

Admission requirements for PhD study tracks in the Department of Criminology

The Department of Criminology offers three doctoral study tracks: the regular track, the direct track, and the integrated track. The admission requirements and special regulations for each track are detailed below. All tracks are open to candidates who hold a prior degree in criminology. Applicants without a prior degree in criminology will be considered under “exceptional cases” (as described below) and will be required to complete prerequisite courses as specified.

In all tracks, only permanent faculty members of the department holding the rank of Senior Lecturer or above may serve as doctoral supervisors (regular track). Any exception to this rule shall be subject to the discretion of the Head of the Departmental Committee for Advanced Studies (hereinafter: the Committee). In addition to the faculty members noted above, an additional supervisor may be approved if they meet one of the following criteria: a retired member of the department who, at the time of retirement, held the rank of Senior Lecturer or above; a permanent faculty member holding the rank of Lecturer or above from the Department of Criminology or from another department at Bar-Ilan University, or from another university in Israel; or a retiree of another department (or another university) who, at the time of retirement, held the rank of Senior Lecturer or above. Approval of an additional supervisor who is not a permanent faculty member of the department shall be subject to the approval of the Committee and the School of Graduate Studies.

The standard Track of the PhD studies

The regular doctoral track is open to students who hold a Master's degree in Criminology from Bar-Ilan University or from an equivalent institution in Israel or abroad recognized by the Council for Higher Education, whose grade point average in the Master's degree is at least 86 (or equivalent), and who have written a thesis that also received a grade of at least 86 (or equivalent).

Eligible candidates who wish to apply for doctoral studies are required to submit the following documents to the department secretariat:

1. A complete academic transcript for both the Bachelor's and Master's degrees, including the grade of the Master's thesis;
2. The candidate's curriculum vitae;
3. A cover letter from the candidate. The letter should include: justification for applying to the track, a brief description of the proposed doctoral research topic, and the name(s) of the proposed supervisor(s);
4. A letter of consent from the prospective supervisor(s), including an evaluation of the candidate's suitability for the regular doctoral track. This letter must be sent directly to the secretariat by the supervisor and not through the candidate;
5. Letters of recommendation from two additional faculty members who are familiar with the candidate's academic abilities. The recommendations must be submitted by the referees using the “Recommendation Form for Doctoral Applicants” (available under the Forms tab on the department website). The form must be sent directly by the referee to the secretariat and not through the candidate;

6. If possible: a scientific publication or significant research experience (prior publications serve as an advantage).

The Departmental Committee for Graduate Studies will review the candidate's application file. If the Committee recommends acceptance of the application, the candidate will be permitted to complete formal registration for the degree.

A candidate who has met all the above requirements and has been accepted by the Committee to the regular track will be granted the status of "non-registered student." During the first two years of study in the regular track, the student must meet the following requirements:

1. Maintain close contact with the supervisor regarding studies and the preparation of the research proposal. The student will report to the supervisor on progress and on any issues that arise in connection with the research proposal;
2. Submit a detailed doctoral research proposal in accordance with the guidelines of the University Doctoral Committee.

The student will be admitted as a registered doctoral student upon fulfillment of all the above requirements and once the research proposal and the supervisor have been approved by the University Doctoral Committee. From that point onward, the student will be subject to all obligations applicable to doctoral students.

The Direct Track of the PhD studies

The direct doctoral track is conducted within the Department of Criminology's Master's program in "Criminology" and is intended for outstanding graduates of a Bachelor's degree in Criminology who wish to continue directly toward doctoral studies, and whom the Department of Criminology considers potential candidates for doctoral studies.

The direct doctoral track is open to candidates who meet the following conditions:

1. The candidate's major in undergraduate studies is Criminology;
2. No more than two years have passed since the candidate completed the Bachelor's degree;
3. The candidate's overall undergraduate grade point average is 90 or higher, and the grade point average in criminology courses is also 90 or higher;
4. A cover letter from the candidate, in which the applicant explains the reasons for applying to the direct doctoral track, briefly describes the proposed doctoral research topic, and specifies the name(s) of the proposed supervisor(s);
5. A letter of consent from a prospective supervisor, including an evaluation of the candidate's suitability for the direct doctoral track. This letter must be sent directly to the secretariat by the supervisor and not through the student;
6. Letters of recommendation from two additional faculty members, specifically addressing the candidate's suitability for the direct doctoral track. These recommendations must also be submitted directly to the secretariat by the referees and not through the student; the recommendations must be submitted using the "Recommendation Form for Doctoral Applicants" (available under the Forms tab on the department website);
7. Previous scientific publication(s) or significant research experience is an advantage.

The Departmental Committee for Graduate Studies will review the candidate's application file. If the Committee recommends acceptance of the application, the candidate will be permitted to complete formal registration for the degree.

