



## COURSE DATA

### DATA SUBJECT

**Code:** 35879  
**Name:** International economics  
**Cycle:** OCU Studies / Undergraduate Studies  
**ECTS Credits:** 6  
**Academic year:** 2025-26

### STUDY (S)

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1314 - Degree in International Business	Facultat d'Economia	2	Second quarter, First quarter

### SUBJECT-MATTER

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1314 - Degree in International Business	Economics	BASIC

### COORDINATION

ROCHINA BARRACHINA MARIA ENGRACIA

## SUMMARY

The International Economics course aims to equip students with the ability to identify a problem, formulate it, understand the relevant economic theory, gather necessary information, employ appropriate data analysis methods, and critically interpret the results.

To achieve this, the course begins by introducing students to basic models of international trade, followed by more complex models. Additionally, students will study a country's economic relations with the rest of the world through the Balance of Payments and its major components.

The course provides students with a comprehensive understanding of the international economic landscape, including the role and functions of major international economic organizations.

Furthermore, students will examine financial relations by studying financial and currency markets, including fundamental concepts of exchange rates, interest rates, and their interrelationships. The course also covers the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and its primary functions.

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:



- Understand the key characteristics of trade and financial relations between countries.
- Comprehend the theoretical models that explain these relations and their potential future prospects.
  
- Familiarize themselves with the use of international databases.
- Evaluate and interpret information from reference reports on the international economy.
- Master the conceptual foundations and engage in contemporary debates regarding the current state and trends of the international economy.

This course is typically offered in the second year, second semester, as it builds upon prior knowledge acquired in Introduction to Economics, Microeconomics, and Macroeconomics courses.

It serves as a foundation for subsequent courses such as European Union, International Finance, Financial Markets, and elective courses including International Economic Outlook, International Economic Institutions, Foreign Trade, and International Financial Management.

Given that students pursuing this course often have career prospects in international business management or in public administration and institutions dealing with international aspects such as cooperation, trade, and investment, the knowledge gained in this subject is crucial for their professional development.

## PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

### RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

### OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Basic knowledge in Maths, Microeconomics and Macroeconomics, English

## COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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Adquisición de una idea general de la distribución actual de la actividad económica internacional.

Aprender a detectar las desigualdades entre personas para diseñar, implementar y evaluar las políticas pertinentes que faciliten la eliminación de dicha discriminación en empresas e instituciones.

Aprendizaje de los fundamentos de los modelos básicos que explican el comercio internacional.

Be able to work in multidisciplinary and intercultural teams.

Comprensión de los elementos diferenciadores de los problemas económicos internacionales en función del grado de desarrollo de las economías.



Conocer el comportamiento de los agentes económicos individuales y su interacción en el mercado generando precios.

Conocer las distintas estructuras de mercado competitivas y no competitivas.

Conocimiento de los aspectos básicos de las principales instituciones económicas internacionales.

Conocimiento de los fundamentos cambiarios y financieros básicos en la actual economía internacional.

Develop an ethical attitude in business, respecting human rights and the environment both in the country of origin of the company and in the different markets in which it operates.

Develop intercultural sensitivity and the ability to adapt to other geopolitical contexts.

Develop the capacity to evaluate and critically analyse international economic phenomena and agents.

Develop the capacity to prepare and defend reports that contribute to the decision-making of public and private agents.

Know how international financial markets work.

Know the basic competences and the functioning of the main international economic and cooperation institutions.

Poseer los conocimientos micro y macroeconómicos suficientes para analizar e interpretar la realidad nacional e internacional desde una perspectiva económica.

Tener una visión general de los contenidos de la teoría económica, de forma que se perciba el impacto de los elementos microeconómicos y macroeconómicos en la toma de decisiones de los agentes económicos, en particular de la toma de decisiones empresariales y en la elaboración de las políticas económicas y, en general, conocer cómo funciona la economía moderna.

