



**UniBE** *Foundation*

# Empower Future Leaders from Emerging Economies through Global Economic Governance Scholarships

As a leading interdisciplinary academic institution, the World Trade Institute (WTI) provides cutting-edge research and training in the field of global economic governance. To address the lack of knowledge-based policy-making in emerging economies and empower future leaders, the WTI aims to support young talents through a full scholarship for a one-year Master's programme.

University of Bern  
World Trade Institute  
(WTI)



One of the last master's programme cohorts of the WTI, with 23 students from 19 different countries.

**Background** As trade has become more global, this process increasingly affects the local livelihoods. What we observe is a widening of socio-economic gaps and thus an increase in inequality within societies. However, if carefully implemented, international trade can have a powerful positive impact on a society by shaping the economic conditions, fostering inclusion and promoting equality.<sup>1</sup>

Sustainable trade policies also increase the resilience against economic, social and environmental shocks. Emerging economies have proven to be particularly vulnerable, as they frequently lack knowledge-based policy-making approaches.<sup>2</sup> New thinking and new talents with knowledge, expertise, networks and problem-solving skills are required to bring about the change to the global trading system that our world needs.<sup>3</sup>

For the past 25 years, the World Trade Institute (WTI) has been at the forefront of interdisciplinary research, teaching, and outreach on global economic governance and has contributed actively to international debates on economic, social and environmental issues. More than 600 students from across the globe have participated in WTI courses so far.

However, students from emerging economies are underrepresented among WTI's students, primarily because the costs of participation are out of their reach. Yet students from these countries, and the countries themselves, would benefit strongly from the knowledge, skills and networks they can build at WTI.

#### Overall Goals

- To empower young future leaders from emerging economies
- To support knowledge-based policy making approaches
- To contribute to a more sustainable, equal and balanced system of global economic governance
- To foster global exchange and attract young talents

**Our strategy** To address the lack of knowledge-based policy-making in emerging economies, the WTI aims to support two students annually through a full scholarship for a one-year Master's programme.

#### Outcomes

- Young future leaders from emerging economies gain expertise in global economic governance
- Sustainable development in emerging economies is fostered
- Students are supported through a mentorship and the Alumni Association.
- Potential future WTI employees and collaborators are identified

#### Providing access to skills and networks

The support consists of a full scholarship for WTI's Masters programmes MILE (Master of Advanced Studies in International Law, Economics and Politics) or TRAIL+ (LL.M. in International Trade and Investment Law) for

1. Elsig, M., Hahn, M. & Spilker, M. The Shifting Landscape of Global Trade Governance: World Trade Forum. Cambridge University Press. (2019).

2. Carrière-Swallow, Y. & Céspedes, L. F. The impact of uncertainty shocks in emerging economies. *Journal of International Economics*, 90(2). (2013).

3. Patrinos, H.A. 50 years after landmark study, returns to education remain strong. *World Bank Blogs*. (2023)

the duration of the one-year programme of studies, including an applied Master's thesis.

**Financial Need** The costs for a full one-year scholarship covering tuition fees, travel, room and board for the duration of the programme of studies, including the writing of a Master's thesis, are as follows:

<b>Project costs/scholarship</b>	CHF
Living expenses: room, board (2,200 CHF <sup>4</sup> /month)	26,400
Tuition fees (incl. Master's thesis)	21,000
Travel expenses	2,000
<b>Total scholarship expenses</b>	<b>46,600</b>
Project-related overheads (6%)	2,796
<b>Total project costs/scholarship</b>	<b>52,196</b>

**Scholarships** The process of granting the scholarships will be subject to the candidate's official admission to one of the WTI's competitive Masters programmes. Candidates will be asked to write a motivation letter sharing their ideas about making the most of their scholarship opportunity. A committee consisting of in-house and external experts will rank the submissions along a pre-determined evaluation grid and designate the final recipient after a personal interview.

During their stay at the WTI, the scholarship holders will have the opportunity to visit the UN city of Geneva and participate at the Public Forum of the WTO. This event provides a unique platform for discussing the latest development in global trade and attracts annually over 2'000 representatives from civil society, academia, business, government, international organizations and the media.

The academic year culminates in a challenging yet rewarding moot court exercise – a simulation of a fictitious trade dispute between two countries in front of a panel composed of top WTO law experts.

The scholarship holders are also entitled to a workplace in the study hall at the WTI during their studies.

## The World Trade Institute (WTI)

The WTI is a leading interdisciplinary academic institution dedicated to graduate-level studies, research and outreach activities on international trade regulation and investment. As a centre of excellence at the University of Bern, the WTI explores the interconnections between the fields of law, economics and political science. With an established global network of partners, the WTI is at the forefront of interdisciplinary research in international trade regulation and investment. The researchers at the institute explore and collect data, study the key challenges of today's trade policy and related areas (e.g. climate, labor, migration, investment, energy, development) and provide recommendations on how to improve global economic governance.

The Master of International Law and Economics (MILE) has been one of the world's leading programmes of advanced studies in the field of international trade regulation.

### **MILE (Master of Advanced Studies in International Law, Economics and Politics)**

Established in 1999, MILE is the WTI's flagship programme. It is designed for students and professionals with a background in law, economics, international relations or political science, who wish to broaden their knowledge of international trade and investment. The programme uniquely combines a multidisciplinary perspective with a strong applied focus. The MILE programme is a one-year intensive graduate programme. Its strength consists of the mix of teaching and guidance from world-class scholars and practitioners representing leading universities, international organisations, think tanks, and law firms.

### **TRAIL+ (LL.M. in International Trade and Investment Law)**

This programme is specially designed for students and professionals with a legal background interested in specialising in international economic law with an interdisciplinary outlook on the global economy and trade policy. This programme is offered at the World Trade Institute in cooperation with the Faculty of Law of the University of Bern. Upon successful conclusion of the TRAIL+ programme, the graduates are awarded an LL.M. in International Trade and Investment Law and a Diploma of Advanced Studies (DAS) in International Law and Economics.



**Prof. Isabelle Van Damme**  
Director of Studies,  
Deputy Managing  
Director WTI

*"Studying at the WTI offers a unique opportunity to learn from world class lecturers. The interdisciplinary WTI programs prepare students to take a leading role in government, international organisations, private practice and industry, and academia."*

4. Student Financing:  
[https://www.unibe.ch/studies/organizational\\_matters/student\\_financing\\_financial\\_matters/index\\_eng.html](https://www.unibe.ch/studies/organizational_matters/student_financing_financial_matters/index_eng.html)

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**UniBE Foundation**

The UniBE Foundation encourages and supports the University of Bern so that a new generation of researchers can develop pioneering and globally acclaimed solutions for the economy of the future, sustainable habitats, and an ethical standard of living. The Foundation orients its funding according to the University's strategy, placing particular emphasis on excellence, innovation, and potential for the future.

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