



© Shutterstock.com / Job Lund

# BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION - SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

MANAGING INTERNAL AND CROSS-COMPANY VALUE CHAINS

Master of Science

Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences  
University of Cologne



---

# UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE

## The Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences

The **University of Cologne** is one of the oldest and most prestigious European universities. It has produced several Nobel and Leibniz Prize winners and is part of the only economic cluster of excellence in Germany. Founded in 1388, the University of Cologne is a leader in many disciplines and a member of many international networks.

The **Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences** (also known as "WiSo Faculty") is part of the University of Cologne and has over a century of experience in educating new generations of business professionals, economists, social analysts and political experts. As one of Germany's largest educational institutions, the WiSo Faculty regularly ranks among the top providers of management and business education.

As a student of the WiSo Faculty, you benefit from a teaching approach based on theory and methods in combination with research and applications.

The traditional diversity of subjects, top-level research, practical relevance and internationality allow the WiSo-Faculty to stand up to national and international comparison and to achieve top positions in international research rankings. Through its interdisciplinary research approach, the Faculty's seminars and institutes make a major contribution to the excellent research at the University of Cologne.

The education provided at our Faculty has benefited from many years of experience in working with companies and visiting lecturers from different professional fields. Several faculty members are professionals and managers who bring important industry experience to the programmes, resulting in sector-specific, up-to-date programme content for our students. True to our motto "Today's ideas. Tomorrow's impact.", this ensures that our interdisciplinary programme reflects the real world and ideally combines practice and theory, while also promoting knowledge sharing.

Global markets have fundamentally changed the situation of economic and political action. It will only be possible to meet the global challenge of society through a change in attitudes and organisations. To achieve this, however, the underlying global interrelationships must be investigated, understood, and considered by decision makers.

By pursuing a degree through this programme at the WiSo Faculty, you will learn to analyse and predict managerial problems and comprehensive data situations using statistical and mathematical methods and models as well as how to derive data-based decision recommendations. Thus, you will understand and act on corporate values, compliance and social responsibility in order to contribute to transitioning from a complex to a better world. .



*"We are extremely proud of our Supply Chain Management graduates who effectively help solve real-world challenges in global supply chains. They make a difference by applying state-of-the-art SCM knowledge and analytical tools."*

Fabian Sting, Professor and Academic Director Master Business Administration - Supply Chain Management

# FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT THE WISO-FACULTY

Studies at the WiSo Faculty of Cologne University help to establish an excellent basis for your further professional and personal career paths. With nearly 9,000 students and a host of departments and academic staff, the WiSo Faculty is one of the largest and most prestigious schools of management, economics and social sciences in Europe.

- ▶ **8,735** national and international students
- ▶ **149** partner universities worldwide\*
- ▶ **97** professors
- ▶ **200** research and teaching assistants
- ▶ more than **100** years in experience

Enrolling in a programme at the WiSo Faculty will give you everything you need to take the next step in furthering your career. One of Germany's largest educational institutions, the Faculty regularly ranks among the top providers of management and business education. The following is an overview of current rankings:



SCM Journal List Ranking ranks the University of Cologne on the 1st place in Germany.



Sociology is ranked #1 in Germany in the Academic Ranking of World Universities.



According to WirtschaftsWoche research ranking 2019, the University of Cologne is one of the most research-intensive German speaking universities. It ranks 2nd place within Germany in business administration.



AIS Information Systems Ranking is ranked 2nd in Germany.



CEMS Master's in Management programme is ranked 3rd in Germany in the Financial Times Ranking "Masters in Management 2020"



According to INOMICS (Career Guide for Economists) the school's Cologne Graduate School in Management Economics and Social Sciences is the best place to do a PhD.

State of facts and figures: February 2021

\* The WiSo Faculty maintains excellent partnerships with over 140 leading institutions of higher education across the world on different levels of study, enabling its students to spend time abroad within a range of study and exchange programmes. Students can choose from an attractive range of partner universities, depending on their chosen path of study.

# BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION - SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT (M.SC.)

## Key Facts

**Degree:**

Master of Science

**Duration:**

4 Semesters

**Language:**

English

**Credits:**

120 ECTS

**Content:**

The programme focusses on the design and optimisation of materials and information flows in development, production, logistics and service processes.

