

6.10 Module 10: Logistics and International Trade

6.10.1 Headline information about the module

Module title	Logistics and International Trade
Module NFQ level (only if an NFQ level can be demonstrated)	9
Module number/reference	MPSCM-LIT
Parent programme(s) the plural arises if there are embedded programmes to be validated.	MSc in Procurement and Supply Chain Management
Stage of parent programme	1
Semester (semester1/semester2 if applicable)	2 (elective)
Module credit units (FET/HET/ECTS)	ECTS
Module credit number of units	5
List the teaching and learning modes	Full time, part time
Entry requirements (statement of knowledge, skill and competence)	Learners should normally hold an approved honours degree in a business related discipline or equivalent qualification from an approved tertiary/or professional institution
Pre-requisite module titles	Not applicable
Co-requisite module titles	Not applicable
Is this a capstone module? (Yes or No)	No
Specification of the qualifications (academic, pedagogical and professional/occupational) and experience required of staff (staff includes workplace personnel who are responsible for learners such as apprentices, trainees and learners in clinical placements)	Lecturing staff should hold a masters Level (Level 9) qualification, preferably with a third level teaching qualification (e.g. Certificate in Training and Education).
Maximum number of learners per centre (or instance of the module)	60
Duration of the module	12 weeks
Average (over the duration of the module) of the contact hours per week (see * below)	3
Module-specific physical resources and support required per centre (or instance of the module)	Normal lecture room with internet access and good-quality audio-visual equipment.

Analysis of required learning effort		
*Effort while in contact with staff	Minimum ratio teacher / learner	Hours
Classroom and demonstrations	1:60	24
Monitoring and small-group teaching	1:30	12
Other		
Independent Learning		
Directed e-learning (hours)		
Independent Learning (hours)		89
Other hours (group project)		
Work-based learning hours of learning effort		
Total Effort (hours)		125

Allocation of marks (within the module)					
	Continuous assessment	Supervised project	Proctored practical examination	Proctored written examination	Total
Percentage contribution	50			50	100%

6.10.2 Module aims and objectives

The module brings an international perspective that focuses on the interrelationships between logistics, production, distribution and consumption. Most companies operate in an increasingly integrated and complex supply chain, which has required a revolution in how logistics operates at company level. Companies that trade, produce and/or sell all have an increasing interdependency on international logistics.

This module provides a foundation in the international trading structures that underpin international logistics management. It develops learners' strategic and critical thinking and practical understanding of the global market place, the dynamics of international trade and the key enabling international trade agreements and trade/transport routes. It connects in with learning in other modules, specifically in inventory management, supply chain management and sustainable procurement. The module is designed to build the competencies needed to work in a professional environment, together with developing soft skills (namely teamwork, oral and written communication and IT skills).

6.10.3 Minimum intended module learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module, learners are able to:

- (i) critically analyse the main drivers of international trade, including how the global marketplace has developed over the course of the last three decades in particular
- (ii) demonstrate a working knowledge of how trading blocs function, the impact of tariffs, trade agreement, customs/excise arrangements and geopolitics on logistics and supply chain management
- (iii) analyse business and logistics risk, with reference to business models such as just-in-time delivery schedules
- (iv) construe and communicate technically advanced material on how international trade routes function, how goods move on a regional and global basis and the role of transport hubs.

6.10.4 Rationale for inclusion of the module in the programme and its contribution to the overall MIPLOs

Almost all businesses are connected to and affected by – either directly or indirectly – developments in international trade and logistics. Trade within the European Union and between the European Union and the rest of the world – particularly with China, Middle East and USA/Canada – has grown at a huge rate over the last two decades, supported by significant changes to how trade is organised and highly regulated. This has led to unprecedented change in logistics management and supply chains. Understanding how international trade is governed and how trading laws and regulations impact on logistics and supply chain is important. It is key to making strategic business decisions around future growth, expansion into new markets, procurement strategies and supply chain risk management.

The module integrates knowledge and skills from across the programme to provide learners with opportunities to develop their professional skills including: oral communication skills; presentation skills; team-working skills; commercial awareness; and awareness of global and cultural issues in business.

6.10.5 Information provided to learners about the module

The Programme Handbook contains the module descriptor and assessment details. Extensive use of the VLE, Moodle, provides detailed notes and additional resources. In class, learners are provided with a PowerPoint pack and extensive reading list, incorporating professional and academic sources.

