

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.

The overall programme provides students with an opportunity to study a broad range of substantive **criminological issues**, whilst simultaneously providing a robust **theoretical foundation** within which students can develop deeper analytical and critical thinking. As a research-intensive master's programme there is also a strong emphasis on providing students with training in a **variety of research approaches and methodologies** and an extended dissertation.

A consortium of four European universities, **Erasmus University Rotterdam (the Netherlands), Ghent University (Belgium), University of Málaga (Spain) and Middlesex University London (UK)** offer 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. IMARC's cooperation with both private and public organisations boosts the innovation of IMARC and the employability of our students. IMARC provides asset of transversal skills related to lifelong learning and employment.

After successfully finishing IMARC you will have a dual Master of Science degree. You will be a highly trained professional with an international, intercultural, interdisciplinary and innovative knowledge. The collaborating organisations in the field are also potential employers. Your training will enable you to work not only as a researcher in academic, public, third sector and commercial organisations but also as a consultant, data analyst, compliance officer, policy adviser or policy maker, advocate, or manager.

Why Study 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.



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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.

Specialities of IMARC

Border-crossing, security and social justice

Within this subject, you will have the ability to choose a track that you consider most suitable for your research and training interests in the second semester. In the third semester you will write four research papers in which you approach your research topic from each of the thematical angles of the second semester tracks. In semester 4 you write your Master's thesis under supervision of the university at which you follow one of these tracks:

- Global flows, local dilemma's and glocal answers
- European Union criminal policy and justice in context
- Border Criminology and Criminal Justice Policy
- Conflict, Security and Social Justice



Interesting collaborations

The international dimension of the programme also takes advantage of the relations with partner countries of targeted regions. Through IMARC, your possibilities provided by our associate can also benefit from partners, namely University of Malta (Malta), University of Hamburg (Germany), University of Bologna (Italy), Eötvös Loránd University (Hungary) & Koç University (Turkey). The courses are geared towards doing research in an international setting, whether that is undertaking research at one of the Network partners, or doing research in various countries or border areas at different European and international organisations on multiple levels of policy- and law-making.



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EMJM call for applications until 15 March

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. EMJM scholarship holders will receive a monthly contribution of maximal 1400 Euro to cover all costs related to travel, visa, installment and subsistence costs for the duration that students will be on the programme (depending on the date of return to the home country). Besides payments from the European Commission, the IMARC consortium will provide all IMARC students with insurance coverage over the whole period of the IMARC academic programme.

For the academic years 2025/2026 up to 2029/2030, the programme may award 60 full scholarships (approximately 15 per academic year). Scholarships will be awarded based on merit, established by the ranking of all applicants who submitted their application until 31 March 2025. There are two categories of scholarships, category 1, and category 2. No distinction is made between applicants from EU and non-EU countries when awarding scholarships in category 1. For category 2, scholarships are reserved for the best students from specific target regions of the Erasmus+ programme (IPA III and NDICI).

The scholarships are awarded as follows:

1. Approximately 10 scholarships per year for the best applicants in the overall ranking
2. Additional 5 scholarships per year for applicants from designated target regions of the Erasmus+ programme.

Within the funding period of 6 years, there is a maximum of 10% of students of the same nationality who may receive a scholarship in category 1 (approximately 1-2 students of the same nationality). For category 2, there are percentage targets for the number of scholarships awarded for different regions. Here we particularly, but not exclusively, invite applications from excellent students from the Sub-Saharan Africa region and the Western Balkans (Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo).

We also may offer financial support for students with special needs (e.g. pre-existing medical, physical, psychological impairments) from funds of the European Commission. Students interested in this opportunity must come up with a detailed overview of the needed support and envisioned costs.

If you are interested in applying for the scholarship and have not received an EMJM scholarship from any other EMJM-programmes before, please indicate your interest in your application and motivation letter. You can apply **before 15 March 2026**. On the website, application button will open 1 February 2026. All applications after 15 March will be evaluated as self-paying applications. Experience shows that we receive lot of applications that are interested in scholarships in general. Before sending your application [we strongly urge you to check the eligibility criteria](#). Our programme is a research-oriented master in criminology with a focus on border crossing, security and social justice. If you do not have a background with research techniques, you are not eligible.