**International:**

1 Semester Abroad

## This programme provides you with:

- a broad set of academic approaches as well as highly sought-after method competencies.
- the ability to analyse and predict managerial problems and comprehensive data situations using statistical and mathematical methods and models and to derive data-based decision recommendations.
- the capacity to understand and act on corporate values, compliance, social responsibility, the interaction of various internal functions as well as the cross-company coordination within the value chain.
- access to a comprehensive company network and practical exposure.

In Supply Chain Management you learn and practice theories, methods and decision-making approaches for internal and cross-company value chains. This knowledge includes strategy development and implementation, logistics and production management, planning, optimisation and innovation in value chains.

## This programme is right for you if you:

- have successfully completed a bachelor's or equivalent degree in management, business administration or economics
- have a strong academic interest in business management, business engineering, business informatics, or related university programmes with quantitative, international and real-world problem orientations.
- work as a team player, because working in groups is often practiced in seminars and is an important key factor for later work in companies.
- are internationally focused as well as open-minded, have a wide range of interests, and are eager to learn new things.
- are ready to take the next step in your career in a leading supply-chain-management-related position in the corporate or academic world.





*"I enrolled in the SCM Master Programme because of the variety of different courses to choose from. This gave me many opportunities to find a specialization that fits my interests. All courses combine current challenges of practitioners with state-of-the-art scientific research. These learnings are therefore highly relevant for the business world."*

**Philipp,**  
Student of Master Business Administration Supply Chain Management at the WiSo Faculty



## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### Preparing you for future challenges

This programme is characterised by its strong balance of theoretical rigor and practical relevance. Both aspects are critical. We build on a strong research reputation which consistently excels in various competitive research ratings. We regularly publish in the leading academic journals globally and present our work at leading conferences. Moreover, since most of the research is empirical in nature, collaboration with organisations is natural to the department's members.

Thus, by being close to businesses, a clear focus lies on the investigation of current business challenges. In addition to translating our research knowledge into the current course offerings, we cover a set of very contemporaneous subjects. Of course, the impact of the digital transformation as a trend is felt throughout all areas of instruction.

