MA in Corruption & Governance

an overview for prospective students

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https://study-online.sussex.ac.uk/online-courses/ma-corruption-and-governance
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1. The Centre for the Study of Corruption at the University of Sussex

The Centre for the Study of Corruption (CSC), founded in 2011, is the UK’s foremost academic centre for studying corruption. Located within one of the world’s leading universities, CSC is regarded as a highly credible source of independent and objective research and ideas. It is widely recognised for combining world-class academic approaches and research with the practical experience of how corruption can be addressed in the real world. We operate in three broad areas:

- **Research**: undertaking rigorous academic research to address the world’s major corruption issues.
- **Courses & Teaching**: training the next generation of anti-corruption professionals around the world from undergraduates to PhDs, with three Masters courses.
- **Policy**: ensuring that our research informs evidence-based policy and helps change the world.

CSC’s research activities are based around four themes:

- Corruption in politics
- Corruption in international business
- Corruption in international development
- Corruption in sport
- Corruption in geographical context –with particular strengths in the UK, Germany & Eastern Europe, China and Africa.

Full details of the published and current research undertaken by our core faculty can be found in the detailed biographies of each faculty member at [www.sussex.ac.uk/scsc](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/scsc)
2. MA in Corruption & Governance at the University of Sussex

We run the world’s leading Masters in Corruption and Governance, typically attracting up to two dozen students each year from around the world. This course provides a year-long training in the fundamentals of corruption. Develop your understanding of what corruption is, where and why it proliferates, and what we can do to counteract it.

This course is the only full-time Masters in the UK addressing issues of corruption. You will explore:

- how different disciplines define corruption and how this can lead to different anti-corruption approaches
- specific examples – from systematic abuses of power by parties, politicians and civil servants to small-scale, petty misdemeanours
- the role of business, unpacking the problems surrounding corruption and exploring potential solutions.

Peer-to-peer interaction and collaboration are key elements of the course and create a rich learning experience. Sharing knowledge and opinions allows us to look at issues from different perspectives. You’ll learn from academics and practitioners dedicated to interdisciplinary research and policy impact in our world-leading Centre for the Study of Corruption. On graduation, you’ll have an understanding of corruption in many different contexts. You’ll also have the practical tools to design and put in place anti-corruption responses. Our students have gone on to run anti-corruption agencies, corporate compliance departments and the anti-corruption functions of international organisations.
3. Syllabus

The teaching in the first (Autumn) term of the MACAG is scheduled to fit into a single day each week. This means all your modules’ sessions will take place on the same day (typically Friday), and allows students who travel a long way or are studying part-time to manage their time and travelling more easily. The first term has 3 compulsory modules. These are:

- **Interdisciplinary Approaches to Corruption 958M9 - Dr Sam Power**
  The objective of this core module is to help you develop analytical and theoretical tools that will allow for the analysis of corruption across both time and space. We begin by analysing exactly what we understand ‘corrupt’ behaviour to be and how this appears to differ (often quite starkly) across national boundaries and over time. Do humans appear to be naturally corrupt? If so, does this matter? Is corrupt behaviour absolute and universal or does it depend on location and context? Indeed, can corruption sometimes even be a good thing? The module will have contributions from the political science, legal, anthropological, business and management and development studies disciplines.

- **Anti-Corruption (956M9) – Professor Robert Barrington**
  This module analyses the wide and diverse set of anti-corruption approaches, procedures, mechanisms and policies that have been developed by governments, international organisations and interest groups. It analyses the nexus between quality of governance and (un)successful anti-corruption strategies, and co-ordinates theoretical insight from a range of disciplines with a range of practical examples. You will learn to critically evaluate anti-corruption regimes, the polices they promote, and the motives that lie behind their creation. You will also learn to critically assess which type of anti-corruption regime is likely to be successful in which particular context.

