

MSc in International Business (2024/25)

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# Logistics and International Supply Chain Management

**Professor:** José Miguel Aliaga

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**Office hours:** by appointment

**Course Type:** Compulsory

**Credits:** 3 ECTS

**Term:** 2nd Term

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## 1. COURSE PRESENTATION

### Course description

Students will become familiar with logistics and supply chain which include all the activities required to move product and information to, from, and between members of a supply chain. The supply chain provides the framework for businesses and their suppliers to jointly deliver goods, services and information efficiently, effectively, relevantly and in a sustainable manner to customers. Supply Chain Management presents the mission, business processes, and strategies needed to achieve integrated logistical management.

### Objectives

Specifically, the course objectives are to:

- Reach and comprehensive understanding of what Logistics & SCM are and its relationship with business and strategy.
- Know critical parameters of SCM networks to define it based on company strategy and what effects have on business the decisions taken by SCM managers.
- Improve customer value through SCM definition and management.
- Understand effects of information and alliances into SCM outputs.

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This course is included in the subject **Operations**, which has the following learning outcomes:

The student will be able to recognise the most advanced knowledge and core competences in the organisation and management of the activities of a foreign trade department.

RA2. Mat.5.1 Identify the operation and impact of the various forms of transport involved in international trade operations.

The student will be able to discriminate the different types of business presence to implement business activities abroad during the resolution of practical cases proposed within the master's degree.

RA3. Mat.5.2 Organise the international logistics network to support internationalisation.

RA3. Mat. 5.4. Distinguish all the administrative processes of customs management necessary to develop international trade.

The student will be able to use the information technologies available at the time and the most appropriate communication techniques in the academic and professional fields applied to the internationalisation of business during the master's degree.

RA6. Mat.5.3 Apply the information systems that exist in logistics and the role they play in decision-making.

### Related SDGs

SDG 1: No poverty

SDG 5: Gender equality

SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy

SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth

SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure

SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production

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### 2. COURSE LEARNING PLAN

#### Methodology

The methodology proposed is based on relevant theoretical material with a selection of applied cases and exercises to practice theory. These ones will be doing either in the class or in groups at home. Some reading material and audiovisual material will be distributed before some sessions. Students are expected to read the assigned materials before coming to class.

There is no textbook for this course. Instead, in the bibliography there is a variety of suggested reference books to review, detail and enhance concepts developed during the course.

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.

#### Evaluation criteria

The following elements will be evaluated and weighed to form the final grade of the course:

- Class Activities (10%)
- Individual Work (10%)
- Group Work (35%)
- In-class Presentations\* and Debate (15%)
- Final Exam (30%)

\* Group SCM plan is the part about logistics and SCM according to your business plan. This must be done in the same groups you are developing your business plan. Ideally the plan should consider the elements seen during the course and typically you should develop and quantify the supply chain network needed for your business plan. Depending on every business idea, every SCM plan will be slightly different focusing more on transportation, production facilities, warehouses or strategic alliances.

Students' groups must talk with professor to explain their business plan idea to focus the SCM plan in their Master Thesis. A short presentation to the rest of the students about your SCM plan demonstrating concepts developed during this course will be required in the last class. The contents developed in the presentation will have to be further developed in the Master Thesis.

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Students need to obtain a **minimum of 4 in the final exam** to pass the course. This condition applies to both the regular exam and the retake exam. The final course grade of students that do not obtain a minimum of 4 in the exam will be the minimum between 4 and the final grade computed from the different evaluation elements (with the weights set above).

### Retake conditions

Students that fail the evaluation of the course will have a retake exam opportunity that will be programmed in accordance with the academic calendar. If a student has to retake the exam, his **maximal grade for the course will be a 5,0 (out of 10,0)**.

### General Issues

Students are required to attend 80% of classes. Failing to do so without justified reason will imply a Zero grade in the participation/attendance evaluation item and may lead to suspension from the program.

Students who fail the course during the regular evaluation are allowed ONE re-take of the evaluation, in the conditions specified above. If the course fails again after the retake, the student will have to register again for the course the following year.

In case of a justified no-show to an exam, the student must inform the corresponding faculty member and the director(s) of the program so that they study the possibility of rescheduling the exam (one possibility being during the “Retake” period). In the meantime, the student will get an “incomplete”, which will be replaced by the actual grade after the final exam is taken. The “incomplete” will not be reflected on the student’s Academic Transcript.

Plagiarism is to use another’s work and to present it as one’s own without acknowledging the sources in the correct way. All essays, reports or projects handed in by a student must be original work completed by the student. By enrolling at ESCI UPF BSM Master of Science and signing the “Honor Code,” students acknowledge that they understand the schools’ policy on plagiarism and certify that all course assignments will be their own work, except where indicated, by correct referencing. Failing to do so may result in automatic expulsion from the program.”

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**Content and learning activities**

Session	Date	Contents
#1	January 10th, Friday	The Role and Functions of Logistics & Supply Chain Management.
#2	January 17th, Friday	Analysis of the Design of Supply Chain.
#3	January 24th, Friday	Inventory Management Systems.
#4	January 31th, Friday	Global Value Chains.
#5	February 7th, Friday	Location of Manufacturing.
#6	February 14th, Friday	Networks Transportation and Costs.
#7	February 21th, Friday	Freight Distribution Systems.
#8	February 28h, Friday	Maritime Transportation and Ports.
#9	March 7th, Friday	Intermodal Transportation and the Container.
#10	March 14th, Friday	Presentations of Group Supply Chain Management Plan for Master Thesis.

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Total student workload (including self-study): 75 hours.

### 3. PROFESSOR

Adjunct professor at ESCI-UPF.

PhD in International Trade (Candidate) from the Polytechnical University of Barcelona (UPC). José Miguel Aliaga holds a bachelor's in political sciences from the Autonomous University of Barcelona and has a Master in Supply Chain Management from the UPC. He has held decision-making positions in a number of international companies, working in the areas of purchasing, global operations, logistics and customs management. As an international consultant, he has focused his expertise on the aeronautics, textile, food and logistics industries. His fields of interest include companies' export/import behavior and the economic impacts of special economic zones (SEZ).

### 4. BIBLIOGRAPHY/RESOURCES/ READING MATERIALS

- F.R. Jacobs, R.B. Chase, 2018, "Operations and Supply Chain Management, 14th ed., McGraw- Hill.
- L.V. Snyder Z.-J.M. Shen, 2019, "Fundamentals of Supply Chain Theory", 2nd Edition, John Wiley & Sons. DOI:10.1002/9781119584445
- Ghiani G., Laporte G. & Musmanno R. (2013) "Introduction to Logistics Systems Management", Wiley (e-book).