

EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION DOCUMENTS

Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences

College of Criminal Justice

Naif Arab University for Security Sciences
(NAUSS)

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

June 2025

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EVALUATION REPORT

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(NAUSS)

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

March 2025



The Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS) has mandated the Hcéres to perform the evaluation of its Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences' programme. The evaluation is based on the "External Evaluation Standards" of foreign study programmes, adopted by the Hcéres Board on September 18th 2024. These standards are available on the Hcéres website ([hceres.fr](https://www.hceres.fr)).

In the name of the expert committee¹:

Philippe Lagrange, President of the committee

In the name of Hcéres¹:

Coralie Chevallier, President

The High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (Hcéres) is an independent public authority. It is responsible for evaluating higher education and research institutions, research organisations, research units, and training programmes.

¹In accordance with articles R. 114-15 and R. 114-10 of the Research Code, evaluation reports are signed by the chairman of the expert committee and countersigned by the President of Hcéres.

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I. STUDY PROGRAMME IDENTITY SHEET

- University/institution: Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS)
- Component, faculty or department concerned: Faculty of Criminal Justice
- Programme's title: Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences
- Training/speciality:
- Year of creation and context: 2019
- Site(s) where the programme is taught (Town and campus): Riyadh, KSA

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

- Surname, first name: EL-Minshawy Mohamed
- Profession and grade: Professor of Criminal Law
- Main subject taught: Criminal Law

METHODS AND RESULTS OF THE PREVIOUS ACCREDITATION(S)

The university's full institutional accreditation was received in 2024 and will be valid until 2031. The accreditation was delivered by the Saudi Education and Training Evaluation Commission.

HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES DEDICATED TO THE PROGRAMME

- Human resources

Teaching staff: 21 faculty members work in this program. All of them are holders of PhD and full-time professors; they have different nationalities (from Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia, France, Syria, etc.)

Non-teaching staff: 5 Saudi non-teaching staff; most of them are holders of Bachelor of law.

- Material resources

All room are equipped with smart screens, PCs, Sound System and Boards

There is also a library in the University presented as a "state-of-the-art knowledge centre, equipped with up-to-date hard copies and digital books and documents" (vast collection of books with a wide variety of disciplines and subjects along with e-resources and digital databases to enable students to access the latest research work and scholarly articles) and the visit of the library confirms that really is a very pleasant, well-stocked place to study.

STUDENT POPULATION: EVOLUTION AND TYPOLOGY OVER THE LAST 4 YEARS, including number of graduates

Table 1. Newly admitted students per academic year for both Semester 1 and semester 2

Academic Year	Self-Funded		Sponsored		Scholarship		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
2021-2022	33	26	27	12	1	0	61	38
2022-2023	29	27	25	10	2	1	56	38
2023-2024	59	54	14	14	2	1	75	69

Table 2. Applications and admitted students

	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Number of Applicants	1210	2193	417
Number of new admitted students	79	107	117

Numbers depicted in table#2 shows only those applications received via the admission portal. Other applicants are nominated through beneficiaries directly i.e. sponsored students, as well as those on the scholarship programs, the nominations received directly by MOIs in the Arab states.

Since 2024/2025, the University ask admission fees to limit the number of applicants.

This Master welcome students from other countries than Saudi Arabia such as Kuwait, Mauritania, Libya, Iraq and Bahrain.

Table 3. Graduation rate

	Admitted			Graduated		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
2021/2022	19	23	42	15 78,95%	21 91,3%	36 85,71%
2022/2023	37	16	53	26 70,27%	14 87,5%	40 75,47
2023/2024	44	30	74	32 72,73%	20 66,67%	52 70,27%

The number of students dismissed is increasing.

II. COMPOSITION OF THE EXPERTS PANEL

Chairman:

- Philippe LAGRANGE, Full Professor in Public Law, University of Poitiers

Academic Experts:

- Philippe BONFILS, Full professor in Criminal Law, Aix-Marseille University
- Nicolas HAUPAIS, Full professor in Public Law, University of Paris Saclay
- Raphaëlle PARIZOT, Full professor in Criminal Law, University of Paris 1

Student Expert:

- Gustave BERNARD, Sciences Po Lyon

Hcéres was represented by Professor Evelyne LANDE, Scientific Advisor at Europe and International Department.

III. EVALUATION PROCESS

VISIT DESCRIPTION

- Date of the visit: 27th of January to 30th of January 2025
- Summary of the proceedings
For each program: institutional meetings; presentation of the College and its program; meetings with teaching staff, students, management, alumni, and stakeholders (questions and answers); and campus visits.
- Organisation of the visit: see table
- Cooperation of study programmes and institutions to be accredited: the university and the College organised the visit so that the committee could meet all stakeholders (institutional staff, teaching staff, students, management, alumni) and visit the premises. Everything possible was done to respond to the requests of the committee's experts. The committee was assisted by a translator who translated between Arabic and English.
- Any problems: none.

