Course Descriptions None 2026-2027

Course Title	International Competitive Analysis and Strategy
Course Code	EBC4044
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	Advanced
Coordinator	Iwan Bos For more information:i.bos@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Language of instruction	English
Goals	The objectives of the course are: 1.To develop understanding of the economic principles underlying industry structure and strategy. 2.To develop skills in analysing the drivers of the competitive environment and in identifying sound corporate strategies. 3.To develop the ability to apply theory to real world cases and to find solutions to real world cases in theory. 4.To develop skills in searching for, and making good use of, information and data on firms and industries and carry out basic research. 5.To develop teamwork and presentation skills.
Description	This course explores the overlapping areas of industrial economics and strategic management. Its focus is on the external environment of the firm and how this environment is affected by strategic decision making of companies. The course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the economic principles underlying strategy formulation. Based on an analysis of the factors shaping the industry, firms assess their positioning relative to their rivals and formulate strategies in order to achieve a sustainable competitive advantage. In choosing between strategies, firms have to take into account the possible reactions of rivals to their strategic decisions. The course provides students with the tools to analyse the positioning and performance of firms in different industry environments. These tools mainly rely on economic theories (e.g., theories of supply and demand, theories of industrial organisation, basic concepts of game theory). The course covers various topics in strategy formulation, such as product positioning and differentiation, vertical integration, pricing and strategic commitment. By combining theory and cases, the course focuses on strategy formulation by multinational firms.
Literature	Textbook + Articles
Prerequisites	* Basic knowledge of microeconomics. * Exchange students need to have obtained a bachelor's degree with a major in business and need to major in strategy in their master.
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 International Business - Accounting and Business Information Technology [2025-2026 and earlier] - Master International Business - Entrepreneurship and Business Development [2025-2026 and earlier] - Master International Business - Managerial Decision-Making and Control [2025-2026 and earlier] - Master International Business - Information Management and Business Intelligence [2025-2026 and earlier] - Master International Business - Marketing-Finance [2025-2026 and earlier] - Master International Business - Organisation: Management, Change and Consultancy [2025-2026 and earlier] - Master International Business - Strategic Corporate Finance [2025-2026 and earlier] - Master International Business - Strategic Marketing [2025-2026 and earlier] - Master International Business - Sustainable Finance [2025-2026 and earlier] - From 2026-2027 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>2026-2027 onwards</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></tbody></table> <ul class="trcohorts"> - 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	PBL / Presentation / Lecture / Assignment / Papers / Groupwork
Assessment methods	Written Exam / Presentation
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 - Y1 Disc IB Strategy and Innovation
Master Business Research - Operations Research	In transition - Year 1+2 Elective Courses
Master Human Decision Science	Cancelled - Elective Courses
Master International Business - Accounting and Financial Analysis	Cancelled - Elective Courses
Master International Business - Entrepreneurship and Business Development	Cancelled - Elective Courses
Master International Business - Managerial Decision-Making and Control	Cancelled - Elective Courses
Master International Business - Information Management and Business Intelligence	Cancelled - Elective Courses
Master International Business - Marketing-Finance	Cancelled - Elective Courses
Master International Business - Organisation: Management, Change and Consultancy	Cancelled - Elective Courses
Master International Business - Strategic Corporate Finance	Cancelled - Elective Courses
Master International Business - Strategic Marketing	Cancelled - Elective Courses
Master International Business - Strategy and Innovation	Compulsory Courses
Master International Business - Sustainable Finance	Cancelled - Elective Courses
SBE Exchange Master	Master Exchange Courses
SBE Non Degree Courses	Master Courses