

International PHD in **CRIMINOLOGY**

Cycle XLII

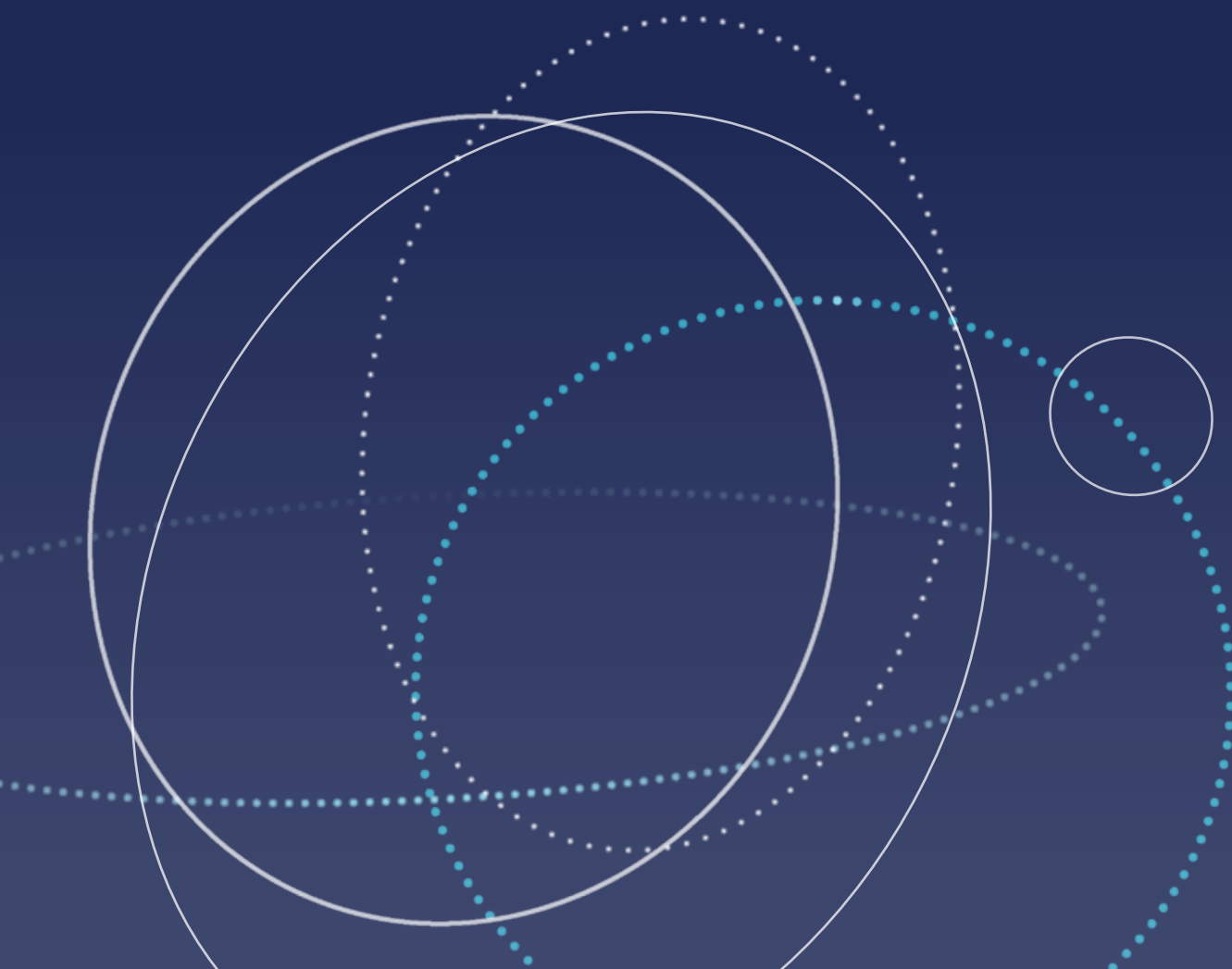
Academic Year 2026-2027



TRANSCRIME
Joint Research Centre on Innovation and Crime



**UNIVERSITÀ
CATTOLICA
del Sacro Cuore**



01.

WHO WE ARE

WHAT

The **International Ph.D. Programme in Criminology** aims to be the preferred Programme for highly qualified students pursuing an **advanced research degree in criminology**. The Programme views interdisciplinary work and research as the core of its activity. It aims to promote innovative and dynamic thinking by blending theory and practice in the fields of criminology, criminal justice, and crime prevention.

