



TRAIL+

Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Trade and Investment Law and Diploma in International Law and Economics (DAS)

Admission

Online application form [here](#)

The TRAIL+ program at the World Trade Institute targets students and professionals with a legal background who are interested in specializing in international economic law with cross-disciplinary study of the global economy and trade and investment agreements.

The TRAIL+ is an advanced program that combines an LL.M. in Trade and Investment law with a Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) in international law and economics. It is offered at the World Trade Institute in cooperation with the Faculty of Law of the University of Bern, as part of their Continuing Legal Education (“Weiterbildungsprogramm in Rechtswissenschaft”).

The TRAIL+ program is interdisciplinary and emphasizes the rules, regulations and institutions – both domestic and international – which govern trade, investment, the operations of multinational enterprises, and the interests and roles of stakeholders. Courses consist of lectures and case studies, offering students opportunities for classroom discussions and individual research.

Requirements: To be considered for admission to the TRAIL+ program at the World Trade Institute, you are required to have completed a licentiate or master’s in law or equivalent degree, i.e. a degree in law which entitles you to sit for the bar exam or equivalent in your country of origin.

[Everything about the TRAIL+ program](#)

Key facts

90 ECTS credits

Tuition fee: 18,000 CHF

Intake: September of every year

Language of instruction: English

Deadlines

Early bird deadline: 1 December (applications submitted before this deadline will be given priority)

Regular deadline: 31 January

What we offer

- A one-year, intensive LL.M. + DAS graduate program
- The latest research developments in international trade and investment regulation, economics and political science
- Teaching and guidance from world-class scholars and practitioners from leading universities, international organizations, think tanks and law firms
- Highly applicable real-world knowledge and the latest research developments in international trade and investment regulation, economics and political science
- A vibrant alumni network with over 600 members worldwide

What you bring

The TRAIL+ is designed for students and professionals with a Master of Law or equivalent degree and wish to further their legal career as a lawyer.

For information about living and studying in Switzerland, [click here](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

TRAIL+ structure and regulations

The TRAIL+ program is a non-consecutive MAS (LL.M. in Trade and Investment Law) combined with a Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) in International Law and Economics.

Successful completion of the TRAIL+ program includes both the LL.M. and DAS components. Upon the successful conclusion of the TRAIL+ program, 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. The TRAIL+ LL.M. cannot be awarded separately from the DAS.

The TRAIL+ program counts for 90 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System Points):

- LL.M. (60 ECTS: 50 ECTS coursework + 10 ECTS for the master's thesis)
- DAS (30 ECTS: 22 ECTS coursework + 8 ECTS for the DAS paper)

Length of Studies: Regular course attendance is required from mid-September until the end of June in Bern. The TRAIL+ master's thesis and DAS paper are researched and written over the subsequent summer and fall and do not require a presence in Bern. The program can also be taken on a part-time basis for three years.

In addition to the courses offered during the fall and spring semesters, TRAIL+ program students can take advantage of WTI Winter and Summer Academy courses (and obtain ECTS credits for those courses).

For a full list of available courses and seminars please refer to the MILE curriculum [here](#)

For questions about the curriculum, please contact the [Academic Coordinator](#)

Faculty

MILE course offerings draw on a global, highly experienced faculty. For a list of lecturers, please see the in-house and external faculty lists on the WTI [People](#) page and visit the University of Bern [Faculty of Law](#) page.

Academic Year 2024/2025 – Key Dates

9 & 13 Sept. 2024	10 & 11 Sept. 2024	12 Sept. 2024	16 Sept. 2024	17 Feb. 2025	30 June 2025
Induction days at the WTI	WTO Public Forum	Trade for Sustainable Development (T4SD) Forum	Courses begin Fall semester	Courses begin Spring semester	Courses end

Fall semester

16 September to 20 December 2024

Foundations of Economics

Lecturers: [David Baumann](#) (Mathematics and Statistics), [Kirti Jhunjhunwala](#) (Microeconomics), [Octavio Fernández-Amador](#) (Macroeconomics and Econometrics)

ECTS: 11

[Syllabus](#)

International Trade Regulation

Lecturer: [Michael Hahn](#)

ECTS: 10

International Investment Law

Lecturer: [Krista Nadakuvakaren](#)

ECTS: 5

[Read more](#)

Academic Support: Research and Academic Writing Seminar

Dates: 20 September, 25 October, 15 November, 30 November and 6 December 2024

Lecturers: [Rodrigo Polanco](#)

[Syllabus](#)

Global Political Economy

Lecturer: [Manfred Elsig](#)

ECTS: 5

International Courts and Tribunals: International Economic Dispute Resolution in Times of Geopolitical Confrontation

Lecturer: [Peter Van den Bossche](#)

ECTS: 5

[Syllabus](#)

Global Economic Governance Seminars – Fall Series

ECTS: 1

Every session features an expert lecturer. Please visit the [Events page](#) for a list of seminars.

[Read more](#)

WINTER ACADEMY 2024

All courses in January/February 2025 (Winter Academy): see [here](#)

Spring Semester

17 February to 30 June 2025

International Economic Dispute Resolution

Lecturer: Isabelle Van Damme

ECTS: 5

International Economic Law and the Pursuit of Sustainable Development

Lecturer: Isabelle Van Damme

ECTS: 5

International Economics

Lecturers: [Octavio Fernandez- Amador](#)

ECTS: 4

Advanced International Investment Law

Lecturer: [Rodrigo Polanco](#)

ECTS: 5

Development economics and environmental sustainability

Dates: TBD

Lecturers: [Patrick Tomberger](#) (Environmental Sustainability), Jesús Crespo

Cuaresma (Development Economics)

ECTS: 3

Global Economic Governance Seminars – Spring Series

ECTS: 1

Every session features an expert lecturer.

