Visa Application:
I found the Visa application process to be terribly confusing and frustrating. If some time could be taken to create an ordered checklist of things to do to complete this process for the U.S., it would make this process a lot less daunting.

A helpful tip for future U.S. exchange students is to make it clear to the Visa officials that you still need to complete your degree in Australia once you have finished your exchange. This makes it pretty clear to them that you’re a very low-risk visa applicant, as you have a strong reason to return to Australia. As soon as I mentioned this during the interview, the Visa official approved my visa.

Enrolment Procedure and recommended subjects:
It certainly helps to try and get in contact with other exchange students going to the School you are going to, or researching on the internet (there are always lots of forums) about the best classes and teachers. There was quite a range in the quality of subjects and professors at UCLA; and the good classes do get taken quite quickly. It is advisable that you enrol early to ensure you get into the class, but for most classes (except for the really popular ones) if you were waitlist position 1 or 2, you can usually make it into the class. Most local students enrol in 8 or 9 classes then drop down to 4 after the 2nd week.

Examples of good or popular classes were:

- **Thinking on your Feet** - Prof. Iris Firstenstein is a very popular and interesting professor, and the subject is always very full – You are very unlikely to get into this class if you are wait-listed

- **Financing the Emerging Enterprise** – Prof. Bill Cockrum has taught this class almost 100 times and is extremely well respected. This class is the most challenging class at UCLA Anderson in terms of workload and complexity, but is also the most rewarding if you are interested in Entrepreneurship and finance.

- **Digital Business** – the two professors of this class are highly successful entrepreneurs – as such, this class was always very popular and was also very hard to get into if you are wait-listed. I did not take this course, but the feedback from others who took it was positive.

Workload at exchange school:
Workload varies depending on the subject. For example, Bill Cockrum’s Finance class was probably more work than both other subjects combined, with the class structured so that it was impossible for participants to “freeload” off other group members. Other classes (such as Entertainment Law and Finance) were considerably less work.

The overall perception I had at UCLA Anderson was that it was very difficult to fail classes unless you do not turn up – it is Grad school, after all. Focus is not necessarily centred on your grades but rather what you take out of the classes. So at the end of the day, what you put in is what you take out.

Accommodation options:
There were no UCLA Anderson-provided accommodation options. The most positive way to experience the exchange program is to try and make contacts with current 2nd year UCLA Anderson Students, and if possible, try and find a student who is going on Outward exchange for the quarter so that you might be able to take their lease
over for the quarter. That way you also meet other Anderson students and really integrate with their cohort – they
tend to organise a lot of social events that are worth attending to get the full U.S. College experience.

For UCLA Anderson, the best locations to live were generally in the area between Westwood and Santa Monica,
including Brentwood. The Big Blue Bus services this area extremely well and travelling to/from UCLA is very
easy.

**Campus Facilities**
Campus Facilities are excellent at UCLA Anderson. The wider UCLA has a very broad range of sporting
equipment (including free access to gym and pool, or paid access to camping gear for hire, etc),
restaurants/cafeterias, car parking (you need to apply for a permit for this before the start of term and permits are
not always granted) and IT services within Anderson itself. There is wifi access all through the UCLA campus, but
it is advisable to get your personal devices set up by the I.T. department at Anderson as soon as you start term.

Be wary of bicycle racks. There were several occasions where I heard reports of bikes being stolen from the
UCLA bike racks, even if they were chained or locked.

**Careers Services:**
There are fantastic career services at UCLA with companies such as Adobe, Disney, Mattel, Google, Facebook,
Sony, Bain, Deloitte, Citibank, etc. It does take some effort to become enrolled properly in the Career Services
network though, so be prepared to attend the information sessions and submit resumes by the deadline to take
full advantage of the services.

**Student life:**
Student Life at UCLA Anderson is excellent. The weather and surrounds make it a very pleasant campus. There
are tonnes of clubs and I highly recommend joining a few of these (particularly the Entertainment and Media
Association) as they are a great way to network with other like-minded students, and there are always at least 2-3
networking events organised for students through the term.

There are also weekly Anderson drinks mixers (Anderson Afternoons or AA) organised by the school, and
informal weekly Anderson drinks that are highly recommended to get to know other exchange and local students.

Also ensure that you attend at least one UCLA Anderson tailgate, and if there’s only one to go to – ensure that
it’s the UCLA vs USC game!

**Best Practice observed:**
When creating groups and teams during classes, try as much as possible to form teams that meet your exchange
objectives.

Exchange students tend to group together because it is easy; but if you are on exchange to meet local students
and experience U.S. College life, then try to form groups with local students only. They love Australians so this is
usually pretty easy.

That is not to say that one shouldn’t spend time with the other Exchange students. There are always a very large
number of them (almost 60 during my exchange period) and they are always organising events to explore the
surrounding parts of the country e.g. Grand Canyon, Vegas, San Diego, San Francisco, etc.

But by being clear on what you are trying to get out of your exchange program, you will be best placed to act to
achieve it.

Also, there are usually Facebook groups that form for both the Incoming International Exchange program
members at UCLA Anderson, and for each of the Cohorts that you will be joining at UCLA. Find these quickly and
get to meet as many of those people as you can to get the best head start.

**Things AGSM MBA students should consider/be aware of when applying to this school for exchange:**
Accommodation is probably the biggest stumbling block – this should be sorted out early. Be aware that Los
Angeles is a VERY big place. Things that look very close on the map are not actually that close at all; so living
somewhere like Santa Monica actually means you end up with a 45min commute (often during traffic) to and from UCLA.

So if you are the kind of person who does not like to spend time in traffic on a bus, organise Accommodation early and somewhere in Westwood. Or arrange to rent a car with your accommodation.

**Highlight:**
If you can somehow get yourself invited to Literary club (or even feature in it!) then that's a great way of knowing that you've integrated well into the UCLA Anderson community.