

Air Transport Economics and Finance

Credits: 3

Language of Instruction: English

Faculty: Prof. dr. Wouter Dewulf

Course Description

The air transport industry is a capital-intensive sector characterised by persistently low profit margins and a complex stakeholder landscape. This course provides an in-depth academic exploration of air transportation's financial and economic foundations, with particular emphasis on airlines, airports, ground handling companies, and ancillary service providers.

The course aims to equip participants with a robust analytical framework to understand and critically assess the financial structures and economic behaviours within the air transport ecosystem. Through a combination of lectures, quantitative analysis, case-based learning, and empirical illustrations, students will examine the cost and revenue dynamics of key industry actors, interpret financial performance indicators, and analyse the strategic implications of market and ownership structures.

Topics covered include the aviation value chain, airport financial models and pricing, airline cost classification and breakeven analysis, and the role of regulation and geopolitical shifts in shaping financial outcomes. Theoretical insights are complemented by applied case studies that foster practical competence in evaluating business models and regional market developments.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Apply economic and financial theories to assess value creation in the air transport sector;
- Analyse the impact of financial decisions on operational and strategic performance;
- Evaluate regional differences in air transport economics and their policy implications;
- Develop evidence-based insights into the sustainable financial management of air transport organisations.

This course is particularly relevant for students interested in transport economics, supply chain management, and infrastructure policy, seeking to deepen their strategic and financial understanding of the air transport sector.

The course is designed as a blend of interactive lectures, a guest testimonial, and multiple case-based sessions, concluding with a workshop and individual presentations. Active participation is expected. Please bring a laptop (Excel recommended) and be ready to work with real-world data and assumptions.