FI 355 INTERNATIONAL FINANCE
IES Abroad Vienna

DESCRIPTION:
A study of 'international' finance is essential given the high degree of integration and globalization of the world economy. Further liberalization of international trade, investment and rapid advances in telecommunication and transportation technologies will ensure the continuation of this process. The material covered in this course introduces the students to the international monetary system and balance of payments, the foreign exchange market, international capital markets and institutions, management of foreign exchange and political risks, financial management of the multinational firm, and covers recent developments in international capital markets and the world economy. Students will examine the barriers to international capital flows and study the various financial techniques developed to overcome these barriers. The focus of the course is 'global' in nature and closely follows current developments on the world economic stage. It places a strong emphasis on 'connecting the dots' between theory and practice and requires the students to develop an understanding of current international financial and economic events.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Oksana Denys, odenys@iesvienna.org

PREREQUISITES: None

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:
The course is presented in a seminar format and involves a combination of lectures, class discussions, and student presentations. Current global events in international finance are integrated into the weekly discussions. Students will work on a case study, which integrates any one of the theoretical topics covered in this course with recent events in international finance. The background research and evaluation of data in the context of the underlying theory will enable the students to develop a better understanding of the selected topic.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
- Course participation – 10% total (split evenly: 5% for participation in weeks 1–5, and 5% in weeks 6–10)
- Midterm Test - 25%
- Final Research Paper (Case Study) - 40% total, assessed in four stages:
  - Literature Review – 5%
  - Data Evaluation – 5%
  - Final Paper with Conclusions – 20%
  - Presentation – 10%
- Final Exam (cumulative - covers entire course material) - 25%

Course Participation
Class participation is a key component of the course. Students' contributions should reflect coverage of the reading and thinking about the relevant topical issues. The style of the discussion will be informal and participative.

Midterm Exam
The midterm test (2 hours) will be closed book. It will include short definition tasks and multiple choice tests. The dates for this test will be announced during the term.

Final Exam

The final exam (2 hours) will be closed book. It will include short definition tasks, an essay and multiple choice tests. The date for this test will be announced during the term.

Final Research Paper (Case Study)

Students will work in small groups on the final research paper. Each group should identify one theoretical topic from the course outline and conduct research to gather data on a recent (or historic) event in international finance or the global economy. The word limit for this essay is 3,500 words (+/- 10%). This word count does not include your bibliography and appendices (if any). The objective of this coursework is to evaluate the data and to analyze and discuss the case study in the context of the underlying theoretical discussion. Useful sources for the research will include quality newspapers (e.g., Financial Times, Economist, New York Times, etc.) in addition to relevant books/journal articles. Students are required to submit their paper in three stages according to the schedule: Literature Review, Data Evaluation, and Final Paper with Conclusions. A penalty of 10% of the grade will be applied for each missed deadline. Students will present their final research paper in the last class. The detailed guidelines for this research project are provided on Moodle.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand the key issues in international finance and their relationship with the globalized world economy.
- Identify the appropriate theoretical discussions and evaluate their applications in the 'real world.'
- Demonstrate their ability to evaluate and analyze current topics in international finance in the context of the relevant theoretical material.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

IES Abroad Vienna requires attendance at all class sessions. Attendance will be taken every class. Students must attend at least 60% of their class sessions to qualify for a passing grade, regardless of whether their absences have been excused or not. Your attendance is required in-person unless otherwise noted in the syllabus. Students are highly encouraged to communicate absences as soon as possible to their professors and for excused absences using the processes described in the absence policy. Please refer to the IES Abroad Vienna Absence Policy for a more precise overview of all attendance policies at IES Abroad Vienna as well as an overview of possible grade penalties.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

At IES Abroad Vienna, we hold ourselves to the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty undermines the principles of trust and fairness essential to a thriving learning community. As such, plagiarism and cheating are considered serious violations of our code of conduct, and students found engaging in such activities will face swift and severe consequences, ranging from a failing grade on an assignment, to an academic review and possible expulsion from the program.

USE OF AI:

Students may use AI programs (e.g., ChatGPT) to help generate ideas and brainstorm. However, they should note that the material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, or otherwise problematic, and students remain responsible for the accuracy and critical thinking evident in their assignments. Beware that use may also stifle independent thinking and creativity. Students may not submit any work generated by an AI program as their own. If AI-generated material is included in an assignment, it must be cited like any other reference material (with due consideration for the quality of the reference, which may be poor), and must additionally include a written explanation of how AI was used in the assignment process.