HOW

The Ph.D. **prepares graduates** to meet traditional and **emerging standards of excellence in criminology**. This is achieved through a training, research, and teaching Programme. Graduates of the Programme will be well-prepared to pursue diverse career paths, including **academia, research, law enforcement, international organisations, industry, and consulting**.

TRANSCRIME

The coordination of the Programme is supported by **Transcrime, the Joint Research Centre on Innovation and Crime** of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore of Milan (www.transcrime.it/en). Today, Transcrime has become a **leading international institution** for scholars exploring crime from a range of perspectives, including criminology, sociology, law, and economics. Its **excellence in research** is demonstrated by the substantial international funding in this area (projects under the 6th and the 7th Framework Programmes, Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, and DG Home Affairs) and the high-profile publications in international journals by researchers who contribute to the Centre's activities.

Ph.D. candidates will have the opportunity to carry out their assignments in a **stimulating environment** enriched by the participation of outstanding lecturers, institutions, law enforcement agencies, and companies renowned at a national and international level.

Through agreements with affiliated universities and members of the Academic Board, the centre provides opportunities for specialised research and promising avenues for pursuing careers that require advanced expertise in this field.



02.

PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

UNIL - Université de Lausanne (CH)

Universidad Pontificia Comillas (ES)

Università degli Studi di Firenze (IT)

Università degli Studi di Palermo (IT)

Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca (IT)

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (NL)

Universiteit Utrecht (NL)

Univerza v Mariboru (SI)

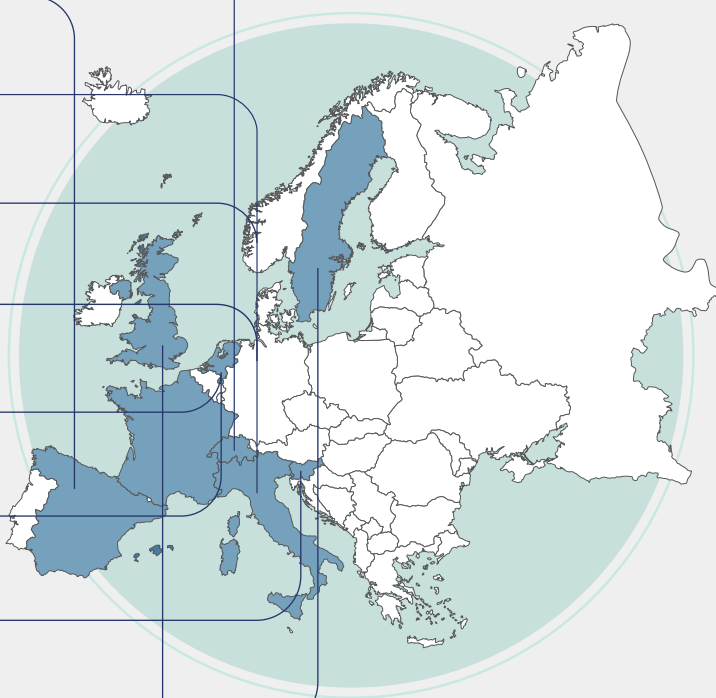
Stockholms Universitet (SE)

Cardiff University (UK)

University of Surrey (UK)

Northumbria University (UK)

University of Leeds (UK)



03.

ACADEMIC BOARD

Coordinator

Prof. Francesco CALDERONI

Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano (Italy)

Prof. Marcelo AEBI

École des Sciences Criminelles, UNIL-Université de Lausanne (Switzerland)

Prof. Georgios ANTONOPOULOS

Department of Social Sciences, Northumbria University (United Kingdom)

Prof. Alberto AZIANI

Department of Sociology and Social Research, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca (Italy)

Prof. Stefano BECUCCI

Department of Political and Social Sciences, Università degli Studi di Firenze (Italy)

Dr. Giulia BERLUSCONI

Department of Sociology, University of Surrey (United Kingdom)

Prof. Stefano CANEPPELE

École des Sciences Criminelles, UNIL-Université de Lausanne (Switzerland)

Prof. Clotilde CHAMPEYRACHE

Department of Economics, Université Paris 8 Vincennes-St Denis (France)

