



GRADUATE SCHOOL

GM0112 Global Sourcing, 7.5 higher education credits

Global Sourcing, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by School of Business, Economics and Law on 2009-06-12 and was last revised on 2017-05-22 by Faculty Board of the School of Business, Economics and Law to be valid from 2017-08-28, autumn semester of 2017.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Graduate School

Position in the educational system

The course Global Sourcing is a course within the Master of Science programmes at the Graduate School, School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg.

Main field of studies

International Business and Trade

Specialization

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course Global Sourcing the participant must fulfil the entrance qualifications for the Master of Science programme in International Business and Trade. For programme specific entrance requirements, see programme syllabus.

To be eligible for the course Global Sourcing, the participants must have accumulated at least 50 ECTS credits on Master level.

Learning outcomes

Overall, after completing the course students will have an enhanced understanding of one of the fundamental topics within international business, i.e. global sourcing.

More specifically, students after completing the course

- 1) show an enhanced understanding of the variety of fundamental perspectives, approaches and theories related to global sourcing and have an understanding of the basic assumptions and consequences behind these.
- 2) make well-grounded strategic decisions related to a firm's global sourcing processes and strategies.
- 3) apply relevant theories in order to find solutions to firms' challenges related to global sourcing with supporting arguments.

Course content

The course deals with one of the most important issues within the field of international business - both for practitioners and academics - i.e. global sourcing. In other words, the course focuses on the central question of how internationally active companies source production factors (land, labour, capital), components and finished products serving foreign and domestic markets. Sourcing decision-making is multifaceted; however, when broken down to its very essence, basically three relatively straightforward questions emerge: *'What to source?'*; *'Where to source?'* and *'How to source?'*

After an introductory part where key concepts are defined and the antecedents of global sourcing are discussed, the course uses the three questions above as its basic structure. Hence, by referring to the various reasons and consequences of internationally active companies' sourcing strategies, the course will give an evolutionary perspective on what types of activities of their value chain have been/are out- and or insourced.

Furthermore, the course discusses the locational point of view; i.e. the pros and cons of the procurement of components and products either domestically (i.e. onshoring) and from abroad (i.e. offshoring); with a specific emphasis on the latter. As implied above, the course also deals with the contractual dimension of sourcing, which includes a variety of different options, commonly broadly distinguished between insourcing and outsourcing. Whereas the course most of all focuses on how multinational companies deal with the three central questions, also the global sourcing processes of small and medium/entrepreneurial companies will be studied.

Finally, the course also discusses a variety of other challenges commonly related to global sourcing, such as challenges within logistics, knowledge transfer, human resource

management and political conflicts.

Form of teaching

Besides the important course literature, teaching consists of lectures, lectures by guests from the industry that work with global sourcing issues on a daily basis that share their experiences, as well as through group works working with assigned cases. Important to note is that the results of the latter are to be presented through role plays.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

Learning outcome 1 will be assessed through an individual written exam. The remaining learning outcomes will be assessed through the group project work.

Maximum points awarded in the individual written exam are 60 points, which stands for 60% of the total grade for the course. In order to pass the course students, however, need to reach at least 30 points in the individual written exam.

The remaining 40% or 40 points for the final grade stem from the group project work. In order to pass the course students need to reach at least 20 points in the group project work.

Participation in group project work and case seminars is compulsory. Absence from compulsory elements of the course can be substituted with alternative assignments.

Failed group project work (i.e. less than 20 points awarded) can be supplemented to a Pass grade, i.e. 20 points awarded.

If a student, who has failed the same examined component twice, wishes to change examiner before the next examination, a written application shall be sent to the department responsible for the course and shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year from the last time the course

was given.

The number of examinations is limited to five.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

Grades awarded on the course are: Pass with Distinction (75 points or more), Pass (50-74 points) and Fail (less than 50 points). However, as mentioned above, in order to pass the course a student needs at least 30 points from the exam and 20 points from the group project work.

Course evaluation

The course will be evaluated upon completion. The results of and possible changes to the course will be shared with students who participated in the evaluation and students who are starting the course.