UNODC’s Education for Justice (E4J) initiative, a component of the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, seeks to prevent crime and promote a culture of lawfulness through educational activities designed for primary, secondary and tertiary levels. These activities will help educators teach the next generation to better understand and address problems that can undermine the rule of law. At the university level, E4J supports academics to teach in UNODC-mandated areas. The areas addressed in the university modules range from crime prevention and criminal justice, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, organized crime, cybercrime, wildlife crime, anti-corruption, firearms, counter-terrorism to integrity and ethics. The modules are designed for lecturers to adapt and integrate into their courses.
Corruption is one of the most serious global threats of our time. It undermines democracy, increases inequalities, and has disastrous effects on the economy and environment. Combating this complex phenomenon requires multiple simultaneous approaches, including education programmes that empower future generations to resist and prevent corruption. To that end, the E4J initiative developed a series of Anti-Corruption University Modules, which lecturers can use as a basis for teaching in universities and academic institutions across the world. Shedding light on the corrosive effects of corruption on society, the modules connect anti-corruption theory to practice and employ a variety of perspectives and exercises that help students engage with this fascinating and urgent area of inquiry. They encourage critical thinking and use innovative interactive teaching approaches such as experiential learning and group-based work.

The E4J Anti-Corruption University Modules were developed with the support of leading academics from around the world. The modules address core anti-corruption issues, identify key educational material that is open-access, and provide suggestions for in-class exercises, student assessments, slides and other teaching tools. The opening module discusses corruption’s varied definitions and devastating effects and conveys the “big picture” about corruption: why is it a fundamental problem for all nations and all people? This is followed by modules that focus on the different responses to corruption, with a particular emphasis on the United Nations Convention against Corruption, as well as linkages between corruption and a range of topics: good governance, comparative politics, public sector, private sector, whistle-blowing, enforcement, justice systems, human rights, gender, education, citizen participation, peace and security. Concluding the series is a module that explores the conceptual shift from fighting corruption towards promoting integrity, and the practical implications of this shift.

The modules provide university lecturers with a strong basis for delivering high quality anti-corruption education. Relevant and multidisciplinary, the modules can be taught around the world and in a range of programmes. They are easily adaptable to different contexts and can be integrated in non-corruption courses. The modules include guidance for lecturers on how to keep students engaged and excited about learning. Each module is designed as a three-hour class but also provides suggestions on how to develop it into a full course. Additional pedagogical advice is available in the E4J Teaching Guide which accompanies the modules.