PEOPLE MET

January, Monday 27th

Hour	Interviews
09h00-10h00	Institutional meeting: presentation of the College of Criminology Dean of the Criminology College Consultant of the vice-president for academic affairs Head of criminology department and director of criminology program Head of scientific research and partnership committee at the Criminology College Head of Quality Assurance Committee at the Criminology College Head of Programs and Courses plans Committee at the Criminology College Head of Scientific Research and Partnership Committee of the Criminology College Head of Counselling and Alumni Committee at the Criminology Department
10h00-11h00	Managers of the Master of arts in Criminology Head of Criminology Department & Director of Criminology Program Dean of Admissions and Registration Director of Students Affairs Head of E-learning Department Head of Professional Development Director of Partnerships and International Cooperation Department Regional Centre of Expertise on Drugs and Crime
11h15-12h15	Teaching Staff of the Master of arts in Criminology: representative panel of teaching and research staff in the course: tenured, contract and part-time lecturers from various disciplines, not including those responsible for the degree 7 professors met
12h15-13h15	Students of the Master of arts in Criminology: 9 students met (4 in the first year and 5 in the second year)
14h15-14h45	Top management of NAUSS: President Vice President Vice President for External Resources Vice President for Training
14h45-15h45	Alumni from the Master of arts in Criminology: 6 graduated students met online among them 2 from Saudi Arabia, 2 from Kuwait, 1 from Jordan, 1 from Tunisia
16h00-18h00	Campus visit: Documentary resources, IT equipment, group work rooms, lecture theatres and amphitheatre, students' facilities, teachers' offices, clinic, sport equipment.
19h00-21h00	Debriefing Master of arts in Criminology – first conclusion

January, Tuesday 28th

Hour	Interviews
09h00-10h00	Institutional meeting: Presentation of the Criminal Justice College Deputy dean of the Criminal Justice College Head of Criminal Law Department Director of Criminal Law Program Director of Human Rights Diploma Head of Scientific Research and Partnership Committee at the Criminal Justice College Head of Counselling and Alumni committee at the Criminal Justice College Head of Programmes and courses plans committee at the Criminal Justice College
10h00-11h00	Managers of the Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences – 7 people met Criminal Law Programme directors (3 people) e-learning Department Director of counselling and advertising unit Director of Language Centre Director of the Arab Centre for Technical cooperation in the immigration and borders management
11h15-12h15	Teaching Staff of the Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences: representative panel of teaching and research staff in the course: tenured, contract and part-time lecturers from various disciplines, not including those responsible for the degree

	7 professors met
12h15-13h15	Students of the Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences: 7 students met (2 in the first year and 5 in the second year)
14h15-15h15	Academic partners involved in the 3 programmes evaluated- 5 people met online from: The Arab Centre for technical cooperation in the immigration and borders management (UN body) Tunis El Manar University Hassan I University Princess Noura Bt Abdulrahman University
15h15-16h00	Non-academic partners involved in the 3 programmes evaluated – 3 people online: Assistant public prosecutor for investigation Representative of the general intelligence presidency academic education General manager of the internal audit at the oversight and anti-corruption authority
16h30-18h00	Debriefing Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences – first conclusion

January, Wednesday 29th

Hour	Interviews
09h00-10h00	Managers of Higher diploma in Human Rights and Criminal Justice (5 people met) Consultant of the vice president for Academic Affairs Human Rights Program director Head of Scientific Research and Partnership Committee of the Criminal Law Department Head of Counselling and Alumni Committee at the Criminal Law Department College Head of Quality Assurance Committee at the Criminal Law Department
10h00-11h00	Teaching Staff of the Higher diploma in Human Rights and Criminal Justice: representative panel of teaching and research staff in the course; tenured, contract and part-time lecturers from various disciplines, not including those responsible for the degree 7 professors met
11h15-12h15	Students of the Higher diploma in Human Rights and Criminal Justice: 7 students met
14h00-15h00	Alumni from Higher diploma in Human Rights (1 person met) and Criminal Justice and from Master Criminal Law & Criminal Sciences (6 people met) – partly online
15h00-16h00	Quality Assurance – 4 people met: Head of Quality Assurance and Academic Accreditation Department Head of Measurement and Evaluation Unit Head of Quality Assurance Committee at the Criminal Justice Consultant of the Institutional Accreditation
16h30-18h00	Debriefing Higher diploma in Human Rights – First conclusion

