

International Economics (F000161)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Rayp, Glenn

EB21

lecturer-in-charge

Ruyssen, Ilse

EB21

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Bachelor of Science in Business Economics](#)

crdts

offering

5

A

[Bachelor of Science in Economics](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Science in Economics \(Double Degree\)](#)

5

A

[Linking Course Master of Science in Economics](#)

5

A

[Preparatory Course Master of Science in Economics](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

International trade, international trade policy, regional integration, capital flows, world economy, World Trade Organisation

Position of the course

Every course of international economics discusses two questions.

First, why do countries trade and second, how countries can maximise the gains from international trade. The first part of the course, 'theory of international trade', deals with the first question.

The second question is the subject of the second part of the course, 'international trade policy'. International economics is a basic course that makes students familiar with the 'traditional' theory of international trade, the basics of 'modern' trade theory, international trade policy and the principles and organisation of the WTO.

Contents

The following chapters are dealt with :

1 Theory of international trade:

- absolute and comparative advantage as basis for international trade and the classic Ricardian model;
- Neo-classical trade theory : Heckscher-Ohlinmodel (Heckscher- Ohlin theorem, factor price equalization, Stolper-Samuelson and Rybczynski effect);
- Modern international trade theory : scale economies, product differentiation and competition effect as advantages of international trade
- Does theory explains facts ? Indicators of international trade and empirical evidence on the Heckscher- Ohlinmodel (Leontief paradox, with recent studies).

2 Foreign direct investments, multinational corporations and migration;

- 3 International trade policy
 - the instruments of trade policy (tariffs, subsidies and quota) and the effective rate of protection;
 - welfare analysis of trade intervention:
 - in a partial equilibrium analysis (for small and big countries);
 - in a general equilibrium analysis (for small and big countries);
 - motives for protection
 - The institutions of international trade : GATT and WTO.
- 4 Regional economic integration.
- 5 International macro-economic policy co-ordination
Historical review of the most important international and economic developments after World War II and current policy issues, the IMF and the World Bank.

Initial competences

Economics (e.g. Samuelson), basic micro-economics.

Final competences

- 1 Understanding and explaining analytically inter- and intra-industry trade flows and the welfare and income distribution issues of globalisation.
- 2 Understanding and explaining analytically the arguments in favour of and against free trade and trade interventionism (protectionism)
- 3 Understanding the basic principles and functioning of the WTO and to have insight in international trade disputes
- 4 Interpret and evaluate international migration and foreign direct investment.
- 5 Debate and reflect on evolutions in the international financial and monetary system.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Mainly ex cathedra lectures with illustration by means of practical examples and references to current issues in international economics. The lectures will be complemented with online teaching modules on more specific course items.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: International Economics
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : No
Available in the Library : Yes
Available through Student Association : No

References

Ethier, Modern international Economics;
Sødersten & Reed, International Economics;
Williamson, The World Economy;

Course content-related study coaching

Course related and relevant information additional to the lectures are provided by teacher and assistant. From the intranet, () the students can obtain the slides of the course, a summary of the questions and answers with respect to the course and actual information concerning the globalisation issue. Collective questions sessions by internet with teacher and assistant are .

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Periodic evaluation: written examination, which tests the understanding of the course.

Non-periodic evaluation: assesment of the relevance and logical consistency (structure of the argumentation) of the contributions on the discussion fora

Calculation of the examination mark

End-of-term evaluation (90%) and permanent evaluation (10%).