Please visit the [Events page](#) for a list of seminars.

Moot Court

Dates: TBD

ECTS: 5
Coaches: TBD

Introduction to International Negotiation

Dates: 7 March, 14 March, 21 March and 28 March 2025

ECTS: 3

Lecturers: [Felix Addor](#)

Research Tutorials for Thesis Writing

Dates: TBD

Lecturer: [Patrick Wagner](#)

Academic Support: Research and Academic Writing Seminar

Dates: TBD

Lecturer: [Rodrigo Polanco](#)

TRAIL+ key dates, courses and faculty

[Curriculum 2024-2025](#)

[Fall 2024-2025 compulsory and elective courses](#)

[Spring 2024-2025 compulsory and elective courses](#)

[TRAIL+ Academic Offer 2024-2025](#)

TRAIL+ course offerings draw on a global, highly experienced faculty. For a list of lecturers, please see the in-house and external faculty lists on the WTI [People](#) page and visit the University of Bern [Faculty of Law](#) page.

Admission

Online application form [here](#)

Admission requirements

To be considered for admission to the TRAIL+ programme at the World Trade Institute, you are required to have completed a licentiate or a bachelor's degree in law or have a degree that is deemed equivalent, i.e. a degree which entitles you to sit for the bar exam or equivalent in your country of origin.

Please upload electronic copies of your documents, preferably in PDF format (jpg/png/gif are accepted), limited to 20MB:

- Detailed CV
- Letter of motivation (write about your academic & professional accomplishments, and explain why you believe the TRAIL+ will benefit you and your career)
- Transcripts and degrees of all completed college/university courses
- Two letters of recommendation
- Evidence of English proficiency for non-native speakers (please see requirements above)

- A two-page essay in English (instructions can be found [here](#))

How to apply

Please use our online application form to apply for the TRAIL+ program and to view details of our requirements.

Admission

Online application form [here](#)

About the English language requirements

The TRAIL+ is taught exclusively in English. Therefore, you need to arrive at the WTI with a level of English. In particular, the level of English needs to allow you to express yourself effectively in and outside the classroom, deliver on weekly writing assignments and adequately cover weekly readings.

You are required to submit objective test scores of one of the accepted tests listed below:

Test	Minimum Score
TOEFL iBT	100 points or above
TOEFL Paper	600 points or above
IELTS	7.0 or above
Cambridge CAE	A
Cambridge CPE	C or higher

Exemptions

The following applicants are exempt from submitting test scores:

- A student with an undergraduate and/or graduate degree from an institution where English was the primary language of instruction, and the degree was awarded no longer than five years ago
- A student who has completed at least one year of study in an English-speaking country and at an institution where English was the primary language of instruction immediately prior to joining the MILE program
- Native English speakers: Students with an undergraduate and/or graduate degree from an institution in the USA, Canada, the UK, Ireland, Australia or New Zealand, where English was the primary language of instruction, and the degree was awarded no longer than five years ago.

Important: If you believe you are exempt from an English test score, please state the relevant reasons in the comment box in the online application form.

Tuition and registration fees

Tuition for the TRAIL+ program is CHF 18,000 for both full and part-time studies.

You may benefit from either one of the following two payment methods:

- A 2% discount is applied if you pay your entire tuition fee prior to the first day of the program.
- If you are unable to pay in full, you can pay in installments.

A one-time, non-refundable registration fee of CHF 200 is required upon admission to the program. Once we confirm your admission to the TRAIL+ program, we will provide you with bank

details. The applicant must bear any charges incurred during the transfer of the tuition fee or registration fee.

Financial support

Opportunities for financial aid are available [here](#)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

I cannot decide whether to take the MILE or the TRAIL+ program. How do the two differ?

The MILE has been our flagship program since 1999 and taps into the expertise of the world's leading academics and practitioners in the field of international economic governance. The uniquely multidisciplinary MILE program includes law courses as well courses in economics and political science. Upon completion of the program, the student is awarded a Master of International Law and Economics (MILE) degree, which is equivalent to a Master of Advanced Studies.

The TRAIL+ program was launched in 2018. It includes more law courses and fewer courses on economics and political science.

The TRAIL+ program is offered by the World Trade Institute in cooperation with the Faculty of Law of the University of Bern. Upon the successful conclusion of the TRAIL+ program, the student is awarded an LL.M. in International Trade and Investment Law, as well as a Diploma of Advanced Studies in International Law and Economics.

Is the application process the same for the MILE and for the TRAIL+?

No, because the admission requirements are not the same. Please refer to the 'Admission' section of our website for information on how to apply for each program.

I am currently employed and want to take the MILE or the TRAIL+ program on a part-time basis. Is this possible?

The TRAIL+ and MILE program can be taken part-time over a two- to three-year period. If this is of interest, please indicate this at the application form. Upon admission to the program of your choice and in consultation with the WTI Director of Studies, you will be able to agree on a tailor-made study plan on a part-time basis.

Will my application be considered if I missed the regular deadline?

Applications submitted after the regular deadline will still be considered if space allows, however please be mindful of visa regulations and deadlines for your nationality.