January, Thursday 30th

Hour	Interviews
09h00-12h00	Finalising reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diagnosis/evaluation - Conclusion - Strengths and weaknesses - Recommendations
14h00-16h00	Closing session Vice President Dean of the Criminal Justice College Dean of the Criminology College Head of Criminal Law Department Head of Criminology Department Program Coordinator Criminal Law Director Human Rights Director Supervisor of Quality Assurance Unit Consultant of the Institutional Accreditation Consultant of the Vice President for Academic Affairs

IV. OVERALL PRESENTATION

1 – PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME

Naif Arab University of Security Sciences (NAUSS) is an Arab organisation with legal personality and diplomatic status. It functions as the academic body of the Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC), which comprises 22 Arab countries. The establishment of NAUSS reflects the collective intent of Arab nations to combat crime and strengthen criminal justice systems. Initially conceived as a training and research centre, the institution was subsequently redesignated as an "academy" and later as a "university" in 2004. The university campus is located in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences programme highlights NAUSS's role as the academic institution established by the AIMC. Consequently, the programme's learning outcomes are distinct from those of traditional academic programmes in this field. The AIMC enhances further reinforces NAUSS's standing as a preeminent centre for training security specialists, dedicated to enhancing the safety of Arab communities.

In recent decades, the number of universities in Saudi Arabia and the wider Middle East has increased, necessitating a commitment to excellence in order to attract students. NAUSS positions this programme as a unique opportunity to differentiate itself from other universities.

The study programme offers a qualitatively unique programme in the KSA, an "independent" programme (which denotes a programme that is not affiliated with any academic structure or Saudi governmental public or private universities in the headquarters). It is administered by specialised academics and experts in security and judicial affairs, the majority of whom hold PhDs from diverse, predominantly international universities. The curriculum comprises 45 credit hours, consisting of 14 academic courses and a graduation project.

Established in 2019, the programme is distinguished by its inclusive admission policies, which welcome students from related fields of study and reflect the interdisciplinary nature of criminal justice.

Its primary objectives are to qualify specialists who excel in both scientific research and professional practice, thereby meeting the needs of the security and judicial sectors and delivering tangible benefits for the Arab community. Moreover, the programme is designed to address job market requirements in these sectors, following consultations with a range of stakeholders, particularly security and judicial agencies in the Arab region.

2 – PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME'S SELF-EVALUATION APPROACH

The self-evaluation report was prepared with the assistance of the quality assurance team and subsequently validated by an independent expert.

It is presented as a comprehensive report of approximately 70 pages, supplemented by detailed appendices. These documents are accessible to committee members via a secure platform dedicated to this evaluation.

3 – FOLLOW-UP OF THE PREVIOUS HCERES RECOMMANDATIONS

The Master's programme is being assessed for the first time by Hcéres.

V. EVALUATION REPORT

FIELD 1- TRAINING POLICY AND CHARACTERISATION

The Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences study programme is unequivocally aligned with the institution's training strategy.

NAUSS's 2019-2023 strategy and vision plan aims to establish the University as the preeminent institution for preparing Arab leaders and experts in security fields by offering an exclusive postgraduate programme. Unlike many other programmes in the region, the Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences focuses on criminal law rather than public law and places a strong emphasis of interdisciplinarity by incorporating aspects of criminal sciences beyond the traditional scope of criminal law. This programme enrolls the largest number of NAUSS students –primarily from various Arab nations– and attracts the highest volume of applications for its programme.

Based on a preliminary identification of specialisation needs within the Arab region, the programme demonstrates effective integration into the local, national, and international training landscape, as evidenced by benchmarking comparisons with Saudi universities and other regional and international institutions, including Al Ain University in the United Arab Emirates, the University of Leeds in England, and Paris 1 University).

It is essential to emphasise that NAUSS plays a pivotal role in fulfilling its mission as an entity affiliated with the Arab League. The University actively contributes to strengthening its relationships with ministries, security and scientific organisations, and other institutions. Partnerships are facilitated with international organisations such as INTERPOL and the International Organisation for Migration (OIM, which has an office on campus), with universities like Lyon III University, and with governmental sectors, including the Ministry of Justice and the Public Prosecution in KSA, as well as with other educational institutions, such as Princess Nourah University in KSA. These collaborations are further supported by field visits, workshops, and employment opportunities.

The Master's programme welcomes international students and fosters international partnerships. NAUSS, serving as the scientific body of the AIMC admits international students – exclusively from Arab countries – across and its academic programmes, including this Master's programme. NAUSS considers its students to be "ambassadors who represent the strong relationship between their countries and KSA, contributing to enhancing NAUSS's competitiveness and reputation".

