

Admission requirements for PhD study tracks in the Department of Criminology

The Department of Criminology has three graduate study tracks: the standard track, the direct track, and the combined track. Admission requirements and special procedures for each track will be detailed below. All tracks are open to candidates with a prior degree in criminology. Students without a prior degree in criminology will be considered in the framework of "exceptional cases" (described below), and will be required to complete pre-requisite courses, as detailed below. In all tracks, only academic staff with the rank of Senior Lecturer or higher (standard track) from the permanent faculty of the department can serve as a doctoral advisor. Any deviation from this rule will be at the discretion of the head of the Departmental Committee for Advanced Studies (hereinafter: the Committee). In addition to the already noted faculty members, it will be possible to approve an additional advisor as long as they meet one of the following conditions: a retiree of the department who was a faculty member at the rank of Senior Lecturer or higher at the time of their retirement; a permanent faculty member at the rank of Lecturer or higher from the Department of Criminology or from another department at Bar-Ilan University or from another university in Israel; a retiree of another department (or other university) who at the time of their retirement was a permanent faculty member at the rank of Senior Lecturer and above. An additional advisor approval who is not a member of the department's permanent faculty will be subject to the approval of the Committee for Advanced Studies.

The standard Track of the PhD studies

The standard track for graduate studies will be open to students with a Master's degree in criminology from Bar-Ilan University or from a similar institution in Israel or abroad recognized by the Council for Higher Education, whose grade average in the Master's degree is at least 86 (or its closest equivalency) and who has written a thesis which scored at least an 86, or its closest equivalency.

Eligible candidates who wish to register for graduate studies will submit the following documents to the department's administrative staff:

1. A complete transcript of the Bachelor's and Master's degrees in which the thesis grade also appears;
2. The candidate's resume;
3. A cover letter on behalf of the candidate. The letter should include: a justification for applying and admission to the track, a brief description of the subject proposed for the doctoral research, names of the advisor/s.

4. Letter of approval from the potential advisor/s, containing a review regarding the candidate's suitability for the standard doctoral track. This letter will be forwarded directly to the administrative staff by the advisor and not by the candidate;
5. Letters of recommendations from two additional lecturers who are familiar with the candidate's academic ability. The recommendations will be submitted directly by the recommenders through the form: "Recommendation form for candidates for the graduate studies" (located in the Forms tab on the department's website);
6. Advantage: Scientific publication, or significant research experience.

A candidate who has met all of the above requirements and who has been accepted by the committee of the Standard Track will be given the status of "a non full-time student." The student must meet the following requirements during the first two years of their studies in the ordinary track:

1. Will be in close contact with their advisor in regards to everything related to their studies and the preparation of a research plan. The student will report to the advisor on their progress and any potential issues that may arise in connection with the research proposal;
2. Submit a detailed research proposal for the doctoral dissertation in accordance with the guidelines of the University's PhD Committee.

The student will be accepted as a full-time student if they has complied with all the above requirements, and the research proposal and the advisor have been approved by the University's PhD Committee. All obligations applicable to a graduate student will apply to the student.

The Direct Track of the PhD studies

The direct doctoral track takes place within the framework of the "Criminology" program for the Master's degree of the Department of Criminology, and is intended for outstanding graduates of a Bachelor's degree in criminology, who are interested in continuing into doctoral studies, and who the Department of Criminology considers as possible candidates for graduate studies. The direct route to the doctorate will be available to a candidate who meets the following conditions:



1. The main subject in the candidate's undergraduate studies is criminology;
2. The candidate completed their undergraduate degree within the past two years;
3. The average grade of their undergraduate degree is 90 and higher. The average grade in their criminology studies is also 90 or higher;
4. A cover letter on behalf of the candidate. In the letter, the student will explain their application for admission to the direct route for the doctorate, where they will briefly describe the proposed topic for the doctoral research, while indicating the names of the advisor/s;
5. Letter of approval from a potential advisor, with a review regarding the candidate's suitability for applying to the direct route for a doctorate. This letter will be forwarded directly to the administrative staff by the advisor and not through the student;
6. Letters of recommendations from two additional lecturers who are familiar with the candidate's academic ability to apply to the direct route for a doctorate. The recommendations will be submitted directly by the recommenders through the form: "Recommendation form for candidates for the graduate studies" (located in the Forms tab on the department's website);
7. Advantage: Scientific publication, or significant research experience.

A candidate who has fulfilled all the above requirements and has been accepted by the direct track committee will be given the status of "non full-time student". They must meet the following requirements during the first two years of their studies in the direct track:

1. Complete all course obligations in the "Criminology" program of the Department of Criminology (12 hrs.), and write two seminar papers;
2. Will achieve an average of at least 90 in all their studies.
3. Will be in close contact with their advisor in regards to everything related to their studies and the preparation of a research plan. The student will report to the advisor on their progress and any potential issues that may arise in connection with the research proposal;
4. Submit a detailed research proposal for the doctoral dissertation in accordance with the guidelines of the University's PhD Committee.

