



**Faculty of Law**  
Department of Criminal Law  
Department of Public Law



**University of Tirana**



**Faculty of Social Sciences**

# EXECUTIVE MASTER IN CRIMINOLOGY

**Informative Brochure**



The Executive Master in Criminology is designed to improve the research capacity of the country's criminal justice professionals, academics and policymakers in preventing and combating crime, as well as responding to the needs of crime victims, in line with the standards of Human Rights.

**Programme duration:**

24 months (4 semesters), 120 credits

**Form of study:**

Full time

**Language of study:**

Albanian, English

**Admission criteria:**

- Master of Science Degree, or equivalent;
- Degree completed in Law or Social Sciences, or professional experience with expertise in the field of criminology;
- Knowledge of one of the five foreign languages of the European Union: English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, certified through internationally recognized tests.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The Executive Master in Criminology will help create a team of professionals to apply the most advanced methods of crime studies, to explain crime as well as to design and implement effective criminal policies.

The programme reflects a multidisciplinary perspective on the academic qualification of criminology professionals and experts in the field of law, psychology, investigation, sociology, and others, in all state structures engaged in the fight against crime. Increasing the professional capacity of human resources of institutions such as the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Courts, Prosecution, institutions responsible for reintegration of victims of crime, probation service, authorities responsible for the protection of juveniles, as well as any law enforcement institution, regarding the prevention and fight against crime.

This Master is tailored to serve students who have expertise and/or are engaged in the design and implementation of criminal policies for crime prevention and those who want to pursue a career in law in the field of criminology, in order to increase their skills in preventing and combating crime.

Executive Master in Criminology:Law 80/2015, dated 22.07.2015 “On higher education and scientific research in HEIs in the Republic of Albania”, in article 77 point 2 is stated “the study programs “Executive Master” provide education of a high scientific and professional level. They have a normal duration of one or two academic years and are organized with 60 or 120 credits respectively. They are concluded with a diploma thesis and at the end of them a “Executive Master” diploma is issued in the completed field of education”.

## **PERSONAL COMPETENCES**

The program aims to complement the knowledge and competencies of all graduates and professionals in Criminology, as a modern multidisciplinary science of a cross-sectoral nature.

The Executive Master in Criminology offers a high level of scientific and professional education by:

- (a) developing in-depth theoretical and practical knowledge, as well as the use of research methods in the field of Criminology;
- (b) deepening the advanced knowledge on criminology, investigation, law, psychology, sociology, etc;
- (c) empowering students in recognizing and solving technical and legal problems posed by crime and the occurrence of crime by promoting research and innovative ideas;
- (d) strengthening critical thinking skills and strategic development to build a career in the field of criminology.

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

The sectors in which graduates of this master can be employed are numerous. Graduates can be engaged in the position of specialist, analyst, trainer, consultant, programmer, head of the institution and others, in institutions such as:

- a)** Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior;
- b)** Local government bodies;
- c)** Local referral mechanisms;
- d)** Sector of social services in self-government bodies;
- e)** State Police;
- f)** Prison system;
- g)** Probation service;
- h)** Social services in criminal justice;
- i)** Justice system institutions, such as General Prosecution Office, Courts;
- j)** National and international organizations;
- k)** Academic and scientific research institutions.

### **1 Criminological theories**

This course focuses on the study of criminological theories and aims to introduce students with contemporary research and current discussions on theories of crime and deviance. During this course, the students will study (i) theories that emphasize individual factors in explaining crime through biological and psychological theories, (ii) economic theories of rational choice, (iii) sociological theories that emphasize the importance of group factors to explain crime, including theories of differentiated association, subcultural affiliation, labelling, demography, anomie, and (iv) theories of conflict. The last part of the case study refers to the role of theories in drafting criminal policies. At the end of the course, the student will know the basic concepts of criminology by referring to the main theories.

### **2 Contemporary legal systems of criminal justice**

The course aims to analyze the criminal justice systems of different countries in relation to their role in the fight and prevention of crime from the perspective of international cooperation. The methodology of this module will be comparative, by identifying the positive and negative sides of each system, the Albanian, German, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, Swiss, Russian, Chinese, Japanese one, etc. The basic concepts addressed in this course are the legal system, crime prevention, systems comparison and criminal justice.

### **3 Victimology**

Victimology aims to provide knowledge about victims of crime, the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, victim studies, the level of victimization, criminogenic factors that affect the level of victimization and the prevention of victimization in

society. This module addresses international, European and national standards related to the rights of victims, their treatment in the criminal justice system and abroad. The course provides the student with in-depth scientific knowledge in the field of study and comparison of crime from the perspective of victims, with theoretical and practical views and provision of treatment of victims in the criminal justice system, in accordance with the best interest for the victim. The module enables students with judging skills based on the normalization of the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator.

## **4 Research Methods in Criminology**

In the first part, the course will deal with the explanation of qualitative and quantitative research methods. This part of the module will cover all phases of research in the field of criminology, from project planning and design, to data collecting and reporting. The second part of this module will address the applied study in criminology and work with official statistics (meta-analysis). In this section, students will be informed about the difference between general research and research for a specific applicable case, which in the context of this program is related to crime. The aim of this course is to acquaint students with criminology research methods, to answer how a research project can be constructed, where and how data is collected, how official sources and statistics are interpreted, why official sources are important and statistics, and how research affects professional practice.