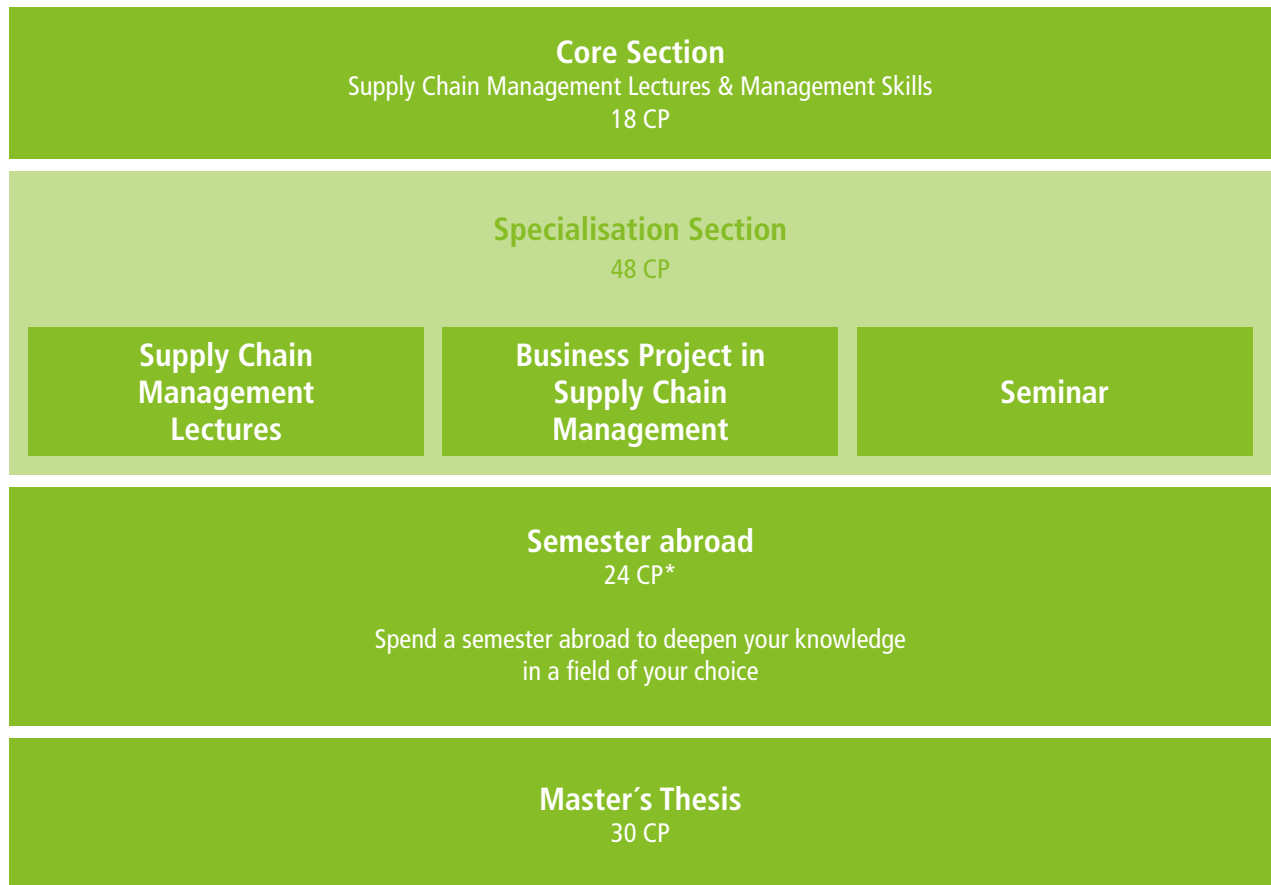
### Business Project

One highlight of the curriculum is a business project during which you work on current managerial topics in close cooperation with a company representative. The project's goal is to apply scientific theories and methods to the issues at hand and to derive concrete recommendations. It includes conceptual and application-oriented elements, such as student presentations, case studies, discussions and guest speakers from the field.

### Link to the practical world

One strong feature of the programme is the practical contact you, as a student, will receive. Guest lecturers and practice seminars establish and promote direct exchange between companies and students. We emphasise academic rigor and practical relevance to educate you through broadly-skilled and international supply chain leaders.

# CURRICULUM



\* In case you are not able to complete your semester abroad, you can choose 1 area in the Supplementary Section

## From basic knowledge to your personal expert know-how

- Within this programme, the **Core and Advanced Sections** cover the methodological basics of your respective major in Supply Chain Management.
- The **Specialisation Section** teaches major specific basics and, in addition, advanced skills within the same area with the business project as the practical highlight of the whole programme.
- The programme is designed to include a **semester abroad** during your third or fourth semester. We will be happy to advise you on the options available to you and give you organisational support before, during and after your international experience. In case you are not able to complete your semester abroad, you have the possibility of choosing a minor specialisation in your Supplementary Section from a wide range of WiSo Faculty courses.
- With the **master's thesis** for the successful completion of your studies, you underline the knowledge and skills you have acquired throughout the programme and are ready to continue your career as an expert in your field.



# INTERNATIONAL

## English-taught programme

The majority of this master programme is internationally oriented. Many courses deal with topics from the field of international management, and a lot of the case studies focus on globalised companies. Students come from different countries and cultural backgrounds, further fostering internationalisation. Hence, studies occur in an environment that is international and intercultural.

## Semester abroad

We strongly encourage you to take advantage of all available opportunities to gain your own international experience. Our cooperation agreements with an extensive number of excellent partner universities worldwide, including Erasmus agreements with a broad range of European universities, provide you with attractive options for spending your semester abroad. Students wishing to organise their semester abroad themselves can do so as a freemover. In addition to a semester abroad, you can enrich your studies by taking part in one of our short programmes such as WiSo@NYC or a summer school abroad, or complete an internship abroad with financial support offered by Erasmus.

## Broad international network

With its balanced theoretical and practical approach, the internationally focused master's programme prepares you for a career in international work environments and enables you to work for internationalised companies.

In addition to this, the WiSo Faculty has a strong alumni network of former students working in all business segments across the globe.





---

# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The M.Sc. in SCM aims to educate future managers and founders, who work across industries including in logistics and production planning, in strategic purchasing, in product and process development, in IT consulting or in the management of cross-company technology projects.

Equally, our alumni are employed across all sectors and across all value chain stages—ranging from manufacturing and distribution to retailing and services.

