



Münster University was founded in 1780 and inaugurated in 1907 as the “Wilhelminian University of Westphalia”. Today, the WWU Münster is one of Germany’s most prestigious universities with 40,000 students and a staff of 5,000. The Law Faculty is particularly renowned and scores highly in official rankings.

## The Institute of Customs and International Trade Law (ICTL)

The ICTL was jointly founded by the AWA and WWU in 2016 as the successor to the Department of Customs and Excise (DCE). It continues the aim of promoting research into customs-related topics of both national and international importance.

The ICTL carries out research projects and provides expert advice to government in the field of customs and excise. It also collaborates with European and international organisations such as the World Customs Organisation (WCO) and European Commission in setting standards for customs education.

The ICTL promotes international cooperation in customs research through the International Network of Customs Universities (INCUI) and the World Customs Journal (WCJ) together with the WCO. It collaborates with universities around the world to deliver the MCA programme.



**Constantin Heinrichsbauer**  
› Coordination of Degree Programmes



AWA AUSSENWIRTSCHAFTS-AKADEMIE GmbH (“AWA”) was founded in 1996 by Prof. Dr. Hans-Michael Wolfgang and Matthias Merz within the Law Faculty of Münster University. Today, AWA is Germany’s largest private training provider in the field of customs.

AWA specializes in all areas of customs, excise and foreign trade. It offers training programmes for all levels and its clients range from SMEs to major international corporations. With over 100 experienced trainers from customs administrations and private practice, AWA specializes in all areas of customs and foreign trade.

As a long-standing partner of the university, AWA is able to directly implement the results of research into its courses. The Master of Customs Administration (MCA) is an ideal example of this collaboration, offering a university degree tailored to the needs of customs practitioners. AWA also promotes research by co-hosting customs conferences in Germany and abroad.

AWA now employs over 30 full-time staff. Its headquarters are located in the centre of Münster, not far from the University. In 2010, it opened its conference centre in Munich.



**Matthias Merz**  
› Managing Director  
› CEO AWA Foreign Trade Academy



With over 30 lecturers from all over the world, the MCA covers a wide range of customs-related subjects. Our lecturers are highly qualified experts with many years of experience. They also provide online supervision for the transfer project and master’s thesis.



*Compliant with the PICARD Standards*



*Accredited in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)*



*Developed with the International Network of Customs Universities (INCUI)*



## Contact Us



**Dr. Christopher Dallimore**  
› Head of Studies  
dallimore@uni-muenster-mca.de

Further information is available on our website:  
› [www.uni-muenster-mca.de](http://www.uni-muenster-mca.de)



# MCA

CUSTOMS, TAXATION AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW  
› University of Münster

## » The MCA programme

### *An online master's course for strategic managers in customs*

The MCA in Customs, Taxation and International Trade Law is an online, part-time course that lasts 20 months. It prepares customs professionals in the private and public sectors for a career in management. Graduates are awarded the unique degree Master of Customs Administration (MCA) from the University of Münster, Germany.

### *WHAT DOES THE MCA OFFER YOU?*

#### *› Comprehensive Knowledge*

The MCA places customs in its international context and covers a wide range of related subjects. It thereby provides you with comprehensive knowledge of the political, economic and legal aspects of customs.

#### *› Implementation Skills*

You will be required to implement theoretical knowledge in your own working environment and evaluate the results. Thereby, you will gain experience in change management and be able to develop strategies for future projects.

#### *› Optimization Strategies*

Developments in customs often demand an overhaul of trade practices and company processes. The MCA gives you cutting-edge information and practical advice by customs experts on how to ensure compliance while facilitating trade.

#### *› International Networking*

Business-to-customs partnerships are fundamental for secure and efficient trade. The MCA creates a global dialogue between the public and private sector and gives you the opportunity to create networks with colleagues from other countries.

#### *› Promotion Prospects*

After the course, you will be a prime candidate for a managerial position in your chosen profession. You will be able to streamline and improve the processes of your organization, identify new trends in international trade and formulate effective policies.

## » Structure



The MCA is a part-time course which allows participants to balance their work and family commitments. Lectures are held online and thereby accessible to customs practitioners from all over the world.

### *COURSE PHASES*



## » Objectives

### *Utilising scientific research for practical application*

#### *ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE*

*› Monthly seminars and self-study*

The MCA consists of monthly seminars that cover customs, taxation and international trade law. The lecturers represent international organizations, universities and customs bodies. They help participants develop effective strategies to optimize processes and ensure compliance. Self-study (supported by the moodle learning platform) enables participants to apply this knowledge to their fields of expertise. Seminars are also offered online.

#### *APPLY KNOWLEDGE*

*› Transfer project*

In this module, participants develop a project at their workplace which allows them to apply the knowledge acquired during the course within a practical environment. The project is agreed with the employer and aims to optimize customs-related processes. Students identify problem areas and develop an appropriate solution in light of practical considerations. In conclusion, participants submit a written report explaining the development of the transfer project and the results.

#### *DEMONSTRATE KNOWLEDGE*

*› Master's thesis*

The master's thesis combines the legal knowledge acquired during the monthly seminars with the practical insight gained during the transfer project. It requires participants to investigate an hypothesis in relation to customs and trade that is of practical importance for their organization. The master's thesis also demonstrates the participants' aptitude for a managerial position.

## » Seminar contents

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|---|---|
| 1 | <i>The World Trade Organisation and International Commercial Law</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› WTO history, function and institutions</li><li>› Decision-making and dispute settlement</li><li>› Formation and major terms of contract</li><li>› International commercial instruments</li></ul> |
| 2 | <i>International Customs Instruments and European Customs Legislation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› Functions of customs</li><li>› WCO customs instruments</li><li>› European customs legislation</li><li>› Interpretation and case law</li></ul>   |
| 3 | <i>International and European Taxation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› Tax implications of international trade</li><li>› International taxation agreements</li><li>› European tax legislation</li><li>› European regulation of VAT</li></ul>  |
| 4 | <i>Trade Facilitation and Supply Chain Security</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› Trade facilitation techniques</li><li>› Risk management</li><li>› WCO's Framework of Standards</li><li>› Mutual recognition</li></ul>   |
| 5 | <i>Global Trade Compliance</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>› Compliance concepts and pitfalls</li><li>› Compliance management systems and integration</li><li>› EU export control law</li></ul>   |