

WM9E2-15 Trade Policy

24/25

Department

WMG

Level

Taught Postgraduate Level

Module leader

Paul Gower

Credit value

15

Module duration

4 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module will assess how trade policy is determined and discuss the possible outcomes associated with different approaches to policy. The direction of trade policy across countries and regions has major implications for businesses both in terms of their own overseas expansion plans as well as likely competition from foreign organisations. In addition, it can also have implications for the economy and society, more generally, in terms of technological development, innovation, sustainable growth, inequality, job creation and household wellbeing.

The module will assess the role of trade policy within the broader social, political and economic policy context. It will assess the development of trade policy across different countries and regions and analyse the role of global forums such as the World Trade organisation. It will consider the influence of lobbying groups on trade policy and their role in trade agreement negotiations. The key features of trade agreements will be discussed along with the negotiation process behind them.

Module aims

The module aims to provide students with an overview of the role of trade policy and how it is determined. Differences in trade policies between countries and regions will be analysed and the implications of these will be discussed. Students will acquire a greater understanding of the policy making process and how this relates to the negotiation and development of trade agreements.

Along with the International Trade module it will provide a context within which students can analyse strategic and operational decision making by businesses and it will enhance their employability in areas such as policy making, consultancy and business strategy.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

The main topics covered in the module are likely to include:

An assessment of current and historic trade policies in selected countries and regions such as the UK, the EU, the USA and emerging markets.

A discussion of current bilateral and multilateral trade agreements such as CPTPP and ASEAN.

A discussion the role of global forums such as the WTO and the United Nations in determining trade policy.

An evaluation of the process leading to the creation of trade agreements including the role of interest and lobbying groups.

A discussion of the importance of market access measures such as tariffs/customs procedures and regulatory measures such as standards and rules of origin in trade policy.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Evaluate the development and implications of trade policies across different countries and regions
- Critically assess the nature of existing trade agreements and the process by which new trade agreements are negotiated
- Assess the role and importance of interest groups and lobbying organisations in the development of trade policy
- Evaluate the role of trade policy within broader economic, social and political policy perspectives
- Critically assess, collaboratively, the strategies and objectives adopted by countries in trade negotiations

Indicative reading list

Klasen, A. (2020) *The Handbook of Global Trade Policy*. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell ISBN 978-1-119-16738-9

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

International

Trade policy will be considered from a global perspective taking account of intercultural differences and the international diversity of the student body on the degree programme

Subject specific skills

Understanding of the role of trade policy within a broader policy context, development and implications of trade agreements, role of global forums in trade policy, role of interest groups in trade policy, recognising the importance of sustainability in trade policy.

Transferable skills

Teamworking, critical thinking, problem solving, communication, intercultural awareness, professionalism, sustainability.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	4 sessions of 2 hours (5%)
Seminars	11 sessions of 2 hours (15%)
Online learning (scheduled sessions)	(0%)
Online learning (independent)	5 sessions of 3 hours (10%)
Private study	45 hours (30%)
Assessment	60 hours (40%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

The breakdown includes 15 hours of independent online learning. This will be undertaken in small groups (5-6 students) and will enable the students to plan and prepare for the simulated trade agreement negotiation exercise that is planned for the seminars. The preparation will involve developing a negotiating strategy based on the role the group has been given (trade negotiators, analysts). The independent online learning will also enable the students to undertake preparatory background reading for the simulation exercise. This will enable them to engage fully in the seminar sessions. The private study hours are for the students to read the material supporting the lectures and view any additional videos that have been prepared to supplement the lectures.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time
A critical assessment of the objectives and outcomes of a trade agreement negotiation	70%	42 hours
<p>The assignment will use as its basis a trade negotiation simulation undertaken in the seminars during which students will take on given, country specific roles whilst engaged in preparing for and negotiating a plurilateral trade agreement which also takes account of the requirements of international trade forums such as the WTO (in relation to tariff setting for instance) or the United Nations (through the Sustainable Development Goals for instance). For the assessment, students must complete an individual piece of work which critically assesses the outcomes of the negotiation process by reflecting the challenges faced during the negotiation, the outcome in terms of the trade agreement reached and its potential impact compared to the objectives set for each stakeholder group at the beginning of the process.</p>		
An analysis of the negotiating strategy to be adopted by each country	30%	18 hours
<p>Students will be allocated into country groups prior to the negotiation simulation. They will be required to develop a negotiating strategy, based on the background research they have undertaken, which will reflect their own country's objectives and the possible objectives of other countries. There will be a formal group presentation, to course tutors only, of this strategy before the negotiation simulation begins. Each member of the group will be required to speak during this presentation. Adjustments to the group mark will be made to reflect peer assessments of each member's individual contribution based on university guidelines.</p>		

Feedback on assessment

Individual written feedback

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of TWMA-H1NB Postgraduate International Trade, Strategy and Operations