Course Descriptions None 2026-2027

Course Title	Strategies and Technologies in the Supply Chain
Course Code	EBC4018
ECTS Credits	6,5
Assessment	Whole/Half Grades

Period

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	31-8-2026	16-10-2026	X		X		

Level	Intermediate/Advanced
Coordinator	Tom Schiefer, Diogo Pinto Pereira Rebelo Cotta For more information:t.schiefer@maastrichtuniversity.nl; d.cotta@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Language of instruction	English
Goals	* Develop competence to read scientific literature in the domain of strategic supply chain management * Create awareness of core concepts involved in strategic decision making for supply chain managers * Identify appropriate supply chain strategies * Create awareness of core concepts involved in strategic decision making for supply chain managers * Develop the ability to critically reflect on the broader political dimensions implied by contemporary supply chains * Develop students' communication competences to justify their selection of supply chain strategies with educated and persuasive arguments * Develop students ability to manage and complete a group project effectively Students receive verbal feedback on teamwork skills regarding group projects
Description	A firm's competitive strategy establishes the set of customer needs to be addressed by the products and/or services that it offers. A firm's supply chain strategy establishes how these offered products/and or services are transformed from inputs in the hands of suppliers to outputs in the hands of end users. Unfortunately, in the past twenty years designing and managing supply chains has become increasingly complex. Most companies now face fierce competitive environments together with geographically dispersed suppliers and customers. These developments have rendered supply chain management a key strategic imperative for contemporary business and non-business organizations. To make matters more challenging (and exciting!) we find ourselves living through the emergence of a set of technologies that are changing the relationship between the physical and the digital world. New technological possibilities in the field of additive manufacturing, the internet of things, blockchain, or artificial intelligence are and will continue to transform the possibilities afforded to supply chain management. In parallel, these developments have also underpinned the emergence of the supply chain professional, a manager required to possess certain types of skills and capabilities. Chief among them is the ability to understand the main strategic issues involved in coordinating the entire value chain that allows companies to execute and re-configure effective business models. To develop such an understanding is what this course aims to achieve. The course introduces students to the main themes involved in thinking strategically about supply chains and to the most recent academic knowledge on said themes. As a result, students will develop a solid basis for conceiving and implementing sound supply chain decisions. As a side effect, students will also learn how to extract relevant findings from academic papers and identify their applicability to contemporary managerial challenges.
Literature	The literature for the course mainly consists of scientific articles published in the most respected supply chain management journals. The articles were carefully selected to provide students with recent overviews of the topics covered in the course. Because the articles come from very prestigious journals, some of them may deploy complex research methodologies with which students are unfamiliar. Even though students are invited and encouraged to challenge themselves, this is not a methodology course. In this sense, students should not be overly focused on the methods used by each paper, but rather on the implications of the results derived through the methods. Students are expected to apprehend the topical relevance of the papers, to become informed by their literature reviews, to consider the advantages and disadvantages of their research contexts, to understand the reported results and to reflect on their practical significance. This means that if a certain methodology (e.g. a statistical model) is beyond students' current capabilities they should allocate their attention to the other sections of the paper.
Prerequisites	* Exchange students need to have obtained a Bachelor degree in business. * Exchange students need to major in supply chain management/ logistics in their Master. * An advanced level of English. Note that courses and workload are very demanding for all master International Business courses.
Transitional Regulations	<ul class="trcohorts"> - Master Business Research - No specialisation [2023-2024 and earlier] - Master Business Research - Operations Research [2023-2024 and earlier] - In 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 education and exam/resit opportunities are offered. - In 2026-2027 exam/resit opportunities are offered. - From 2027-2028 onwards, the course is cancelled. <table><col style="width: 200px;"><col style="width: 120px;"><col style="width: 120px;"><col><thead><tr><th>Academic Year</th><th>Education</th><th>Exam/Resit</th><th>Replacement(s)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2024-2025 - 2025-2026</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td> </td></tr><tr><td>2026-2027</td><td> </td><td>X</td><td> </td></tr><tr><td>2027-2028 onwards</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></tbody></table> <ul class="trcohorts"> - Master Econometrics and Operations Research [2022-2023 and earlier] - Master Human Decision Science [2022-2023 and earlier] - From 2023-2024 onwards, the course is cancelled. <table><col style="width: 200px;"><col style="width: 120px;"><col style="width: 120px;"><col><thead><tr><th>Academic Year</th><th>Education</th><th>Exam/Resit</th><th>Replacement(s)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2023-2024 onwards</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></tbody></table>
Teaching methods	Presentation / Lecture / Assignment / Papers / Groupwork
Assessment methods	Participation / Written Exam / Presentation / Take home exam
Evaluation in previous academic year	For the complete evaluation of this course please click http://iwio-sbe.maastrichtuniversity.nl/rapporten.asp?referrer=codeUM

This course belongs to the following programme / specialisation

Master Business Research - No specialisation	In transition - Year 1 Disc IB Supply Chain Mgmt
Master Business Research - Operations Research	In transition - Year 1+2 Elective Courses
Master Economics and Strategy in Emerging Markets	Cancelled - Elective Courses
Master Human Decision Science	Cancelled - Elective Courses
Master International Business - Supply Chain Management	Compulsory Courses
SBE Exchange Master	Master Exchange Courses
SBE Non Degree Courses	Master Courses