- **Research Methods and Approaches (828M9) – Dr Sabina Avdagic**
  The module will cover the range of qualitative and quantitative methods in social science and will provide the skills to develop a research outline. It will equip you with the ability to come up with an interesting and workable research question and testable empirical hypotheses, an ability to select cases/sample and appropriate methods for analysis, a focus on how to find appropriate data sources and conduct data analysis (either quantitative or qualitative), and how to interpret the results in relation to the available literature.
The second (Spring) term has **one compulsory module**:

- **Corruption and Governance Dissertation (931M9)**
  There is no formal teaching for the dissertation, but we organise a series of workshops during the Spring term to provide you with the necessary skills for researching and writing a long dissertation. Individual sessions with a supervisor are arranged throughout the summer term.

In the second term, you can **choose options** to broaden your horizons and tailor your course to your interests. The list below gives you a flavour of our options, which are kept under review and may change:

- **International and Transnational Offending (803M3) – Dr Matthew Garrod**
  In order to assess the effectiveness of legal responses to offending that cross national boundaries, it is essential that you gain an insight into the phenomenon itself, rather than merely into the legal responses which we have examined in International and Transnational Offending. This module explores the nature and extent of both state and sub-state or individual offending. It includes such examples as the use of torture, war crimes, economic criminality, including illegal arms and drug dealing, corporate crime, computer and share frauds and organised crime and international crimes of violence.

- **The State-Business Interface in International Development: Corruption and Governance Challenges (936M9) – Professor Liz Dávid-Barrett**
  This module aims to introduce and explain the main patterns of corruption in international business, as well as to evaluate a set of policy responses. It also seeks to explain how the legal and regulatory framework, as well of patterns of enforcement, are changing and how companies can respond to these risks. It considers the particular risks that pertain to certain sectors. It also considers a range of strategies that organisations can use to address corruption risks, including whistleblowing policies, audits and collective action/voluntary regulation.

- **Corruption and the Law (954M3) – Dr Shahrzad Fouladvand**
  You will examine the ways legal systems seek to control the problem of corruption and bribery. The module initially focuses on the regulation of bribery in domestic law, examining the Bribery Act 2010. It then examines the domestic law of other national jurisdictions before turning to consider the position under international law. It focuses on anti-corruption agreements including the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime.
• **Natural Resources Governance in International Development (813M9) – Francis McGowan**
  This module deals with the way in which governments manage their natural resource endowments and engage with domestic and international political and economic forces. The module considers different theories of the state and its relationship with the economy and society – notably ideas of state capacity and embeddedness – as well as political economy approaches to the natural resource issue.

• **Internship (938M9) – Professor Robert Barrington**
  The internship option enables you to spend three months working on a project within an NGO, regulatory body, business or other suitable organisation that has an active interest in analysing and tackling corruption. You will be expected to spend a minimum of two and a maximum of three days per week working with the organisation. You will be expected to write a 4,000 word report based on what you did and how it links in to the theoretical analysis of corruption introduced in the first term’s modules.
4. Who we are: the faculty

Liz Dávid-Barrett, CSC Director

Liz joined the University of Sussex in 2014, following four years at Said Business School and two years in the Department of Sociology at the University of Oxford. Liz has a DPhil in Politics from Oxford, an MA in Slavonic and East European Studies from the University of London, and a BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Oxford). Liz previously worked for London think tanks the Institute for Public Policy Research and the Centre for European Reform, political risk consultancy Oxford Analytica, and worked in Croatia and Hungary as a journalist, reporting for The Economist, the Financial Times, the BBC World Service and Business Central Europe.

As Director of the CSC, Liz leads the Centre's activities in research, teaching and policy impact. She engages widely with anti-corruption practitioners in governments, the private sector and NGOs. For example, she recently visited the Vietnam National Academy of Politics to teach about the role of transparency and open data in fighting corruption, and has held workshops in Ghana, Uganda and Tanzania on how data can be analysed to identify grand corruption in government contracting. She has written several reports for Transparency International - on the UK Bribery Act, lobbying and the revolving door, and local government corruption - and has given evidence to parliamentary select committees. She advised the UK Department for International Development on its International Anti-Corruption programme and the UK Cabinet Office on the 2017-22 National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

Professor Dan Hough, Head of Politics

Dan graduated from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in 1997. On leaving the North-East he headed for the Institute for German Studies at the University of Birmingham to
complete his PhD. Following the completion of his doctoral studies in 2000 he spent another two years in Birmingham working on a Leverhulme Trust funded research project with Professor Charlie Jeffery and then as an ESRC Postdoctoral Fellow. He then moved to the University of Nottingham for a year before joining the department in the Autumn of 2003. 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. He is also regularly asked to comment for the likes of the BBC and CNBC.