Prof. Marco DUGATO

Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Italy)

Prof. Serena FAVARIN

Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Italy)

Prof. Joras FERWERDA

Law, Economics and Governance, Universiteit Utrecht (Netherlands)

Prof. Andrea GIMENEZ-SALINAS

Facultad de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, Departamento de Sociología y Trabajo Social, Universidad Pontificia Comillas (Spain)

Prof. Luca GIOMMONI

School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University (United Kingdom)

Prof. Anita HEBER

Department of Criminology, Stockholms Universitet (Sweden)

Prof. Edward KLEEMANS

Faculty of Law, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Prof. Andrea Mario LAVEZZI

Faculty of Law, Università degli Studi di Palermo (Italy)

Prof. Marco LOMBARDI

Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Italy)

Prof. Gorazd MEŠKO

Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, Univerza v Mariboru (Slovenia)

Prof. Michele RICCARDI

Faculty of Political and Social Sciences, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Italy)

Prof. Ernesto U. SAVONA

Transcrime, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Italy)

Prof. Dina SIEGEL

Willem Pompe Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology, Universiteit Utrecht (Netherlands)

Prof. Henk G. VAN DE BUNT

Erasmus School of Law, Erasmus University Rotterdam (Netherlands)

Prof. David S. WALL

School of Law, University of Leeds (United Kingdom)

04.

STRENGTHS OF THE PH.D.

ACADEMIC BOARD

The members of the Academic Board who lecture and supervise research activities in the Ph.D. Programme are key international professors and researchers in criminology and related disciplines.

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC FUNDING

In addition to the scholarships awarded by universities, the Ph.D. Programme in Criminology has always received funding from:

- **Private companies**, such as ADT, Crime&tech, Eni Corporate University, Gucci, Pirelli, TIM and Telecom Italia
- **Associated universities**, such as the University of Teramo
- **Public institutions**, such as the High Commission for the Struggle against Counterfeiting, Regione Lombardia, the autonomous Province of Trento, the Italian National Cybersecurity Agency.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Candidates that have been awarded the International Ph.D. in Criminology will have access to career **opportunities in academic, public and private sectors, international organisations and NGOs**. Past graduates are currently working at: Cardiff University, University of Surrey, UNIL-Université de Lausanne, Università degli Studi Milano-Bicocca, Università Bocconi, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano, University of Exeter, Tilburg University, Università degli Studi di Trento, UNODC, UNICRI, European Commission, Eurojust, Authority for Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AMLA), Italian Government, Louis Vuitton, PwC, SNAM, Chanel, Amazon, Small Arms Survey, and Save the Children.

04.

STRENGTHS OF THE PH.D.

WORK IN A THRIVING RESEARCH CENTRE

Candidates will collaborate in the management and organisation of Transcrime's projects and research activities, **alongside more than 30 staff members**. Over the course of more than 30 years, Transcrime has carried out **more than 300 research projects**, mostly as coordinator, funded by local, national and international authorities and institutions.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

All the activities of the Ph.D. are in **English**. This includes lectures, seminars, the Ph.D. thesis and the final defence.

As part of our Programme, Ph.D. candidates will have the opportunity to broaden their academic experience by spending **a semester** of studies and research at a foreign university or research institution.

Some of the institutions that hosted our students in recent years are: University of Oxford, Carnegie Mellon University, European University Saint Petersburg, the United Nations, World Bank, Interpol, Europol, George Mason University, Organization of American States, New York University, University of California, University of Colorado Boulder, University of Manchester, University of Maryland, University of South Florida, Leiden University, and Vrije Universiteit.

05.

EDUCATION - TRAINING

PH.D. SEMINARS

A series of seminars for Ph.D. candidates dedicated to the methodology and process of doctoral research, as well as in-depth thematic discussions featuring presentations by members of the Academic Board, visiting professors (a sample list of seminars is available at pg. 8), and experts from the University and abroad.

TRANSCRIME SEMINARS

Regular meetings held by Transcrime researchers to share updates on their research – both individual studies and internal projects – and to explore innovative methodologies and analytical technologies applied to complex criminal phenomena.

DOCTORAL TRAINING

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore provides a number of training activities for Ph.D. candidates from all Programmes. They include training on methodology, bibliography, writing, presentation, public speaking and English for academic purposes.