Understand and reflect on socio-economic and political contexts that affect business and economic decision-making in an international environment.

Understand the basic concepts of economic analysis that are applicable to the operation of companies and institutions in the international context.

Understand the behaviour of economic agents and their interaction in global markets.

Understand the structure and functioning of companies and organisations operating in an international context.

Use the economic and financial information of the company to make decisions.

## DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS



## **1. THE RELEVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS**

- 1.1.- What is international economics about?
- 1.2.- World trade: An overview.
- 1.3.- The gravity equation in international trade.

References:

Krugman, P.R., Obstfeld, M. and M.J. Melitz (2015): International Economics: Theory and Policy. Tenth Edition (Global Edition). Pearson, chapters 1 and 2, pages 33-54.

Practical questions:

- Question 1.1.- The Balance of Payments.
- Question 1.2.- Some trade indicators.

## **2. A GENERAL MODEL OF TRADE AND COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES: THE STANDARD TRADE MODEL**

- 2.1.- Comparative advantage and trade.
- 2.2.- The gains from trade.

References:

Krugman, P.R., Obstfeld, M. and M.J. Melitz (2015): International Economics: Theory and Policy. Tenth Edition (Global Edition). Pearson, chapter 6, pages 150-164.

Caves, R.E., Frankel, J.A. and Jones, R.W. (1999): World trade and payments: An introduction. Addison Wesley. Chapter 2, pages 14-19, chapter 3, pages 32-36.

## **3. LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY AND COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE: THE RICARDIAN MODEL**

- 3.1.- One-factor economy: Production possibility frontier, relative prices and supply.
- 3.2.- Trade in a one-factor world: Absolute advantage and comparative advantage.
- 3.3.- Comparative advantage with many goods.

References:

Krugman, P.R., Obstfeld, M. and M.J. Melitz (2015): International Economics: Theory and Policy. Tenth Edition (Global Edition). Pearson, chapter 3, pages 56-80.

Practical questions:

- Question 3.1.- Problems 1 to 3 from chapter 3 (page 81) of the referenced book plus two variants.
- Question 3.2.- 3 more problems from a different book.
- Question 3.3.- Discussion on erroneous ideas about the comparative advantage.



## **4. RESOURCES AND TRADE: THE HECKSCHER-OHLIN MODEL**

4.1.- A model of a two-factor economy.

4.2.- Effects of international trade between two-factor economies.

References:

Krugman, P.R. y Obstfeld, M. (1995): *Economía internacional: Teoría y política*. McGraw Hill. Chapter 4, pages 77-92.

Practical questions:

Question 4.1.- Problems 1 and 2 from chapter 4 in the book by Krugman, P.R. and Obstfeld, M. (1995 edition). 3 more problems from a different book.

## **5. ECONOMIES OF SCALE, IMPERFECT COMPETITION, AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

5.1.- Economies of scale and international trade.

5.2.- Economies of scale and market structure.

5.3.- Monopolistic competition and trade.

5.4.- External economies and international trade.

References:

Krugman, P.R., Obstfeld, M. and M.J. Melitz (2015): *International Economics: Theory and Policy*. Tenth Edition (Global Edition). Pearson, chapter 7, pages 177-190, and chapter 8, pages 200-213.

Practical questions:

Question 5.1.- The intra-industry trade index.

Question 5.2.- The relative importance in trade of economies of scale (internal or external) and the comparative advantage (coming from technological differences or differences in factor endowments).

Question 5.3.- One problem about the monopolistic competition model.

## **6. INTERNATIONAL FACTOR MOVEMENTS**

6.1.- International labour mobility.

6.2.- Foreign direct investment, multinational firms and Global Value Chains.

References:

Krugman, P.R., Obstfeld, M. and M.J. Melitz (2015): *International Economics: Theory and Policy*. Tenth Edition (Global Edition). Pearson, chapter 4, pages 84-87 and 102-108, chapter 8, pages 222-232.