CONTENT:

<table>
<tr><th>Week</th><th>Content</th><th>Assignments</th></tr>
<tr><td>Week 1
Session Dates:
• February 4, 2026
• February 5, 2026</td><td>Introduction to International Finance
• Introductions, student interests, relevant prior coursework & experience
• Course map, format, required work and assessment
• Term project guidelines: see detailed guidelines.
• Weekly class format, resources, reading & class discussion assignments</td><td>Required readings:
Globalization and the Multinational Firm, (Ch.1). [Please note that all chapter references in this syllabus refer to the required textbook – International financial management, by Eun, Resnick & Chuluun]. The textbook will be available on Moodle
Recommended readings:
• Copestake, Alexander, Anh H. Le, Evan Papageorgiou, and Brandon Joel Tan. 2023. “Macrofinancial Implications of Foreign Crypto assets for Small Developing Economies.” IMF Fintech Note 2023/012, International Monetary Fund, Washington, DC</td></tr>
<tr><td>Week 2
Session Dates:
• February 9, 2026
• February 10, 2026</td><td>International Monetary System & Balance of Payments
• Historical Perspectives of International Monetary System
• Flexible Exchange Rate Regime
• Euro and European Monetary System
• Review of past currency crises
• Overview of Balance of Payments</td><td>Required readings:
• Ch. 2 & 3</td></tr>
<tr><td>Week 3
Session Dates:
• February 16, 2026
• February 17, 2026</td><td>Foreign Exchange Market & Exchange Rate Determination – part 1& Research Paper Update I
• Function & structure of the foreign exchange market
• International finance in practice: market mechanics
• Spot and forward markets
• Interest rate parity
• Students will provide the first status update on their research papers</td><td>Required readings:
• Ch. 5, 6 & 7
Recommended readings:
• Chaboud, A., Rime, D., & Sushko, V. (2023, April 27). The foreign exchange market (BIS Working Papers No. 1094). Bank for International Settlements.
Submission deadline for the first status update on research papers: February 19, 2026</td></tr>
<tr><td>Week 4
Session Dates:
• February 23, 2026
• February 24, 2026</td><td>Foreign Exchange Markets & Exchange Rate Determination – part 2
• Interest rate parity (contd.)
• Forecasting exchange rates
• Foreign exchange futures & options</td><td>Required readings:
• Ch. 5, 6 & 7</td></tr>
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Week	Content	Assignments
Week 5 Session Dates: • March 2, 2026 • March 3, 2026	**International Capital Markets & Institutions** • International Banking and Money Markets • International Bond Markets • International Equity Markets	**Required readings:** • Ch. 11,12 & 13 **Recommended readings:** • Association for Financial Markets in Europe (AFME). (2021, November 18). *Understanding EU bond market structure and dynamics*. AFME.
Week 6 (March 16–20, 2026)	**Midterm Exam**	
Week 7 Session Dates: • March 23, 2026 • March 24, 2026	**International Portfolio Investment & Research Paper Update II** • International diversification and portfolio risk reduction • Evaluation of risks and opportunities • Impact of changing exchange rates • Students will provide the second status update on their research papers	**Required readings:** • Ch. 15 Submission deadline for the second status update on research papers: March 27, 2026
Week 8 Session Dates: • April 6, 2026 • April 7, 2026	**Financial Management of Multinational Firm – part 1** • Management of economic, transaction & translation exposure • Key issues in exposure management • Review of exposure management strategies	**Required readings:** • Ch. 8, 9 & 10
Week 9 Session Dates: • April 13, 2026 • April 14, 2026	**Financial Management of Multinational Firm – part 2** • Foreign direct investment (FDI) • Theory and practice of FDI • Multinational cash management • Corporate Governance Around the World: Global and Regional Trends	**Required readings:** • Ch. 4, 16 & 19'

Week	Content	Assignments
Week 10 Session Dates: • April 20, 2026 • April 21, 2026	**International Trade & Taxation & Final Research Paper Submission** • Exports & Imports • Review of international tax environment: key issues • Transfer Pricing & Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements • Theory vs. Practice • Final research paper submission deadline	**Required readings:** • Ch. 20, 21 • Submission deadline for the final research paper update: April 23, 2026
Week 11 Session Dates: • April 27, 2026 • April 28, 2026	**Review Session** • Course review & numerical problems. • Final research paper presentations	
Week 12 (May 4–8, 2026)	**Final Exam**	

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS: Excursion to the Money Museum of the Oesterreichische Nationalbank (OeNB), Vienna – February 5, 2026

REQUIRED READINGS:

- International Financial Management, Eun, Cheol S., Resnick, Bruce G., Chuluun, Tuugi (10th Edition, 2024).

Additional readings will be posted on a weekly basis on Moodle and will consist of relevant topical articles from journals and newspapers. Students are expected to review this material weekly to prepare for class discussions.

INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY:
Dr. Oksana Denys is an experienced researcher specializing in finance. She holds a PhD in Economics and a Habilitation in Finance. Her book Corporate Governance in Banks was published with peer review and support from the International Finance Corporation (IFC, The World Bank). Dr. Denys has participated in international projects supported by the UN Global Compact, the International Finance Corporation (IFC). In 2022–2023, she was a Fellow at the Research Center for the History of Transformations (RECET). In 2023, she was also a Fellow at the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) in Vienna. Additionally, she completed a research internship at the Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU).