THE PLACE TO MAKE Waves. Connections. Your future. CORRUPTION AND GOVERNANCE MA 100% ONLINE
If you want to be a leader in the fight against corruption and bring about real change, our online Corruption and Governance Masters degree will equip you with the skills and know-how to do just that.

This is the only Masters in the world to bring academic analysis from law, anthropology, economics, development studies, sociology and political science to the study of corruption and anti-corruption training. The course draws on expertise from the University of Sussex’s internationally renowned Centre for the Study of Corruption, the UK’s 1st centre dedicated to interdisciplinary research, policy impact and teaching on anti-corruption.

Through an interdisciplinary approach and real-world case studies, you’ll explore corruption from a global perspective and identify the modern social issues it raises across different industries today. You’ll develop the necessary skills to identify what corruption is and the factors that cause it, as well as how to combat and prevent corruption locally and internationally.

With flexibility at its core, our Corruption and Governance MA (online) is designed to fit around your lifestyle. You will also have the opportunity to build connections with like-minded professionals around the globe.

This course has been designed to give you the broad range of intellectual and practical tools to help you fight corruption in the modern day, including:

- a thorough understanding of defining, measuring and explaining corruption
- an examination into how increasing gender equality can be an effective anti-corruption tool for understanding corruption in international business
- an analysis of anti-corruption in international, national and local arenas.
The University of Sussex’s Centre for the Study of Corruption (CSC) was established in 2012 as the UK’s first academic centre dedicated to interdisciplinary research, policy impact and teaching on corruption and anti-corruption.

CSC is widely recognised for combining world-class academic approaches and objective research with the practical experience of how corruption can be addressed in the real world. Our rigorous academic research is regarded as a highly credible source on the world’s corruption issues by governments, companies and civil society around the globe.

We are dedicated to training the next generation of global anti-corruption professionals and ensuring that our studies inform evidence-based policy to help change the world. Our current research activities are based around four themes:

1. corruption in politics
2. corruption in international business
3. corruption in sport
4. corruption in geographical context – with strengths in the UK, Germany and Eastern Europe, China and Africa.
MEET OUR GLOBALLY RENOWNED ACADEMICS:

You’ll learn from experts who advise policymakers, have global experience and are active within the field, sharing the latest insights and research into the course content. On the course you’ll have the opportunity to engage in 1-2-1 discussions and discuss real-world case studies with academics.

DR ROXANA BRATU, COURSE DIRECTOR
Roxana Bratu joined the University of Sussex in October 2018 and holds a PhD in Sociology from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences.

PROFESSOR DAN HOUGH, PROFESSOR OF POLITICS, HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS
Alongside his academic work, he has written for the Washington Post’s blog, the South China Morning Post, The Conversation and the New Statesman as well as a variety of other news outlets.

PROFESSOR ELIZABETH DAVID-BARRETT, PROFESSOR OF GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRITY (POLITICS), DIRECTOR OF THE CSC
Liz David-Barrett previously worked in Croatia and Hungary as a journalist, reporting for The Economist, the Financial Times, the BBC World Service and Business Central Europe, and as Director of the CSC she engages widely with anti-corruption practitioners in governments, the private sector and NGOs.

PROFESSOR ROBERT BARRINGTON, PROFESSOR OF ANTI-CORRUPTION PRACTICE (POLITICS)
Robert Barrington was formerly the CEO (Europe) of the environmental research group Earthwatch Institute and also the head of Transparency International (TI) in the UK, the world’s leading anti-corruption NGO, and is currently Chair of TI’s International Council. At TI, he led the campaigns to secure the Bribery Act, a national Anti-Corruption Strategy for the UK.
THE BENEFITS OF ONLINE LEARNING

FLEXIBLE LEARNING
We have six entry points each year, allowing you to start your course at a time that suits you. You can step on and off the course if you need to take a break from your studies at any time*.  

*Maximum study break applies – the course must be completed within 4 years from enrolment.

STUDY FROM ANYWHERE
Taught 100% online, you can benefit from our expert teaching, informed by our world-leading research, from wherever you are in the world – giving you the opportunity to build a global network.

SPREAD THE COST
You can choose to either pay your fees in one payment at the start of your course or pay for each module as you study to spread the cost out across the course.

NO NEED TO TAKE A CAREER BREAK
Learning online with us is the perfect way to develop your skills, knowledge and employability without taking time away from your professional or life commitments.

GAIN THE SAME QUALIFICATION AS ON-CAMPUS
You’ll be taught by leading academics, researchers and practitioners from the world-renowned Centre for the Study of Corruption alongside a global classroom of students who are passionate about fighting corruption.

24HR ACCESSIBILITY TO LEARNING MATERIAL
Our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) is a bespoke platform, designed specifically to deliver our practically focused Masters to students around the world.
MODULES

All modules on this course are core and are designed to develop your understanding of corruption and its impact on the modern world. Each module lasts seven weeks and is delivered via Canvas, a state-of-the-art online learning platform, which can be accessed by a computer, tablet or smartphone alike so you can truly study whenever and wherever you like. You can take control of your schedule by fitting the recommended 20 hours study time per week around your existing commitments and lifestyle.

In order to graduate the course, all of the modules must be successfully completed.

DEFINING CORRUPTION

Defining what you’re analysing is key to conducting rigorous social science. However, defining what corruption is, is not easy. That has not stopped many people from trying to do precisely that and this module introduces the most prominent of the definitions in contemporary use. This module also crosses disciplinary boundaries by then using a variety of case studies to illustrate the strengths and weaknesses as well as the practical utility of the most well-known of those definitions.

Module lead: Professor Dan Hough

Types of assessments may include:
- Individual presentation evaluating a case study from your own context
- Written assessments

MEASURING CORRUPTION

There are now multiple ways of measuring corruption. This module begins by introducing the most well-known of the aggregate indicators of corruption (Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index, CPI, the World Governance Indicators’ ‘Control of Corruption’) before explaining why in reality they have only limited usage. Newer, more focussed measures of corruption are then assessed, as are some of the now larger array of proxy indicators of corrupt practice.

Module lead: Dr Roxana Bratu

Types of assessments may include:
- Written report focusing on one country and three sectors
- Written evaluation of attitudes to corruption
- Analysis of a measure of corruption
EXPLAINING CORRUPTION
Why does corruption exist? For some, it is an integral part of human nature. For others, it is something that is learned and ingrained over time. This module assesses the ‘rational choice’ approaches to understanding why corruption takes place, before contrasting these with more constructivist understanding of why corruption occurs. This will be supplemented by case study analysis of a low and high corruption country.

Module lead: Dr Samuel Power

Types of assessments may include:
- Group presentation on a corruption scandal
- Written assessment featuring a case study of your choice

FIGHTING CORRUPTION
Every government now claims to want to fight corruption. There is subsequently no shortage of anti-corruption tools and mechanisms out there. This module unpacks the logics of anti-corruption in international, national and local arenas. It also begins to unpack what works, what doesn’t and why.

Module lead: Dr Samuel Power

Types of assessments may include:
- Written assessment: case study on fighting corruption
- Written evaluation of what works when fighting corruption

“I chose this course because I thought I had a lot to learn from the Centre for the Study of Corruption and because it approaches the subject from an interdisciplinary perspective that focuses on three fundamental questions: what is corruption, what causes it, and what should be done to combat it?”

Michelle Kawa, Corruption and Governance MA (Online) Student, Mexico

PEOPLE POWER AND ANTI-CORRUPTION
A new wave of initiatives that put people at the centre of anti-corruption thinking has swept the world. This involves empowering individuals to report back on corrupt experiences they may have had, helps them see deep inside government to probe for corrupt practices and allows them to increasingly shape their own lives away from the clutches of corrupt powerholders. This module assesses the impact of people-power initiatives.

Module lead: Professor Dan Hough

Types of assessments may include:
- Individual presentation of anti-corruption participants’ characteristics
- Written analysis of anti-corruption initiatives
MODULE GUIDE

NARRATIVES AND METAPHORS OF CORRUPTION
Stories about corruption abound. This module assesses the narratives and metaphors that go hand in hand with corrupt practice, explaining how corruption is talked about and reported upon. This module illustrates that corruption remains a complex phenomenon with unclear boundaries, and that the use of metaphorical devices not only illuminates but also hides some of its attributes.