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Admission procedure

Start application period: 1 February 2026

- Application deadline (EEA) Programme 2025/2027: 30 June 2025
- Application deadline (non-EEA) Programme 2025/2027: 30 April 2025
- Application period for Erasmus Mundus scholarship 2025/2027 ends 15 March 2025

Applications before 1 February 2026 are not taken into account.

Eligibility

Candidates are only eligible to enter the selection process if they hold one of the following degrees:

- a Bachelor's degree in Criminology;
- a Bachelor's degree in one of the other Social Sciences or Humanities or Law on the condition that the holder a) can demonstrate knowledge of questions of deviance and social control, and b) can demonstrate sufficient knowledge of both qualitative and quantitative research methods.

If these requirements are not met, the complaint procedure does not take your request into account.

Criteria for research skills

IMARC courses on qualitative data collection methods vary using unstructured or semi-structured techniques. For quantitative methods, IMARC courses will require basic knowledge on interpreting and analysing statistical analysis (correlation, regression) sampling and sample design with multivariate analyses in SPSS, or similar statistic software such as NVivo or Atlas TI. Candidates' knowledge of research methods based on course descriptions of previous education should be able to meet the following requirements:



1. Demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the strengths, limitations and ethical concerns of both qualitative and quantitative research methods;
2. Demonstrate sufficient knowledge of formulating theoretically and empirically embedded research questions;
3. Demonstrate sufficient knowledge of different research designs and research methods that are appropriate for answering different research questions;
4. Demonstrate sufficient knowledge of and basic skills in analysing quantitative and qualitative data;
5. Demonstrate basic experience in formulating a theoretically and empirically embedded scientific argument.

Formal Language Requirements

Candidates should have an English proficiency corresponding to:

- a minimum IELTS (International English Testing System; <https://www.ielts.org/>) a minimum score of 7.0 overall with a minimum of 6.5 in each component or
- a minimum TOEFL IBT (Test of English as a Foreign Language; <https://www.ets.org/toefl>) scores of 90 for the internet-based test with a minimum of 22 in R; 21 in W; 17 in L; 20 in S;
- IELTS and TOEFL test results must not be older than two years. Institutional TOEFL test scores are not accepted.

A list of exemptions to the English proficiency can be found [on the website](#).



Questions on previous knowledge

During the application process you will motivate how you meet the criteria on deviance and social control and research techniques (with a distinction between qualitative and quantitative courses).

Application through the webform ('Apply now' button)

The application is largely the same as previous years, although slight changes have been made in the application form. Once you apply via the button on the website, you will enter the webform. In this form you fill in your personal details, previous education, language skills, motivation and obtained knowledge on criminological aspects and research techniques. Unlike previous years, you don't need to upload a separate letter of motivation and self report on your research skills. There is a maximum word limit per item.

You can prepare yourself to submit your application

Ask in time for reference letters from two people in a position to judge your professional and/or academic abilities. Ask your current educational institution for a provisional transcript of grades. Have your documents translated to English if needed. Draft your CV with education background, work experiences, research background and details on internships. Prepare your motivation statement without using AI and respect the word limit.

Documents to be uploaded

- An original certified copy of your diploma(s)/graduation declaration
- An original certified copy of your transcript(s) (including your GPA and the grading system)
- Two letters of reference
- Original proof or original certified copy of your English proficiency if applicable
- Curriculum vitae with information on prior/current education

Selection procedure

Applicants are selected and ranked by the selection committee, on the basis of both these quantitative scores and qualitative criteria, based on the letter of motivation, educational background and other relevant aspects of the CV.



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Facts & Figures

Programme name	International Master's in Advanced Research in Criminology
Instruction Language	English
Mode of Study	Fulltime
Level	Master
Duration	2 years
Universities	The Erasmus University Rotterdam – the Netherlands Ghent University - Belgium University of Málaga – Spain Middlesex University London - UK
Start date	1 September 2026
Study points (ECTS)	120
Degree	MSc
Double/multiple/joint degree	Yes
Internship	Optional
Student Fee 2026-2027	EEA/EU: € 6.000,= per year Non-EEA/EU: € 12,000,= per year
Application deadline (EEA)	30 June 2026
Application deadline (non-EEA)	30 April 2026
Application deadline EMJM scholarship	15 March 2026
Contact	Programme Coordinator at Erasmus University Rotterdam Elisabeth Brein (brein@law.eur.nl or imarc@law.eur.nl)
Website	www.internationalmastercriminology.eu



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