Ph.D. candidates may also attend courses organised in collaboration with other universities.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

Other training and exchange initiatives: activities promoted by the Transcrime research centre in collaboration with international universities and partner institutions, or tailored to individual research paths and interests. In recent cycles, these initiatives have included:

- Participation in international conferences, such as the annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology (ASC) and the European Society of Criminology (ESC), featuring leading scholars and experts in the field of criminology.
- High-profile events, such as a one-day conference on *The Dynamics of Criminal Infiltration into the Economy*, organised with the Italian Association of Prefects;
- The Doctoral Training Week, organized in collaboration with international partner universities and research centres;
- Summer and Winter Schools for in-depth thematic studies.

MASTER COURSES

First year candidates may be requested to attend Master's courses aimed at completing and strengthening their background. The required coursework is **determined upon admission to the Programme** and tailored to each candidate's curriculum. Master's courses culminate in a final examination. Additionally, Ph.D. candidates will prepare a paper (in English) on a topic agreed upon with the Professor of the course(s).

Graduate courses may include:

- *Statistics and advanced statistics*
- *Criminal law and procedure (Italian and comparative)*
- *Methodology of criminological research*
- *Criminology and applied criminology*

05.

EDUCATION - RECENT LECTURES

Below is a sample of past lectures from recent Ph.D. cycles on innovative issues in criminology and criminal justice, given by visiting professors from leading national and international universities.

- ▶ **AI in academia: a practical toolkit for researchers**
Prof. Linda Lombi, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano
- ▶ **Economics of organized crime**
Prof. Paolo Buonanno, Università degli Studi di Bergamo
- ▶ **Firearms and firearms-control policies**
Prof. Philip Cook, Stanford School of Public Policy
- ▶ **Green criminology**
Prof. Toine Spapens, Tilburg University
- ▶ **Innovative sources of data in criminology**
Dr. Reka Solymosi, University of Manchester
- ▶ **Life course criminology**
Prof. Arijan Blokland, NSCR
- ▶ **Mafias abroad / human smuggling**
Dr. Paolo Campana, University of Cambridge
- ▶ **Money-laundering, drug policy and organized crime**
Prof. Peter Reuter, University of Maryland
- ▶ **'Ndrangheta outside Italy**
Prof. Anna Sergi, University of Essex
- ▶ **Network adaptation**
Dr. Giulia Berlusconi, University of Surrey
- ▶ **Organised crime and qualitative methodologies**
Prof. Dina Siegel, Utrecht University
- ▶ **Problem oriented policing: origins, development, evidence**
Prof. Aiden Sidebottom, UCL Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science
- ▶ **Risk terrain modeling**
Prof. Leslie Kennedy, Rutgers University - Newark
- ▶ **The datafication revolution in criminal justice**
Prof. Anita Lavorgna, Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna
- ▶ **Theory, measurement, and units of analysis in crime and place research**
Prof. Martin Andresen, School of Criminology, Simon Fraser University
- ▶ **World cybercrime index and recent/further developments**
Prof. Miranda Bruce, University of Canberra

05.

PH.D. RESEARCH AND THESIS

ARTICLE FOR A SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL

PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH PROJECTS

COLLABORATION WITH TRANSCRIME RESEARCHERS:

COURSE SUPERVISION

THESIS SUPPORT

WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

EDUCATION - RESEARCH

Development of the student's individual research for their doctoral thesis. This project must meet quality standards comparable to those required for the assessment of articles for peer-reviewed journals or books submitted to international publishers.

Second- and third-year Ph.D. candidates will write a paper on a topic related to their research interests under the guidance of the coordinator and their supervisor. By the end of the second year, candidates are expected to have at least one paper approved for publication in an international peer-reviewed journal.

Ph.D. candidates will contribute to Transcrime's ongoing research projects on a day-to-day basis, gradually taking on increasing project responsibilities. By the third year of the Programme, candidates will be expected to coordinate a research project (under the supervision of the senior researchers). A comprehensive list of projects which have engaged Ph.D. candidates with contributory or pivotal roles is available [here](#).

Participation in research activities and scientific publications in collaboration with Transcrime researchers, focusing on cutting-edge topics in criminology and through the application of innovative methodologies.

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Involvement in supervising undergraduate ('Criminology') and postgraduate ('CrimeSec') students at Università Cattolica. This includes assisting course lecturers with the organisation of lectures, assignments, examinations, and assessment.

providing assistance to undergraduate and postgraduate students throughout the research process, offering guidance on literature reviews, research execution, and the revision of the final dissertation.

