

Contemporary Issues in International Economics (F001026)

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

Credits 6.0

Study time 180 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Ruyssen, Ilse

EB21

lecturer-in-charge

Dewitte, Ruben

EB21

co-lecturer

Merlevede, Bruno

EB21

co-lecturer

Rayp, Glenn

EB21

co-lecturer

Standaert, Samuel

EB21

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Master of Science in Teaching in Economics\(main subject Economics\)](#)

crdts

6

offering

A

[Master of Science in Complementary Studies in Economics](#)

6

A

[Master of Science in Economics](#)

6

A

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

6

A

[Exchange programme in Economics and Business Administration](#)

6

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Economic Globalisation; Trade; Investment; Migration; Globalisation Effects for Growth, Inequality and the Environment; Globalisation and Development; Regional Integration

Position of the course

Welcome to Trade and Migration Policy - Contemporary issues in International Economics!

This course dives into the world of global interactions and how they shape our economies and societies. Over recent years, we've witnessed rapid globalization, meaning that economies and societies around the world are becoming increasingly connected. This globalization has led to a surge in the movement of goods, people, investments and ideas across borders, transforming our world in profound ways. In this course, we'll focus on the economic aspects of globalization, exploring how it affects inequality, growth, and the environment. Drawing on the latest research, you'll gain insights into questions like why globalization might make the world more equal or worsen inequality, how trade, investment and migration drive innovation and economic growth, and how they impact our environment.

Contents

In this course, we will cover the following topics:

1. THE COMPLEMENTARY DIMENSIONS OF GLOBALIZATION

2. THE GRAVITY MODEL as workhorse for analyzing patterns in trade, investment and migration

3. INTERNATIONAL TRADE:

- Why is there intra-industry trade? Love of variety and increasing returns to scale in international trade
- Why does only a small minority of firms export? Firm-level heterogeneity in international trade

- Can trade make everyone better off?
- How does globalization affect the environment?

4. INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENTS:

- Why do firms set up foreign affiliates when they could simply export?
- Foreign direct investment as an engine of economic development?
- What are the implications of the rise of global production chains in a geopolitically fragmented world?

5. INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION:

- How does migration affect the labor market and social security in destination countries?
- Migration as an engine for growth in destination countries?
- How does migration affect economic development in origin countries?

6. REGIONAL INTEGRATION:

- The political economy of integration: the WTO, corruption and social welfare
- How can we navigate through the complexity of regional integration, often described as a "spaghetti bowl"?

Initial competences

The final competences of the course International Economics of the Bachelor programme in Economic Sciences or equivalent, and basic knowledge of econometrics.

Final competences

- 1 Students are accustomed to read and understand contributions in academic journals in the field of international economics.
- 2 Students are familiar with the current state of the art in international trade, investment, and migration as well as regional economic integration.
- 3 Students are able to link contributions in academic journals in the field to policy-relevant issues.
- 4 Students are able to draw policy-relevant conclusions concerning international trade, migration and investment as well as regional economic integration.
- 5 Students understand the growth, distributional and environmental implications of globalization.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

Lecturers begin by introducing the essential theoretical and methodological tools relevant to each topic. These tools then serve as the foundation for delving into the thematic questions explored throughout the course (listed above). Following this, students engage in critical discussions of pertinent empirical research through individual paper presentations (peer teaching). The lectures foster in-depth conversations on conceptual and policy-related matters.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Lecture slides
 Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
 Optional: no
 Language : English
 Available on Ufora : Yes
 Online Available : Yes
 Available in the Library : No
 Available through Student Association : No

Type: Reader

Name: Academic articles discussed and presented in class
 Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
 Optional: no

Language : English
Available on Ufora : Yes
Online Available : Yes
Available in the Library : No
Available through Student Association : No

References

Paper-based.

A full list of relevant references making up the course material will be provided at the start of the course.

Course content-related study coaching

Course-related relevant information additional to the lectures is available from the lecturers and assistant. In line with the representative paper approach, the lectures provide ample opportunity for in-depth discussion concerning conceptual aspects as well as policy implications.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Oral assessment

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

Oral assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Presentation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is not possible

Extra information on the examination methods

The oral examination at the end of the semester consists of reading and understanding a number of scientific journal articles on which the student will be interrogated.

The evaluation during the semester consists of the article presentation and the participation to the discussion.

Calculation of the examination mark

The oral exam will count for 75% of the total score; the article presentation and participation to the discussion for the remaining 25%.