## **5 Scientific Methodologies in Investigation**

This course aims to look at investigative methods under a new dimension and enable an in-depth analysis of managerial principles and concepts. It also provides students with specialised knowledge of investigative techniques, tactics and methodologies to determine their place and role in the procedural system, their use in severe events, and the identification, profiling and detection of perpetrators of criminal offenses. The treatment of topics in the auditorium and

teaching practices will consist in creating the vision that in any case, when in a crime scene the students should aim at the rapid discovery of material evidence, interrogating the witnesses of the event, as well as creating conditions for a comprehensive investigation and increasing the effectiveness of investigative actions.

## **6 Organized Crime and Trafficking**

This course will analyze organized crime and trafficking, including theoretical concepts of the organization and criminal activity, the most used structures and modus operandi, skills, reasons and impact of the organized crime connections with the state and private institutions in the society. The course will also address practical cases through case studies on Albanian organized crime, the Balkan mafia and some of the international organizations with ‘migratory’ reach and capabilities. The most typical forms of trafficking in Albania will be studied in detail, such as drug trafficking, weapons trafficking, as well as human trafficking and migrant smuggling. The course will provide students with knowledge about criminal policies against organized crime, including the importance of civil society involvement and cooperation with law enforcement agencies.

## **7 Criminal policies in criminology**

This course studies criminal policy at global, European and national level, regarding the external and internal orientations of criminal policy for preventing and addressing factors that affect specific forms of today’s crime. This module will address issues such as policy process, theoretical orientations, regulatory elements such as policy tools and policy typologies, normative aspects and empirical issues of public policy, the role of information and values in the policy process, etc. The course provides an approach to the study of creation, implementation and evaluation of criminal justice policies. There will be analyzed international and European standards of design and implementation and monitoring of criminal policy for the prevention



and combating of criminal offenses. Including: organized crime, biomedicine, modern slavery, urban crimes, hate crimes, cybercrime, radicalism and extremism, gender-based violence as criminal offenses, which pose security threats at the national and global level, as well as criminal policies for the treatment of specific groups such as women, juveniles, minorities, foreigners, migrants as perpetrators/ or victims of crime.

# 8

## Elective course I

### a. Ethics, corruption, media

The course will study ethical standards of the activity of justice bodies and the importance of communication with the public as a mechanism of accountability and transparency. It will cover the principles of important acts of international law related to the standards of performance of duties by the judiciary, as well as those of communication with the public, including the jurisprudence of the Court of Human Rights. The course provides an in-depth review of the ethical principles of bodies in the justice sector, their importance for increasing public confidence in domestic and international regulation, with a special focus on ethical decision-making dilemmas faced by law enforcement and criminal justice professionals. The program will analyze in particular the forms of corruption in the justice system and respectively the relevant ethical and legal burden. A special focus is dedicated to the best practices of anti-corruption by the institutions, through the implementation of codes of ethics and anti-corruption policies undertaken by the executive. The course also examines the relationship between crime, criminal justice, human rights and media, with a focus on reflections on the role of the media in the fight against corruption and its role in shaping public opinion, while respecting fundamental human rights and freedoms.

### b. Juvenile delinquency

This course will address juvenile delinquency from different psychological, sociological and physiological perspectives. Special

attention is paid to the role that sociological variables and socializing factors, such as: family, school, peers, and others play in the promotion or prevention of crime. The course provides opportunities to analyze and evaluate juvenile justice policies and rehabilitation programs. It is organized in several sections, such as the nature and spread of juvenile delinquency, crime theories, and causes of juvenile delinquency, control and prevention. Students will be trained to determine juvenile delinquency from a sociological and legal perspective, as well as will create a picture of it in our country. They will be given the opportunity to investigate trends and assess their prevalence, apply crime theories to empirical juvenile delinquency research by analyzing the role that socializing factors, culture, diversity, stratification, and social inequalities play in criminal behaviour. The students will also analyze the causes of juvenile involvement in criminal behavior to recognize the historical developments of the juvenile justice legal framework and to evaluate the efficiency of its implementation and the achieved results.

### **c. Organization and functioning of institutions in the justice system**

This course analyzes the institutional organization in the criminal justice system and the interaction between them. It aims to analyze all the institutions, such as police, courts and correctional institutions. Students will explore how these institutions harmonize public safety and community interests with individual rights. They will review decision-making in these bodies and analyze how their decisions affect society and individuals. The course provides basic knowledge of the sources of law for institutions in the justice system, the main constitutional principles of organization and function of the state, public administration and of the bodies created to guarantee criminal justice, jurisdiction and competencies. General knowledge regarding bodies operating in the justice system and their administrative procedure, structure and organizational chart, status of employees, as well as control of the activity of these institutions.

