Visa Application process:

*Did not apply for visa as I intended to stay only 90 days so tourist visa (i.e. stamp on arrival in France) was enough.*

Enrolment procedure (eg bidding process) and recommended subjects to study:

*Bidding was conducted via HEC intranet and students need to select subjects with ranking/priority order. Students are then advised which subjects they were successful and which were not. It is possible to reapply for the failed subjects as some students will change their preferences after the first round. I got into everything that I wanted to study even though half of them were only successful after asking during the second round.*

*The BEST subject by far at HEC is called “The Financial Dimensions of Strategic Decisions” by a professor named Pascal Quiry. He runs the Corporate Finance (M&A) division at BNP Paribas in Paris and has an amazing amount of practical experience to share about corporate finance….getting away from pure theory and preparing students for how to actually use their MBA finance studies in the real world. For any student interested in finance, this subject is a MUST.*

Workload at exchange school:

*Relatively moderate or average during the elective phase for the subjects I have chosen. Subjects are quite short – mostly only 6 lectures – and are often run over a compressed timeframe, even as short as two weeks.*

Accommodation options:

*It is possible to live in campus at HEC but this is not advisable if you have a family or partner as there is really nothing at all on or near the campus. So life is pretty boring if you are not studying at HEC if you live in campus. For 3 months exchange period, best to live in Paris.*

*We found apartment on [www.parisattitude.com](http://www.parisattitude.com) which, while expensive, was a very easy and low hassle way to come live in Paris by renting a furnished apartment.*

Campus Facilities:

*Campus has a cafeteria that provides very low costs meals three times a day. There is a gym and basketball court and fantastic outdoor sporting facilities (rugby/soccer/tennis).*

*Current MBA building has limited space for groups to work in but new (and much bigger) MBA building is being constructed and due to be completed in 2012.*

Career Services:

*Exchange students have access to HEC career services although I haven’t used them as I have already fixed my plans for a job post-MBA. Importantly exchange students can join the HEC alumni association and access the database of global alumni.*

Student Life:
HEC hosts an annual inter business school competition called the MBAT (MBA Tournament). This is a fantastic event and it’s really great to get involved in any way you can. I joined the swimming, rugby and tug-of-war teams and was able to make great friends with a really wide range of diverse people across the full-time and part-time classmates at HEC. We also won the MBAT (beating London Business School) which was extremely satisfying and a great bonding experience with the rest of the local HEC classmates.

Highlights:

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

The HEC name and network in France is massive….so if students are interested in working in France, this is definitely the school to go to.

The spring term (starting April) is a great time of year to be in Europe. September may be a bit harsher in terms of weather.

If students want to do an internship in Sydney, doing the HEC exchange is a great plan as internship can occur between January to March and then exchange from April. This means finishing the MBA later than the rest of your classmates but may help you to secure a full time position prior to leaving for your exchange.