

## 80225 - International Finance

### Teaching Guide Information

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**Subject:** Elective

**Teaching language:**

Plenary session: Group 1: English

Group 2: English

**Number of credits:** 6.0

**Term:** Second quarter

### 1. Basic description

**Academic center:** Escola Superior de Comerç Internacional

**Degree / Course:** International Business Programme

**Contact hours:** 45

**Total number of hours committed:** 150

**Lecturer:** Samer Ajour ([samer.ajour@prof.esci.upf.edu](mailto:samer.ajour@prof.esci.upf.edu))

**Timetable:** [SIGMA schedule](#)

**Office hour:** Tuesdays 18.00 - 19.00

### 2. Presentation of the course

This course aims to provide students with a good understanding of the financial decisions taken by managers at international firms. Case studies will be discussed to see why multinational companies take certain operational and strategic financial decisions, and currency risk management will be analysed. Derivative products and the foreign exchange market will be explained, with a focus on currency derivatives as a hedge. Finally, international payment methods, multinational cash management techniques and transfer prices will be analysed.

### 3. Educational and learning process outcomes

#### General competences

##### Instrumental competences

G.I.2. Ability to relate concepts and knowledge from different areas.

G.I.4. Ability to tackle and solve problems.

G.I.5. Ability to take decisions in complex and changing environments.

G.I.8. Oral and written competence in communicating in English.

##### General personal competences

G.P.3. Moral commitment and ethical sense.

##### Generic systemic competences

G.S.3. Ability to think globally.

##### Competences for applicability

G.A.1. Ability to apply acquired knowledge and skills.

G.A.2. Ability to use quantitative criteria and qualitative insights when taking decisions.

G.A.3. Ability to search and exploit new information sources.

#### Specific competences

### Disciplinary competences

E.D.1. Facilitate understanding of the determinants and consequences of international financial transactions.

E.D.10. Introduce basic financial concepts and analytical techniques and introduce their application to international transactions.

### Professional competences

E.P.1. Ability to understand the decisions taken by economic agents and their interaction in the markets.

E.P.2. Ability to analyse economic and market indicators when taking decisions within the organisation.

E.P.9. Assess and discuss the economic and financial position of an organisation.

E.P.17. Ability to express and understand spoken and written communication in English at an advanced level in the international business environment.

The above competences interrelate with the basic competences set out in Royal Decree 1393/2007, namely:

- competence to **comprehend knowledge, on the basis of general secondary education**
- competence to **apply knowledge** to day-to-day work in international management or marketing, in particular, ability to develop and defend arguments and to solve problems
- competence to **gather and interpret relevant data**, enabling the development of critical judgements on the economic and social reality
- competence to **communicate and transmit information** (ideas, problems, solutions) to a specialised and non-specialised public
- competence to **develop learning activities** in a relatively autonomous manner.

In order to establish a correspondence between the basic competences and those developed in the degree, these are grouped according to two criteria. Thus, the competences developed in the subject are structured into those that are seen as a development or specification of basic competences and those that define the professional profile of the graduate, with respect to general and specific competences.

Basic competence: **understanding of knowledge**

*I. General competences G.A.2*

*II. Specific competences E.D.1, E.D.10, E.P.1*

Basic competence: **application of knowledge**

*I. General competences G.I.2, G.S.3*

Basic competence: **gather and interpret data**

*I. General competences G.A.3*

*II. Specific competences E.P.2*

Basic competence: **communicate and transmit information**

*I. General competences G.I.8*

*II. Specific competences E.P.17*

Basic competence: **develop learning activities**

*I. General competences G.I.4*

Competences that define the professional profile which are not included under basic competences

In general, these competences combine the following key elements for professionalising students in the area of international business and marketing:

- provide students with the capacity to adapt to dynamic teams and environments
- provide students with the capacity to create their own integral vision of the operation of a business or international marketing project
- provide students with the capacity to take complex decisions and carry out negotiation processes

*I. General competences G.I.5, G.A.1*

*II. Specific competences E.P.9*

Learning outcomes

- Assess and discuss the economic and financial diagnosis of multinational companies and take decisions in order to determine an action plan to solve any problems.
- Facilitate understanding of financial derivatives, such as forwards, futures, call and put options.
- Introduce basic foreign exchange market concepts.
- Understand how currency risk affects companies and how they can be hedged by means of currency derivatives.

- Introduce multinational cash management techniques such as netting systems, central depositories and transfer prices.

The competences, the learning outcomes, the assessment elements and the quality of the learning process included in this Teaching Plan will not be affected if during the academic trimester the teaching model has to switch either to an hybrid model (combination of face-to-face and on-line sessions) or to a complete on-line model.

#### **4. Contents**

##### **1. Interest rates and Inflation; Balance of Payments**

##### **2. OPERATIONAL FINANCE APPLIED TO MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES (II): ACTION PLAN**

- Financial Forecasting
- Action Plan
- Growth without Extra Financing
- The Value Chain

##### **3. LONG-TERM STRATEGIC FINANCIAL DECISIONS APPLIED TO MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES**

- Effects of Debt
- How Much Debt Should We Have?
- When to Ask for Debt
- Types of Debt to Take On
- Criteria for Deciding: Debt or Equity

##### **4. THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS and DEBT**

- BOP per country
- The international flow of goods, services and capital
- Need for international markets based on BOP and correlation analysis

##### **5. CURRENCY MARKET**

- Spot and Forward Exchange Rates
- Foreign Exchange Market
- How the Price of a Currency is Quoted
- Why Currencies Fluctuate
- Spot Exchange Rate, Price and Inflation: the Law of One Price and Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)
- Spot Exchange Rate and Interest Rate: Fisher Effect
- How to Calculate the Forward Exchange Rate
- The International Monetary System: EU, US, Asia
- Central banks and Inflation control, policy mix

