Visa Application:
The visa application was relatively straightforward though it being the US there was a very exhaustive amount of information required. It’s best to check and make sure that you have everything you need to fill out the application before you begin the online process.

Enrolment Procedure and recommended subjects:
The Chicago Booth system, in true ‘free-market’ tradition, is an auction based enrolment system. You are given 10,000 points as an exchange student and you then bid these points for the courses you wish to take. Consider carefully as there are some very popular courses (You will be advised as to which these are) that in later round will end up going for above 10,000 points themselves. A mixture of popular and less popular courses is therefore necessitated by the auction system. You are more likely to get 2 of the more popular courses in the first round of bidding than in later rounds (6 in total). I found the negotiations class to be very useful as my negotiation abilities were not very well developed. Entrepreneurial Finance and Private Equity was also very interesting. I would suggest avoiding Competitive Strategy as although it was a very well taught and interesting its content is well covered in our core strategy paper at AGSM.

Workload at exchange school:
The workload depends greatly on which papers you end up taking and in the course descriptions there will be an average of the number of hours per week spent on the subject as indicated by the previous classes. This is the best way to determine and balance your workload.

Accommodation options:
There are dormitory accommodation options available on the campus however I would strongly recommend arranging for an apartment in downtown Chicago. There are a number of buildings with a large population of Booth students and the cost over the course of the exchange only ends up being a couple hundred dollars difference between the dorm and the apartment. Additionally the dorm makes it much more difficult to socialise and enjoy the city outside of school hours. Apartments can usually be arranged through the Booth exchange program administrators who will circulate lists of their students who are heading on exchange and wish to find someone to take their apartment for the duration of their travels.

Campus Facilities
The Campus Facilities are immaculate on both the main campus (20 mins by train south of the city – where dormitories are located) and in the city campus that is located downtown. There are additionally free gym facilities on the main campus and a number of libraries and study spaces available.

Careers Services:
I did not make use of the career services so cannot comment.

Student life:
There is a healthy student driven social calendar at Booth with weekly events and several larger and more elaborate celebrations during the course of the semester. Your involvement in these is entirely optional so you can make as much or as little of it as you prefer!
Things AGSM MBA students should consider/be aware of when applying to this school for exchange:
We were lucky and it was a relatively mild winter but Chicago in the winter semester can be viciously cold. If you are warm blooded take this into account as after 3 months it can start to get to some people. Also I would suggest that unless you are 100% certain that consulting is the career path for you I would suggest doing the exchange in the 3rd session rather than the 4th. This way you get to spend the summer in Sydney looking for employment while you finish off the MBA. If I could do it again this is the approach I would take. More specifically for this school I would advise that prospective students consider their academic preferences into account. Booth is strong in economics, entrepreneurship finance and business management and relatively weaker in marketing subjects. If you are pursuing a career in marketing then this may not be the best exchange destination for you.

Highlight:
Definitely the week after the final exams when St. Paddy’s Day turned the entire city green! It also helped that the weather was bright, sunny and warm so that all the bars and cafes in the city had their outdoor areas open and busy. It really brought the city alive and showed a different side of it as compared to the rather bleak, white and cold face of winter. Needless to say there was partying done and a fantastic city wide atmosphere.