

Newsletter

October, 2026



IBS-U
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From Empty Shelves to Standout CVs: Turning October's Cyber Fallout into Your Career Launchpad

Picture this: you walk into Albert Heijn and the shelves are bare. That was the reality this October when a cyber attack forced Ahold Delhaize to shut down its network, halting distribution centers across the region. In the same month, a critical PHP vulnerability, discovered with the help of AI, pushed companies worldwide to take their websites offline to prevent remote code execution attacks.

While IT teams scrambled to patch systems, a different story unfolded in boardrooms. Business leaders realized their supply chains and revenue streams are more fragile than they thought. This is where your International Business degree becomes incredibly valuable.

What Does This Mean For You?

Companies are actively searching for professionals who can bridge the gap between technical chaos and business survival. The demand for graduates who understand business continuity, supply chain resilience, crisis communication, and IT risk governance is surging. These incidents have highlighted a genuine skills gap in the corporate world, and you can fill it.

This moment offers a clear opening for you. Consider diving into digital resilience or adding risk management and compliance coursework to your resume. By positioning yourself at the intersection of business strategy and tech risk, you become the candidate who can guide companies through the next crisis.

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New IBS-U Sponsor: Agora Café

We are excited to introduce Agora Café as one of IBS-U's new partners!

Located in the heart of Groningen at Oude Ebbingestraat 48, Agora Café is a welcoming spot where international flavours, creativity, and community come together. The name "Agora" reflects the idea of a gathering place, making it a great match for IBS-U's international community.

Whether you are looking for somewhere to grab a bite, catch up with friends over coffee, or simply study, Agora Café offers a relaxed environment with something a little different.

Their menu brings together flavours from around the world. One of their specialties is their handmade Argentinian empanadas, available in a range of fillings including meat, vegetarian, and vegan options. Alongside these, you can find a selection of international desserts, coffees, teas, and other drinks.

A Special Offer for IBS-U Members

As part of our partnership, IBS-U members receive a **20% discount at Agora Café**.

Simply show proof of your IBS-U membership when visiting to make use of the discount.

This makes Agora Café a great place to meet up with fellow students, work on a project, enjoy a coffee, or try something new while getting an exclusive benefit as an IBS-U member.

Beyond the food and drinks, Agora Café is built around bringing people together. With its internationally inspired concept and welcoming atmosphere, it fits naturally with the diverse community we have at IBS-U.

So next time you are in the city centre, stop by Agora Café, bring some friends, and don't forget to make use of your 20% IBS-U member discount!

We are very happy to welcome Agora Café as an IBS-U partner and look forward to working together throughout the year.



Student Protests Continue Across Paris

Student protests have drawn significant attention in Paris and across France in recent weeks. What began in late September with high school students protesting teacher shortages, overcrowded classrooms, deteriorating school buildings, and a lack of education funding quickly developed into a much broader movement.

University students have since joined demonstrations in solidarity, with several campuses participating in strikes or temporary blockades. On 8 October, tens of thousands of high school and university students took to the streets in cities including Paris, Marseille, and Lyon, calling for improved learning conditions and greater investment in education.

The protests have also become increasingly tense. Demonstrators have raised concerns about police tactics, while authorities have reported clashes, arrests, injuries, and property damage during some demonstrations. Despite this, students have continued organizing marches and calling for changes to France's education system.



GPJ: Getting Started with Your Graduation Project

For many International Business students, the Graduation Project (GPJ) is becoming one of the main priorities of the semester. With the search for a suitable graduation project or company placement underway, now is the perfect time to get organized and make sure you understand the process.

The first step is to familiarize yourself with the GPJ Handbook 2026–2027 (Semester 1). This handbook is your main reference for understanding the requirements, deadlines, and procedures involved in your graduation project. You can find it on Brightspace in the GPJ course. Make sure to read it carefully so you know what is expected of you before moving forward.

Where to Start?

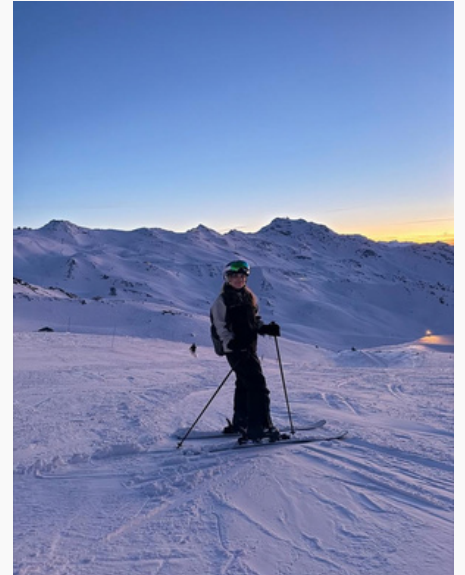
Start exploring potential companies and projects early, and think about which industry or business topic interests you most. Make sure your plans align with the programme's requirements, and keep track of important deadlines. If anything is unclear, use the information available on Brightspace and contact the relevant GPJ coordinator or supervisor for guidance.

Getting started early can save you a lot of stress later. The GPJ is an important opportunity to apply what you have learned during your studies to a real business environment, so take the time to prepare properly.

Our advice: Read the handbook, stay organized, and don't wait until the last minute to start looking!



Main resource: GPJ Handbook 2026–2027, Semester 1, available on Brightspace.



IBS-U Ski Trip 2027: La Plagne

Ready for a break from lectures and exams? IBS-U is heading to La Plagne, France, from 19–28 February 2027, for a week in the French Alps filled with skiing, snowboarding, après-ski, and fun with fellow International Business students.

The package costs €799 per person and includes accommodation, return coach transport from Groningen, and a six-day La Plagne ski pass. Whether you are an experienced skier or simply looking forward to enjoying the mountains with friends, it is a great opportunity to make memories outside the classroom.

Everything You Need to Know

Places are limited, so make sure to check the IBS-U website for registration details and payment deadlines. After receiving your registration link, you have 48 hours to sign up and pay the €150 deposit to secure your spot. You can also explore the optional Paradiski upgrade if you want access to an even larger ski area.

Don't miss out on one of the highlights of the IBS-U year!

 Destination: La Plagne, France

 Dates: 19–28 February 2027

 Price: €799 per person

Find all the details on the [IBS-U Ski Trip page](#).



Five Study Tricks You Probably Haven't Tried Yet

Here is a fresh way to make study sessions stick. These lesser-known tools and tricks are worth a test drive.

1. Oblique Strategies cards. Draw a prompt when you feel stuck and let it nudge your thinking in unexpected directions.
2. Voice-memo blurring. Record a 60-second summary of a topic without notes, then listen back to spot gaps.
3. Text-to-speech proofreading. Paste your essay into a speech tool and listen for awkward phrasing your eyes skip.
4. BrainFm. Use its focus-friendly audio sessions to create a consistent study atmosphere instead of relying on generic playlists.
5. The five-minute reverse start. Begin with the easiest task for five minutes to build momentum before tackling the hard part.

At Hanze, small experiments fit neatly around lectures and group work. Small experiments can lead to big gains. Try one this week and see what fits your routine. You may discover a routine that saves hours each block.