Exemplary job opportunities include:

- Supply Chain Management in various Industries
- Category Management and Online Retailing Managers
- Strategic Procurement and Purchasing Management
- Manufacturing and Logistics Planning
- New Product and Service Development
- Project and Technology Management
- Global Digitalisation
- Trainee Programmes
- Managing Positions
- Start-ups
- Consulting

The WiSo Faculty and the University's Excellence Start Up Center offer networking and idea-generation support if students are interested in forming a start-up company!

For all those who are interested in academic research after finishing their master studies, the supply chain management area provides students who have competitive master scores with the possibility for admittance into a postgraduate programme (Ph.D.). At the same time, the MSc. degree is an excellent base for applying for graduate degree programmes at other national and international universities.

---

*"Studying enabled me to think logically and systematically about concrete and abstract problems. For me, it is important to thoroughly reflect on the solutions developed and the associated effects before making a decision."*

Lukas Schmitz, Director Supply Chain Management  
Chocoladefabriken Lindt & Sprüngli GmbH and Alumnus of the Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences, University of Cologne



# COLOGNE

## an open minded and science-centred city!

Cologne is located within a metropolitan area of about 13 million people in the heart of Germany's economy which makes it easy for students and faculty to collaborate with great companies. It is one of Germany's most attractive locations and offers a vibrant student life.

With around 100,000 students and a lively start-up culture, Cologne is the economic and scientific centre of the Rhineland region. In addition to 17 universities and business schools, the area is also home to numerous internationally renowned research institutions as ESA European Space Agency or Gesis – Leibniz Institute for Social Sciences, with knowledge transfer to industry and society playing a key role. Successful transfer structures include the university's Excellence Start-Up Center GATEWAY start-up service, the start-up network cologne e.V. and the Digital Hub Cologne.

Cologne is also proud of its reputation as a vibrant and tolerant city and at the same time being both multicultural – with 18% non-German residents – and strong in its local identity. Karneval, Cologne's famous carnival season every February, and the popular local beer "Kölsch", brewed exclusively in Cologne, are only two examples of the vivid cultivation of the city's traditions.

- ▶ Over **1 million** inhabitants in the city of Cologne
- ▶ **13 million** inhabitants in the metropolitan area of Cologne
- ▶ More than **100,000** students in Cologne
- ▶ Over **one third** of Cologne's total area is covered by public parks, sports grounds and nature areas
- ▶ **1** famous Gothic cathedral, the "Kölner Dom"
- ▶ **Unlimited** opportunities to fall in love with the city

Latest issue official Cologne Facts & Figures 2017





# INFORMATION

## Application information and requirements

Application process and deadline:

- Applicants with a German bachelor degree apply via the WiSo Faculty's master application portal
- Applicants with a non-German bachelor degree apply via the WiSo Faculty's master application portal and additionally via uni-assist
- Application deadline is **June 15th**

Requirements and selection procedure:

A Bachelor degree or equivalent (worth at least 180 ECTS credits) in Business Administration or Economics, strong proficiency in quantitative methods and an overall grade point average of at least 2.7 (German grade). Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- At least 78 ECTS credits in the field of Business Administration and Economics
  - of this at least 48 ECTS credits in Business Administration
  - of this at least 18 ECTS credits in Economics
- At least 15 ECTS credits in Statistics and/or Mathematics
- English language skills level B2 CEFR

The successful completion of an admission test (TM-WiSo/ GMAT) is highly recommended.

The Admissions Board will communicate its decision by the end of July. Enrolment usually takes place in August.

## Detailed information and contact

We are happy to support you in your ambitions: for students the WiSo Student Service Point offers not only advice on studying but also support on all aspects of career choice, career planning and the application process:

© Lisa Beller



WiSo Student Service Point  
Phone: +49 (0) 221/470-8818  
[wiso-studentservice.uni-koeln.de](mailto:wiso-studentservice.uni-koeln.de)







*"Being one of the largest Faculties of Business, Economics, and Social Sciences worldwide, we bring together excellent researchers, students, alumni, and organisations in a friendly and stimulating environment to jointly address today's challenges. Our Faculty is part of an outstanding network of universities. Furthermore, we have a truly international campus, that attracts many international students and partners. All this leads to a great reputation in teaching and research, which is reflected in our excellent rankings."*

**Prof. Ulrich W. Thonemann, PhD**  
Dean



Today's ideas.  
Tomorrow's impact.

Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences  
University of Cologne  
Albertus Magnus Platz  
50923 Cologne  
[www.wiso.uni-koeln.de](http://www.wiso.uni-koeln.de)

