



English
Language



Full Time
Format



September
Start date



Maastricht
Location

Master Forensics, Criminology and Law

Why does someone commit a crime? How do police, judiciary and forensic experts operate? Delve into the world of criminal justice from different perspectives, combining law with criminology, psychology, physics and more.

Download brochure

Forensics, Criminology and Law

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Admission requirements

On this page, you will find important details of the application process (such as deadlines, admission requirements, required documents and application assessment) for the master's programme in Forensics, Criminology and Law for the *academic year 2026-2027*.

Application deadlines

The master's programme in Forensics, Criminology and Law starts in September.

The deadlines below are applicable for applying for a start in September 2026.

Note: if you are viewing this webpage on your phone, we recommend that you use landscape mode.

Date: As soon as possible after 1 October 2025

What you need to know about this date: Apply via Studielink* (open for applications for the academic year 2026-2027 from 1 October)

Date: 1 May 2026, 23:59 CET

What you need to know about this date: Deadline for completing the entire application process if you have a **non-EU/EEA nationality** (in most cases, you will need a [visa and/or residence permit](#))

Date: 1 June 2026, 23:59 CET

What you need to know about this date: Deadline for completing the entire application process if you have an **EU/EEA or Switzerland nationality**

Date: 1 August 2026

What you need to know about this date: Strongly recommended deadline for [paying the tuition fee](#)

Date: 31 August 2026, 23:59 CET

What you need to know about this date:

Deadline for completing all tasks in the MyApplication portal**

If you need a [visa or residence permit](#), you must complete most tasks by an earlier date.

*Studielink is the national registration system for higher education,

**The MyApplication portal is Maastricht University's application and enrolment platform.

Visa/residence permit for study

Are you a non-EU/EEA national requiring a visa/residence permit for study? Click here for more information

Please note that Maastricht University can **only** formally apply for your [visa/residence permit](#) if you have met all admission and enrolment requirements.

This means you have to have completed all admission and enrolment tasks in the MyApplication portal (except the 'visa/residence permit'-task and the 'send certified copy of diploma'-task) before we can send your application to the IND (Dutch Immigration and Naturalization Service).

We have to send the application to the IND before 1 July if you are starting your studies in September. Please note: a few pre-master and master programmes offer a start in February. If your study programme offers a start in February and you want to start your studies in February, we have to send the application to the IND before 1 December. You can find out if your study programme offers a start in February on the admission requirements web page of that programme ([pre-master's](#), [master's](#)).

Therefore, we **strongly recommend** that you reconsider applying for this study programme if you are not sure that you will meet the following requirements before 1 July/1 December (if applicable in your situation):

- ⊙ Having remedied all subject and/or language deficiencies (if applicable)
- ⊙ Having qualified for admission to your study programme, including being selected ([if applicable to your study programme](#)) AND

☉ Having paid the tuition fee for your study programme

General requirements: previous education

The admission requirements for academic year 2026-2027 for the master's programme in Forensics, Criminology and Law depend on your previous education.

In principle, you qualify for admission if one of the following situations applies to you:

Bachelor's / Master's degree: English Bachelor/Master of Laws from Maastricht University

Qualification: You qualify for admission

Additional Requirement:

Bachelor's / Master's degree: Dutch Bachelor/Master of Laws from Maastricht University

Qualification: You qualify for admission if you meet the language requirement

Additional Requirement: Check below for English requirement

Bachelor's / Master's degree: Pre-master Rechten from Maastricht University*

Qualification: You qualify for admission if you meet the language requirement

Additional Requirement: Check below for English requirement

Bachelor's / Master's degree: Academic Bachelor/Master of Laws from another Dutch/Belgian University

Qualification: You qualify for admission if you meet the language requirement

Additional Requirement: Check below for English requirement

Bachelor's / Master's degree: Academic Non-Dutch/Belgian Bachelor/Master of Laws from a (research) university

Qualification: You will be assessed by the Board of Admissions

Additional Requirement: - Minimum of 12 EC obtained in substantive criminal law and criminal procedure law**

- Degree is comparable in level with the Dutch Degree

- Check below for English requirement

Bachelor's / Master's degree: Academic Bachelor/Master of Criminologie/Criminologische Wetenschappen from a Dutch/Belgian university

Qualification: You qualify for admission if you meet the language requirement

Additional Requirement: Check below for English requirement

Bachelor's / Master's degree: Academic Non-Dutch/Belgian Bachelor/Master of Criminology from a (research) university

Qualification: You will be assessed by the Board of Admissions

Additional Requirement: - Minimum of 12 EC obtained in substantive criminal law and criminal procedure law**

- Degree is comparable in level with the Dutch Degree

- Check below for English requirement

Bachelor's / Master's degree: Other academic bachelor's or master's degree from a (research) university

Qualification: You will be assessed by the Board of Admissions

Additional Requirement: - Degree is comparable in level with the Dutch Degree

- Minimum of 30 EC in forensics, criminology and/or law courses**

- From the mentioned 30 EC a minimum of 12 EC obtained in substantive criminal law and criminal procedure law**

- Check below for English requirement

Bachelor's / Master's degree: Pre-master Rechten from another Dutch university

Qualification: You will be assessed by the Board of Admissions

Additional Requirement: Check below for English requirement

Bachelor's / Master's degree: University of Applied Sciences (HBO) Bachelor/Master of Laws

Qualification: You will be assessed by the Board of Admissions

Additional Requirement: - Degree is comparable in level with the Dutch Degree

- Minimum of 30 EC in forensics, criminology and/or law courses

- From the mentioned 30 EC a minimum of 12 EC obtained in substantive criminal law and criminal procedure law with a minimum of 7.0 on the Dutch grading scale**

- Check below for English requirement

* Pre-master Rechten in combination with an English master's degree does not

** The minimum mentioned EC are mandatory and need to be completed before the start of the master's programme. In case your University does not work with European Credits, we ask you to translate the number of obtained credits into the ECTS system (1 EC = 28 hours study load).