The programme has established significant research collaborations, organising scientific conferences and workshops with partner institutions, such as the College of Law at Princess Norah University, the Cybercrime Centre at the Korean University, the Department of Law at Boston University, and the Department of Law at Ain Shams University. For instance, in 2022, NAUSS organised a seminar in collaboration with the General Directorate of Narcotics Control on "the Role of Media in Combating Drug Phenomenon", which was attended by 30 participants. This event followed two similar initiatives with the same partner in 2017 and 2013. Additionally, during a recent visit, Tunis El Manar University, a partner of NAUSS, reported the organisation of a substantial two-day joint conference in Tunis on combating armed crime.

To support research activities, NAUSS University provides a translation service with fully equipped halls and an auditorium, along with additional practical services such as hotel and restaurant to facilitate scientific events. Furthermore, the programme engages students in research through an annual scientific forum–featuring poster or research project presentations–and a biannual international conference organised by the Arab Society for Forensic Sciences and Forensic Medicine. Recently, NAUSS has also implemented a summer school system in collaboration with other universities worldwide.

The study programme maintains strong links with the socio-economic sphere by incorporating field visits, such as the public prosecution office, and by conducting studies on the needs of the security and economic communities prior to its establishment. This approach is designed to enhance the programme's relevance, particularly for practitioners in security sectors. Nevertheless, it may be advisable to place greater emphasis on work-linked training and continuing education in alignment with the institution's positioning and strategy, and to further improve the efficacy of partnerships with institutions and companies.

In conclusion, the programme's policy is fully aligned with NAUSS's strategic objectives. As the academic cornerstone of the AIMC, NAUSS offers a unique Master's programme specialising in security profession training and addressing regional issues in the Arab world. The Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences exemplifies this approach through its pronounced international dimension, as evidenced by a diverse student body representing all AIMC member nations, and its progressively strengthening research component.

FIELD 2 – PEDAGOGICAL ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME

The presentation of the pedagogical organisation of the study programme is deemed satisfactory. The structure and the teaching methodologies of the programme align fully with the standardised model established by the University, supported by appropriate pedagogical strategies including lectures, problem-based learning, project-based learning, and flipped classrooms.

The two-year academic programme (four semesters) facilitates progressive specialisation. Students are required to complete 45 credit hours through 14 courses, including Comparative criminal law, Criminology and Punishment, Islamic Criminal Legislation, Legal Research Methodologies, Special Criminal Laws 1 and 2, Cyber Crimes, Forensics, Criminal Policy, International Criminal Law, Criminal Procedures, Organised Crimes, Victimology, Human Rights and Criminal Justice. In addition to coursework, students must prepare a research project--generating a substantive scientific paper (between 40 and 70 pages), which is supervised by a faculty member. Each supervisor may mentor up to five research projects. Students have the opportunity for their work to be published in an abridged version in one of the University's journals. The Master's programme is promoted through official communication channels and specific outreach to scholarship-granting entities, as well as via the university website. The programme not only acknowledges the academic skills developed within the curriculum but also recognises competencies gained through extra-curricular activities such as volunteer work and professional development. These competencies are documented in a "Skill Record".

It is important to emphasise that the Master's programme provides a robust foundation for research, with a potential progression to doctoral studies. After approximately one year, students may continue their academic path as doctoral candidates, and this trajectory has seen significant success, with 13 doctoral students already enrolled. To underline its commitment to research integrity and ethics, NAUSS offers courses on the principles and ethical considerations of scientific research.

In accordance with institutional policy and to foster student engagement, the programme incorporates interactive pedagogical approaches, including flipped classrooms, project-based instruction, serious games, and active learning methodologies. These modern teaching strategies are evaluated by students, with satisfaction levels reported as 3.54/5 for 2021-2022 and 4.19/5 for 2023-2024. Although all courses are delivered in-person, provisions for remote instruction exist, and e-learning is primarily used for the digital distribution of study materials. Moreover, the programme includes a system of academic progress monitored by faculty, supplemented by guidance and counselling for students. Additionally, support for publishing students research is facilitated by the NAUSS Vice-Agency for Scientific Research, which grants financial aid for publications submitted by students within one year of graduation.

Regarding the international accessibility of the programme, it is important to emphasise that **the Master is inherently open to foreign students** from AIMC member countries. Furthermore, the programme actively facilitates the development of English language skills as a second language, supported by the University's dedicated Language Centre. The faculty comprises members from various countries--including Syria, Tunisia, Morocco, Yemen, Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt-- who have received their education from prestigious universities in France, Egypt, the United States of America, or renowned Arab institutions. In addition to the participation of faculty members in several international conferences, there is limited information on potential mobility programmes. Notably, a framework cooperation agreement was signed with Hassan I University in 2012, with the long-term objective of establishing a double degree for students; similarly, a cooperation agreement with Tunis El Manar University aims to promote student exchanges between the two universities.

