Visa Application:

The visa application process was quite simple and straightforward. You do need to go into the US embassy to complete the process and they are very strict on their document requirements, so make sure you bring everything.

Some of the documentation that will be provided to you needs to be kept for the entire duration of your exchange, including your return so make sure you keep them safely and in good condition.

Enrolment Procedure and recommended subjects:

The enrolment process is also straightforward however needs to be done in US time. As subjects get filled very quickly, it is important not to delay when enrolling in any subjects you are interested – this means you will need to be prepared to login at 2AM to complete your enrolment. Once enrolled, changing subjects is easy – just remember to update your AGSM exchange coordinator.

Also note that many subjects are offered at two times, 8AM or 1PM. As you can imagine, the 1PM slots fill out fast so the quicker you enrol the more likely you will get the preferred afternoon session. The lecturers are the same for either class.

Workload at exchange school:

Workload was high but acceptable. I did 3 subjects per semester and would recommend this as a good amount of subjects that still allows you to take part in the extra curricular activities provided by the school. You can do up to 4 subjects at Duke per semester, however those students who did, found the workload quite high.

Accommodation options:

There are many accommodation options available through the Duke site once you are enrolled. There is a very popular complex called 'Station 9' that is very close to the school and also where the majority of the schools student live – I highly recommend this complex. It is very difficult to get in though so apply early. The majority of the apartments are shared so it keeps costs low.

Another option is to wait till you arrive and sort out accommodation with other exchange students who have yet to do so. You may end up further away from the school, however it will give you a chance to get to know your other cohorts better.

Transport is mainly via bus, and Durham at night is not the safest place. If you live within 7km of the school, there is a free bus that Duke operates that can drop you at your doorstep after 9PM

Campus Facilities

www.asb.unsw.edu.au/agsm
Campus facilities are top notch. As an exchange student you have access to all parts of the campus including free access to their multi-storey gym.

The lecture halls are clean, bright and there is strong wireless coverage over the entire campus, not just the business school.

There are hundreds of little shops, cafes and cafeterias to eat from on campus, there are much fewer choices outside of campus. Food is cheap and good quality.

As an exchange student you also get to attend the football games for free – highly recommended, as it’s a great way to see how seriously Americans take their sport! Basketball is what Duke is known for, you are eligible to see the games – you have to buy tickets however and these are very hard to come by!

**Careers Services:**

As an exchange student you are unable to directly utilise the career services offered by the school, which is a shame because they are fantastic. You can however go to the events and organise your own interviews at the school as well as attending the seminars on resume writing, interview prep etc.

The job application process is slightly different at Duke. Many of the students have come straight from an Undergrad degree into their Masters with very limited work experience, generally only what they have obtained over their summer internships. This is a great way for Australian students to get a leg up if you have any relevant work experience.

**Student life:**

There are hundreds of student clubs that you can join. Some are free and others have a small payment. I highly encourage you to join as many as you can fit in, it’s a great way to meet people. Many clubs also organise trips to other parts of the state/country and it’s a great way to see the US from a local perspective.

Every Friday they have a food/drinks event in the main breakout area, another great way to meet people and used as a starting point for weekend activities.

The majority of the student activities revolve around the School and sport. Either football, basketball, lacrosse or soccer. Getting into the school spirit is great fun and you’ll be amazed at how quickly you will be painting your face blue and white!

The exchange students themselves organise many events as a way to bond and you will find yourself having the most in common with these people as they are going through the same experience as yourself. They are also a good source of information for other sites and activities to do around the school.

**Things AGSM MBA students should consider/be aware of when applying to this school for exchange:**

This is an intensive format exchange with Duke. Their semesters last for 12 weeks that is broken up into two, six-week terms. This has its pro's and con's. Pros include the fact that you can complete subjects quickly and enrol in many wide and varied subjects. The cons are that you don't go as in depth into a subject as we do at the AGSM due to the amount of time allocated to the subject.
It is a highly reputable business school in the US and should be used as an opportunity to make as many industry contacts as possible - even if you don't intend to work in the US. Almost all of the large corporates that interview at Duke have office locations around the world – including Australia.

One important thing to note is that North Carolina has strict immunisation requirements, one being tetanus. If you have never had a tetanus injection before, you need to complete the full course that involves 3 injections over six months. This does not tie in with the AGSM/Duke application timeliness!

**Highlight:**

I would highly recommend this school to anyone! The Duke exchange coordinator – Candice – is fantastic and incredibly helpful. She organises many of the initial events to help you get to know people and is always on hand if you have any questions/issues.

My highlight was ‘campout’. This is an annual event run in September where almost 6,000 students campout in the Duke car parks for a chance to buy Duke basketball season tickets. RV’s, campervans and a fantastic party spirit encompass the two day – no sleep – event.