During the second and third years, candidates deliver workshops and seminars aimed at undergraduate and postgraduate students. Topics focus on developing writing skills, research methodologies, and subjects related to their specific fields of study. Additionally, candidates may be requested to lead practical teaching sessions supporting official coursework, covering topics such as data collection, analysis, and interpretation.

06.

STUDY COURSE

FIRST YEAR

RESEARCH PROJECT FORMULATION

By the end of the first year, Ph.D. candidates will deliver: **an activity report, the research project for their Ph.D. thesis, and the first draft chapter of the thesis.**

In particular, they will be required to select a research topic and conduct a detailed literature review, identify knowledge gaps and one or more research issues on which to focus. These activities will be the subject of periodic reports, which will be discussed either individually or through internal seminars held every two months. Ph.D. candidates will be required to defend their research project and topic formulation before the Academic Board, for admission to the second year of the Programme.

SECOND YEAR

RESEARCH PROJECT AND SCIENTIFIC PAPER

Ph.D. candidates will further advance their research through reports, which will be discussed individually or in a seminar format every two months. By the end of the second year, Ph.D. candidates will have carried out: **an activity report, a research project, a draft of the first two chapters of the thesis, and a paper approved by an international peer-reviewed journal.** The paper should ideally address the topic of the candidate's thesis.

Ph.D. candidates will be required to defend their research project and paper before the Academic Board for admission to the third year of the Programme.

THIRD YEAR

COMPLETION OF THE PH.D. THESIS

Ph.D. candidates will carry out their research and complete their Ph.D. thesis. The candidate's progress will be evaluated through periodic meetings. By the end of their third year, **candidates must submit an activity report and a draft of their final thesis. The admission to the final examination will follow a procedure designed to ensure the high quality of the thesis and research.** The draft thesis will be evaluated by the candidate's supervisor and two external referees with expertise in the thesis topic, under a double-blind procedure (where the identity of both the referees and the candidate remains anonymous). The thesis must meet the standard of a publishable paper or book. Based on the evaluations of the supervisor and external referees, the Academic Board will decide whether to recommend that the candidate submits the thesis to the Examination Commission for the final defence.

06.

STUDY COURSE RESEARCH PROPOSAL

The purpose of the research proposal is to demonstrate your **knowledge of the field**, **identify research gaps**, and **propose suitable methods to address those gaps**. Preparing a doctoral research proposal for the International Ph.D. in Criminology requires careful consideration of various elements. Here are some suggestions to help you create a comprehensive and well-structured research proposal:

REVIEW THE STATE OF THE ART:

- Start by conducting a thorough **literature review** of the current scientific research in the field of criminology, specifically focusing on your area of interest.
- Identify key theories, concepts, and empirical studies that have contributed to the **understanding of the topic**.
- **Highlight** relevant **research gaps** or **unanswered questions** that you have identified during the literature review.

DEFINE THE RESEARCH PROBLEM AND QUESTIONS:

- Clearly **state the research problem** or issue you intend to address in your study.
- **Formulate research questions** that are specific, focused, and aligned with the research problem.
- Your **research questions** should be designed **to fill the identified research gaps** and contribute to the existing knowledge in the field.

SET OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY:

- Outline the **objectives of your research**, explaining what you aim to achieve with your study.
- Describe the **methodology** you intend to use to address your research questions and achieve your objectives.
- Clearly specify the **research design**, **data collection methods**, and **analysis techniques** you plan to employ.
- Justify the appropriateness of your **chosen methods** in relation to the research problem and questions.

STUDY COURSE

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

DISCUSS EXPECTED RESULTS AND POSSIBLE LIMITATIONS:

- Provide an **overview** of the expected outcomes of your research.
- Explain how your study will contribute to the field of criminology and address the identified research gaps.
- Acknowledge and discuss **potential limitations** or **challenges** that you may encounter during the research process.
- Demonstrate awareness of any constraints or ethical considerations relevant to your proposed research.

INCLUDE A REFERENCE LIST:

- Compile a comprehensive reference list of all the sources cited in your research proposal.
- Follow the appropriate referencing style such as APA, ASA, or Chicago.

