Visa application:

- Being an EU citizen, I do not require a visa for any countries of the European Union so can't really comment but I strongly advise you get in touch with the Student office at IE to guide you in your steps. You should have their details once you go through the registration process with IE (i.e. in October if you plan on going during Session 4). What I know though is that a Spanish visa will allow you to travel wherever in the union.

Enrolment procedure and recommended subjects:

- There is no bidding process at IE for exchange students and it seems you can get literally any elective you wish to take. However, you can be refused access to an elective if it is already full so I suggest communicating your preferences as early as possible to ensure you get the spot you want.

- Some electives at IE are pretty disappointing. Sometimes content is poor, other times the professor can't teach. After registration, you are provided with syllabuses to help you evaluate the course but these are not representative of the teaching experience. Professors are different from the ones teaching the core and so most of them are unknown even to IE students, making it difficult to choose the best electives.

- Otherwise, I have not heard of significant complaints for the finance electives. I also took 2 good electives called "Financing for Entrepreneurial companies" (basically VC/PE) and "Web 2.0".

Workload at exchange school:

- It is nothing like what we're used to at AGSM both Core and Session 3. I'd say there is approx 3 hours of preparation max before class and for some, there is simply nothing to do.

- I understand that AGSM requires you to take 80 sessions of 90mns, at IE you can take as many as you want but 120 sessions (more or less 8 subjects) is fine. It will keep you busy but still you'll have plenty of time to go travel on the week end if you are organised. Take less than 100 hours and perhaps you'll find yourself bored. Of course, workload varies from one course to the next and comparing syllabuses will give you a feel for what you will get yourself into.

- Some electives spread over the whole term whereas others are intensive, that is they are taught over a couple of days in block. While it may be intense, you can then free yourself some time to go travelling. Simply review the schedule provided by IE.

- Otherwise, it seemed that the finance classes tend to be more demanding. Subjects with a lot of case studies will tend to be more demanding as well. Others are probably quite relaxed.

Accommodation options:

- Most exchange students went through the Student office to get some help and most found accommodation through the IE forum ads. Otherwise, you can try Idealista.com if you want to do your own thing and perhaps be with a Spanish housemate but you can also waste a lot of time.
- Count 400-500 Euros a month for a shared accommodation in Madrid and 700-900 Euros for a studio.

**Campus Facilities and Careers Services:**

- Facilities are generally good, slightly better or worse than AGSM depending on the building.
- One disappointment though is the lack of Common room and showers.
- There is no gym at IE either.
- IT is pretty good and Internet wireless coverage is in every building.
- Career Services seemed rather keen to help but others suggested they were rather passive. They however have a good list of websites they recommend to use and update a reasonable list of new jobs on their website. They have a large number of companies coming to their fair in Sept and probably 30-40% are Spanish.
- You become an IE alumni following the exchange and have access to an impressive and well managed database of alumni around the world (although there is a Spanish- South American focus).

**Student life:**

- Well... fitting in as an exchange student proves to be a little difficult when the locals have known each other for 9 months. It takes time and you actually build a network of friends by the end of the exchange. In my case, exchange students did hang out a lot together but we had a lot of fun together.
- The Madrid life is fun!!! Lots to see and visit, Lots of tapas to taste, Lots of alcoholic beverages to be drunk!!! Make sure you join the Bar of the Week (BOTW club) to mingle and go out on Friday nights. Neighbourhoods of interest at night: La Puerta del Sol, La Latina, Salamanca also has some interesting bars...
- Go Visit Segovia, Toledo, El Escorial, Cuenca around Madrid. These are quick day trips. Otherwise visit Spain and the rest of Europe for cheap with Ryanair, EasyJet, and Vueling
- IE also have a number of clubs and this helps to socialise with the IE students. Rugby, Soccer, Consulting... you name it!

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

- Overall, IE was not academically impressive, perhaps disappointing even.
- Madrid was fun though and I made some good friends.
- I didn't get to speak much Spanish, you'll have to get out of your way if you want to improve your Spanish.

**Highlights:**

- Nights out!
- Day trips!
- The Spring Fling (Sports tournament against ESADE, IESE and INSEAD in Barcelona)!
- 20 degrees by early March!
- Tapas y Canas (Tap beer)!