

International Trade Regulation

ECTS: 10

KSL Root Number: 7446

The course provides an overview of the law and policy of the current international legal regime governing trade. It offers an examination of the multilateral trading system (in particular World Trade Organization (WTO) law, but also the bilateral strand of trade agreements), with a particular emphasis on the rules and regulations dealing with trade in goods (GATT, SPS Agreement, TBT Agreement, Anti-Dumping and Subsidies law). Rules and regulations concerning services, as well as trade-related intellectual property rights will also be introduced to students.

Special attention is given to the structure, decision-making processes, negotiating techniques and dispute settlement procedures of the WTO. In-depth analysis of the case law acquaints students with diverse situations of trade law in action. Where relevant, the course provides a forward-looking analysis of the proposals to reform the WTO and their political context, overall contributing to a thorough understanding of the present and future of the multilateral trade system. In addition, the course will discuss in detail regional trade agreements, such as TPP and the T-TTIP.

The course draws parallels between the regulation and policy formulation of trade at national and regional levels. Switzerland's external trade relations, the Common Commercial Policy of the European Union, as well as relevant case law are analysed. Non-trade concerns (such as sovereignty, environmental protection, labour rights, animal welfare, culture, and human rights protection) are discussed with a view to their linkage to national and international trade law rules.

Learning outcome:

- To understand the key features of the contemporary international trading system;
- To know the main features of the WTO as an international organization;
- To understand the main WTO Agreements, know the related case-law and evaluate a wide range of technical legal issues of the international trading system;
- To understand the relationship between national regulation and international trade rules and assess the impact of the WTO at the national level;
- To assess how the WTO's rules impact upon a number of other policy areas, such as the protection of the environment, human rights and development;
- To be able to analyse real-life WTO related cases and formulate an expert opinion.