

# Regulations governing the Master of Advanced Studies in International Law and Economics (MILE)

May 26, 2016

*In application of Art. 2 (1) (d) and Art. 29 (a) of the Act governing the University of Bern of 5 September 1996 (Universitätsgesetz, UniG), and in addition to Art. 4, 43 and 77 to 80 of the Statute of the University of Bern of 7 June 2011 (Universitätsstatut, UniSt); the Weiterbildungsreglement der Universität Bern of 10 December 2013 (Weiterbildungsreglement, WBR);*

*after consideration by the Weiterbildungskommission;  
the Faculty of Law at the University of Bern adopts:*

Subject

**Art. 1** These regulations govern the Master of Advanced Studies in International Law and Economics (MILE) within the framework of the general study program in international law and economics at the World Trade Institute (WTI). The program is interdisciplinary and emphasizes the rules, regulations, and institutions, both domestic and international, that define and govern foreign trade, investment, factor movements, the operations of multinational enterprise in the global economy, and the interests and role of other actors and stakeholders.

Governing Body

**Art. 2** The MILE program is executed by the World Trade Institute (WTI). The academic program of the MILE is managed by the MILE academic program coordinator, under supervision of the Director of Studies. The structure of the program itself is subject to periodic and at least annual review by the Academic Program Committee of the World Trade Institute. The Academic Program Committee includes inter alia the WTI Managing Director, the Director of Studies, the MILE academic program coordinator, and academic program coordinators for other WTI programs.

Cooperation

**Art. 3** Cooperation with institutions outside of the University of Bern is subject to separate cooperation agreements entered into by the Board of Directors (Universitätsleitung) of the University of Bern.

Target Group

**Art. 4** The MILE program is offered for:

- a managers position holders in public and private institutions,
- b experts in public and private institutions,
- c service providers in public and private institutions,
- d consultants for public and private institutions,
- e other students interested in pursuing a career in the specialty.

Aims

**Art. 5** The MILE provides students with in-depth knowledge of the contemporary legal framework and the relevant underlying socio-economic and political economy concepts for the topics referenced in Art. 1. In this regard, the curriculum shall equip the MILE students with the necessary analytical tools and knowledge of governing doctrines.

Scope and Structure

**Art. 6** <sup>1</sup> The MILE is a non-consecutive degree of 90 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) of which 75 ECTS are earned through course work, and 15 ECTS are awarded for a MILE thesis. Courses take the form of weekly modules, seminars and lectures and are composed of compulsory courses and elective courses. The structure of the modules and corresponding credits is detailed in the attached study plan.

<sup>2</sup> The MILE is generally to be completed in one year, although exceptions can be made if special circumstances arise.

<sup>3</sup> MILE courses run from September until the end of June. The first semester is composed of compulsory foundational courses and provides students with the relevant theoretical concepts in law, economics and political economy necessary to succeed in the second semester. The second semester is composed of weekly modules. Subject to distributional requirements spelled out in the study plan and subject to the approval of the MILE academic program coordinator, students may select modules based on their individual interest.

<sup>4</sup> The master's thesis, which must be awarded a passing grade in order to qualify for the Master of International Law and Economics title, is due in September and is awarded 15 ECTS points.

Content

**Art. 7** <sup>1</sup> Students are provided with the necessary interdisciplinary analytical tools with foundational courses, the purpose of which is to ensure that all MILE candidates share a common level of knowledge. Subsequently, students are taught the substantive issues of the world trading system, international trade regulation, investment and related subjects. Emphasis is placed on practical examples.

<sup>2</sup> The study plan shall be adopted by the WTI's Academic Program Committee.

Teaching

**Art. 8** <sup>1</sup> The teaching staff is comprised of leading international experts from academia, private practice, international organisations, government and civil society organisations, as well as WTI staff with relevant experience and knowledge of the subject matter.

<sup>2</sup> The course work involves a combination of attendance and participation in courses, individual reading and studies, regular written and/or oral submissions and the preparation and submission of a master's thesis.

Language

**Art. 9** The language of instruction as well as the language of all written work is English, including all assessments and the master's thesis. Written assignments will be monitored to ensure academic integrity.

Quality Assurance

**Art. 10** <sup>1</sup> The program is evaluated by the WTI's Academic Program Committee during its annual strategy meeting. The WTI's Academic Program Committee shall determine to what extent the objectives of the program are being met and shall propose any changes it deems necessary.

<sup>2</sup> All courses are evaluated by the students. The results of these evaluations shall be considered by the Academic Program Committee and the Operational Management when selecting instructors for future courses and in the continued development of the program.

<sup>3</sup> The WTI's Academic Programme Committee shall provide the Weiterbildungskommission with an annual report.

