

Course Goals and content

This course will provide an in-depth understanding of the impact of international trade law and policy in shaping an emerging wave of green regulation at national and international levels. As many consumers, businesses, and governments are looking to inject sustainability into economic life, we explore what role international trade law and policy will play in that process

During the course, course participants will be invited to discuss their PhD (or other research) topic through the prism of trade and sustainability: Does your research raise questions in this area? Does your research identify any particular obstacles or opportunities? Would you like to refine your research to tackle aspects of trade and sustainability

Lecturers



Dominic Coppens, PhD, is senior associate at Sidley Austin LLP, Brussels. He advises governments, business, and NGOs on international trade rules, in particular on WTO rules, and on the intersection between trade and environment (e.g., international waste regulation, and the EU's Green Deal). Dominic also regularly lectures and writes on trade law, including on subsidy law. He is a member of the International Law Association's Committee on Sustainable Development and the Green Economy in International Trade Law. Contact: dcoppens@sidley.com



Nicolas Lockhart is a partner at Sidley Austin LLP, Geneva. He advises governments, business, and NGOs on trade law and policy, including on trade and sustainability issues. Nic has litigated dozens of WTO disputes and also advised on the negotiation of new trade rules at the WTO and elsewhere. He recently contributed to policy papers by the World Economic Forum on trade and sustainability. Nic is a frequent speaker and writer on international trade law and policy. Contact: nlockhart@sidley.com

Course Content

1. Regulatory framework
 - a. Setting the stage (e.g., concepts, challenges and opportunities)
 - b. Multilateral
 - i. WTO (treaty provisions, and interpretation)
 - ii. International environmental agreements
 - c. Plurilateral (trade and sustainable development provisions in RTAs, ACCTS negotiations)
 - d. National (e.g., EU Green Deal)
 - e. Public/private initiatives
2. Specific topics
 - a. How can trade policy impact the circular economy? (e.g., Basel Convention, OECD Decision, WTO initiatives on sustainability and plastics waste)
 - b. How can subsidy disciplines impact sustainability?
 - c. "Green" subsidies under WTO law
 - d. Fisheries subsidies (WTO negotiations)

- i. Fossil fuel subsidies (e.g., ACCTS negotiations)

3. Analysing the course participants' research through the prism of trade and sustainability

Grading

For participants who take this course for ECTS credits, the grading will be on class participation (20%) and an assignment (80%). The assignment involves either a short write-up of a participant's analysis of his/her PhD (or other) research through the prism of trade and sustainability; or, if not applicable, a short write-up on an alternative topic related to trade and sustainability.

Organization

The course is intended for PhD students. A limited number of people with relevant professional or academic interest may be also admitted

Lecture hours: 25 ECTS : 4

The tuition fee is **CHF 500**. A limited number of (partial) tuition fee waivers is available for participants from developing countries and WTI partner institutions.

Timetable and Registration

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the course exceptionally takes place online on the following dates: 18 and 19 March, and 1, 2, and 9 April 2021. This is an intensive course. Each of the five sessions is 5 hours in duration from 10:30 – 13:00 CET and 14:00 – 16:30 CET. Participants are expected to review reading materials from a suggested bibliography before the course begins.

Available course outlines and reading material can be found under the course listing on the Doctoral Programme webpage.

<https://www.wti.org/education/doctoral-programme/#open-90799-phd-courses-and-summer-school>

Send your application to:
phd.applications@wti.org

This course is organized in the context of the *Doktoratsprogramme universitäre Hochschulen 2017–2020*.