Concerning the correlation between the study programme content and the requirements of the socio-economic sector, the Master's programme underscores the importance of student participation in international and national events--such as research projects and conferences-- and provides opportunities to engage with experts and faculty specialising in various domains, including the Ministry of Justice, Public Prosecution, Criminal Police, and the General Directorate of Prisons). However, the report does not address the issue of internships. The absence of reference to internships can be partially attributed to the fact that many students come from professional backgrounds and therefore do not require work placements. Conversely, an internship option should be available for students without prior professional experience, and it appears that such a provision is envisaged for future implementation.

In conclusion, the master's programme is well-positioned, with teaching methods and pedagogical approaches that ensure the validation of competencies expected by stakeholders in the socio-economic sphere. The curriculum is coherent, comprehensive, and modern, with a strong inherent international orientation reflected in the multinational backgrounds of both faculty and students. Nevertheless, there remain areas for improvement, such as further exploiting the possibilities offered by e-learning, enhancing outbound mobility for students, and strengthening connections between academia and practice --particularly through the introduction of internships).

FIELD 3 – STUDENTS' PATHWAY

The programme ensures a high standard of student recruitment, driven by substantial demand and a rigorous selection process. Comprehensive guidance is provided throughout students' academic tenure; however, the graduation rate has been declining. The university's information systems significantly contribute to the programme's visibility and attractiveness for both prospective and newly admitted students. These systems offer a detailed overview of the programme for potential students and employers, thereby enhancing its appeal, and provide extensive support for all aspects of student life, including counselling, orientation, and mental health services. The availability of these services is well-established, ensuring excellent individual support. Furthermore, the university's social media presence adds to the programme's attractiveness, while measures such as scheduling all classes in the afternoon facilitate students' professional pursuits outside of the curriculum. A high student satisfaction rate (88%) attests to the efficacy of these guidance measures.

The rigorous selection process underscores the programme appeal and the quality of its student recruitment, as evidenced by the fact that the number of applicants significantly exceeds the available positions—even following the introduction of application fees. However, the relatively small proportion of international students (7.5% of the total cohort) suggests a potential area for improvement in admissions policy. Despite the robust selection process and comprehensive support, an increasing number of students are not graduating.

The programme systematically analyses application trends, evaluating factors such as gender, nationality (students from the host country/international), and funding status (nominated/self-funded/Prince Naif Scholarship). However, it appears that there is currently no admission policy linked to these categorisations. Notably, the inclusion of female students commenced in 2024.

Trends in students' academic progress are meticulously monitored at the end of each semester, allowing timely modifications to course curricula and the implementation of individualised tutoring sessions for those experiencing academic difficulties. The programme support student success through a robust mentorship scheme, which provide personalised assistance and constructive feedback from faculty members. In addition, supplementary courses are available to assist struggling students, and these initiatives have earned high visibility and a positive reputation among the student body. By systematically analysing academic performance trends and adjusting courses based on the cohort's average results, the programme maintains notably low failure rates, thereby evidencing the effectiveness of these measure.

The post-graduation employment rate is remarkably high, underscoring the programme's efficacy in preparing graduates for labour market demands. The university has maintained a university-led alumni association for over a decade, which it collaborates with closely, significantly enhancing the programme's attractiveness to employers. An employment rate of 83% and a similarly high percentage of graduates reporting "very high" satisfaction with the overall programme further affirm its success. However, the fact that 14.5% of graduates are unable to secure employment upon graduation suggests that further efforts are needed to align the programme with stakeholders' requirements. The absence of an internship policy appears to be a barrier—particularly for non-nominated students who lack work experience. In response, the university's 2029 strategy aims to address this gap by introducing internships opportunities. Additionally, the programme has established mechanisms to survey graduates and employers, thereby identifying areas for future improvement, such as enhancing collaboration with stakeholders through the advisory committee in the design and review of programme courses.

In conclusion, the programme demonstrates significant appeal to prospective students who recognise its value in the employment market and its academic rigour. Comprehensive student services create a conducive work environment for academic and professional development, and the thorough analysis of labour market requirements is reflected in the strong professional integration of its graduates.

Moving forward, the Master's programme should continue to refine its approach to identifying and addressing stakeholders' needs, particularly to improve the post-graduation employment rate among non-nominated students.

