

Module description

Field of study: Business, Management and Services

Degree course: BSc HES-SO in International Business Management

Major: N/A

Subject to the *Règlement sur la formation de base (Bachelor et Master) à la HES-SO* (R-FB hereafter) and *Regulations for the degree programme Bachelor of Science HES-SO in International Business Management* (R-IBM hereafter; collectively *program regulations* hereafter); and *Règlement d'études des filières Bachelor de la HEG* (RE-HEG hereafter).

1. Title of module	Economics II	2026-2027
Code: 3052	Revision date / Effective date: 2026-06-30 / 2026-09-14	
Equivalent to:	ECTS Credits: 6 Credits	
Level: ☐ Basic module ☐ Further studies module ☒ Advanced module ☐ Specialised module ☐ Other: ...	Type of course: ☒ Bachelor's ☐ Master's ☐ MAS ☐ DAS ☐ CAS ☐ Other: ...	
	Characteristic: ☒ Compulsory module	
Type: ☒ Main module ☐ Module linked to main module ☐ Optional or subsidiary module ☐ Other: ...	Time schedule: ☒ Module over 1 semester ☐ Module over 2 semesters ☐ Spring semester ☒ Autumn semester ☐ Other: ...	
2. Organisation		

Primary teaching language:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| ☒ English | ☐ French |
| ☐ German | ☐ Italian |
| ☐ Spanish | ☐ Other: ... |

Module composition

Module composed of the course units: 30521-International Trade; 30522-International Relations; 30523-International Organizations

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory for all classes and other activities specified in the module description or syllabus, per art. 24 of the *RE-HEG* and unjustified absence may entail penalties. Where unjustified absence carries penalties, attendance is regularly monitored via written or digital signature, and any penalties are applied in accordance with institutional regulations.

Penalties for absences:

- ☐ Attendance at all scheduled teaching activities is mandatory and constitutes a condition for validation of the module. Students whose attendance falls below 80% of these activities are not eligible to be registered for the final examination which entails failure of the module.
- ☐ Attendance at all scheduled teaching activities is mandatory. Each unjustified absence results in a grade penalty of 0.5/6 applied to the final module grade.
- ☐ Each unjustified absence at scheduled course activities identified as mandatory or compulsory in the module description or syllabus entails a grade penalty of 0.5/6 applied to the final module grade...

- ☐ Absence from activities identified as mandatory or compulsory in the module description or syllabus results in the student not being entitled to receive a grade for any associated assessment.
- ☒ Attendance at all scheduled teaching activities contributes directly to the achievement of learning outcomes. Absences are not directly penalised. Attendance may nevertheless be monitored for pedagogical purposes.
- ☐ Additional details: (optional)

3. Prerequisite

- ☐ To have validated the module
- ☐ To have followed the module
- ☐ No prerequisite
- ☒ Other: to have validated the first-year assessment

4. Skills to be gained / general learning objectives

International trade

At the end of this class, students will have a basic understanding of how international trade works.

Learning objectives:

- Understand how trade affects different types of workers and why.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the functions of the WTO and the main principles
- Discuss the pros and cons of different trade policies

International relations

The course intends to give a general overview of international relations (IR) through the lenses of political economy, with a specific focus of international trade, direct investment and finance.

The course will also investigate how domestic institutions and civil societies influence international economic policy choices and the role of multilateral diplomacy (in particular Bretton-Woods institutions such as the World Trade Organization, the World Bank Group, the 8 /International Monetary Fund, and the G7-8 / OECD).

Furthermore, some attention will be devoted to a number of key contemporary issues in international affairs such as globalisation versus neo-protectionism, regionalism versus nationalism, domestic versus international standards (goods & services, environment, labour etc.). The course will shed light on, how corporate organisations are impacted by events such as the 2008 financial crisis, changes in global supply chains, global power shifts and the emergence of emerging and frontier markets as global economic power.

International organizations

This course aims at providing students with a general understanding of international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, working in the realms of peace and security, health, humanitarian action and IHL. As such, while strongly anchored in current affairs, it will focus mainly, based on historical and theoretical elements, on the United Nations System, and humanitarian NGOs. More specifically, the discussion and case studies will deal with the challenges, the successes and the historical path of these organizations, discussing notably how – and if they have been able to- they have evolved. The course will also address the questions of why would states want to join an international organization and that of the power of non-governmental organizations. Other international organizations, such as the WEF or the CERN will be discussed as seen fit.

5. Teaching and content

Course unit – International relations

This is an introductory course in the study of international relations. The goal of this course is to acquaint you with the concepts, ideas, and analytical tools necessary to understand state behavior and relationships among actors in the international system with a specific focus of international political economics, trade, and finance. The course will also investigate how domestic institutions and civil societies influence international economic policy choices and the role of multilateral diplomacy (in particular Bretton-Woods institutions such as the World Trade Organization, the World Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund, and the G7-8 / OECD).

