



INSTITUTE FOR
EUROPEAN
STUDIES

*Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence
at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel*

www.ies.be

Course title:

EU Internal Market and Competition Policy

Type of course:

Optional (part of the specialisation option "European Economy")

Course content:

The course introduces students to the basic principles and elements of the EU's economic core -- the Internal market and competition policies -- from the viewpoint economics, policies and law. The courses' substantive focus will first deepen the understanding of students on the economics of the four freedoms. The discussion will then shift to the general policies and law of the EU's internal market, and further to concrete aspects that are fundamental the Union competitiveness and creation of jobs, such as the Digital Single Market and the Banking Union. In terms of competition, the course also begins with core economics, exploring main notions such as efficiency, welfare and market power. It then expands to key competition law and policies (restrictive agreements (101 TFEU), abuse of dominant position (102 TFEU), mergers and state aid). Both specialisation courses in the European Economy stream also deal with issues of cohesion policy from their respective perspectives.

Learning outcome:

The course equips students with knowledge, skills and an enquiring attitude to understand and address matters of European economic policy, law and economics during their subsequent professional careers.

The knowledge allows the students to independently and critically address issues of economic policy for both academic and practical purposes. They will be able to understand and analyze the larger economic-political context of European policies (historical background, current situation, future perspectives) as well as the complicated, interlinked frameworks of actors, instruments and decision-making processes of EU economic law. It also provides the students with the basic skills to deal with concrete questions relating to e.g. the free movement of goods and services, restrictive agreements between undertakings and the abusive behaviour of dominant companies. The students obtain an appreciation of the functioning of EU's internal market as the economic core of the integration project, as well as the public and private constraints and cohesion related questions that the integration process is faced with. The students will also learn to better engage in the English language in basic tasks relating to EU economic policy, such as drafting memoranda, policy analyses and position papers, and advising non-economic decision makers. All in all, the knowledge, skills and positive yet critical attitudes develop the students as interlocutors in a sustainable European economy.