FIELD 4 – ACADEMIC PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences programme is effectively implemented and well-established within the academic framework of the University. It is one of the four programmes offered by the Department of Criminal Law. A comprehensive overview of the university's hierarchical structure is provided, along with the protocol for selecting external collaborators. During the site visit, additional details regarding the teaching

faculty were furnished; the organisational structure comprises a Dean of the Criminal Justice College, a Head of the Criminal Law Department, a Director of the Criminal Law programme, and a team of professors.

The institution's human resources are highly commendable. The faculty represents a diverse range of nationalities, and the programme benefits from an impressive faculty-to-student ratio of 1:10. In total, there are 25 faculty members specialising in law, withholding PhD degrees from prestigious institutions in the United States of America, France, the United Kingdom, Egypt, Tunisia, and Morocco. However, concerns have been raised regarding the capacity of the teaching staff to supervise an increasing number of theses. From the perspective of administrative and pedagogical resources, the outcomes are entirely satisfactory: the facilities adhere to the latest standards, technical programmes are available to support administrative staff, and a specialised library is at the University's disposal.

The study programme delineates a comprehensive evaluation process that encompasses both internal and external assessments. Firstly, an internal evaluation is conducted in which students assess academic courses via questionnaires prepared by the Measurement and Evaluation Unit. These questionnaires cover five key areas: general course information, teaching performance, learning resources and facilities, classroom activities, and assessments and feedback. This process is instrumental in facilitating programme development and is subsequently reviewed within the NAUSS-level Student Advisory Council— comprising representatives from all academic programmes and chaired by the NAUSS Vice President. Notably, student feedback is taken into account regarding both the material conditions of the study environment (for example, extending library opening hours) and course-related matters (such as relocating the criminal procedure course to the second year). In addition, the programme is subject to regular external evaluations through reports from independent reviewers.

The study programme is underpinned by a robust quality assurance and ethical framework, supported by a transparent and rigorous student recruitment procedure. Admission to the program prioritises candidates from Arab interior ministries and official agencies; if vacant seats remain, individuals meeting the admission requirements may apply at their own expense. Applicants are required to possess an undergraduate qualification in law or a relevant discipline, and a minimum GPA of 3.70 out of 5.00 is mandated. Furthermore, interview committees assess candidates as part of the selection process. Recent admission rate—6.5% in 2022-2023 and 4.88% in 2023-2024—underscore the competitive nature of the selection process.

Students are well-informed of the criteria for assessing knowledge and validating skills, including the minimum number of credit hours, programme duration, and learning outcomes, and there exists an established procedure for the evaluation of courses by students. Moreover, the Programme adheres to the ethical policies set forth by NAUSS, including robust measures to combat plagiarism.

In conclusion, despite its recent establishment in 2019, the Master in Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences is well recognised both within and outside the University, evidenced by the high volume of applications. The human and material resources allocated to the programme are more than adequate, and the continuous evaluation process—particularly through regular student feedback— ensures that the programme remains dynamic and responsive to evolving stakeholder needs.

VI. CONCLUSION

This Master's programme in Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences is distinctive in its nature on two counts. Firstly, its contextual establishment is unprecedented in the Arab world; secondly, it offers a high-calibre educational experience to a diverse cohort from various nations.

The resources allocated to the programme are substantial, enabling it to effectively achieve its intended objectives. The working environment is exemplary, featuring state-of-the-art laboratories, a well-equipped library, comprehensive sports facilities, and a continuously operating clinic. The curriculum is both comprehensive and well structured, tailored to meet the needs of its audience and local contexts. For instance, the "national" criminal law course, while primarily focused on Saudi law, also incorporates relevant foreign criminal laws relevant to accommodate the diverse backgrounds of students. A coherent progression is evident between the Master's degree—which includes a significant initial research project—and the subsequent doctoral programme, as demonstrated by the strong motivation of students (with 13 students enrolling in the inaugural year of the doctorate). Nonetheless, concerns may arise regarding the faculty's capacity to supervise this increased demand. Despite this, the teaching staff remain of a high calibre—diligent, motivated, and diverse in terms of gender and nationality.

The institution is dedicated to serving its students, providing individualised monitoring that considers their well-being and tailoring educational offerings accordingly (for example, by scheduling courses scheduled in the morning or afternoon based on students' employment status).

However, it is evident that the internship policy requires review to ensure its effective implementation. Similarly, establishing stronger connections with other universities—particularly those abroad—and creating opportunities for student mobility to partner institutions would be beneficial.

Notwithstanding these minor limitations, the Master's degree in Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences demonstrates considerable merit and warrants continued development.

STRENGTHS

- A highly commendable master's degree programme, distinguished by a well-designed curriculum and promising future prospects, including effective articulation with the doctoral pathway
- An exceptional faculty dedicated to supporting its students
- A student body that is well-integrated and motivated by the high-quality of training, with several students contemplating progression to doctoral studies
- An exemplary work environment, featuring state-of-the-art facilities such as library, laboratories, sports amenities, and continuously operating clinic.