##### **6. DERIVATIVE PRODUCTS**

- OTC Products: Forwards
- Organized Markets: Futures
- Introduction to Options: calls and Puts
- Swaps: Interest rate swaps and currency swaps
- Currency estimations using FRA (forward rate agreements)

##### **7. CURRENCY RISK MANAGEMENT**

- Currency Risk Concept
- Currency Forwards as a hedge instrument- Application
- Currency Options as a Hedge instrument - Application
- International Payment Methods
- Application of Derivatives to hedge currencies

##### **8. MULTINATIONAL CASH MANAGEMENT AND CREDIT MANAGEMENT**

- Netting Systems
- Central Depositories
- Transfer Prices
- Credit management: Letter of credit, and other contracts

## Basic bibliography

- Melvin, M., & Norrbin, S. C. (2017). *International money and finance*. Academic Press.

## Supplementary bibliography

- Eichengreen, B. (2024). International finance and geopolitics. *Asian Economic Policy Review*, 19(1), 84-100.
- Thiessen, G. (2024). Globalized financial markets and monetary policy. *Central banking*.

## Other resources

[www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com) - analytical articles on world economic/political affairs  
[www.nyse.com](http://www.nyse.com) - New York Stock Exchange  
[www.nasdaq.com](http://www.nasdaq.com) - Nasdaq Stock Exchange  
[www.eurunion.org](http://www.eurunion.org) - EU guide for Americans  
[www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com) - Financial Times, international news, economy, corporate activities, shares  
[www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org) - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development  
[www.londonstockexchange.com](http://www.londonstockexchange.com) - London Stock Exchange  
[www.imf.org](http://www.imf.org) - International Monetary Fund  
[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) - World news, critical editorials  
[www.worldbank.org/](http://www.worldbank.org/) - World Bank  
[www.stockex.co.uk](http://www.stockex.co.uk) - Stock Ex Financial Market News  
[www.tse.or.jp/english/](http://www.tse.or.jp/english/) - Tokyo Stock Exchange  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/> - Central Intelligence Agency: The World Fact Book

## 5. Assessment

The final grade will be determined by the weighted average of the following activities carried out throughout the semester:

Assessment elements	Time period	Type of assessment		Assessment agent			Type of activity	Grouping		Weight (%)
		Mandatory	Opt.	Lecturer	Self-assess.	Co-assess.		Ind.	Group (#)	
Quizzes, assigned exercises and cases and individual presentations	Throughout the semester	x		x			Conceptual and application	x		10%
Midterm exam	Week 6	x		x			Analysis Application Conceptual Overall understanding	x		20%
Group project	Week 10	x				x	Analysis Application Conceptual Overall understanding		X (3-5 students per group)	20%
Final exam (a minimum grade of 4 is required to pass the course)	Exam week	x		x			Conceptual, application, and overall understanding	x		50%

Participation bonus grade (maximum 1.0)	Ongoing		x	x			Analysis Application Conceptual Overall understanding	x		<=10% bonus

Taking the final exam is a **necessary condition** to receive a quantitative evaluation of the course. In case of non-attendance to the final exam, the student will receive an “N.A.” grade. **Failure to achieve this minimum grade in the final exam (4.0) will result in the overall course grade to be the final exam.**

Class participation will be evaluated as extra credit, contributing up to 1 point (out of 10) to the final grade. Only those students who fulfil the following criteria can obtain partial or full credit in this category of the assessment:

- demonstrate preparation by relating issues to book chapters, readings and previous discussions;
- contribute in an active and significant way to ongoing case discussions;
- help solving exercises and questions;
- respond thoughtfully to other students' comments.
- achieving a minimum grade of 4.0 in the final exam.

#### Resits

In accordance with ESCI-UPF academic regulations, students whose weighted final grade for the regular term evaluation is below 5.0 but whose grade for the continuous evaluation activities (quizzes, assigned exercises and cases, midterm exam and group project) is above 4.0 will be required to retake their final exam, which will account for 50% of their total final grade. The rest of their final total grade will be made up of their grades in the other areas of continuous evaluation.

#### Working competences and assessment of learning outcomes

	GI2	GI4	GI5	GI8	GP3	GS3	GA1	GA2
Quizzes, assigned exercises and cases		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Midterm exam	X	X				X	X	X
Sonora Case group project	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Final exam	X	X					X	X
Participation bonus grade (maximum 1.0)				X	X			

	GA3	ED1	ED10	EP1	EP2	EP9	EP17
Quizzes, assigned exercises and cases		X	X	X	X	X	X
Midterm exam			X	X	X	X	
Sonora Case group project	X		X	X	X	X	X
Final exam		X	X	X	X	X	
Participation bonus grade (maximum 1.0)				X	X	X	X

Taking the final exam is a necessary condition to pass the subject. In case of not attending the final exam, the student will obtain the “not presented” qualification.

**Total or partial copy and/or plagiarism will imply a failure in the subject with a final grade of zero points and no access to the make-up exam. According to the academic regulations specified in the Disciplinary rules for students of Universitat Pompeu Fabra, other additional sanctions may apply depending on the seriousness of the offence.**

In case of divergence between the evaluation criteria established in the Learning Plan and the Teaching Guide, those established in the Learning Plan will prevail.

## **6. Sustainable Development Goals**

SDG1: No Poverty

SDG4: Gender Equality

SDG8: Decent Work and economic growth

SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production