6.10.6 Module content, organisation and structure

The module covers key theories inventory and operations management, business strategy, supply and demand analysis, risk management and effective use of technology. Throughout the delivery, case studies of best international practices and group discussions will supplement a series of lectures and reading material to provide a comprehensive learning experience and ensuring strong alignment with other modules in the course.

International Infrastructure

- Transport infrastructure
- Communication infrastructure
- Utilities infrastructure
- Services infrastructure
- Legal & regulatory infrastructure

Milestone Developments in International Trade

- The Dynamics and Politics of International Trade – free trade v. protectionism
- Major Political and International Trade Events in 20th / 21 Century
- A Case Study in Trade Negotiations – An Examination of the Issues

The Logistics of International Trade

- Major international trading routes – methods of entry
 - Entry strategy factors
 - Indirect exporting
 - Active exporting
 - Production abroad
 - Parallel ports
 - Counterfeit goods
 - Other methods
 - Foreign trade zones
 - Maquiladoras
 - Foreign sales corporation
 - Anti-bribery conventions
- Integrated Transportation Management – air and ocean transportation
- Technology and Innovation – impact on logistics efficiency
- Logistics, flows and inventory management

The Global Marketplace

- International trade organisations – the World Trade Organisation
- Tariffs, customs and single market
- Trading currencies and exchange risks

Global Trading Blocs

- NAFTA (USMCA)
- EU Customers Union
- APEC

Terms of Trade

- International commercial terms
- Understand Incoterms® rules

Developing a competitive advantage

- The logistics challenge of international trade for SMEs
- How multinationals structure their logistics – a case study
- Outsourcing, off-shoring, re-shoring – the logistical choices
- Information systems and digitalisation

6.10.7 Module teaching and learning (including formative assessment) strategy

A range of delivery methods are adopted, including lectures, tutorials, case studies and in-class exercises using a range of professional and academic sources. These are designed to engage learners in the module content, and associated competencies that the programme team wishes learners to develop over the course of the module. Learners' guided independent reading and research is supported by use of Moodle to prepare learners for their classes in addition to developing autonomous self-directed learners.

6.10.8 Work-based learning and practice-placement

There is no work-based learning on practice-placement within this module.

6.10.9 E-learning

E-learning supports are provided via the college's online learning environment, Moodle, including extensive library resources.

6.10.10 Module physical resource requirements

Normal lecture room with internet access and good-quality audio-visual equipment. All learners have access to an extensive range of "actual" and "remote access" library resources. The library monitors and updates its resources on an ongoing basis, in line with the college's Library Acquisition Policy. Lecturers update reading lists for this programme on an annual basis.

6.10.11 Reading lists and other information resources

Learners can draw on reading lists from their other modules in addition to the resources below.

Primary Reading

David, Pierre A (2017) International Logistics: The Management of International Trade Operations, 5th Edition. Cicero Books (Ohio)

Secondary Reading

Novack, R.A. et al. (2018) Transportation: A Global Supply Chain Perspective. 9th edition. Mason, OH: South-Western College Pub.

Rodrigue, Jean-Paul et.al (2017) The Geography of Transport Systems, 4th edition. Routledge (New York)

Tate, D.W., Bals, P.D.L. and Ellram, L. (eds.) (2018) Supply Chain Finance: Risk Management, Resilience and Supplier Management. 1st edition. New York: Kogan Page.

6.10.12 Specifications for module staffing requirements

Lecturer(s) should hold a masters qualification, preferably with a third level teaching qualification (e.g. Certificate in Training and Education).

6.10.13 Module summative assessment strategy

This module is delivered through a series of formal and participative lectures, class discussions and case study research and assessment. Participants will debate and critique key management theories and international best practices. There will also be a particular focus on businesses in transition and responding to market and technological innovation.

There will be a group research project, which will be presented in class as a group band written up as a formal research paper on an individual basis. Final summative assessment comprises an end of semester examination of programme material with an emphasis on applying theory and concepts covered within the term. The assessed work breakdown is presented in the table below:

No	Description	MIMLOs	Weighting
1	Case study research group and written assignment	(ii), (iv)	50%
2	End of Semester Exam	(i), (ii), (iii)	50%

6.10.14 Sample assessment materials

Please see Sample Assessment Handbook.