

**Case Studies in International Economics (073 013)**  
**Summer Term 2025**

**Course Description**

By enrolling in this course, students will apply the theory of international trade and international monetary economics through case studies that address specific trade and monetary (finance) issues. The focus will be on core international trade and open-economy macroeconomic models, including various policy issues and applications. Apart from deepening their knowledge about international trade and monetary theories, students will learn how to write and present a seminar (term) paper, search for literature, structure a paper, apply citation rules, etc.

**Enrolment**

Enrolment is open to bachelor students only. International students, e.g., Erasmus incomings, are most welcome to join the seminar! For ECUE master students (from another faculty), there might be an exception, but please consult the lecturer before joining the course. Due to the seminar character of the course, enrolment will be limited. To apply for this course, students must provide some information on an application sheet (provided in the Moodle course and on our website) and send that sheet to the teaching assistant in charge, Benjamin Koch (contact details see below), during the application period 20 March to 6 April 2025 (not before and not afterwards). We will notify all applying students whether they have been accepted by 7 April 2025. Those admitted are expected to attend the seminar's first session on 9 April 2025 (see below). Five credit points (ECTS) can be obtained for the successful completion of the module.

**Prerequisites**

Upon entering this course, students should have a basic knowledge **EITHER** of international trade **OR** international finance theory. For example, they should have taken *International Finance* or *Foundations of International Trade* in one of the previous semesters. Alternatively, participants are expected to enrol in *International Finance* this summer semester 2025.

**Class Times**

Wednesday, 9 April 2025, 8.30-10.00 am, GD 03/218 (Introductory session)  
Wednesday, 16 April 2025, 8.30-10.00 am, GD 03/218 (Tutorial on scientific methods)  
Wednesday, 23 April 2025, 8.30-10.00 am, GD 03/218 (Tutorial on scientific methods)  
Wednesday, 30 April 2025, 8.30-10.00 am, GD 03/218 (Tutorial on scientific methods)  
Wednesday, 25 June 2025, 8.30-10.00 am, GD 03/218 (Presentation of papers)  
Friday, 27 June 2025, 12-6 pm, GD 03/158 (Presentation of papers)

**Scientific Methods**

We will provide three sessions on scientific methods to assist students in writing their term papers. The sessions will cover relevant information on how to search for literature, structure, write and present a seminar paper.

## **Attendance**

All sessions will take place face-to-face without recording. Students are expected to attend all sessions of this course, including the sessions on scientific methods!

## **Topics Covered**

- (1) Turkish Lira Crisis: Causes and Impacts
- (2) Leaving the European Union: The Macroeconomic Impact of Brexit
- (3) The Trade Conflict Between China and the United States
- (4) The Pollution Haven Hypothesis and International Trade

## **Term Paper**

Students have to write their term papers in a group of two students. The term paper should have a length of 11-13 pages (including tables and figures), 2.5 cm margins top/bottom/left/right, 1.5 line spacing, and should be written in Times New Roman 12 point font. Papers are due on Friday, 20 June 2025, at 9 am. Please submit the paper electronically via e-mail to the teaching assistant in charge (one PDF file).

## **Grading and Registration in FlexNow**

The term paper and the presentation each count 50 per cent towards the final grade. Students may improve their grades with active class participation. Students who do not present their paper are expected to act as a discussant on another paper/presentation (same topic). The registration period in FlexNow for those students that have been accepted for participation runs from May 27 to June 20, 2025 (same for deregistration). Please note that all participants are responsible for registration and we will not register any students.

## **Language**

The language of instruction is English, which applies to term papers, presentations, and class discussions.

## **Teaching Assistant**

Benjamin Koch is the teaching assistant in charge and the contact person for all inquiries (room GD 03/329, e-mail: [benjaminyanick.koch@rub.de](mailto:benjaminyanick.koch@rub.de), office hours by appointment only).

## **Literature**

After the introductory session, we will post selected literature for each topic in Moodle.

## **Moodle**

The password for accessing Moodle can be obtained either in the introductory session or via the FSI Student Council (Fachschaftsinitiative) password distribution online list ("Passwortverteiler"): <https://www.fsi-wiwi.de/tools/passwortverteiler/>.