A candidate who has fulfilled all the above requirements and has been accepted by the Committee to the direct track will be granted the status of a "non-registered student." During the first two years of study in the direct track, the student must meet the following requirements:

1. Complete all coursework requirements in the Department of Criminology's "Criminology" program (12 annual credit hours) and, within this framework, write two seminar papers;
2. Achieve a grade point average of at least 90 in all studies;
3. Maintain close contact with the supervisor regarding studies and the preparation of the research plan. The student will report to the supervisor on progress and on any issues that arise in connection with the research proposal;
4. Submit a detailed doctoral research plan in accordance with the guidelines of the University Doctoral Committee.

The candidate will be admitted as a registered doctoral student upon fulfillment of all the above requirements and once the research plan and the supervisor have been approved by the University Doctoral Committee. Students in the direct track are subject to all obligations applicable to doctoral students.

A student who does not meet these conditions will not be permitted to register as a doctoral student, but may request permission to continue studies toward a Master's degree within the Department of Criminology's "Criminology" program. If admitted, the student may request that studies completed within the framework of the direct doctoral track be recognized as fulfilling part of the requirements for the Master's degree.

The Combined Track

The University and the Department of Criminology enable outstanding students to apply for admission to the combined doctoral track. A Master's student in the "Clinical Criminology" program or the "Criminology" program who wishes to apply to this track will undergo an internal departmental admissions process at the end of the first year of their Master's studies.

The combined track is open to students who meet the following conditions:

1. Excellence in undergraduate studies (grade point average of 90 or higher);
2. Excellence in the first year of Master's studies (grade point average of 90 or higher);
3. A recommendation from the Program Head;
4. Consent and recommendation from the doctoral supervisor;
5. In addition to academic excellence, demonstrated success in methodological courses relevant to the research approach (qualitative or quantitative) that the student intends to use in the doctoral research will also be taken into consideration.

The application for admission to the integrated track shall be submitted by the student to the Head of the Committee through the department secretariat and shall include the following documents:

1. A cover letter from the candidate, explaining the reasons for applying to the integrated doctoral track, briefly describing the proposed doctoral research topic, and specifying the name(s) of the proposed supervisor(s);
2. Curriculum vitae;
3. A copy of the undergraduate academic transcript;
4. A copy of the academic transcript from the first year of Master's studies;
5. A copy of a research-based seminar paper written by the candidate during undergraduate or Master's studies;
6. A written evaluation from the Program Head. This evaluation must be sent directly to the department secretariat and not through the student;
7. A letter of recommendation from the supervisor. This recommendation must be sent directly to the department secretariat and not through the student.

The Head of the Committee will review the student's application and, if it is deemed suitable, the file will be forwarded to the Committee for discussion and decision.

The Committee will review the student's candidacy for the integrated track and decide on admission to the track. The Committee's decision will be based on: (a) the documents included in the candidate's file; and (b) a personal interview with the candidate.

Clarification: Admission of a candidate to the combined track at the end of the first year of study is conditional upon the student's final grade point average (at the end of the second year of studies) being above 90. The Departmental Doctoral Committee may retroactively revoke the admission of a candidate who does not meet this condition.

Applicants for a PhD - exceptional cases

1. A candidate who holds a Master's degree without a thesis, or a candidate who holds a Master's degree with a thesis graded below 86, and who specialized in criminology or in a related field and wishes to pursue a doctoral degree in criminology, will be required to complete an additional Master's degree within the Master's program in Criminology, including the writing of a thesis. The student will be required to complete a reduced number of credit hours for the degree, in accordance with the decision of the Program Head, and may apply for admission to doctoral studies subject to meeting the conditions of the regular or integrated track detailed above.

In cases where the Program Head determines that such a candidate meets the admission requirements for the combined track as detailed above, based on the candidate's Master's studies at the other institution, the candidate may submit an application for admission to the integrated doctoral track immediately upon acceptance to the Criminology Master's program (instead of waiting until the end of the first year of Master's studies in the Criminology program).

2. A candidate who completed a Bachelor's degree in Criminology with a grade point average of 86 or higher, completed a Master's degree with a thesis in another related field with both



the thesis grade and the overall grade point average being 86 or higher, and who seeks to return to the Department of Criminology for doctoral studies, may do so without being required to complete prerequisite coursework.

3. A candidate who completed a Bachelor's degree in Criminology with a grade point average below 86, and completed a Master's degree with a thesis in another related field with both the overall grade point average and the thesis grade being 86 or higher, will be required to complete prerequisite courses in which the student must achieve a grade point average of 86 or higher. The prerequisite courses will be determined by the Head of the Committee from among the Master's-level courses offered by the department and will total up to 6 annual credit hours.
4. A suitable candidate (holding a Master's degree with a thesis) who does not hold any degree in Criminology, but who has appropriate methodological training, will be required to complete between 8 and 14 annual credit hours of prerequisite coursework, at the discretion and by decision of the Head of the Committee. The prerequisite courses include: Theories of Criminology; Theories of Punishment I; Theories of Punishment II; Criminal Law; Defenses to Criminal Liability; Victimology; Social Deviance; Juvenile Delinquency; and Tutoring (Supervision). The student must achieve a grade point average of 86 or higher in these studies.