

Introduction:

International business is increasingly influenced by a growing body of international trade law, which sets the framework for global trade and competition while removing unnecessary barriers. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) has played a central role in establishing global trading practices, although multilateral and bilateral agreements are also important. This WTO-focused international trade law course is designed for non-specialists and introduces the key legal framework governing international trade.

Role of WTO in International Trade:

The WTO is pivotal in facilitating global trade by providing a legal framework for trade relations and offering a forum for negotiation and dispute resolution. This course will explore the importance of WTO law in international trade, focusing on its role in creating transparent, fair, and predictable trading practices. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of how the WTO influences international trade agreements and how these laws impact business practices globally.

Targeted Groups:

- International trade professionals
 - Legal professionals
 - Contracts managers and administrators
 - Procurement professionals
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Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this WTO international trade law course, participants will be able to:

- Understand the aims and objectives of international agreements under the World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- Recognize the practical implications for businesses engaging in international trade
- Review applicable international trade legislation and current multilateral and bilateral agreements
- Understand the WTO legal system and its operational mechanisms
- Explore WTO obligations, commitments, and the dispute resolution system
- Gain awareness of the core principles of international trade law
- Comprehend the principles of economic trade and development
- Apply key learning points to enhance trade practices in their organizations

Targeted Competencies:

By the end of this course, participants will improve their competencies in:

- Ethical behavior in international trade
- Understanding international trade regulations and practices
- Managing government procurement and contracts
- Navigating WTO regulations and trade defense instruments

Course Content:

Unit 1: Setting The Scene

- Overview and history of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- The role of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- Core principles underlying world trade agreements
- Key assumptions about economic trade and development
- Economic principles of trade and the areas not covered by the WTO
- General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the Doha Round of negotiations: progress and challenges
- Legal remedies and processes in international trade

Unit 2: Practical Application of WTO Practices

- WTO obligations and commitments for member countries
- Trade defense instruments, including anti-dumping legislation
- Tariffs and non-tariff barriers in international trade
- Subsidies and their impact on trade
- Innovation and intellectual property rights under WTO
- The role of research and development in fostering global trade

Unit 3: Government Procurement under WTO

- The objectives of government procurement legislation
- Key procurement regulations in Europe and the US

- Exemptions and exclusions in government procurement agreements
- Acceptable government procurement practices and how they impact international trade
- Supporting local businesses and economies through government procurement
- International trade development related to government procurement

Unit 4: Incoterms

- Understanding the purpose and applicability of Incoterms
- New revisions in Incoterms and their impact on global trade
- Definitions and uses of each Incoterm
- Incorporating Incoterms into contracts and trade agreements
- Practical considerations and potential pitfalls when using Incoterms

Unit 5: International Ethics

- Best practices for avoiding corruption in international trade
- The Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) in the USA and the EU's Anti-Corruption Legislation
- Ethical standards in international trade
- Corporate social responsibility and its importance in global business

This course provides an in-depth understanding of international trade law under the WTO, with a focus on the practical aspects of trade agreements, government procurement, Incoterms, and dispute resolution. By the end of the course, participants will have gained valuable skills for navigating the complexities of international trade and ensuring compliance with global trade laws.