



July 18, 2023

Profile Seminar “Topics in International Economics” (Bachelor) in the Winter term 2023/24: Empirical Trade Data Analysis

Objectives

On July 13, Germany adopted its first comprehensive “Strategy on China”¹. According to the Federal Government, “Germany’s dependencies on China have taken on greater significance in recent years” (p. 5).

But how dependent is Germany on China or another country? In this seminar, we empirically explore product-level trade flows. Which products are traded? How concentrated is product-level trade? And what are the effects of trade agreements on trade at the product level? Students will be able to understand pre-existing program code (Stata) and apply it to the country pairs under consideration. They can interpret the patterns in trade data in a theory-informed way. Overall, students gain experience in conducting their own empirical research projects (descriptive analysis, simple regression analysis) in the area of international trade. Empirical skills in the analysis of trade data are important to inform decision makers in internationally operating companies or industry associations, as well as policy makers at national and supranational levels.

Previous knowledge of Stata is an asset, but not required.

Software

The econometric software Stata is available as campus license. The software can be downloaded from the ILIAS course STATA Campus:

https://ilias.uni-hohenheim.de/goto.php?target=crs_1140142&client_id=UHOH).

¹ <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/regionaleschwerpunkte/asien/strategy-on-china/2608618>

Curriculum/Requirements - B.Sc. Program

This seminar is eligible as a seminar module in the major (*Profilfach*) “*International Business and Economics*” and in the majors (*Profilbereiche*) “*Competition, Market Failure, and the Government*” (*Wettbewerb, Marktversagen und Staat*); and “*Empirical Economic Research*” (*Empirische Wirtschaftsforschung*).

Students are expected to have prior knowledge about international trade issues at the level of the course *International Trade* (Aufbaumodul *International Business and Economics*).

Credits: 6 LP (‘Leistungspunkte’)

Language: English

Assessment

To receive the credits, the following requirements have to be fulfilled: (i) presence in the seminar meetings, (ii) a one-page written proposal and a handout, (iii) a presentation, and (iv) a seminar paper. The final grade in the seminar will be based on the proposal, the presentation and participation in the seminar meeting, and the seminar paper. Students should demonstrate their ability to explain the trade pattern in a theory-informed way in their own words.

Timing

There will be two kick-off meetings at the beginning of the semester. We will introduce you to the topic, the program code, and the data: **October 20, 2023 from 10 am to 2 pm**, and **October 27, 2023 from 10 am to 2 pm**. If available, please bring your own device (with Stata already installed; see above). There will be a proposal session where students present their research questions and their agenda on **December 1, 2023 from 10 am to 2 pm**. Presentations of final papers will take place on **January 19, 2024 from 10 am to 2 pm**. Attendance to all of these meetings is mandatory.

Registration

In order to register for the seminar, please join the course on ILIAS by clicking on the following link: https://ilias.uni-hohenheim.de/goto.php?target=crs_1499968&client_id=UHOH.

Registration deadline is **October 16, 2023, 11 am**. If you are for some reason no longer interested in the seminar but have already registered, please cancel your registration by leaving the seminar’s ILIAS course.

You will be informed about acceptance by means of an email after the registration deadline. *Please make sure that you regularly check the email address associated to your ILIAS account*. If demand exceeds capacity, we will get back to you and give preference to more advanced students. If necessary, we will draw lots.