# Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

# Module M.WIWI-VWL.0155: International Trade and the Labour Market

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## Learning outcome, core skills:

In this course, students learn up-to-date empirical issues about the labour market effects of international trade by reading and discussing relevant empirical papers.

After completing this course, students should:

- 1. Be familiar with a wide range of issues relating to the relationship between international trade and labour market outcomes, e.g. employment effects and wage effects of trade liberalization.
- 2. Understand and critically evaluate empirical papers in this area:
  - (1) Discuss and explain research questions of new papers;
  - (2) Assess the empirical methodologies in empirical papers, especially the identification strategies that explore causal relationships;
  - (3) Interpret the results of new empirical studies and discuss the strengths and potential limitations of the study designs;
  - (4) Apply and adapt existing empirical models to answer empirical research questions in this area.

# Workload:

Attendance time: 56 h Self-study time: 124 h

#### Courses:

# 1. International Trade and the Labour Market (Lecture)

#### Contents:

The lecture is organised as a weekly reading course and discusses recent empirical papers on various issues relating to the interaction between international trade and the labour market. It focuses on the role of trade (import and/or export) openness and trade liberalisation episodes on shaping labour market outcomes, such as wage, wage inequality, and employment at different levels from the perspectives of both developing and developed countries. Students are expected to read the papers in advance and to actively participate in classroom discussions.

All papers covered in the lecture are recently well-published empirical works. One paper is discussed per week. The lecture broadly covers the following topics:

- General labour market effects of international trade
  - · Local labour market effects of Chinese import penetration in developed countries
  - Local labour market effects of trade liberalization in developing countries
  - · Trade and labour market matching
  - The role of labour market institutions
- International trade and wage inequality
  - · Explaining rising skill premia
  - · Trade and gender wage gaps
  - · Trade and inter-industry wage differentials
- Employment effects of international trade

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- · Firm-level employment adjustments
- · Worker-level adjustments
- · Export destinations and the demand for skills
- Further selected topics
  - · Trade liberalization and schooling
  - · Wage effects of offshoring
  - · Offshoring and job polarisation

## 2. International Trade and the Labour Market (Exercise)

Contents:

In the practical part, each student is required to present one additional empirical paper on the topic of the lecture and to discuss its identification strategies and results. In the first few practical sessions a short introduction into reading empirical papers and dealing with issues of causal identification will be given.

The papers assigned for presentation will also be empirical papers that have been recently published in well-known economic journals.

Examination: Written examination (180 minutes)
Examination prerequisites:

Presentation of one paper (ca. 20 minutes, depending on class size, presentation can also take place in groups.)

# **Examination requirements:**

In the exam, students are expected to read a short empirical paper that has not yet been discussed in the course and answer questions related to the paper. The exam is open-book.

Admission requirements: none	Recommended previous knowledge: Module M.WIWI-QMW.0004: Econometrics I, module M.WIWI-VWL.0092: International Trade, module B.WIWI-VWL.0009: Labor Economics
Language: English	Person responsible for module: Feicheng Wang, Ph.D.
Course frequency: Irregular	Duration: 1 semester[s]
Number of repeat examinations permitted: twice	Recommended semester: 2 - 4
Maximum number of students: not limited	

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