Visa Application: 90 days visa to Spain for tourist

Enrolment Procedure and recommended subjects: enrolment was a bit of confusion but we got there in the end. As it turned out, we had 1 week to figure out which subjects we wanted to do when we got there (despite the push for electing subjects prior to arrival) and there were no subjects that filled up and that we missed out on. Highly recommend Philosophy and Geopolitics – 2 of the best MBA subjects I’ve done. Branding was also reputed to be great.

Workload at exchange school: depends on the subjects – my subjects were marketing, innovation, geopolitics, and philosophy so workload was relatively low and never nights or weekends, but the finance subjects may have been higher. Full-time students were doing 4 subjects + many were working 2 days + another big assignment and managed.

Accommodation options: not organised by ESADE so I went for an AirBnB option that worked out well. Generally, apartments come up through the ESADE exchange FaceBook site so I didn’t hear of anyone having problems. That said, if you want to be organised, get in early to ease your mind.

Campus Facilities – these were great, particularly as ESADE is 20 mins metro out of town – cafes were good, rooms were amazing, lots of group rooms for meetings, however no computers available and printing / scanning etc was never tried as no-one could get it to work

Careers Services: I only attended one thing from careers services. Although they did not seem to focus much on bringing people in to speak, they did organise amazing internships that students applied for. I think this was arguably the best thing that the students got out of the university other than the classes. Many of the students had the opportunity to continue with their summer internships into full-time roles post-MBA

Student life: Truly amazing for both exchange students and full-time students. It was very international (few Spanish students) so almost students all had moved to Barcelona for the course. There were social events almost every night, a huge commitment to things like the Hult Prize for Social Enterprise (5 teams competing in this international competition), many societies and clubs, and a real group cohesion that had been formed. Exchange students never have lack of things to do, people to hang out with, and places to travel.

Best Practice observed: Philosophy and geopolitics were amazingly relevant to the MBA and 2 of the best-taught courses in my MBA. Also, the idea of internships was wonderful, and most of the other MBAs seem to have them. I think these would have been great in our MBA as even if they don’t provide students with a future job, they introduce students to other areas of work. Many students that I spoke with wished there had been the opportunity for 2 of these!

Things AGSM MBA students should consider/be aware of when applying to this school for exchange:
It’s probably not as well-organised to start off with as other MBAs. The quality of the courses was pretty good (as I mentioned above – geopolitics and philosophy were amazing), marketing subjects are good, not sure about finance. Not the amount of emphasis on entrepreneurship that was expected (and advertised) but gained this from the interactions with the other students. Better to go in 3rd AGSM session as is warmer.

Highlight: This is by far and beyond the most fun MBA exchange that you can do ☺ The contacts are amazing, city is sensational, workload is relatively low so you can spend time enjoying your exchange - I would highly recommend this exchange to anyone!