**Visa Application:** Not required as I was only in Milan for a total of 5.5 weeks (5 Sep–12 Oct 2011).

**Enrolment Procedure and recommended subjects:** Choose from three major concentrations, namely Marketing, Finance or Strategy. Each major consists of five subjects, but AGSM part time students are only required to complete four subjects. The duration of the semester was only five and a half weeks in total, including exams. Students are also able to choose subjects from the minor concentrations (Innovation or Asset Management), however note this option requires you to stay in Milan for an additional two weeks. AGSM suggests avoiding the Strategy concentration due to the heavy strategy content to be covered in the Strategic Management Year of the MBA(Exec).

**Workload at exchange school:** Depends on which major you choose, however, all classes run from 8:30am to 1:30pm, Monday to Friday. Hence I was able to conduct most of my study in the afternoons, which usually meant that evenings and weekends were free.

**Accommodation options:** The School does employ a housing agent however due to the short term nature of my enquiry limited options were available. In fact I was only provided with one suggestion. As I was seeking accommodation for only five weeks in Milan I instead used the services of a short term leasing agent – Ottavia Tagliavini. I paid 1400 Eur for five weeks for a 60m² 1-bed apt at Corso Lodi 59, in Milan’s south east, fully furnished including washing machine, dishwasher, sheets, towels, etc. [http://rentapartmentmilan.com/apartment-milan-george-60-m2/110](http://rentapartmentmilan.com/apartment-milan-george-60-m2/110). I organised and paid the deposit from Sydney to secure the apartment even though I had never actually met the agent or seen the property in person. Feel free to negotiate the advertised rates, particularly the deposit. The location of my chosen apartment was quite good – in the city’s third ring and close to the metro. Using the bike sharing system made it easy to get around, around 10-15 mins by bike to the city’s centre, university, and most other central locations. Bike subscription costs 6 Euro per week or 36 Euro per year, see [http://www.bikemi.com](http://www.bikemi.com). Many other students stayed around the south east area, but the south west area, particularly Navigli, is also very popular cheap area for students and situated a short walk to the school.

**Campus Facilities:** Plenty of computers and work spaces are accessible on campus, available until late each evening and weekends. I did not need to bring a laptop. Wifi is also available for free for laptops, smartphones, etc. You will be given a SDA Bocconi email address, and a locker on campus. Business newspapers are provided daily.

**Careers Services:** During my stay, there were several visiting companies looking to hire top talent. During my stay there were presentations from companies such as Google, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Porsche Consulting, Roland Berger Consulting, Brambles, among others. I was also fortunate to be part of a field trip to Nestle’s headquarters in Vevey, Switzerland. You will be able to access all job postings via the online job board and the careers team are available for meetings.

**Student life:** Wonderful. SDA Bocconi is an active and vibrant school, with several official and unofficial extra curricular activities. Examples include annual MBA sailing regatta, ski club, entrepreneurship club. There are formal dinners paid for by the school as well as student-led aperitivo (cocktail functions) to encourage networking and welcome students.

**Things AGSM MBA students should consider/be aware of when applying to this school for exchange:** Unlike many other international business schools, SDA Bocconi is located in Milan’s city centre (second ring), around 25 minutes by foot or 10 minutes by tram to Il Duomo (heart of the city). Milan itself is in close vicinity to many beautiful Italian and indeed European cities with good intermodal connections (train and discount flights). The School has an enjoyable, fun culture and the Sep-Oct semester offers a perfect climate averaging 27 degrees Celsius! The school has a strong reputation locally for being the best MBA/business/economics school in the country. In fact, the current Prime Minister of Italy Mario Monti was previously the President of Bocconi University. Many students come from other parts of Italy, Europe and beyond to undertake the full-time MBA program. Note there is also a significant amount of group work involved at this School meaning a high degree of interaction with the local students.

**Highlight:** Rolex MBA’s Sailing Regatta in Santa Margherita & Portofino. A very well-organised weekend away hosted jointly by the School and the student-led Sailing Club with MBA students from all the major business schools in the world including LBS, HEC, INSEAD, ESADE, IE, IESE, MIT, Colombia, Sauder, Cornell, Chicago Booth, Manchester, Wharton, Warwick, Harvard, Rotterdam. See [http://sailingclub.sdadobocconi.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=59&Itemid=73](http://sailingclub.sdadobocconi.it/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=59&Itemid=73).