & Organised Crime
- Track UGent: Advanced Research in Crime and Security
- Track UMA: Border Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy
- Track MDX: Conflict, Security and Social Justice

In the 3rd semester, students follow online modules at the university of registration and will continue their supervised research, for example through fieldwork or desk-based data collection. Students may participate in an optional internship.

The 4th semester is completely devoted to writing the master's thesis and is the final part of the programme.

EEA

55%

45%

non-EEA

Admitted in
total so far

210

30

started in 2026

90

alumni



Application deadline EMJM
scholarships **15 March 2027**



Application deadline
(non-EEA) **30 April 2027**



Application deadline
(EEA) **30 June 2027**

Questions?

Do not hesitate to contact the master
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www.internationalmastercriminology.eu

Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