Are you unsure whether you qualify for admission? Then we recommend that you apply via Studielink and complete your tasks in the MyApplication portal, so that the Board of Admissions can assess your application.

Work experience is only taken into account in very rare cases when assessing your eligibility for admission. If you think your work experience is relevant and covers the set admission requirements, you must provide evidence of this in your application via your motivation letter and upload an explicit CV.

Important: The above provides only an indication of whether you qualify for admission and is not a guarantee.

Pre-master's in Rechten

Are you completing a HBO Rechten programme with a minimum of 80 EC in Dutch Law and you want access to this master's programme at the Faculty of Law? This is possible if you successfully complete the pre-master's in Rechten.

➤ [Read more about the pre-master's in Rechten at Maastricht University.](#)

Additional requirements

English language requirements for this master's programme

As English is the language of instruction in this study programme, it is essential that your English language skills are good enough for you to undertake intensive and challenging academic courses that are taught and examined in English.

There are several ways to proof your English proficiency:

- ⦿ You hold a bachelor's or master's degree in which English was the sole language of instruction.
- ⦿ During your bachelor's or master's degree, you successfully completed English-taught courses. The Board of Admissions will decide if the number of English-taught courses you completed is sufficient.
- ⦿ With language-test certificates (not older than 2 years):
 - Academic IELTS: minimum overall score 6.5 and writing 6.5, or minimum overall score 7
 - TOEFL iBT: minimum overall score 90 and writing 25, or minimum overall score 100
 - TOEIC listening and reading: 720; speaking and writing: 310
 - Cambridge Advanced C1: Grade C (scale 180-184); First: Grade A (scale 180-184)

- TOEFL Paper-delivered Test: Reading: 20-30; Listening: 20-30; Writing: 20-30 (We recommend taking one of the other tests listed above, as speaking skills are not assessed in this TOEFL test)

Applicants whose diploma is based on a non-EU-EEA curriculum (handling fee)

Applicants for this study programme whose diploma is based on a non-EU/EEA curriculum are required to pay a handling fee. This applies even if the educational institution is located within the EU/EEA, as the fee is based on the curriculum, not the location of the institution. More information on this handling fee and how to arrange this payment can be found on the [handling fee page](#).

Documents required for application process

During the application process for this study programme, you will need to complete a number of tasks for which you will often have to upload documents. The list below gives you an insight into what documents you will (and might) need to prepare.

Please note: all documents must be in **Dutch, English or German**.

Required documents for all applicants to this study programme

🕒 A recent portrait photo*

This picture must satisfy certain requirements. You can find these requirements in the task description 'Upload portrait picture' in the MyApplication portal.

🕒 A copy of your valid passport or your EU/EEA identity card**

Make a copy of the page with your personal details. Save this copy as 'passport copy' and not as 'passport picture'.

🕒 A copy of your most recent grades transcript AND/OR a copy of your diploma if you have obtained it.

If you have not graduated yet, you can upload your official grades transcript from your

bachelor's programme.

🕒 Letter of motivation

All candidates must write a well-prepared and structured letter of motivation for this specific master's programme. The letter should explain the motivation for choosing this specific master's programme. It should also include an overview of what you intend to learn and how this programme fits into your future professional plans. In addition, an explanation should be included as to why you meet the requirements for direct admission to the master's programme. The letter must be dated and addressed to the Board of Admissions of the Faculty of Law.

🕒 Two letters of recommendation

For this programme, only academic letters of recommendation are accepted. Professional letters of recommendation may be submitted in addition to but not instead of an academic one. The letters should give an overall picture of your strengths and professional promise. More specifications can be found in the MyApplication portal.

** For current UM students it is not necessary to upload a recent portrait picture in the MyApplication portal.*

*** For current UM students it is not necessary to upload this document in the MyApplication portal. Unless your passport is not valid on 1 September 2026. In that case, a specific task to upload a copy of your passport will appear in the MyApplication portal.*

Documents that might be required depending on your (academic) background

🕒 Documents that demonstrate your proficiency in English

Check the language requirements under 'English language requirements for this master's programme' on this webpage to find out which documents you can use to prove your proficiency.

If English was the sole language of instruction for your bachelor's or master's degree, please upload a grades transcript, diploma supplement or statement from your university mentioning the language of instruction.

If you completed English-taught courses (content courses, not language courses), please highlight them on your grades transcript.

Permission for document verification form (if applicable)

If your diploma is not verified by DUO (Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs, the Dutch government agency responsible for education-related matters), you will need to upload the form 'Permission for document verification' in the MyApplication portal. This form

allows Maastricht University to verify your diploma, grades transcript or other required documents directly with the issuing institution or relevant qualification registry.

How we assess your application

For this master's programme selection takes place on the basis of your quality and suitability. For this, your motivation and your academic experience are important.

Note: Only complete applications will be assessed. We therefore recommend that you adhere to the deadlines provided in the table under 'Application deadlines' on this page. We strive to assess your application and communicate the result to you within three to four weeks.



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Bluesky

Facebook

Instagram

LinkedIn

TikTok

YouTube

Contact

Transparency & Accountability

Privacy & security

Support

Feedback