Module lead: Dr Roxana Bratu

Types of assessments may include:
- Written assessments
- Presentation

INTERNATIONAL ACTORS AND ANTI-CORRUPTION
Over the last 20/30 years a range of international actors have ‘discovered’ corruption. This module introduces the anti-corruption efforts of those actors (UN, OECD, World Bank etc.) before evaluating their relative successes and failures.

Module lead: Liljana Cvetanoska

Types of assessments may include:
- Project work
- Portfolio development

CORRUPTION AND GENDER
An increasingly diverse body of literature looks at the relationship between gender and corruption. For some corruption has an inherent male bias. For others, the relationship is more complicated. This module assesses these competing perspectives before analysing to what extent increasing gender equality can also be an effective anti-corruption tool.

Module lead: Liljana Cvetanoska

Types of assessments may include:
- Written assessments
- Presentation

CORRUPTION IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS
Compliance has become one of the buzzwords of global capitalism. This module explains why companies need compliance strategies and assesses the challenges they face in mitigating the risks posed by corrupt practices in international business.

Module lead: Professor Elizabeth David-Barrett

Types of assessments may include:
- Quiz
- Project work: Poster
- Written assessment of a report briefing to the board
MONEY IN POLITICS
This module enables students to assess the impact of money on political processes. Whilst perceived wisdom has it that money helps shape and influence political outcomes, in reality the relationship is more complicated than that. The module will introduce a number of models for financing politics, before evaluating their respective impacts. The module will help students understand that no matter how you fund political life, corruption challenges will remain.

Module lead: Dr Samuel Power

Types of assessments may include:
- Written assessment
- Presentation

THE NATURAL RESOURCES CURSE: OIL, GAS AND CORRUPTION
Is it a coincidence that states with multiple natural resources appear to have some of the most severe corruption challenges? If so, why? This module helps students understand why certain states fall in to the 'natural resources trap' whereas others – Norway, for example – manage to avoid it.

Module lead: Francis Mcgowan

Types of assessments may include:
- Written assessments

PROJECT
Students will undertake a corruption case study analysis focussing on a specific case of corruption in a firm, organisation, government or other setting, using a template developed by the Centre for the Study of Corruption. The project will enable students to analyse a given (anti-) corruption 'problem', evaluate strategies for counteracting it and assess attempts to enact change.

Module lead: Professor Robert Barrington

Types of assessments may include:
- Written assessments

The University of Sussex regularly reviews modules to provide the most innovative and relevant courses of study. As a result, module offerings may change. The information in this leaflet is correct at the date of publication, but please keep an eye on our website study-online.sussex.ac.uk for the most up-to-date course information.
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
A higher second-class (2.1) undergraduate honours degree or above from any UK university or international equivalent. Your qualification should be in a social sciences, humanities or business-oriented subject.

You may also be considered for the course if you have other professional qualifications or experience of equivalent standing.

Applicants whose first language is not English (and whose first degree was not taught in English) need to supply evidence of IELTS (Academic) high level (6.5 overall, including at least 6.0 in each component).

FEES AND FUNDING

Course fee: £11,750

Cost per module: £980*  
*Modules 1-11 cost £980, and module 12 cost £970

Flexibility is at the heart of our online courses: fees can be paid on a module-by-module basis, or as a single fee at the start of the course.

You may also consider corporate sponsorship and employer funding. Please email our Admissions Team at studyonlineadmissions@sussex.ac.uk to receive assistance with next steps for this method of payment.

Course fees will remain fixed for 24 months from your initial course start date. Thereafter, the course fee will rise at a rate of 2.5% per calendar year (subject to rounding for administration purposes).

20% ALUMNI DISCOUNT

If you have previously graduated from an undergraduate, postgraduate or PhD course with the University of Sussex you will be eligible* for a 20% discount on this online course.

*T&Cs apply.

Please visit our Fees and Funding page for more information on funding for your studies:

study-online.sussex.ac.uk/fees
Visit the course page to learn more.

STUDY-ONLINE.SUSSEX.AC.UK/ CORRUPTION-GOVERNANCE

Disclaimer: This brochure was published May 2021. The University of Sussex has made every effort to ensure that this information is both helpful and accurate but some changes, for example to courses, facilities or fees, may become necessary due to legitimate staffing, financial, regulatory or academic reasons.

Visit study-online.sussex.ac.uk