

July 19, 2025

Master Seminar in International Economics (Economics, IBE) Winter Term 2025-26 Schwerpunktseminar International Trade

Objectives

Supply chains started becoming more complex and international from around 1990. While for a long time participation in Global Value Chains (GVCs) was thought of being a plus, the focus recently has shifted towards the risks. GVC analysis is used as a tool to unmask trade dependencies in complex and international GVCs. This seminar provides an introduction to the analysis of global value chains (GVCs) with a strong emphasis on hands-on training. Building on the key concepts of input-output (IO) analysis developed in the module “Multinational Firms”, students will learn how to (i) derive indicators of GVC participation, (ii) implement them empirically using econometric software and IO tables with multiple countries and sectors, (iii) select the indicators that are appropriate to given questions, and (iv) visualize and interpret the results. They can write up a scientific paper and present their project to a critical audience.

Topics covered will include the analysis of trade dependencies. Participants will learn how to use statistical software (Stata and/or R), assisted by generative AI, to analyze real-world Inter-Country Input-Output (ICIO) data. The seminar aims to bridge theoretical knowledge and practical skills in data analysis, fostering a deeper understanding of trade dependencies.

Curriculum/Requirements

We recommend *Economics* students to have completed the module “Multinational Firms”, but this is not a formal entry requirement.

IBE students must have completed the module “Multinational Firms”.

Prior experience in data manipulation and econometric analysis using statistical software (Stata or, ideally, R) is expected.

Literature

- Antràs, P. and D. Chor (2022): Global Value Chains. Handbook of International Economics, Vol. 5, <https://doi.org/10.1016/bs.hesint.2022.02.005>.
- Baldwin, R., R. Freeman and A. Theodorakopoulos (2022). Horses for Courses: Measuring Foreign Supply Chain Exposure. NBER Working Paper No. 30525, <https://www.nber.org/papers/w30525>
- Sandkamp, A., V. Stamer, F. Wendorff and S. Gans (2023). Empty Shelves Made in China: When China Blocks Trading. Kiel Policy Brief 164. https://www.ifw-kiel.de/fileadmin/Dateiverwaltung/IfW-Publications/-ifw/Kiel_Policy_Brief/2023/KPB_164.pdf

Additional academic papers will be made available during the seminar.

Assessment

To receive the credits, the following requirements have to be fulfilled: (i) presence in the seminar, (ii) a proposal, (iii) a presentation, and (iv) a seminar paper. The final grade in the seminar will be based on the proposal (10%), the presentation and participation in the seminar meetings (30%), and the seminar paper (60%).

Timing

There will be the following blocked on-site events (S 04, <https://www.uni-hohenheim.de/s-04>):

- October 17, 2025, 8am-12am: Kick-off/introduction into topic (part I)
- October 24, 2025, 8am-12am: Kick-off/introduction into topic (part II)
- November 07, 2025, 8am-12am: Proposal session
- January 16, 2026, 8am-12am: Presentation session

Attendance at all of these meetings is mandatory.

Registration and admission

Registration for the seminar involves two steps: (i) Join the following course on ILIAS: https://ilias.uni-hohenheim.de/goto.php?target=crs_1615320&client_id=UHOH. (ii) Enter the group "Registration". You are automatically admitted to the seminar. If you are for some reason no longer interested in the seminar but have already registered, please leave the group "Registration".

The number of participants is restricted. If the seminar is full, you end up on a waiting list. You are automatically admitted if someone leaves the seminar. Registration deadline is **October 14, 2025, 11 am**.

Additional information for exchange students

Those (and only those) of you who do not have an ILIAS account by October 14, 2025, please register for the seminar via email to intecon@uni-hohenheim.de (not later than October 14, 2025,

11am). The subject of your email should be "Registration for Master Seminar in International Economics". Please provide us with the following information: (i) surname, first name, (ii) student ID (if available), (iii) exchange program you are enrolled in (e.g., Double Master Program in Economics with Pavia), and (iv) courses in International Economics you plan to attend at the University of Hohenheim, by semester.