#### **d. Gender and Crime**

In this course are explored sociological cuts between gender and crime. Issues that will be studied include gender differences in crime, theoretical explanations for deviance and crime, attacks on women and girls, social construct of crime, women and girls as victims of domestic violence and crime, sexualization and criminalization of the female body, female experiences in prison and in the criminal justice system. This course will explore the theory of criminology related to gender and will analyse how gender inequality affects the typology of crimes, domestic violence, rape, crimes against women and men. The aim of this course is to acquaint students with sociological theories related to gender, crime and justice, at three levels: (i) Macro, (ii) Medium and (iii) Micro.

## **9 Elective course II**

### **a. Criminal Justice and Human Rights**

This course aims to analyze the methods and the principles of criminal justice and human rights, not only from a normative point of view, but also from the most significant court decisions of international or domestic jurisdictions. This approach will allow not only a reflection on the relationship of criminal justice with human rights, but also of the central role found in practice. The course aims to develop an understanding of international human rights instruments, including the rights of the offender and the victim in court practice. After studying (international and domestic) criminal justice and human rights, this course will highlight the technical and political criminal problems related to the prosecution of serious crimes that violate these fundamental rights. In particular, the programme will focus on the real life application of criminal justice for proceedings that have taken place at the national/ international level, highlighting the approaches on these issues.

## **b. Terrorism and violent extremism**

This course provides theoretical and empirical explanations of the causes and violent nature of political extremism. It examines the main forms of extremism over the last 100 years such as anarchy, fascism, communism, genocide and terrorism. The course explains the connection between these different forms of political extremism. It analyzes the causes of the use of violence to achieve political goals and reasons why some ideologies lead to violence. The course also explains the differences between forms of violent extremism and the scales ranging from left wing to extreme right wing, leading to fascism. During the programme it is examined the process of radicalization, as a prerequisite for engaging in actions of violent extremism, as well as the links of fundamentalist religion with violent extremism and terrorism. Through the course, students will be able to recognize the causes and nature of violent extremism; understand the role of socio-political factors in violent extremism and impulses towards extremism, radicalism and terrorism.

## **c. Legal psychology**

The course deals with empirical applications of psychology in the legal field. Students will be able to deal specifically with issues such as the quality of eyewitness memory, the accuracy of evidence, the decision-making of trial panels, the psychology of investigation, procedural justice, the capacity to stand trial, the rights of defendants, victims, children and people with mental health problems and others. In addition, the course will examine the relationship of psychological disorders with deviant and criminal behavior, the role that mental health and its disorders, such as schizophrenia, personality disorders, brain damage and mental disorders, have in criminal behavior and the impact that diagnoses of mental health have in the behavior. The course will focus on rehabilitation methods and their effectiveness in solving mental health problems in the justice system. Legal psychologists master social, cognitive and clinical principles and apply them to the legal system. The aim of the course is to help students develop psychological

perspectives on legal phenomena, enabling the administration of a more advanced level of justice at every stage of the process.

#### **d. Green criminology**

Green criminology aims to address issues of environmental crime prevention, such as detection, prosecution and punishment/ sanctions, development of environmental crime in a criminological and historical aspect in Albania. This course will analyse the provisions, which determine the criminal responsibility for factual and potential damage to the environment, the forms of its occurrence and criminal law protection at the domestic level and in international documents, bringing cases from the decisions of the Albanian judiciary. Initially, the focus will be on the most important methods used to identify or assess the damage caused by environmental crime, identifying the type of methods and analyzing whether they have limitations in theory and practice. Also, in terms of substantive law, there will be addressed the provisions that define the forms of occurrence of environmental violations and criminal liability for actual and potential consequences for the environment, as well as the legal protection provided by domestic and international legislation.

## **10 Professional practice**

Professional practice aims to prepare students in doing field research and applying social research theory through empirical research projects. The professional internship is mainly organized as fieldwork for data collection, a process during which students are taught to define a research question and test it through a survey/ interview. The stage of data collection takes on a special importance in professional practice course, as it is a prerequisite for the collection of “first hand material” for the sociological analysis of a social phenomenon. Then, students are guided in the process of data analysis and their interpretation based on analytical methods, which are learnt during the course, as well as data processing packages. The course

aims to help recognize the role of practice and to establish professional skills as criminologists.

## **11** **Research project**

This course aims to prepare the student to write an independent academic research paper, under the guidance of the lecturer. At the end of the studies, the student will conduct a scientific research and thus design a research project, after the consultations and approval from the supervisor. The empirical research conducted by the student, aims to link theoretical studies with the practical work that the student will develop independently in the field. All the information and knowledge gained during the studies will be materialized by the student in a scientific paper, in the form of a micro thesis, which will adhere to the research project approved by the department.

## **12** **Micro thesis**

The micro thesis is the research work that the student performs independently under the guidance of the respective lecturer. In the micro thesis, the student synthesizes the application of theoretical knowledge applied in research practice, after conducting a study based on the research project approved by the department and after collecting data throughout the professional practice, or research in an institution, or in the field. In the micro thesis, the student will be helped to develop all stages of scientific research in chapters, according to the academic standard for the design of the diploma, reflected in the regulation of the diploma.

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