Admission	<p><b>Art. 11</b> <sup>1</sup> Admission to the MILE is based on the evaluation of a complete application, made by the MILE admissions committee, which is appointed by the Academic Program Committee. Applications are accepted between 1 December and 31 January with timely review of applications. Applicants will be notified of admission decisions by 1 March. Decisions on financial matters, including fees and waivers, will be notified by 15 March. The WTI's Academic Program Committee may revise these dates.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Applicants must demonstrate outstanding academic ability and provide credible references bearing witness to their research abilities.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> Applicants must have completed an undergraduate degree (or equivalent, depending on the educational system of the respective country), ideally in a field related to the focus of the program, such as law, economics, finance, commerce, international relations, or political science.</p> <p><sup>4</sup> Applicants should possess at least one year of professional experience in a related field (lawyer, diplomat, export industry representative, trade economist, civil servant, etc.). Exceptions to this rule may be granted upon reviewing individual applications.</p> <p><sup>5</sup> Applicants must demonstrate an excellent command of written and spoken English. Students whose first language is not English are required to provide TOEFL or EELTS test results. Exceptions may be granted on further examination, particularly where students have obtained their previous degree from a program conducted entirely in English.</p>
Number of participants	<p><b>Art. 12</b> A suitable number of students for the operation of the MILE will be determined by the WTI's operational management. WTI's Academic Program Committee will decide on the selection of MILE students based on the candidate's qualifications and on the evaluation made by the MILE Admissions Committee.</p>
Requirements	<p><b>Art. 13</b> <sup>1</sup> Full attendance of classes is compulsory.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Dispensations and other exemptions to this rule are subject to approval by the MILE academic program coordinator and are not subject to appeal.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> A passing grade as defined in Article 15 must be received for the final master's thesis in order for MILE students to qualify for the MILE degree.</p> <p><sup>4</sup> The final grade average for the courses taken together with the master's thesis must be 50 or higher in order to qualify for the MILE degree, pursuant to Art. 15.</p> <p><sup>5</sup> The final grade average takes into account the final grades awarded for course work and the master's thesis and is calculated according to the ECTS point weight assigned to each course and the thesis.</p>
Assessment	<p><b>Art. 14</b> <sup>1</sup> All courses are assessed, and all need to be awarded a passing grade in order for credit to be granted.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Assessments can take the form of written assessments, oral assessments, or research papers, and may factor in class participation.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> Should a student receive a failing grade for his/her course assessment the student will be given the opportunity to take the exam again one time only.</p>

<sup>4</sup> In the case of a master's thesis being awarded an insufficient grade, the student is granted only one attempt to submit another master's thesis focusing on a different subject one time.

<sup>5</sup> Declaration of Authorship: All final MILE theses must include the following statement at the end of the thesis along with the date and personal signature of the student:

"I hereby declare that I have written this work independently and that it is my own unaided work. The ideas and opinions expressed in this paper are made independently, represent my own views and are based on my own research. I have used no other sources than the ones I have specified. All sections that include direct or indirect sources have been properly acknowledged as references. I am aware that this thesis can be examined for the use of unauthorized aid and whether the thesis as a whole or parts incorporated in it may be deemed as plagiarism. I understand that failing to meet these requirements will result in a failing grade of '0' and that the Senate (pursuant to UniG Art. 36, para. 1, section r. of 5. September 1996 and Art. 69 of the UniSt of 7. June 2011) has the right to withdraw the conferred title. For the purposes of assessment and compliance concerning plagiarism, I grant the University of Bern the right to enter my work into a database where it shall also remain after examination, to enable comparison with future theses submitted. I understand that my thesis will be made available in the World Trade Institute library".

<sup>6</sup> In cases where academic fraud is committed, the assessment shall be graded with a grade of 0. The highest academic standards apply to the MILE, as set down in the Regulations concerning scientific integrity of 27 March 2007 / 30 April 2007 of the University of Bern; the Factsheet concerning Plagiarism, June 2012; the Guidelines of the University Board of Directors concerning the procedure for dealing with plagiarism, 28 August 2007 / 3 July 2012, as subsequently amended. In the event of more than one instance of academic fraud by a student, he or she will be expelled from the program. The Academic Program Committee may take further measures.

<sup>7</sup> All weekly modules, seminars and the master's thesis, including the amount of ECTS points awarded, are listed in the MILE Study Plan.

Grading scale

**Art. 15** <sup>1</sup> The study programmes in the MILE are graded on a scale from 1-100, where grades 50 and above are considered a passing grade and are rated as follows:

50–69 is rite (pass)

70–79 is cum laude (pass with honours)

80–89 is magna cum laude (pass with high honours)

90–100 is summa cum laude (pass with highest honours).

<sup>2</sup> Grades of 49 and below are failing grades.

<sup>3</sup> Students are provided with a transcript of grades that displays the individual grade awarded for each class and a final average of all grades awarded. The final average takes into account the different ECTS value of each grade.