WEAKNESSES

- Non-existent outgoing mobility and limited international cooperation, which necessitate comprehensive reconsideration
- An insufficient internship policy
- A decreasing graduation rate.

RECOMMENDATIONS

NAUSS and the Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences programme are both engaged in a process of continuous improvement and possess significant assets that facilitate further advancement. It is imperative that they maintain this positive trajectory. Nevertheless, there remains scope for enhancement at various levels:

Enhancing International Cooperation in Program Implementation

NAUSS may consider increasing its investments in international collaboration, particularly with universities in AIMC member states, to improve the implementation and visibility of the programme. Strengthening these international partnerships could enhance the programme's reach and effectiveness in participating countries, thereby contributing to its long-term expansion and success.

Implementing Internship Programs for Non-Nominated Students

Introducing internship programmes for non-nominated students can be highly beneficial for both educational institutions and the students themselves. This approach would broaden opportunities for a wider range of students, enabling them to gain practical experience and develop professional skills regardless of their nomination status. By offering such internships, institutions can enhance students' employability through hands-on experience in their field of study and foster stronger connections between academia and industry.

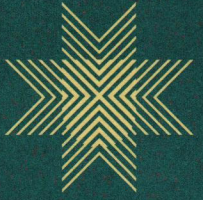
To implement this effectively, institutions should establish clear guidelines for internship eligibility, create partnerships with a variety of organisations, and provide support services to help non-nominated students secure and succeed in their internships. This initiative could significantly enrich the overall educational experience and improve future career prospects.

Enhancing Educational Practices with e-Learning

By further implementing e-learning, NAUSS can provide additional learning resources and enhance the overall learning experience. This approach may also assist students who encounters difficulties in completing their degrees by offering supplementary supports.

Moreover, e-learning could serve as a means to provide graduates with additional training opportunities, thereby maintaining connections between alumni and NAUSS. It may also facilitate the organisation of events that bring together current students and alumni to engage in discussions on contemporary topics, fostering intellectual stimulation and collaborative brainstorming around shared challenges.

VII. COMMENTS OF THE INSTITUTION



**Professor Thierry Coulhon,
president of the Border of the French High Council for Evaluation of Research
and Higer Education (Hcéres)**

France, Paris

Subject: Comments of Criminal Law Program

Dear Professor Thierry Coulhon,

Master's Program in Criminal Law team expresses its appreciation for the insightful evaluation and constructive recommendations provided in the report. The program remains committed to continuously enhancing educational quality and institutional excellence.

In alignment with NAUSS vision and its 2029 Strategy, several key initiatives have been considered, including "Developing Effective Educational Partnerships to Offer Joint Programs and Facilitate Faculty and Student Exchanges." that aims to expand international academic cooperation, fostering global learning opportunities for master's and doctoral students across various institutions. Furthermore, a dedicated initiative i.e. "Strengthening Practical Training and Professional Development Pathways" that aims to ensure internship opportunities for students and enhancing career readiness and professional growth.

In support of the recommendation regarding further student support to enhance the graduation rate, it should be noted that NAUSS has already invested in this by developing a state-of-the-art e-learning platform (NAUSS LMS), where all PLOs and CLOs are appended and monitored. Besides, providing continuous support to students through diverse curricular and extracurricular activities via LMS.

Additionally, NAUSS 2029 Strategy seeks to implement different methodologies that ensure students benefit from innovative and technology-driven learning experiences tailored to diverse educational needs.

Your Sincerely,

Prof. Tareq S. Alrayes

Vice President

Naif Arab University for Security Sciences

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No: 2051/2

التاريخ: 19/09/1446

19-03-2025



AC-DOUT/25/1412

ACCREDITATION DECISION

Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences

College of Criminal Justice

Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS)

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

June 2025

SCOPE OF THE ACCREDITATION GRANTED BY HCERES

Hcéres has based its evaluation process on a set of objectives that higher education institution study programs must pursue to ensure recognised quality in France and Europe. These objectives are divided into four areas common to both the evaluation framework and the accreditation criteria.

The Accreditation Commission issues an opinion on the accreditation of the program after examining the application. The Hcéres President takes the decision based on this opinion and the final evaluation report of the program. This accreditation decision, taken in plenary session, is the result of a collegial and reasoned process.

The decision issued by Hcéres regarding the accreditation of the program corresponds to the award of a label, on behalf of Hcéres, to the evaluated entity.

This decision is independent of the accreditations carried out by the French State and therefore does not entail recognition in France of the diplomas delivered by the institution.

