



School of Economics and Management

IBUA51, International Business: Intercultural Competence, 5 credits

International Business: Interkulturell kompetens, 5 högskolepoäng
First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Board of the Department of Business Administration on 2022-11-22 and was last revised on 2026-03-02 by Academic Director of Studies at Department of Business Administration. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-03-02 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

General information

IBUA51 is a compulsory course in the International Business programme.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study *Specialisation*

International Business G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Learning outcomes

A Passing grade for the course is awarded to students who

Knowledge and understanding

- understand basic terminology in intercultural contexts
- understand cultural backgrounds, beliefs and attitudes in different cultural contexts
- understand the potential impact that cultural issues can have on international/intercultural business situations

Competence and skills

- use and evaluate the role of the fundamental dimensions of culture in intercultural business situations
- work and co-operate effectively (both as a team leaders and members) as members of intercultural groups
- communicate effectively (both as sender and receiver) in intercultural business situations
- provide constructive feedback on the oral and written work of other students

Judgement and approach

- appreciate and recognise the importance of intercultural similarities and differences in international/intercultural contexts
- use ethical, unprejudiced perspectives to deal with intercultural business situations
- are sensitive to cultural differences and adapt their behaviour accordingly

Course content

Today, we live in a truly global and interconnected world where every manager and employee needs to have a high degree of cultural intelligence. In a multicultural work environment, a successful leader, as well as employees and entrepreneurs, must understand the cultural background, beliefs and attitudes of the people around them – otherwise they risk failing to achieve the organisation's goals. The aim of this course is to increase students' awareness, sensitivity and skills to develop intercultural competence and cultural intelligence. The intercultural competence themes of the course are divided into two broad categories: the theoretical components and behavioural aspects of working in an intercultural environment. After a brief introduction to the conceptual components of intercultural competence, the course continues with a practical approach and students work in small but culturally diverse groups to explore the role of intercultural issues in an organisational context.

For the written report, the student teams have to use relevant theoretical and conceptual components from the course literature (see the suggested reading list) and collect secondary information about the case.

Course design

Through structured learning activities (lectures, seminars, quizzes, discussion questions, guest lectures and written assessments), students will increase their intercultural awareness, skills and cultural intelligence - to apply these in intercultural contexts and business situations.

Assessment

The assessment is based on

Group based

- written report based on a case (2 cr)

Individual

- oral presentation in front an audience and discussion in the classroom (1 cr)
- written final exam (2 cr)

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: U=Fail, E=Sufficient, D=Satisfactory, C=Good, B=Very Good, A=Excellent

Occasional assessment elements of the course may have the grading scale: Pass (D) / Fail U (F).

Entry requirements

General and courses corresponding to the following Swedish Upper Secondary School Programs: English 6, Mathematics 3b/3c and Social Studies 1b/1a1+1a2.

Further information

Students admitted to the Bachelor's Programme in International Economics are eligible for the course. To be admitted to the course as a stand-alone course, students must at least fulfil the general entry requirements and have Mathematics C and Social Studies A from Swedish upper secondary school or equivalent.

Discontinuation of the course: Within three semesters after the closure of the course, there will be three additional opportunities for assessment of the respective examination part of the course for students who have not achieved a passing grade. Please note that after this, they will only receive a certificate for completed examination parts.