Length of studies

**Art. 16** <sup>1</sup> Generally, the length of studies is one year.

	<p><sup>2</sup> An extension may be granted by the MILE academic program coordinator. Failure to complete without an approved extension may result in exclusion from the program.</p>
Degree	<p><b>Art. 17</b> <sup>1</sup> The MILE degree requirements are considered fulfilled when all of academic and financial requirements have been fulfilled.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> The MILE degree is awarded and signed by the Dean of the Faculty of Law and the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Bern, Switzerland, and will read:</p> <p>Master of Advanced Studies in International Law and Economics (MILE Unibe).</p> <p><sup>3</sup> A transcript of grades detailing the final grades awarded for each course is given to students in addition to their degrees.</p> <p><sup>4</sup> The MILE degree title does not entitle students access to consecutive study programs or doctoral studies at the University of Bern.</p> <p><sup>5</sup> Students who have not fulfilled the MILE requirements as detailed in these regulations can be given a confirmation of participation in place of the degree.</p> <p><sup>6</sup> The MILE degree, final transcripts or certificates confirming graduation will not be provided to a student with outstanding fees.</p>
Status	<p><b>Art. 18</b> <sup>1</sup> Students in the MILE program shall be matriculated at the University of Bern and shall enjoy all the rights and privileges available to students of University of Bern.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> The matriculation fees are included in the tuition fees and shall be paid by the World Trade Institute directly to University of Bern.</p>
Funding	<p><b>Art. 19</b> <sup>1</sup> The program is funded with student fees. Other financial contributions are possible.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> The income from the program is subject to the overhead fee for further education programmes at the University of Bern.</p>
Fees	<p><b>Art. 20</b> <sup>1</sup> The cost of tuition is subject to amendment by decision of the Academic Program Committee and is to be set at between CHF 20'000 and CHF 35'000.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> The WTI may adjust the tuition fees to ensure that the continuing education programs can be carried out while covering costs and remaining economically competitive.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> The tuition fees cover all teaching fees as well as the costs of the required course materials, but do not include the cost of books or additional photocopies.</p> <p><sup>4</sup> Where the student is to receive financial aid, the cost of tuition may be subject to reduction.</p> <p><sup>5</sup> No diplomas, final transcripts or certificates confirming graduation will be provided to a student with outstanding fees.</p> <p><sup>6</sup> In the event that a registered MILE student withdraws from the program prior to the beginning of the program, he or she shall be required to pay a forfeiture fee of 50% of the program's tuition.</p>

<sup>7</sup> In the event that a registered MILE student withdraws from the program after the beginning of the program, he or she shall be required to pay the full tuition fee of the program.

#### Organisation

**Art. 21** <sup>1</sup> The WTI's Academic Program Committee is responsible for planning the program curricula, while the MILE academic program coordinator is responsible for the supervision of the programs and students and the liaison with visiting professors. The office of administration of the World Trade Institute is responsible for the enrolment of new students, assistance with immigration and housing, the procedural modalities regarding the allocation of scholarships and financial aid, the operational implementation and planning of the program such as scheduling, as well as the formalities related to the collection of fees and student graduation.

<sup>2</sup> The WTI's Academic Program Committee is responsible for developing and conceptualizing the academic program as a whole, the curricula, and the course contents, as well as for reviewing the programme on an annual basis. The office of administration of the World Trade Institute is responsible for executing the administrative aspects of the program as spelled out in Art. 21.1.

#### Appeals

**Art. 22** <sup>1</sup> The first point of contact for students is the MILE academic program coordinator. If possible, differences of opinion will be handled via meetings between the coordinator, faculty, and student, in a non-contentious setting. Decisions are then taken by the Academic Program Committee.

<sup>2</sup> Where decisions taken by the Academic Program Committee or the MILE Program Coordination affect the participant disadvantageously in his/her legal position, the participant may appeal the decision within 30 days of notification to the Dean of the Law Faculty.

<sup>3</sup> The rulings of the Law Faculty, respectively the Dean of the Law Faculty, (to grant or not grant academic titles, in accordance with paragraph 2), pursuant to these regulations and to enact the implemented provisions within them, may be appealed within 30 days of notification to the appeals committee (Rekurskommission) of the University of Bern.

<sup>4</sup> Appeals decisions taken by the appeals committee can be appealed to the administrative court (Verwaltungsgericht) of the Canton of Bern.

<sup>5</sup> Appeals based on the complaint of inadequacy of the results of performance assessments and examinations are inadmissible (Art. 76 para. 4 UniG).

#### Transitional Provisions

**Art. 23** Students enrolled in the MILE-Program before these regulations enter into force, continue to be governed by the previous regulations of February 13, 2006.

Adoption

**Art. 24** The present Regulations were adopted by the Faculty of Law on May 26, 2016 and the Senat on October 18, 2016.

Entry into Force

**Art. 25** The present Regulations shall enter into force on November 15, 2016.

*Adopted by the faculty of Law:*

Bern, 5/26/2016

The Dean



Prof. Dr. Peter V. Kunz

*Adopted by the Senate:*

Bern, 10/18/2016

The Rector



Prof. Dr. Christian Leumann