GENERAL TIPS:

- Ensure that your research proposal is **well-organised, coherent**, and easy to follow.
- Use clear and **concise language** to convey your ideas.
- Seek **feedback** from your advisor or colleagues to improve the clarity and quality of your proposal.
- Pay attention to **formatting** and **presentation**, including headings, subheadings, and consistent citation style.

Tailor your proposal to align with the specific requirements and expectations of the International Ph.D. in Criminology Programme. You can get an idea of possible topics of interest from the publications and webpages of the members of the Academic Board, from previously completed Ph.D. dissertations available in the Docta Archive of the Università Cattolica and from the research projects conducted at Transcrime.

06.

FINAL DEFENCE

MEMBERS OF PREVIOUS COMMISSIONS

STUDY COURSE

The final defence will be held before a Commission composed of at least three professors from Italian and foreign universities, two of whom are not members of the Academic Board. The defence, public and entirely in English, will include the presentation of the candidate's research and results followed by questions from the commissioners. The Commission will award the title of Ph.D. in Criminology to candidates authoring innovative and high-quality studies at an international level.

- ▶ **Prof. Marcelo Aebi**
UNIL-Université de Lausanne
- ▶ **Prof. Ian Brunton-Smith**
University of Surrey
- ▶ **Prof. Paolo Campana**
University of Cambridge
- ▶ **Prof. Elizabeth David-Barrett**
University of Sussex
- ▶ **Prof. Aleksandras Dobryninas**
Vilnius University
- ▶ **Prof. Henk Elffers**
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
- ▶ **Prof. Corinna Elsenbroich**
University of Surrey
- ▶ **Prof. Joras Ferwerda**
University of Utrecht
- ▶ **Prof. Branislav Hock**
University of Portsmouth
- ▶ **Prof. Anita Lavorgna**
Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna
- ▶ **Prof. Michael Levi**
Cardiff University
- ▶ **Prof. Nicholas Lord**
University of Manchester
- ▶ **Prof. Letizia Paoli**
University of Leuven
- ▶ **Prof. Dina Siegel**
Universiteit Utrecht
- ▶ **Prof. Toine Spapens**
Tilburg University
- ▶ **Prof. Paul Stretesky**
Northumbria University
- ▶ **Prof. Tom Vander Beken**
Ghent University

07.

RESEARCH PERIOD ABROAD

Staying abroad is a crucial opportunity to enrich Ph.D. candidates' academic and scientific journey.

The period of research and study abroad is optional, except for different provisions due, for example, to the type of scholarship.

The period abroad lasts **from 3 to 6 months**, although shorter or longer periods may be considered for specific needs.

Candidates considering spending a period of study abroad should follow these **guidelines**.

DESTINATION SELECTION

The destination for the period abroad is identified by Ph.D. candidates in agreement with their supervisor and the course coordinator. Subsequently, **the destination is approved by the entire Academic Board**.

The choice of destination should be based on the research topic of the doctoral thesis. Candidates, therefore, select a hosting institution where professors or researchers conduct **research related to the doctoral student's area of interest**.

Candidates are encouraged to consider periods abroad during the **second and third years of the Ph.D.**, or in any case after the doctoral research is sufficiently defined.

RESEARCH AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

Research and training activities should be agreed upon with the professor or supervisor of the receiving institution and may include, for example, participation in research projects, seminars, conferences, lectures, presentations of the doctoral thesis to students and colleagues, work on publications, and development of the doctoral thesis.

Other training activities, not strictly related to academic purposes, provide an opportunity to establish relationships and **networks** with professors, doctoral students, and researchers from the hosting institution.

07.

RESEARCH PERIOD ABROAD

REQUEST AND APPROVAL

The request for a stay abroad is formulated in advance in agreement with the supervisor and the coordinator of the doctoral Programme. The request must be formalized by sending an email to the supervisor and the coordinator, containing a proposal for one or two possible destinations. This will allow the request to be included in the agenda of the Academic Board meeting.

The approval of the Academic Board is required to proceed with the planning of the stay and the formalisation of bureaucratic issues.

TIMING AND BUREAUCRATIC ASPECTS

Planning ahead is important, especially for destinations that require visas or involve complex bureaucratic procedures.

