

Unlocking opportunities

Discover the World Trade Institute



Pushing the boundaries in education & research

Aboul us

The World Trade Institute (WTI) is a leading academic institution dedicated to teaching and research focused on international trade and investment regulation, economic globalisation, and sustainability. As a centre of excellence at the University of Bern, we explore the interconnections between the fields of law, economics, and political science.

Interdisciplinarity

The WTI combines graduate-level education, interdisciplinary research, and specialised advisory services for government, business, and international organisations in a unique and dynamic institution. Coming from around the world, the diverse mix of students, visiting researchers, and faculty at the WTI provides a stimulating environment for learning and research.



Stimulating academic environment & limited intake

The WTI distinguishes itself through its modest class sizes, maintaining the belief that less is more. Our intimate academic setting fosters exclusivity, personalised one-on-one teaching, and active student engagement.



Network of alumni

Alumni of the WTI's various programmes are part of an evergrowing, global community of bright and dedicated minds. As a part of the WTI alumni community, students get access to upcoming events, current news and research results, and an opportunity to network.









30+ Master & PhD students every year



100+ countries

600+

Alumni



15+ current international research projects

Masler programmes

The WTI offers two one-year intensive graduate programmes.

> Master of Advanced Studies in International Law & Economics (MILE)

> LL.M. in International Trade and Investment Law (TRAIL+)

Established in 1999, the Master of Advanced Studies in International Law and Economics (MILE) is the flagship programme of the WTI. The MILE is designed for students with a background in law, economics, international relations, or political science who wish to broaden their knowledge of international trade and investment. The programme uniquely combines a multidisciplinary perspective with an applied focus. The TRAIL+ is an advanced master of law programme (LL.M) in trade and investment law combined with a Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) in international law and economics. The TRAIL+ programme is designed for students with a legal background who are interested in specialising in international economic law with cross-disciplinary study of the global economy of trade and investment agreements. This programme is offered in cooperation with the Faculty of Law of the University of Bern.

Both Masters can be taken on a full-time (1 year) or part-time basis (3 years).



Winler & summer academy

The Winter and Summer Academy at the World Trade Institute are an exceptional opportunity to understand the intricacies of trade and investment law and policy by selecting from a range of courses offered during the University's semester breaks on-site or online.

Examples of courses offered in the past:

- WTO Law on Border Measures and Trade Facilitation
- The Law and Policy of Trade in Services
- Climate Change: Intellectual Property Law and Technology Transfer
- Contracts Regarding Cross-Borders Trade and Investment



Shorf courses

> WTI short courses are offered throughout the year, both on-site and online. Our weekly sessions include public officials, legal practitioners, diplomatic staff, and participants from international organisations and NGOs.

Examples of courses offered in the past:

- Introduction to International Negotiations
- Government Procurement Regulation in the WTO
- Digital Trade Law
- Trade Policy Making and the WTO

Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS)

Participants who earn 8 ECTS in coursework (3 courses) and 4 ECTS by writing a research paper are eligible for a Certificate of Advanced Studies in International Law and Economics (CAS ILE).

Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS)

Participants who earn 22 ECTS in coursework (8 courses) and 8 ECTS by writing a research paper are eligible for a Diploma of Advanced Studies in International Law and Economics (DAS ILE).



Tailor-made courses

The WTI also offers tailor-made courses designed for professionals, as well as national and international institutions. These range from highly individualised, fine-tuned consultative workshops to practice-oriented courses on applied trade regulation or academic seminars on trade policy modelling and principles.



The WTI empowered me with the knowledge I need to design a compliant customs process without compromising on supply chain performance for a private company."

> Marianna Henud Chiusolo Customs Operations Lead On Running AG

During the MILE programme, I met people from all walks of life - this was the most valuable learning experience."

> Sainabou Taal Head, Fisheries Subsidies, World Trade Organization

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Docioral school

Ph.D. candidates at the institute benefit from a structured programme that is designed to offer students maximum support in writing their thesis. This includes continuous feedback and academic guidance from our global faculty – composed of leading scholars and practitioners from the world's most renowned universities, policy research institutions, law firms, and international organisations.

Doctoral programme

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Research Projects

Researchers at the WTI engage in high-quality, interdisciplinary research spanning the main thematic areas of trade, investment, sustainability, and equity. The institute upholds the highest standards of research quality and integrity, aiming for visibility and relevance.

In collaboration with research teams all over the world, the WTI regularly publishes scientific articles, books, working papers, and policy briefs, while also offering novel databases on trade and investment. Past publications

Current projects



13

Inferested in a Visiting Research Fellow position?

The World Trade Institute welcomes applications from researchers and scholars around the world wishing to conduct research at our premises in Bern. Visiting researchers are allocated a supervisor from among the professors and senior researchers at the WTI.



In Bern, we say "Grüessech"...

Living in Bern

The institute is located in the capital of Switzerland and very close to the University's main building in the Länggasse neighbourhood, one of Bern's vibrant areas full of shops, restaurants, and cafés.

Immerse yourself in the charm, cultural heritage, and nature of Switzerland. From Bern, you can discover the iconic Swiss Alps and indulge in culinary treasures like Swiss chocolate. On weekends, explore popular cities like Zurich or the city of international organisations, Geneva.



world trade institute

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