



WTI, University of Bern
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World Trade Institute (WTI)

History and Mandate

The World Trade Institute was founded upon the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of the GATT and the advent of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995. It was established in 1999 to train future practitioners and researchers from all over the world and to strengthen research capacities in areas that have an increasing impact on people's lives. The financial crisis in 2008 showed the importance of a stable and open multilateral trading system under the auspices of the WTO and organisations and agreements on regional integration.

Vision:

- We aim to **shape public policy** so that international economic governance yields tangible benefits for society
- We strive to be the **world's leading academic institution** for studies, teaching and research in **international trade and investment regulation** and **economic globalisation and sustainability**

Mission:

- We are a **centre of excellence** at the University of Bern
- We contribute to a better understanding of **the legal, economic and political framework governing globalisation and sustainable development**
- We provide **cutting-edge research** and **scholarly outputs** on frontier topics
- We attract **top graduate students from around the world** and give them the knowledge and skills to become tomorrow's leaders in the field of international economic governance

Research

Since 2005, research at the WTI has mainly been carried out within the **NCCR Trade Regulation**. Financed by the Swiss National Science Foundation, the NCCR puts the WTI at the core of a global research network connecting our students to researchers, practitioners and its own alumni in the field. Its purpose is to develop innovative policy recommendations, which reflect a better balance between economic and other regulatory objectives. NCCR researchers address regulatory challenges through different research projects which are organised into six thematic work packages: trade governance, new preferentialism in trade, innovation and competitiveness in trade governance, trade and the diffusion of migration policy, trade and climate change, and impact assessment. The 12-year project will conclude this year.



Other current research projects include the r4d project **Employment Effects of Different Development Policy Instruments**, the r4d project **Towards Food Sustainability**, the EU-funded **Productivity, Non-Tariff Measures and Openness (PRONTO)** project, the **Design of Trade Agreements (DESTA)** database, a project exploring the legal potential of the emerging doctrine of **Common Concern of Humankind**, a project on the **Diffusion of International Law** within the Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS), an **academic cooperation project** with the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), and the **Climate Security with Local Authorities (CLISEL)** project, which investigates the climate-security nexus from the perspective of local administrations and communities.

Education

The WTI's flagship **Master's Programme in International Law and Economics (MILE)** has offered students and young professionals who wish to broaden their knowledge of international trade and investment in the fields of law, economics and political science graduate training since the year 2000. More than 500 MILE alumni are now working around the world in ministries, international organisations, non-governmental organisations and law firms.

In 2016, the WTI launched an advanced Master's programme in Trade and Investment Law (**TRAIL+**) that combines courses in International Law and Economics. The one-year graduate programme includes more law courses and fewer courses on economics and political science than our MILE programme. Upon the successful conclusion of the TRAIL+ programme, the student is awarded an LL.M. in International Trade and Investment Law, as well as a Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) in International Law and Economics.

In addition to the Master's Programme, the WTI offers:

- **Doctoral programme** – open to Master's-level graduates in economics, political science and law
- **Summer Academy** – eight weeks of training in trade and investment in Bern
- **Joint Academy in India** – four weeks of training in Delhi, jointly run by the WTI and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade
- **Courses à la Carte** – a Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) or Certificate of Advanced Studies in International Law and Economics, as well as weekly courses

Outreach

WTI experts look at the different challenges we face today from an economic, legal and political science perspective. We build networks globally with international institutions and high-profile academic partners and support clients with high quality research-based consultancy advice, training courses and technical assistance.

Regulatory issues, preferential trade agreements, sustainability impact assessments, governance, climate change, human rights, economic development, and employment and migration - these are areas at the core of economic policy making (public sector) and international business (private sector). The WTI has worked in all of these areas across the world.

WTI advisory services include the following:

- **Applied studies** on trade and investment with a specific focus on sustainable impact assessments;
- **Training of professionals**, practitioners and officials in trade and investment-related issues;
- Trade and investment-related **technical assistance** and **capacity-building** services globally;
- Providing **platforms for exchange and learning** on trade and investment.

Facts and Figures

- Home Institution: University of Bern
(The WTI is formally assigned to the Faculty of Law and interacts with the Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences.)
- Established: 1999
- Managing Director: Prof. Joseph Francois
- Deputy Director: Prof. Manfred Elsig
- Director of Studies: Prof. Peter van den Bossche
- Director of Outreach: Dr Koen Berden
- Managing Director, Institute of European and International Economic Law (IEW): Prof. Michael Hahn

Funding

The Institute is funded by the University of Bern for its infrastructure and for approximately one-fifth of its running expenses. Approximately four-fifths of the budget comes from external and project-based funding (research grants, teaching fees, consulting, and training activities).

Employees

Currently 40 researchers in-house – including professors, post-doctoral researchers, doctoral students and junior research fellows – plus a dozen administrative staff.