Ph.D. candidates are responsible for ensuring that all necessary information and documents for the stay abroad are provided in accordance with the local laws and regulations of the hosting institution.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

ACADEMIA

- ▶ **Alberto Aziani**
Associate Professor, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca (Italy)
- ▶ **Giulia Berlusconi**
Lecturer in Criminology, University of Surrey (United Kingdom)
- ▶ **Francesco Calderoni**
Full Professor, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano (Italy)
- ▶ **Gian Maria Campedelli**
Assistant Professor, Università degli Studi di Trento (Italy)
- ▶ **Stefano Caneppele**
Full Professor, UNIL-Université de Lausanne (Switzerland)
- ▶ **Stefania Crocitti**
Associate Professor, Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna (Italy)
- ▶ **Serena Favarin**
Associate Professor, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano (Italy)
- ▶ **Valeria Ferraris**
Associate Professor, Università degli Studi di Torino (Italy)
- ▶ **Thomas Joyce**
Assistant Professor, Tilburg Law School - Tilburg University (the Netherlands)
- ▶ **Ester Massa**
Senior Lecturer, University of Winchester (United Kingdom)
- ▶ **Cecilia Meneghini**
Lecturer in Quantitative Criminology, University of Exeter (United Kingdom)
- ▶ **Fiamma Terenghi**
Lecturer, University of Manchester (United Kingdom)

PUBLIC SECTOR

- ▶ **Eva Lo Iacono**
Executive officer, Sicily Region (Italy)
- ▶ **Daniela Andreatta**
Security Specialist, Provincia Autonoma di Trento (Italy)

08.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

RESEARCH

- ▶ **Serena Bressan**
Senior Project Manager and Proposal Writer , Fondazione Bruno Kessler - FBK (Italy)
- ▶ **Marina Mancuso**
Researcher, Transcrime - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Italy)
- ▶ **Deborah Manzi**
Researcher, Transcrime - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Italy)
- ▶ **Caterina Paternoster**
Researcher, Università Bocconi (Italy)

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

- ▶ **Federica Curtol**
Head of Operations, Eurojust (the Netherlands)
- ▶ **Nicole Maric**
Crime Prevention Expert, UNODC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Austria)
- ▶ **Irene Pavesi**
Senior Officer of Human Rights Research & Policy, Artistic Freedom Initiative (United States)
- ▶ **Fabrizio Sarrica**
Research Coordinator, UNODC – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Austria)

PRIVATE SECTOR

- ▶ **Tommaso Comunale**
Security & Loss Prevention Manager, Amazon (Italy)
- ▶ **Maria Karayotova**
Senior Consultant, PMG Analytics (Bulgaria)
- ▶ **Sara Martocchia**
Partner, PwC (Italy)
- ▶ **Cristina Soriani**
Cyber Security Senior Manager, KPMG UK (United Kingdom)
- ▶ **Priscilla Standridge**
Director, Omni-Channel CX Research, Comcast (United States)

**MATTEO
ANASTASIO**

AML Officer,
Anti-Money Laundering
Authority - AMLA
(Frankfurt)

**THOMAS
JOYCE**

Assistant Professor,
Tilburg Law School -
Tilburg University
(the Netherlands)

**GIAN MARIA
CAMPEDELLI**

Research Scientist,
Fondazione Bruno Kessler -
FBK (Italy)

**MARTINA
MARCHESI**

Associate Publisher -
Springer Nature Group
(Italy)

WHAT OUR GRADUATES SAY

// During my Ph.D. at Transcrime, I was part of a stimulating research community where daily interaction with colleagues created synergies between my individual work and the centre's broader projects. Additionally, I strengthened my empirical research methods and engaged with an international network of scholars through the presentation of my findings at several international conferences.

//

// My Ph.D. experience was an especially fruitful one, from developing an original research thesis on darknet drug dealing, to managing European level project proposals on range of topics, I was lucky enough to be exposed to a variety of activities for expanding my capacities as a criminologist.

//

// The Ph.D. in Criminology allowed me to foster my scientific curiosity, and it helped me significantly in my professional growth. The collaboration in international projects, the participation in teaching activities and the continuous exchange of ideas with peers and senior researchers, all testify to the many opportunities that this experience offered me.

//

// The International Ph.D. in Criminology gave me the opportunity to learn an effective working method and to develop my organisational and management skills thanks to the involvement in several national and international projects.

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10.