**Professor Robert Barrington**

Robert was formerly 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 and Professor of Anti-Corruption Practice at the CSC. At TI, he led the campaigns to secure the Bribery Act, a national Anti-Corruption Strategy for the UK and the introduction of Unexplained Wealth Orders. He was previously Director of Governance & Sustainable Investment at F&C Asset Management, and CEO (Europe) of the environmental research group Earthwatch Institute. Robert is a member of the ICAEW’s Corporate Governance Committee, and UK government advisory roles have included membership of the Ministry of Justice’s expert group drafting the official guidance on the Bribery Act, the BEIS Export Guarantees Advisory Committee and the Cabinet Office’s post-Brexit Procurement Transformation Advisory Panel. He holds a degree from Oxford University and a PhD from the European University Institute.

**Dr Sam Power, Lecturer in Corruption Analysis**

Sam is a Lecturer in the Department and his work focuses primarily on political financing, online campaigning, party politics and corruption. Alongside this work, he has also conducted extensive research into political party membership as well as the role of new institutionalism in structuring politics in a more general (and theoretical) sense. Sam has published widely on these themes and regularly provide expert interview to - and has his
work cited in - a number of media outlets including the BBC (television, radio and online), LBC, Heart, the Financial Times, the Guardian, Washington Post, New Statesman and Vice. In this sense, Sam’s research is driven by finding practical solutions to complex problems and in translating this to the wider public. Sam believes that academics should focus out, just as much as they focus in. His monograph, Party Funding and Corruption, is available now through Palgrave. Sam holds a PhD in Politics from the University of Sussex. Previously to (re)joining Sussex he was a Lecturer in Politics (Education and Scholarship) at the University of Exeter and a Research Associate in Party Membership and Engagement at the Sir Bernard Crick Centre for the Public Understanding of Politics, University of Sheffield. He has also been a Visiting Researcher at the University of Copenhagen and the Center for the Study of Democracy at the University of California, Irvine.

Dr Sabina Avdagic, Senior Lecturer in Politics

Before joining Sussex in 2006 as a UK Research Councils Academic Fellow, Sabina was a post-doctoral research fellow at the Max Planck Institute, a Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence and a research fellow at the EUI’s Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies. She holds a PhD in Political Science and an MA in International Relations from Central European University, and a BA in economics from the of University of Zagreb.

Dr Shahrzad Fouladvand, Lecturer in International Criminal Law

Shahrzad’s main research interests are in the areas of Transnational Criminal Law (TCL) and international criminal justice systems, particularly, the International Criminal Court (ICC) where she worked as a legal researcher at the ICC Office of the Prosecutor /Prosecution Division in The Hague. Her research focuses on two forms of organised crime: human trafficking and corruption.
Dr Roxana Bratu, Lecturer in Corruption Analysis

Roxana joined the University of Sussex in October 2018. She was previously postdoctoral researcher at University College London, School of Slavonic and East European Studies where she coordinated the activity of the FP7 ANTICORRP project. Roxana holds a PhD in Sociology from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences, an MSc and a BSc in Sociology from the University of Bucharest, Romania.

Dr Liljana Cvetanoska, Lecturer in Corruption, Law and Governance

Liljana holds a PhD in Politics from the University of Sussex, where she examined the European Union's enlargement conditionality on control of corruption in Central and Eastern Europe. Liljana also has an MA in Contemporary European Studies from the University of Bath, a Master’s Degree by Research in Law from Queen Mary University of London, and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the “Ss. Cyril and Methodius” University, Macedonia with a specialization in criminal law. Currently, she is involved in research on the negative impact of corruption on women in Central and Eastern Europe.