Decision n° EI-2025-12 on the accreditation of the Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences delivered by Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS) – Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The President of the High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education,

Considering the Research Code, in particular Articles L. 114-3-1 to L. 114-3-6;

Considering the Decree No. 2021-1536 of 29 November 2021 on the organisation and operation of the High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education;

Considering the Board's deliberation No. 2022-5-02 of 29 September 2022 on the accreditation criteria for international study programmes (Except for doctorates/PhDs);

Considering the Decision No. 2023-9 of 16 March 2023 on the international accreditation procedure of the High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education;

Considering the agreement No. DEI_2024_CONV 7_ Naif Arab University for Security Sciences - for the evaluation/accreditation of Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences ;

Considering the opinion issued by the Accreditation Commission on June 27th 2025.

Decides:

Article 1

Having determined that the Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences delivered by Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia meets the four accreditation criteria, voted by the Board of the High Council on 29 September 2022, as follows:

ACCREDITATION CRITERION 1: TEACHING POLICY AND CHARACTERISATION

The programme policy is fully aligned with the strategic objectives of NAUSS. As the academic pillar of the Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC), NAUSS offers a unique master's programme specialising in security training and addressing regional issues in the Arab world. The Master's in Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences illustrates this approach through its pronounced international dimension, as demonstrated by a diverse student body representing all AIMC member countries, and through its research component, which is gradually being strengthened.

ACCREDITATION CRITERION 2: THE PEDAGOGICAL ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY PROGRAM

The Master's programme is well positioned, with teaching methods and pedagogical approaches that guarantee validation of the skills expected by players in the socio-economic sphere. The programme is coherent, comprehensive and modern, with a strong inherent international orientation reflected in the multinational origins of the faculty and students. Nevertheless, there are still areas for improvement, such as exploiting the opportunities offered by e-learning, improving outgoing student mobility and strengthening the links between academia and practice, particularly through the introduction of internships..

ACCREDITATION CRITERION 3: STUDENTS' PATHWAY

The Master's programme has attracted a great deal of interest from potential students, who recognise its value on the job market and its academic rigour. The comprehensive services offered to students create a working environment conducive to academic and professional development, and the in-depth analysis of labour market needs is reflected in the strong professional integration of its graduates.

In the future, the Master's programme should continue to refine its approach to identifying and responding to the needs of stakeholders, in particular to improve the post-graduation employment rate of non-appointed students.

ACCREDITATION CRITERION 4: MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF THE STUDY PROGRAM

Despite its recent creation in 2019, the Master in Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences is well recognised both inside and outside the University, as evidenced by the high number of applications. The human and material resources allocated to the programme are more than adequate, and the ongoing evaluation process, including regular feedback from students, ensures that the programme remains dynamic and responsive to the changing needs of stakeholders.

Article 2

The Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences delivered by Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is accredited for a period of five years from the date of this decision.

Article 3

The decision is accompanied by the following recommendations:

NAUSS and the Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences programme are both engaged in a process of continuous improvement and possess significant assets that facilitate further advancement. It is imperative that they maintain this positive trajectory. Nevertheless, there remains scope for enhancement at various levels:

Enhancing International Cooperation in Program Implementation

NAUSS may consider increasing its investments in international collaboration, particularly with universities in AIMC member states, to improve the implementation and visibility of the programme. Strengthening these international partnerships could enhance the programme's reach and effectiveness in participating countries, thereby contributing to its long-term expansion and success.

Implementing Internship Programs for Non-Nominated Students

Introducing internship programmes for non-nominated students can be highly beneficial for both educational institutions and the students themselves. This approach would broaden opportunities for a wider range of students, enabling them to gain practical experience and develop professional skills regardless of their nomination status. By offering such internships, institutions can enhance students' employability through hands-on experience in their field of study and foster stronger connections between academia and industry.

To implement this effectively, institutions should establish clear guidelines for internship eligibility, create partnerships with a variety of organisations, and provide support services to help non-nominated students secure and succeed in their internships. This initiative could significantly enrich the overall educational experience and improve future career prospects.

Enhancing Educational Practices with e-Learning

By further implementing e-learning, NAUSS can provide additional learning resources and enhance the overall learning experience. This approach may also assist students who encounter difficulties in completing their degrees by offering supplementary supports.

Moreover, e-learning could serve as a means to provide graduates with additional training opportunities, thereby maintaining connections between alumni and NAUSS. It may also facilitate the organisation of events that bring together current students and alumni to engage in discussions on contemporary topics, fostering intellectual stimulation and collaborative brainstorming around shared challenges.

Article 4

This decision will be published on the Hcéres website.

Paris, June 30th 2025



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Coralie Chevallier
Présidente

 President

signed

Coralie Chevallier

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