INFORMAL PRE-APPLICATION

ADMISSION

It is possible to participate in an **informal pre-application procedure** by sending an email to the Coordinator of the Ph.D. (Prof. Francesco Calderoni, francesco.calderoni@unicatt.it) and attaching an English CV. Afterwards, the candidate **may be invited to submit a research proposal in English** and to participate in a **phone or Microsoft Teams interview** to discuss the proposal.

The candidate will receive an evaluation from the Coordinator with **two possible results**:

- a) **positive assessment**, exempting the candidate from submitting a research proposal and participating in the interview after the publication of the call for applications. The candidate will formalise his/her application, after the publication of the call, by sending the documentation requested at the following link: <https://dottorati.unicatt.it/candidarsi/i-bandi.html>
- b) **negative assessment**, allowing to submit a formal application after having substantially revised the research proposal during the formal application period.

The informal pre-application procedure is available throughout the year, except during the period immediately before the publication of the official call for applications and until the deadline for applications expires.

Undergraduate students who are due to graduate by 31 October 2026 are eligible to apply. The **official call for applications of the XLII Cycle** (in English and Italian) has been published on the Ph.D. office webpage. It contains detailed instructions to submit the application via the dedicated form.

Visit: <https://dottorati.unicatt.it/candidarsi/i-bandi.html>

The deadline for applications is 23 June 2026. The selection is usually completed by the end of September.

Each candidate must submit a **research proposal in English** for their Ph.D. thesis. The proposal should be divided into the following sections:

- review of the state-of-the-art
- research problem and questions
- objectives and methodology
- expected results and possible limitations
- reference list

The research proposal must not exceed 20,000 characters (bibliography included).

FORMAL APPLICATION

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

10.

THE EVALUATION

ADMISSION

The **evaluation for admission to the Ph.D.** is based on the following criteria (also for candidates with a positive assessment in the pre-application procedure):

- a) **curriculum vitae and other titles**
- b) **research proposal**
- c) **phone or video (e.g. via Microsoft Teams) interview**

The assessment is based on a 0 to **70-point scale** according to the following criteria:

- Points **a)** and **b)** can be scored between **0 and 20 points each**. Only candidates with a total score of at least 30 points will be admitted to the interview.

The results of the assessment of points a) and b) will be communicated to the candidate by email (or [here](#)) along with the possible interview invitation within 20 days from the expiry of the call for applications.

- Point **c)** can be scored between **0 and 30 points**. The interview will be conducted in English and will aim at discussing the candidate's motivation and research proposal, as well as answering any questions the candidate may have. Only candidates receiving **at least 20 points** may be admitted to the Ph.D.

The final ranking is determined by the sum of the scores achieved in points a), b), and c). Candidates will be admitted according to the ranking, up to the number of available positions.

ALL YEAR LONG



Informal pre-application

JUNE



The deadline for applications for the XLII Cycle is 23 June 2026. Check the full procedure in the call for applications:
<https://dottorati.unicatt.it/candidarsi/i-bandi.html>

SEPTEMBER



Result of CV and research evaluation, online interviews, and official ranking

10.

ADMISSION

SCHOLARSHIPS

According to the Italian Ministry of Education, the base-level scholarship amount is €16,243.00 gross per year. Ph.D. scholarships are tax-exempt but require the payment of social security contributions.

In recognition of the candidate's cooperation with Transcrime's activities, **First-year candidates** may receive an additional annual scholarship of up to about **€5,450 gross**. **Second and third-year candidates** may receive an additional yearly scholarship of about **€7,700 gross**. The additional scholarship will be awarded for each month of collaboration with Transcrime. This additional fee will be recalculated if the base-level scholarship, established in accordance with the law, is updated.

The base-level scholarship is increased by 50% for stays abroad. As of the first year, candidates will have a research expenses budget amounting to 10% of the gross annual base-level scholarship.

To promote the **international scope of the Ph.D.**, the admitted candidates with a Master's Degree from a foreign university and residing abroad may be reimbursed up to € 5,000 for documented travel and lodging expenses incurred during the first year of the Ph.D. due to their moving to Milan.

ADMISSION FEES

Every year, the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore sets the annual amount of the tuition **fees**.

For the XLII Cycle of the International Ph.D. in Criminology, Ph.D. candidates will be required to pay a tuition fee amounting to about € 836 per year, to be paid in two instalments.

11.

CONTACTS

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www.x.com/transcrime



www.linkedin.com/company/transcrime