Governance of International Trade and WTO Law Training Course

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Political Science and International Relations	**Duration**	5 Days
Base Fee	$1,500 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

Governance of International Trade and WTO Law Training Course offers a comprehensive and critical examination of the global trading system. In todays interconnected world, understanding the intricate web of rules, institutions, and legal frameworks governing international commerce is crucial for professionals and organizations alike. This course provides an in-depth analysis of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**, its foundational principles, and its pivotal role in shaping global economic policy. Participants will explore how WTO agreements, from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to newer accords on services and intellectual property, impact national economies and corporate strategies. The program is designed to equip individuals with the knowledge to navigate complex **trade regulations**, anticipate challenges, and contribute to sound policy-making.

By delving into the core tenets of WTO law, including the **Most-Favored-Nation (MFN)** principle and **National Treatment**, this training empowers participants to critically evaluate trade policies and their implications. The course also addresses contemporary issues such as the rise of protectionism, the paralysis of the WTO's dispute settlement system, and the intersection of trade with climate change, digital commerce, and public health. Through a blend of theoretical knowledge and practical case studies, participants will develop the skills to analyze **trade disputes**, understand the nuances of **trade liberalization**, and advise on compliance. This program is essential for anyone seeking to master the legal and economic dimensions of international trade governance and enhance their professional capacity in a dynamic global environment.

Programme Curriculum

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Course Duration

5 days

Course Objectives

1. **Master** the foundational principles of the WTO and **global trade governance**.
2. **Analyze** the legal and economic implications of WTO agreements.
3. **Evaluate** the current state and future of the **WTO dispute settlement** mechanism.
4. **Develop expertise** in **trade policy analysis** and negotiation strategies.
5. **Examine** the challenges of **digital trade**, **e-commerce**, and WTO rules.
6. **Understand** the relationship between **trade law**, **climate change governance**, and sustainability.
7. **Explore** the impact of **preferential trade agreements (PTAs)** on the multilateral system.
8. **Assess** the role of **trade remedies** like anti-dumping and subsidies.
9. **Interpret** and apply core WTO principles such as **Most-Favored-Nation (MFN)** and **National Treatment**.
10. **Analyze** the complexities of **agricultural trade** and the WTO's Agreement on Agriculture.
11. **Identify** key issues in **trade and development** affecting developing countries.
12. **Critically evaluate** the future of **multilateralism** and the rise of protectionism.
13. **Apply** legal and policy frameworks to real-world **trade dispute case studies**.

Organizational Benefits

- Equips legal and policy teams with the knowledge to ensure corporate operations comply with international trade laws, reducing the risk of costly trade disputes, sanctions, and penalties.
- Provides a competitive advantage by enabling organizations to navigate complex tariff and non-tariff barriers, identify new market opportunities, and leverage trade agreements for business expansion.
- Empowers staff to effectively engage with government and international bodies, shaping trade policies and representing organizational interests in negotiations.

- Allows for a deeper understanding of trade regulations, enabling organizations to build more robust and adaptable international supply chains in the face of geopolitical and economic volatility.
- Fosters a culture of informed decision-making by providing leaders with a comprehensive grasp of global trade dynamics and their impact on business strategy.

Target Audience

1. Government Officials and Trade Negotiators
2. Legal Professionals and International Lawyers
3. Corporate Executives and Compliance Officers
4. Economists and Policy Analysts
5. Academics and Researchers
6. Diplomats and Foreign Service Officers
7. NGO and Civil Society Representatives
8. Supply Chain Managers and International Business Specialists

Course Outline

Module 1: The WTO and Foundations of Global Trade

- History and evolution from GATT to the WTO.
- Core principles: MFN and National Treatment.
- Functions and structure of the WTO.
- Overview of the WTO's key agreements on goods, services (GATS), and intellectual property (TRIPS).
- **Case Study**: The **"Shrimp-Turtle" case** (DS58) examining the intersection of trade rules with environmental protection.

Module 2: Market Access and Trade in Goods

- Tariffs, quotas, and non-tariff barriers (NTBs).
- The Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures.
- Rules of origin and customs valuation.
- Trade facilitation and customs procedures.
- **Case Study**: The **US-Gasoline case** (DS2) on the application of the GATT Article XX exceptions.

Module 3: Trade Remedies and Unfair Trade Practices

- Anti-dumping measures and investigations.
- Subsidies and countervailing measures.
- Safeguards and emergency measures.
- The legal and procedural requirements for imposing trade remedies.
- **Case Study**: The **EU-Aircraft dispute** (DS316) involving state subsidies and their impact on global competition.

Module 4: The WTO Dispute Settlement System

- Structure and function of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) and panels.
- The **paralysis of the Appellate Body** and its implications.
- Stages of a dispute: consultation, panel proceedings, and implementation.
- The role of third parties and non-governmental actors.
- **Case Study**: The **US-Cotton case** (DS267) highlighting the use of dispute settlement to challenge agricultural subsidies.

Module 5: Trade in Services and Intellectual Property

- The General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).
- Principles of GATS: MFN, National Treatment, and market access.
- The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
- The relationship between TRIPS and public health.
- **Case Study**: The **TRIPS and Public Health** debate, focusing on the Doha Declaration and access to medicines.

Module 6: Trade and Contemporary Challenges

- The rise of **digital trade** and its challenges to traditional rules.
- The intersection of **trade and climate change** policies.
- The role of regional trade agreements (RTAs) and their impact on the multilateral system.
- **Trade and Development** issues, special and differential treatment for developing countries.
- **Case Study**: The debate over **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms (CBAMs)** and their legality under WTO law.

Module 7: The Future of the WTO and Global Trade

- Ongoing **WTO reform** negotiations.
- The role of plurilateral agreements.
- The impact of geopolitical shifts and **protectionism**.
- The future of multilateralism versus bilateralism.
- **Case Study**: Analyzing the implications of the **US-China trade war** for the WTO's authority and global trade relations.

Module 8: Practical Application and Negotiation Skills

- How to read and interpret WTO legal texts.
- Practical advice for navigating trade-related issues.
- Simulated negotiation exercises.
- Strategies for effective trade advocacy.
- **Case Study**: A mock **trade dispute** simulation based on a fictional bilateral disagreement over a technical regulation.

Training Methodology

This course employs a participatory and hands-on approach to ensure practical learning, including:

- Interactive lectures and presentations.
- Group discussions and brainstorming sessions.
- Hands-on exercises using real-world datasets.
- Role-playing and scenario-based simulations.
- Analysis of case studies to bridge theory and practice.
- Peer-to-peer learning and networking.
- Expert-led Q&A sessions.
- Continuous feedback and personalized guidance.

Register as a group from 3 participants for a Discount

Send us an email: info@fineskilltrainingcenter.org or call *+254769199797*

Certification

Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be issued with a globally- recognized certificate.

Tailor-Made Course

We also offer tailor-made courses based on your needs.

Key Notes

a. The participant must be conversant with English.

b. Upon completion of training the participant will be issued with an Authorized Training Certificate

c. Course duration is flexible and the contents can be modified to fit any number of days.

d. The course fee includes facilitation training materials, 2 coffee breaks, buffet lunch and A Certificate upon successful completion of Training.

e. One-year post-training support Consultation and Coaching provided after the course.

f. Payment should be done at least a week before commence of the training, to Fineskill Training Center account, as indicated in the invoice so as to enable us prepare better for you.

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Online	$1,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$1,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$4,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000

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