

WTO Law on Border Management and Trade Facilitation

This course is intended to introduce the students to the main international trade rules on market access for goods, focusing in particular on two main categories of barriers: tariff barriers and quantitative restrictions imposed on both imports and exports. The module's format consists of an introductory lecture aimed at familiarizing the students with the basics of market access, from standard WTO rules to the most recent developments as emerged from WTO case law, followed by the preparation and discussion of two case studies, one on the import side and one on the export side. Students are expected to acquire a thorough understanding of the different rules applicable to different forms of barriers and to appreciate the challenges inherent to the current inconsistencies affecting WTO rules on import and export tariffs and quantitative restrictions.

The course will also cover tariffs, tariff restrictions, tariffication, VERs, tariff rate quotas and licensing regimes, and the law of quantitative restrictions (for example, methods, concessions, consolidation, bindings and compensation).

The second part of the course will cover the many challenges of managing the border, drawing attention to the economics of trade costs and the economic underpinnings of the recent trade policy interest in issues of trade facilitation. The course will also review the key legal and negotiating challenges arising in customs law, it will explore the complex area of rules of origin in both multilateral and preferential negotiation settings, and it will conclude with an in-depth look at the negotiation agenda on trade facilitation in the WTO. This course will be of particular interest to those interested in private sector trading, agriculture and government negotiations and regulation.