Francis McGowan, Senior Lecturer in Politics

Francis is a senior lecturer in Politics at the University of Sussex. After working for the European Parliament, Lloyds of London and the Institute for Fiscal Studies, Francis joined the University of Sussex in 1987 as a researcher in the Science Policy Research Unit, moving to the Department of Politics in 1993. His past research has focused on European energy policy. His current research interests include natural resource governance.
5. The CSC community

- **MACAG Discussion Group**
The ‘bring your own scandal’ group is an informal weekly meeting between staff and students. We take this opportunity to discuss corruption scandals which have caught our eye in the press and dissect them using the tools we have been developing over the course of the year. Recent topics include the FinCEN files, the phenomenon of pork-barrelling in the UK, the coup in Myanmar and Chinese surveillance in African infrastructure – and many discussions on Donald Trump’s America.

- **CSC Research Seminars**
This is an opportunity for CSC faculty staff and PHD students to present research that they’ve been working on recently. We bring together students from across various related courses as well as some of the CSC’s partner anti-corruption practitioners. This gives our researchers a chance to get some feedback on early findings, and keeps our students involved in the wider work of the faculty.

- **Guest lectures**
We regularly bring in guests involved in anti-corruption work from across various sectors to give students an insight into real world anti-corruption practice. A recent example is a presentation from Rachel Davies-Teka, Head of Advocacy at Transparency International, in which she talked our students through TI’s work in getting Unexplained Wealth Orders and Beneficial Ownership Transparency implemented in the UK. Other recent guest speakers have included Peter Geoghegan, Sue Hawley, Oliver Bullough and Lord Evans.

- **Tackling Corruption Talks**
This student-led club invites external speakers and also runs ‘Tackling Corruption’ talks in which students on the course have a chance to talk about their own personal encounters with corruption, often telling the stories of how that affected them and what they decided to do about it.
6. Alumni

Jonathon Benton

At the time Jonathon joined the MA in Corruption and Governance, he had worked for many years in the anti-corruption space and was head of the UK’s International Corruption Unit, leading the UK’s response to tackling grand corruption. He led the global asset tracing response following the Arab Spring. Since leaving Sussex, Jonathon has founded a private company representing countries who wish to recover the proceeds of corruption hidden across the world. He also works with the World Bank Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative and advises many countries on the structures, laws, policy and training needed to tackle corruption.

What was your standout memory of your time on the course?
“I guess the field trip to Switzerland. Sitting in the offices of major commodity trader, listening to a rather bullish chief compliance officer defend the company, and having the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the true complexity of business and its flaws”.

What skills did you develop at Sussex which have helped you in your career?
“For me, it was the broadening of my knowledge base, particularly the academic side. My network grew too, I’ve made some lifelong friends”.

Pamela Wadi

Pamela has worked in the compliance, intelligence and risk management sectors for over 15 years. Her career started with Marsh where she specialised in cross-border M&A risk advisory work; she then worked for Control Risks in London and Johannesburg, before joining FTI Consulting as a Director in the Global Risks & Investigations Practice.
What made you apply to Sussex?

“Having been in continuous full-time employment during and after my Undergraduate degree, I got to the point where I wanted to explore other areas of interest. I was drawn to the course at Sussex because nowhere else offered a comparable course on corruption. Most importantly, it attracted a range of people from various fields and was taught by academics clearly involved in shaping the discussion in the UK around corruption.

I was anxious about doing a Masters because it had been several years since I was in full time education; however, prior to submitting my application I spoke to Dan Hough at length who explained the course content and outlined the resources available to support postgraduate students. While I commuted from London during the course, I quickly settled in and felt very much part of the campus community at Sussex”.

What are you doing now?

“I am a director of the Africa Global Risk and Investigations Practice at FTI Consulting in London. My role is to help companies navigate doing business in Africa. The role involves working with either companies already operating in Africa or those who want to break into the African market. I carry out due diligence; anti-bribery and anti-corruption investigations and assess the political risks on behalf of my clients”.