## 7. THE INSTRUMENTS OF TRADE POLICY

- 7.1.- Basic tariff analysis.
- 7.2.- Costs and benefits of a tariff.
- 7.3.- Trade policy institutions.

References:

Krugman, P.R., Obstfeld, M. and M.J. Melitz (2015): International Economics: Theory and Policy. Tenth Edition (Global Edition). Pearson, chapter 9, pages 238-260.

Practical questions:

- Question 7.1.- Numerical exercises about the tariff analysis, plus the concepts of effective rate of protection and nominal rate of protection.
- Question 7.2.- What is dumping?.
- Question 7.3.- Export subsidies.
- Question 7.4.- Import quotas.
- Question 7.5.- Voluntary export restraints.

## 8. EXCHANGE RATES AND THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET

- 8.1.- Exchange rates and international transactions.
- 8.2.- The foreign exchange market.
- 8.3.- Equilibrium in the foreign exchange market: An asset approach.
- 8.4.- The purchasing power parity.

References:

Krugman, P.R., Obstfeld, M. and M.J. Melitz (2015): International Economics: Theory and Policy. Tenth Edition (Global Edition). Pearson, chapter 14, pages 374-383, 389-403 and 408-410, chapter 16, pages 445-449 and 455-462.

Practical questions:

- Question 9.1.- Some selected problems about exchange rates and the purchasing power parity.
- Question 9.2.- Some selected problems about the interest parity condition.

### WORKLOAD

#### PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theory	30,00
Classroom practices	30,00
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>60,00</b>

#### NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
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Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	30,00
Independent study and work	20,00
Preparation of lessons	20,00
Preparation for assessment activities	10,00
Resolution of case studies	10,00
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>90,00</b>

## TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Magisterial lessons with a chance to take part in the lesson, presenting the basic theoretical concepts and principles.

Practical classes, with the purpose of applying theories, concepts and methods in the resolution of analytical problems or analysis of case studies.

Supervised independent work based on the reading and assessment of reports, resolution of problems and participation in projects.

Autonomous capacity to study and to prepare the exam and the homework.

## EVALUATION

The final mark of the course depends on:

1. **A written exam.** The written exam will count 80% of the final mark.
2. **Continuous evaluation.** Continuous evaluation will count 20% of the final mark.

**IMPORTANT REMARK: IT IS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN A MINIMUM OF 5 POINTS IN THE EXAM IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.**

**THE CONTINUOUS EVALUATION IS UNRECOVERABLE DUE TO ITS NATURE.**

## REFERENCES

- Referencia c1: Caves, R.E., Frankel, J.A. y Jones, R.W. (1999): World trade and payments: An



introduction. Addison Wesley. Referencia c2: Bengochea, A. Camarero, M. Cantavella, M y Martinez, I. (2002) Economía Internacional. Cuestiones y Ejercicios resueltos. Prentice Hill  
Referencia c3: Banco de España (Boletín Económico, Boletín Estadístico, Informes de Coyuntura): <http://www.bde.es> Ministerio de Economía: <http://www.meh.es/es-ES/Paginas/Home.aspx> ó <http://www.meh.es/> Instituto Nacional de Estadística: <http://www.ine.es> Unión Europea (web oficial): <http://europa.eu/> ó [http://europa.eu/index\\_es.htm](http://europa.eu/index_es.htm) Eurostat (Oficina estadística de la UE): <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home> Organización Mundial de Comercio: <http://www.wto.org> Fondo Monetario Internacional: <http://www.imf.org> Banco Mundial: <http://www.worldbank.org> Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Comercio y Desarrollo (UNCTAD): <http://www.unctad.org> Naciones Unidas (ONU): <http://www.un.org><http://www.un.org/es/>

- Krugman, P.R., Obstfeld, M. y M.J. Melitz (2016): Economía Internacional: Teoría y política. 10ª edición. Pearson.