University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	International Economics, PG_00199299		
Field of study	Economics		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027
Education level	Master's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	2	ECTS credits	3.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	exam
Conducting unit	Department of International Economics and Economic Development -> Faculty of Economics -> Rector		
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr hab. Tomasz Brodzicki, prof. UG	
	Teachers	dr hab. Tomasz Brodzicki, prof. UG prof. dr hab. Andrzej Cieślik	

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	15.0	15.0	0.0	30.0	0.0	60

E-learning hours included: 0.0

Learning activity and number of study hours

Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
Number of study hours	60	0.0	15.0	75

Subject objectives

The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the mechanisms, processes, and theoretical foundations of international economic relations. Students will study classical and contemporary models of international trade, including comparative advantage, factor endowments, economies of scale, global value chains, and firm heterogeneity. They will also learn about international capital flows, foreign exchange markets, the balance of payments, open-economy macroeconomics, and the objectives and effects of trade policy and economic integration. Drawing on the theories, models, and data covered in the course, students will be able to independently analyze and critically assess the nature and evolution of economic relations between countries, as well as the consequences of growing economic openness, globalization, and the fragmentation of the world economy.

The course comprises 15 hours of lectures, 15 hours of practical classes, and 30 hours devoted to analytical group projects. The project is completed in teams of four to six students and focuses on a selected topic in international economics. The topic is discussed with and approved by the course instructor during consultations. The completed project is presented in class at the end of the semester.
During practical classes and group projects, students will apply theoretical models and analytical methods to economic data and real-world problems. They will develop the ability to independently and critically assess the nature and evolution of economic relations between countries and the consequences of economic openness, globalization, and the fragmentation of the world economy.

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[EKONMU2_K03] inspires and organises preparation of economic and social projects, following the idea of sustainable development, reconciling legal, economic, ecological, political and social requirements	The student is able to prepare and deliver a speech in the field of international economics	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report
	[EKONMU2_W04] has an in-depth knowledge of different types of economic and social ties and regularities governing them; has an in-depth knowledge of economic and financial ties between enterprises	The student will gain in-depth knowledge of the relations between phenomena in international economics	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[EKONMU2_W09] has an in-depth knowledge of the evolution of theories describing economic entities and organisations as well as public institutions; knows the connections between them	The student will acquire knowledge of views on selected aspects and phenomena in international economics and their historical evolution	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[EKONMU2_W08] has an in-depth knowledge of processes occurring in enterprises and economic organisations and with related areas, as well as of processes of change in public institutions; knows methods of research on the regularities governing these changes, taking into account the influence of external stakeholders on them	The student knows the processes taking place at the interface between the company and international markets	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[EKONMU2_W01] has an in-depth knowledge of the nature of social sciences and their place in the system of sciences; understands the differences between contemporary trends in economic thought; knows the claims of contemporary economic theories	As part of the lecture, the student will learn the basics of international economics. The most important regularities concerning international trade, the transfer of factors of production and the functioning of the currency market and the principles of macroeconomics of the open economy will be presented and explained. The student learns about the relations between the national and international economy, defines the planes of translating the processes taking place on the international level into the socio-economic situation on the domestic market. The student acquires extended knowledge in the field of terminology used in the literature of international economics. He also has in-depth knowledge of the principles of the global market, especially the interdependencies between countries during the economic crisis	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[EKONMU2_W02] has an in-depth knowledge of various types of existing economic entities and organisations as well as an extended knowledge of public institutions	The student knows the most important organizations providing data on international trade and foreign direct investment	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
	[EKONMU2_U10] has an advanced ability to prepare specialist oral presentations on economic and social issues, using specialist theoretical approaches, the principles of collecting various sources of data, their description and interpretation, and drawing conclusions based on scientific literature; can prepare and conduct a debate	The student is able to prepare and deliver a speech in the field of international economics	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[EKONMU2_W07] has an in-depth knowledge of economic and financial principles governing the functioning and management of economic entities and organisations, as well as of systems of legal, organisational, professional, moral and ethical norms and rules organising public structures and institutions, both in the national and international spheres	The student will learn about the types of international trade and investment relations	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[EKONMU2_W03] has a knowledge of relations between economic phenomena, entities and organisations as well as public institutions functioning in the national, international and intercultural spheres	The student knows the basics of international economic relations	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[EKONMU2_U09] has an advanced ability to prepare specialist written assignments concerning economic and social issues, using specialist theoretical and methodological approaches, collecting various sources of data, their description and interpretation, the principles of hypothesis formulation and drawing conclusions on the basis of scientific literature and factual data, and can make extensive international comparisons	The student is able to prepare or participate in the preparation of empirical and theoretical work in the field of international economics	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report