Furthermore, focused attention will be devoted to a number of key contemporary issues in international affairs such as globalisation versus neo-protectionism, regionalism versus nationalism, domestic versus international standards (goods &

services, environment, labour etc.), Feminism and social (in) justice etc. The course will shed light on, how corporate organisations are impacted by events such as the 2008 financial crisis, changes in global supply chains, global power shifts and the emergence of emerging and frontier markets as global economic power.

Basic understanding of International Relations and current world affairs:

- International relations and politics: how political decisions, international relations between states shaped world the way we see it today. What can history teach us?
- Exploring pre-post 1945 International system and international economic relations, the post 1989 globalisation shift, and recent trends.
- Political economy and international affairs and how IR impact wages of labour.

Globalisation and its impact on business, international trade and trade finance

- What is globalisation: sense or nonsense?
- Globalisation versus neo-protectionism, regionalism versus nationalism, domestic versus international standards
- Globalisation and the changes in global supply chains, global power shifts and the emergence of emerging and frontier markets as global economic power

Role of international organisation (WTO, The World Bank, IMF, MNC etc.) in international trade agreements

- International trade agreements and role of WTO
- Is Doha agreement dead?
- Bilateralism, multilateralism and the rise of regionalism
- MNEs and foreign direct investment (FDI): The domination of OECD and emerging economies, political history, economics of social inequality and rise of MNCs.
- International finance: Role of WB, IMF and other international public/private actors.

Course unit – International organizations

Basic understanding of historical and theoretical concepts to understand International Organizations

- Historical perspective: the long process towards today's international organizations as they are. Have they been able to evolve and adapt. How they have build on failures.
- Theoretical Perspective: from Realism to Constructivism, using the lenses of theory to understand and explain International Organizations
- Exploring the concept of Sovereignty and its corollaries, questioning its pertinence, or renewed pertinence, today.

Understanding the United Nations as a system, going beyond pre-conceived ideas, exploring its role in Peace and Security

- The United Nations as a system, a complex web of multilateralism.
- The UNSC its composition, its successes, its challenges and the question of its reform
- Understanding the kind of power the UN and specifically the UNSC has and does not have. Through case studies and examples. Between Idealism and challenges to sovereignty.

Understanding International humanitarian Law and Humanitarian action

- Understanding IHL, the Geneva Convention and the ICRC.
- Understanding Modern Humanitarian action: actors, principles, history and current perspectives.
- Challenges to Humanitarian action. Through case studies and examples

6. Assessment and validation methods

The module is calculated as follows:

- 30521-International Trade; 33.3 %
- 30522-International Relations; 33.3 %
- 30523-International Organizations 33.3 %

☒ Further details regarding assessment and validation methods are specified in the module or course unit syllabus available on the Cyberlearn Moodle page of the module or course unit.

7. Remediation and repetition

Module repetition and remediation are governed by the *program regulations* as well as the *RE-HEG*.

Remediation

Module eligible for remediation if the overall module grade is between 3.5 and 3.9, in accordance with Art. 29 R-FB. In case of remediation, grades for continuous assessments or bonus grades are not carried over.

☐ Module composed of multiple course units evaluated individually: remediation applies exclusively to those course units for which the grade obtained is below 4.0. Remediation takes the form of an additional assessment for each course unit concerned, covering the learning objectives of that course unit, as determined by the relevant course-unit coordinator.

☒ Module consisting of a single course unit, or of two integrated course units evaluated jointly at module level: remediation takes the form of one additional assessment covering the learning objectives of the module as a whole.

Repetition

In the event of module repetition, students are required to complete the module in accordance with the following provisions: for modules comprising more than two course units, only those course units for which a grade below 5.0 was obtained must be repeated; for modules comprising one or two course units, students repeating the module must repeat all course units in their entirety, irrespective of the grades previously obtained. Grades or assessment results obtained during a previous attempt are otherwise not carried over.

☒ In case of accelerated repetition per Art 7 of the R-IBM, grades for continuous assessments are carried over.

☐ In case of accelerated repetition per Art 7 of the R-IBM, grades for continuous assessments are not carried over and are replaced as follows: (please specify).

8. Remarks

Further details regarding points 5, 6, 7, 9 & 10 may be specified in a module or course unit syllabus available on the Cyberlearn Moodle page of the module or course unit.

The institution reserves the right to modify the content and organization of the module.

9. Bibliography

10. Faculty

Filename: 3052_ModuleDescr_Economics-II_26-27_V2.docx

Faculty responsible for the module:

Nicolás Depetris Chauvin

Module description validated on
2026-06-30

Module description validated by
Astrid Dauverné