Sedrick N’Gotta

Sedrick N’Gotta joined us as a digital activist with over seven years’ experience working in democracy and governance fields. After finishing the MA Corruption & Governance course, Sedrick was hired by the High Authority for Good Governance, Côte d’Ivoire’s anti-corruption agency, as the head of the New Media section, responsible for spearheading the overhaul of its ‘technologies suite for good governance’ and open data efforts. Before joining the HAGG, he served as lead expert on technology and digital communications at the Platform of Civil Society Organizations for Observing Elections in Côte d’Ivoire (POECI) and was responsible for integrating information communication technologies into election observation activities. In 2016, he co-founded Open Africa Initiative (OAI) where he serves as president. OAI is a non-profit which assists NGOs throughout French-speaking African countries to promote Information Technologies for development and civic technology-based projects.
What made you apply to Sussex?
“One of the reasons I applied to the University of Sussex was because it has a vibrant political scene with many political societies trying to make sense of the political environment we are living in and taking action when necessary. Examples include the Students’ Union fighting for better living conditions for students and the Politics Society organising talks with high-level politicians and public servants to understand the major political issues across the globe. I am an active member of the Politics Society and co-founded the Sussex West Africa Society, whose aim is to gather and connect students from West Africa with a focus on French-speaking countries such as Côte d’Ivoire, Mali or Senegal. Interestingly I am the first student from Côte d’Ivoire at the University of Sussex.”

Why did you choose this course?
“After more than seven years working for governmental organisations and in civil society for better transparency in Africa, I realised that I needed to strengthen my thinking and knowledge in order to pursue this ideal and make a difference to the women and men suffering the effects of corruption. As citizens, it’s time to live in a world that is more accountable and where anyone, regardless of background, can really contribute to the economic and political life of this continent.”

Sofia Tirini

Hailing from Argentina, Sofia joined Sussex after working for several years as a compliance attorney in Latin America. Whilst studying towards the MA in Corruption and Governance, Sofia also secured an internship with the International Business Leaders’ Forum Global, developing collective action projects to curb corruption. She currently works as a Legal Consultant in the Anticorruption division at the OECD in Paris.

Why did you choose this course?
“Whilst I was living in Argentina and working as a lawyer in the private sector, I started to get involved in some anti-corruption projects. The “corruption issue” was not new for me since the whole Latin America region suffers the consequences of this huge problem. After a while, I realised I could actually do something to improve the situation in my country and the region which is why I started to read more about the topic”.
How has your masters at Sussex helped you develop?

“I am now working in the Anti-Corruption division of the OECD in Paris. I am sure that without my experience from Sussex and the support from Liz David Barrett, I would never have been successful in securing this internship in such a competitive environment, with applicants from all over the world.

I also think I grew internally, as a person, thanks to studying and living in such a multicultural environment. I came from a city quite closed in terms of diversity and studying at Sussex and living in Brighton helped me to learn about things about which I was completely unaware. I’ve met people from different cultures, religions, and political opinions; I’ve made many changes in my life, from my diet to my investment decisions and I am more involved in addressing sustainability issues as a priority in my life.”

Ben Cowdock

Ben completed his MA in Corruption and Governance in 2014/15, before going on to work at Transparency International UK where he is currently Investigations Lead. During his time at the organisation Ben has researched and written about the UK’s role as a haven for corrupt individuals and their wealth, producing reports on dirty money in the UK housing market as well as the role of British ‘professional enablers’ in global money laundering.

How has your masters at Sussex helped you develop?

“The choice of modules offered by the MA provides an ideal basis for a career fighting corruption, with insight on measuring, identifying and tackling this issue. The course has a teaching staff who are leaders in their fields as well as a diverse student body from a range of backgrounds, providing different perspectives in seminars.”
7. Introductory reading list

The list below is designed to provide background material and readings that are not linked with specific modules but we feel would benefit students who are on the course.

Seminal texts


What is corruption?


Measuring corruption: from perceptions to proxies


Tackling corruption: the theory

The anti-corruption landscape


What works in tackling corruption?

Lighter reading


Other publications by faculty members

- McGowan, F. (2011) “Putting energy insecurity into historical context: European responses to the energy crises of the 1970s and 2000s

Useful websites
• The Global Anti-Corruption Blog: https://globalanticorruptionblog.com/
• U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre: https://www.u4.no/
• Transparency International: https://www.transparency.org/en/

Contact us
For more information about the Masters in Corruption & Governance, the Centre for the Study of Corruption, or our other courses, please visit our website:

https://www.sussex.ac.uk/research/centres/centre-for-study-of-corruption/