Visa Application: This was relatively straightforward. The main difficulty is that the US embassy website is not the easiest to navigate and it can be hard to find exactly the information you need.

Enrolment Procedure and recommended subjects: I had no issues with this process. Chicago Booth has a simple point-based bidding system for subjects that is easy to understand provided you follow the instructions provided by the university. Some subjects are in high demand, but I was also informed of which ones these were and I could easily balance my points around what I wanted. AGSM was also quick in letting me know which subjects were approved for study. I managed to secure positions in all the subjects that I wanted with the exception of one which would have required me to travel across town late in the evening.

Workload at exchange school: Chicago both has a good feedback system that is consistent across all subjects and available online when selecting subjects. This feedback includes the estimated workload as given by previous students. The workload was similar to what I had at AGSM although there was less focus on quantity of handed-in assignment work.

Accommodation options: In my case I chose to live on Campus at International House. I had a great experience there as it was full of other international students such as myself from all over the world. The price was comparable and maybe slightly cheaper than living in town that was the other common option. Finding accommodation is not particularly difficult as Chicago students often advertise their apartments to sub-let if they go on exchange and this is passed on to us by the Chicago exchange coordinator.

Campus Facilities: Booth has a fantastic building and all the facilities are top-notch. I didn’t have any problems using any of the facilities on campus and felt just like a local student.

Careers Services: I made no use of the career services at Booth so I can not comment directly, however from the local students I spoke to the service is excellent. Exchange students have some limited access to presentations and so forth but no direct career help as far as I know.

Student life: Chicago Booth has a very active student life with many student and university-organised events. The range and quality of on-campus speakers and workshops is fantastic. Additionally living at international house gives access to any of the events happening there which also includes cultural events and speakers such as book authors, academics and politicians. Getting involved in local student activities is fairly straightforward however it can be hard to break past superficial interactions with local students who know that as an exchange student you will not be staying for longer than 1 term.

Things AGSM MBA students should consider/be aware of when applying to this school for exchange: Probably the most important thing is to think carefully about what subjects you are interested in and to bid early. If you have any contacts from Chicago Booth then ask them about subjects and lecturers as a little inside knowledge can help clarify your decision. The other big decision is where to live. I-House is great for being close to campus and getting an interesting international experience, however the compromise is that the accommodation is Spartan and you generally don’t have the benefit of a private bathroom. Living in town makes it easy to see the sights, gives you better appointed accommodation (in general), makes it easy to go to any off-campus social events but tends to be more expensive and requires more travel.

Highlight: The whole experience was very interesting and I learnt a great deal. One of my highlights was being in a class taught by Randy Kroszner and having a guest lecture by Hank Paulson.