The student will be accepted as a full-time student if they has complied with all the above requirements, and the research proposal and the advisor have been approved by the University's PhD Committee. All obligations applicable to a graduate student will apply to the student.



A student who does not meet the conditions will not be allowed to register as a graduate student, but will be able to apply for permission to continue their studies towards a Master's degree in the "Criminology" or "Theoretical Criminology" program of the Department of Criminology. If accepted they will be to request that their studies be recognized as fulfilling part of the requirements for a Master's degree.

The Combined Track

The University and the Department of Criminology enables outstanding students to apply for the combined track for a doctorate. Master's students in the "Clinical Criminology", "Rehabilitation Criminology" and "Criminology Program", interested in applying for this track will undergo an internal admission procedure of the department at the end of the first year of their Master's study.

The combined track will be available to students for whom the following conditions will be met:

1. Excellence in their undergraduate studies (an average of 90 or higher);
2. Excellence in the first year of study for their Master's degree (an average of 90 or higher);
3. A recommendation from the head of the program;
4. Approval and recommendation of the doctoral advisor;
5. In addition to academic excellence, excellence in methodological courses relevant to the student's doctoral research method will also be taken into account (qualitative or quantitative).

Admissions to the combined track will be submitted by the student to the head of the committee through the department administration staff, and it will include the the following documents:

1. A cover letter on behalf of the candidate. In the letter, the student will explain their application for admission to the combined route for the doctorate, where they will briefly describe the proposed topic for the doctoral research, while indicating the names of the advisor/s;
2. The candidate's resume;
3. A copy of the Bachelor degree's transcript;
4. A copy of the transcript of the first year of Master's studies;



5. A copy of a research seminar paper written by the candidate during their Bachelor or Master studies;
6. A written review on behalf of the head of the program. The review will be forwarded directly to the department's administration staff, and not through the student;
7. Letter of recommendation from the advisor.

The head of the committee will examine the student's candidacy, and if they find it appropriate, the case will be referred to the committee for further discussion and approval. The committee will discuss the student's candidacy for the combined track and will decide on their admission to the track. The decision of the committee shall be based on: (A) relevant documents in the candidate's file; (B) a personal interview with the candidate.

Clarification: Admission of a candidate for the combined track at the end of the first school year will be conditional on the student's final grade point average (at the end of the second year of their studies) being over 90. The departmental committee for the PhD Committee degree can retroactively cancel the admission of a candidate not meeting this condition.

Applicants for a PhD - exceptional cases

1. A candidate with a Master's degree without a thesis, or a candidate with a Master's degree with a thesis with a grade lower than 86 who majored in criminology or in a related discipline, and is interested in studying for a PhD in criminology, will need to complete an additional Master's degree in criminology, in the Department of Criminology's program for a Master's degree, and complete a thesis within this framework. The student will have less yearly academic hours to complete for the degree, in accordance with the decision of the head of the program, and will be able to submit their candidacy for a PhD degree subject to the conditions of the standard or combined tracks specified above. In cases where the head of the program believes that the candidate meets the conditions for admission to the combined track as specified above, as part of their Master's degree studies at another institution, the candidate will be able to apply for admission to the combined doctoral track immediately after acceptance to the Criminology program (instead of waiting for the end of the first year of their Master's degree in the Criminology program).
2. A candidate who completed a Bachelor's degree in criminology with a grade point average of 86 or higher, and completed a Master's degree with a thesis in a similar major with a thesis grade point average of 86 and above, and who wants to apply to the Department of



Criminology to do their PhD studies at the department, will be able to do so without completing any pre-requisite courses.

3. A candidate who completed a Bachelor's degree in criminology with an average grade lower than 86 and completed a Master's degree with a thesis in a similar major with an average grade and thesis grade of 86 or higher, will be required to complete pre-requisite courses in which they will have to obtain an average grade of 86 and higher. These pre-requisite courses will be determined by the head of the committee from the Master's degree studies in the department and will be in the scope of up to 6 hours per year.
4. A suitable candidate (with a Master's degree with a thesis) who does not have a degree in criminology, but has an appropriate methodological education for PhD studies, will have to complete pre-requisite courses of around 8-14 hours per year, in accordance to the discretion of the head of the committee. The following is a list of the pre-requisite courses: Theories in Criminology, Theory of Penology 1, Theory of Penology 2, Penal Law, Exceptions for criminal liability, Victimology, Social deviations, Aggression and violence, Juvenile delinquency, and tutoring (guided research). It is incumbent upon the student to achieve in these courses an average grade of 86 and above.