



BSc in
Criminology

Curriculum of the
Bachelor's Degree in Sociology

a.y. 2026-2027



UNIVERSITÀ
CATTOLICA
del Sacro Cuore

Overview

Criminology is the curriculum of the BSc in Sociology offered by the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore of Milan, entirely taught in English. Launched in the 2025/26 academic year, this curriculum is the first of its kind in Italy and Europe, and offers an innovative and multidisciplinary approach to criminology.

By integrating **sociology, psychology, law and political science**, it provides students with a comprehensive understanding of crime and criminal behaviour, with an emphasis on crime prevention, security and data analysis.



Facts

As part of the Cattolica International Programme, **Criminology** is taught entirely in English and is designed to provide an international classroom environment.



Class composition

33 out of **50**
students are
international



Language
of instruction

English



Duration
3 years

Starting in
September
2026



Degree
awarded

BSc in
Sociology



School

Political
and Social
Sciences



Campus

Milan

Criminology is supported by Transcrime.



Transcrime is the **Joint Research Centre on Innovation and Crime** of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore of Milan, the Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna and the Università degli Studi di Perugia. It is the Europe's largest research hub on organised and financial crime, with a team of over 30 members.

Through cutting-edge research and its spin-off, Crime&tech, Transcrime also develops innovative tools and solutions for crime prevention. Beyond Criminology, **it supports the CrimeSec Master's programme and the International Ph.D. in Criminology** at the Università Cattolica.

CRIMESEC

CrimeSec is the **Crime & Security Analysis** curriculum of the **Master's Degree in Public Policy**. It further develops the multidisciplinary approach to criminology to provide an advanced understanding of crime and key security issues.

It also offers internship opportunities and exchanges with institutions and companies for effective job placement. Graduates work in the fields of crime prevention, money laundering, corruption and terrorism.

INTERNATIONAL PH.D. IN CRIMINOLOGY

The International Ph.D. in Criminology is designed for Master's graduates who wish to pursue a **research career in criminology** and who aspire to high-profile positions in the private or academic sector. The programme lasts 3 years and is conducted entirely in English.

Visit: www.transcrime.it

Pathways in Academia



Shaping your career



Law Enforcement, Criminal Investigation, and Crime Analyst

Graduates can work in a variety of roles within police forces, as well as in correctional facilities, focusing on investigative aspects and security management.



Crime and Security Policy Officer and Analyst

Graduates can work in public administrations and international organisations (e.g. UN, Interpol) to support and implement global crime prevention policies, criminal justice reforms, and rehabilitation programmes.



Compliance Officer

Graduates can work on anti-money laundering, anti-corruption, and antifraud measures, ensuring that companies comply with legal standards and regulations.



Crime Prevention and Security Manager

Graduates can work in industries such as retail and logistics to develop and implement crime prevention, asset, employee and customer safety and security, risk management strategies.



Study Plan

The curriculum is structured for progressive specialization, offering an in-depth understanding of foundational and advanced criminological concepts:



- The first year establishes a solid foundation in the **social sciences**, along with essential academic and **methodological skills**.



- The second year completes the general preparation in criminological and methodological subjects and reinforces the **multidisciplinary approach** with courses in social psychology and criminal law.



- The third year provides **advanced methodological skills**, an introduction to programming in R/Python. Students can further tailor their studies by selecting some criminology **specialization courses**, along with additional elective activities.



Study Plan

Total ECTS: 180

1st year

- Contemporary history — 9 ECTS
- Introduction to research and academic skills in the social sciences + LAB — 9 ECTS
- Political science — 9 ECTS
- Principles of economics — 12 ECTS
- Public law and governance — 9 ECTS
- Quantitative methods for social sciences — 9 ECTS
- Sociology — 9 ECTS
- Seminar on theological issues

2nd year

- Comparative & European criminal law and procedure — 9 ECTS
- Criminology — 9 ECTS
- Organisations & cultures — 12 ECTS
- English/Italian — 6 ECTS
- History of crime and crime control — 9 ECTS
- Research methods for crime and criminal justice — 12 ECTS
- Social psychology — 6 ECTS
- One language to be chosen from:
 - English language — 6 ECTS
 - Italian language — 6 ECTS
- Seminar on theological issues

3rd year

- Comparative criminal justice — 6 ECTS
- Quantitative methods for the social sciences II + LAB on programming — 9 ECTS
- One elective course among: — 6 ECTS
 - Organised crime
 - Terrorism
 - Cybercrime and cybersecurity
- One elective course among: — 6 ECTS
 - Crime & place
 - Investigations & forensics
 - Cultural practices outside boundaries
- One elective course among: — 6 ECTS
 - Behavioral economics & nudging policies
 - Economic and financial crime
- Elective courses — 12 ECTS
- Final dissertation — 6 ECTS
- Seminar on theological issues

Admission - Domestic students

Applications for the academic year 2026/2027 are open

For the **full procedure** applicable to **domestic candidates** visit: www.unicatt.it/corsi/triennale/criminology-milano.html

- ▶ **Domestic candidates** are: students at Italian high schools (in Italy or abroad), students at European Schools or Accredited European Schools, students at German high schools located in Italy who take both the Italian "Esame di Stato" and the German "Abitur."

Programme-specific entry requirements

Selection will be based on candidate's **Cover letter** (written in English), **English language certificate** (minimum level required: B2), **admission test** (according to a merit list), and the average grades from the second-to-last year of upper secondary school.

The **Admission test** takes place online and is delivered in English. It lasts 40 minutes and consists of 30 questions in the subject area of Reading comprehension (including logic) and general knowledge in English.

Admitted candidates must reserve their place within the deadline of the place reservation, following the procedure on the website.

Timeline for the Admission test

1st assessment round

Registration to the admission test:

From 15:00 on 3 November 2025 to 23:59 on 18 February 2026

Test: 26 February 2026

2nd assessment round

Registration to the admission test:

From 15:00 on 13 April 2026 to 23:59 on 5 May 2026

Test: 13 May 2026

3rd assessment round

Registration to the admission test:

From 15:00 on 22 June 2026 to 23:59 on 16 July 2026

Test: 22 July 2026

Check the application and post-admission procedure on the website.

Admission - International students

Applications for the academic year 2026/2027 are open

For the **full procedure** applicable to **international candidates** visit:

<https://international.unicatt.it/ucscinternational-criminology-admission-and-tuition>

► **International candidates** are students who hold a non-Italian high school qualification (see the requirements on the website)

Programme-specific entry requirements

Selection will be based on candidate's **high school grades, motivation letter, English proficiency, and general background.**

Priority consideration for admission will be given to candidates whose transcripts show:

- A minimum GPA of 75% or above at the time of applying (this equals for example to CCC for A-levels or 31 points for the IB Diploma, according to the IB undergraduate admission policy).
- Satisfactory grades in Mathematics.

Even if your academic profile does not fully align with the above criteria, you are still encouraged to apply.

Application timeline

1st assessment round

Opening: 5 November, 2025

Deadline: 25 February, 2026

2nd assessment round

Opening: 26 February, 2026

Deadline: 6 May, 2026

Your application will only be evaluated if all required documents are submitted, and the application fee is paid. Because of high competition and limited spots, we highly recommend applying in the first assessment round.

Check the application and post-admission procedure on the website.

Contacts

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