International Trade, Human Rights and the Environment

2022-2023

Term

Spring semester
6 February 2023 – 21 April 2023 (Part A, 15 ECTS)
6 February 2023 – 7 July 2023 (Part A and B, 30 ECTS)

This is your chance to make a difference!

- Nearly 50 million people are victims of modern slavery;
- About 160 million children are working illegally and often in appalling conditions;
- As few as 100 companies have caused 71% of all climate damage in the past 30 years;
- In 107 countries workers are not allowed to form or join unions;
- 13% of working people live in poverty and 8% in extreme poverty;

This minor is your chance to make a difference. In this minor you will learn how companies can reduce their direct or indirect contribution to human rights violations and their negative impact on the environment.

The field of international trade, human rights and the environment

Companies have a responsibility to respect human rights and the environment throughout their international supply chains and to enable remediation when abuses take place.

International responsible business conduct is taken more seriously each day by companies, courts, legislators, governments and other stakeholders. International guidelines that oblige companies to take responsibility for their own, their suppliers' and partners' actions are rapidly being developed on country and European level. Therefor the labour market shows an increasing demand for people with expertise in this field.

Content

The minor is divided into two parts: part A (15 ECTS) and part B (30 ECTS, including part A).

Part A

In Part A of this minor, we will zoom in on international supply chains and the challenges they cause for human rights and environmental sustainability. You will learn to apply tools (models, frameworks and guidelines) to avoid or reduce the negative impacts of business conduct in supply chains. This includes an introduction into the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. Professional English is also part of the curriculum in both Part A as well as Part B.

Part B

In Part B, you will work in an interdisciplinary team on a real-life case from a company or NGO. By using the innovative 'Reverse Engineering Method' your team will strip down the layers of a company's existing international supply chain: from end-user, to retailers and producers, all the way back to resource extraction. You will be challenged to find sustainable solutions for misconduct in the supply chain, respecting human rights and the environment: a win - win situation for all stakeholders involved. Collaboration is key, as you will be teaming up with students from an international partner university in the Global South.

Teaching methods

Theoretical knowledge and trends, (international) guest speakers, project work in interdisciplinary teams on real-life cases.

University of Applied Sciences Leiden

Zernikedreef 11
2333 CK Leiden

Postbus 382
2300 AJ Leiden

The Netherlands

Website: hsleiden.nl/english

Examination

Different forms of assessments, mainly project based: real-life cases and teamwork in interdisciplinary teams.

Target group

This minor is open to all undergraduate students. It is an interdisciplinary minor and an excellent choice for students of Business, Law, Economics, Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Management, Communication, Logistics, Sustainability, Sales, Journalism, and other fields of study.

The minor is taught in English, so a good knowledge of English is necessary.

It's possible to enrol for the complete minor of 30 ECTS (Part A and B), or only for the first part (Part A, 15 ECTS).

Application

Interested? Please fill in the required application form, which can be downloaded from our website: http://www.hsleiden.nl/english

Application deadline

10 October 2022

Tuition fees

There are no tuition fees required for students from partner institutions.

Accommodation

Our university does not have its own student accommodation. A local student housing corporation offers temporary, furnished rooms and apartments to international students. You can find more information about accommodation on our website.

Contact

If you have questions about the content and/or the organization of the minor, please contact Willemijn Hirzalla – Leenhouts at hirzalla.w@hsleiden.nl

For information about the application procedure and/or accommodation please contact our international office: international.office@hsleiden.nl

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