Subject contents

1. Introduction to international economics. Characteristics of an open economy and current developments in the global economy.
2. Classical theories of international trade. Absolute and comparative advantage, the standard trade model, terms of trade, specialization, and the welfare effects of trade liberalization.
3. The Heckscher–Ohlin and Heckscher–Ohlin–Vanek models. Countries' factor endowments, trade in factor services, the Stolper–Samuelson and Rybczynski theorems, and factor price equalization.
4. New Trade Theory. Economies of scale, monopolistic competition, product differentiation, intra-industry trade, technology-based theories, and elements of New Economic Geography.
5. Microeconomic theories of international trade. Firm heterogeneity, the Melitz model, exporter selection, intensive and extensive trade margins, and the effects of trade liberalization on productivity and resource reallocation.
6. Trade in value added and global value chains. International flows of labour and capital, migration, foreign direct investment, trade in services, and the relationship between economic openness and economic growth.
7. Trade policy and regional economic integration. Arguments for free trade and protectionism, tariff and non-tariff instruments, the economic effects of tariffs, quotas and subsidies, and trade creation and trade diversion.
8. Exchange rates and the foreign exchange market. Nominal and real exchange rates, purchasing power parity, interest rate parity, exchange rate regimes, the macroeconomic policy trilemma, and optimum currency area theory.
9. The balance of payments and open-economy macroeconomics. The current and financial accounts, the relationship between savings and investment, balance-of-payments adjustment mechanisms, global imbalances, and the IS–LM–BP model.
10. Research project. Application of the theories, models and analytical methods covered in the course to an independent investigation of a selected problem in international economics and interpretation of the findings.

The course comprises 15 hours of lectures, 15 hours of practical classes, and 30 hours of work on a research project.

Students may attend consultations to explore the topics covered during lectures and practical classes in greater depth.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Group project	51.0%	30.0%
Written exam	51.0%	70.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature

- T. Rynarzewski, A. Zielińska-Głębocka (2006) Międzynarodowe stosunki gospodarcze, PWN, Warszawa.
- Krugman P., Obstfeld M. (2018) Ekonomia międzynarodowa, PWN, Warszawa.

	Supplementary literature	• *Salvatore D. (2004) International Economics, Wiley & Sons • *Pilbeam K. (2006), International Finance, Palgrave Macmillan. • *Zielińska G. (2012), Współczesna gospodarka światowa. Przemiany, innowacje, kryzysy, rozwiązania regionalne, Oficyna Wolters Kluver business, Warszawa
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	**Examples of research project topics:** 1. A gravity model of Poland's foreign trade. 2. Determinants of foreign direct investment in EU countries. 3. Poland's export competitiveness: an analysis of revealed comparative advantages. 4. Intra-industry trade between Poland and other EU countries. 5. The modern business services sector as an example of global corporate activity. 6. Poland's position in global value chains. 7. The impact of the Polish zloty exchange rate on exports and imports. 8. Economic arguments for and against Poland's accession to the euro area. 9. Does Poland meet the criteria of an optimum currency area? 10. The impact of euro adoption on trade and investment in Central and Eastern European countries. 11. Determinants of current account balances in EU countries. 12. The relationship between trade openness and economic growth. 13. The impact of foreign direct investment on economic productivity. 14. Friendshoring and nearshoring as opportunities for Poland and Central and Eastern Europe. 15. Geostrategic fragmentation of global trade and its consequences for Poland. 16. The impact of transport costs on the volume and geographical structure of international trade. 17. The European Union's dependence on imports of critical raw materials and strategic technologies. 18. Digitalization and the development of international trade in services. 19. The impact of artificial intelligence on trade in services and the international division of labour. 20. The effects of tariffs on consumers, producers, and economic welfare.	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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