



GRADUATE SCHOOL

GM0122 Global Sourcing, 7.5 credits

Global sourcing, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Graduate School on 2019-05-16 to be valid from 2019-09-02, autumn semester of 2019.

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 or the Master of Science programme in Logistics and Transport Management. For programme specific entrance requirements, see programme syllabus.

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, on successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

1) understand the variety of fundamental perspectives, approaches and theories related to global sourcing and have an understanding of the basic assumptions and consequences

Competence and skills

2) make well-grounded and sustainable strategic decisions related to the planning and implementation of firms' global sourcing

Judgement and approach

3) apply relevant theories with supporting arguments in order to find sustainable solutions to firms' global sourcing challenges.

Course content

Global sourcing is multifaceted; however, when broken down to its various components, a variety of relatively straightforward questions emerges: why, what, where, from whom, and how to source. After an introductory discussion of these questions, the course emphasizes the increasing level of volatility in the global environment - due to among others climate changes, geopolitical instability and disruptive technologies – and discusses the implication on companies' global sourcing strategies such as for example a potential trend away from global specialization and in the direction of less vulnerable multi-domestic structures. By highlighting contextual dynamics, the course offers an evolutionary and process-oriented understanding of global sourcing including aspects on an industry level - e.g., the evolution of outsourcing contracts from mainly input-based to output/outcome-based, or the implications of digitalization and automation on global sourcing.

The course also deals with the organizational dimension of sourcing, which includes a variety of different delivery models, commonly broadly distinguished as in-house/captive sourcing versus outsourcing, but also combinations of the two governance forms – such as joint ventures and build-operate-transfer sourcing arrangements. Whereas the course predominately focuses on large, multinational companies, also the global sourcing processes of small and medium/entrepreneurial companies are discussed and analyzed.

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

Form of teaching

The course is organized around two forms of teaching: Lectures and group work.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

Learning outcome 1 will be assessed through an individual written exam. Learning outcomes 2 and 3 will be assessed through the group works. Presentations of the cases/group work will include role-plays. Participation in group works and seminars is compulsory. Absence from compulsory elements of the course can be substituted with alternative assignments. A failed group work can be supplemented to a Pass grade.

If a student, who has failed the same examined element on two occasions, wishes to change examiner before the next examination session, such a request is to be submitted to the department in writing and granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, though at most two years after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to work experience and VFU, although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

The number of examinations is limited to five.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Excellent (A), Very good (B), Good (C), Satisfactory (D), Sufficient (E) and Fail (F).

The exam constitutes 60 % and the group project work 40 % of the grade. In order to pass the course a student needs at least 50 % of the maximum points awarded on the exam and 50 % of the maximum points awarded on the group works.

The grade (A-E) corresponds to the total score a student obtains on the written exam and the groupworks. To receive a pass grade (A-E) ≥ 50 % points is required. The scale is tied to fixed score intervals:

A: 85-100%;

B: 75-84%;

C: 68-74%;

D: 60-67%;

E: 50-59%;

F: <50%

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.