



July 31, 2025

Profile Seminar “Topics in International Economics” (Bachelor) in the Winter term 2025/26**Course description**

Students explore current issues in international trade through the lens of real-world data. Using actual trade statistics, they will conduct descriptive analyses – a crucial first step in the Wheel of Science – and learn how to transform raw data into meaningful economic insight. These skills are essential for developing well-founded research questions and preparing for more advanced academic work.

Amid growing public and political attention to global trade – from shifting supply chains to trade conflicts and geopolitical disruptions – students will engage with pressing economic topics by writing a structured, academically rigorous seminar paper. They will learn how to frame a clear research question, prepare a proposal, write a seminar paper, and present their findings in an informed academic discussion.

A special emphasis is placed on the responsible and effective use of Artificial Intelligence throughout all stages of the research process: from literature review and the development of research questions to data analysis, visualization, writing, and revision. Students will gain hands-on experience with modern tools that are increasingly shaping academic and professional economic work.

Active participation is expected – not only in presenting and discussing research, but also in collaboratively developing the expectations and assessment criteria for proposals, seminar papers, and presentations. This participatory approach fosters transparency, reflection, and academic ownership.

The seminar provides an ideal foundation for writing a bachelor thesis in the field of international trade.

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

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 ideally have prior knowledge about international trade issues at the level of the course *International Trade*, but this is not a formal entry requirement.

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 conduct an empirical project and to interpret the results in a theory-informed way in their own words.

Meetings

- Oct 17, 2025, 10-12, S 05
- Oct 24, 2025, 10-12, S 05
- Oct 31, 2025, 10-12, S 05
- Nov 7, 2025, 10-12, S 05
- Nov 21, 2025, 10-14, Proposal session, S 04
- Jan 23, 2026, 10-14, Presentation session, S 05

Attendance to all of these meetings is mandatory.

Registration and admission

Registration for the seminar involves two steps:

- 1) Join the seminar course on ILIAS: <https://ilias.uni-hohenheim.de/goto.php/crs/1747614> . 2
- 2) Within the course, join the group “Registration”.

The number of participants is limited. If there is available capacity, you will be automatically admitted to the seminar. If the seminar is full, you will be placed on a waiting list. Admission from the waiting list happens automatically as spots become available. If you are no longer interested in participating, please **remove yourself from the “Registration” group** to free up space for others. **Registration deadline: October 13, 2025, 11:00 am.**