



# Exchange Program Summery

IESE business school

Fall 14'

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Because it's the best experience  
you will have during your academic  
life.

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By: Eli Fainberg

elifain1987@gmail.com

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# Before you start

First of all, congratulations - If You got into IESE, You got into one of the finest schools in the world (we don't care it's an only an exchange program 😊).

## Visa

As a foreign student you need a visa for visits of more than 90 days. If you are planning to stay 90-180 days you need to apply for a short-term, type D student visa, which allows you to remain in for up to 180 days. Personally, I didn't get a visa. Keep in mind that the Spanish are known to be very easy on the Visa issue, but it's a risk. If you want to stay on the safe side you should go 2-3 months ahead and issue a student visa.

## Bidding

Somewhere around June the exchange program coordinator (very nice lady), Teresa Byrne, will contact you and give you all the details you need to know about the bidding and the registration.

You should take a whole day to focus on the bidding, there are plenty of interesting courses. You will be sent the last years demand and capacity for each one of them, use this info wisely since that's your best predictors for which courses are the best. Keep in mind, The bidding process is exhausting and is not as simple and straight forward as the Recannati's one. You will have 3 rounds for choosing and changing the courses (you will quickly find out that the high demanded courses have a long waiting list on the second round).

The # of credits you are obliged to take is 5-6 (which is approximately 7-9 credits in Tel - Aviv), keep in mind that each course is 0.5 or 1 credit, so 5 credits is at least 5 courses...for me it was 6, and it was very intense. Unlike other schools in Spain, IESE are very demanding, so at

first you rather travel and have fun since towards the end of the semester its will become very busy.

I took 6 courses, 2 of them started at the middle of the semester, 5 of them were excellent – MECMI (an amazing marketing class), NAVEI (New project development, very interesting to entrepreneurs) , SISCO (Management control, great professor), INTEC (Macroeconomics) and Destinn (Innovation in corporations)

## Moving to Barcelona

I recommend arriving in Barcelona a week before the semester starts, I arrived 2 weeks before (with my gf) and took a room in hotel Condal (~70 euro per night), which is right in the center. Take the hotel for no more than 2 nights ahead since you may find an apartment quickly, AirBnb is an option as well.

Try to arrive at the beginning of the week (Monday) because as you will learn - the closer the weekend is, the lazier people become.

An important fact to know, which I unfortunately didn't know is that the minimum rental period in Barcelona is 6 months, so don't try and look for a place on the Spanish "Yad 2" it probably wouldn't work.

I recommend using this agency which I and 2 other people I know used and were very satisfied - <http://www.aparteasy.com/en/>. This agency is not cheap-don't look at the prices listed on the site, write them an email or just go there when in Barcelona. They usually have unoccupied places most of the time. It's the best value for money I found, especially the specific area I used to live in, called GRACIA.

At first you will get excited of the city center (La Rambla, Gotico) but as a local (and you will quickly become one) you better move to the classic studential areas –Eixample, Gracia or Saint Gravsi which is next to school.

I recommend Gracia, this is where Most students choose to live.

Its squares with outdoor cafes, narrow streets and local markets are the ones who give it a distinct neighborhood atmosphere (This area slightly resembles – Florentin, in Tel Aviv). It is very popular with both students and foreigners.

Although it's not close to school (but very close to paseo de Gracia and Diagonal streets) The area is well served with transport links to school (bus line 22 is the best option to get there, metro green line is the best way to get back).

The public transportation in Barcelona is very convenient and very easy to use. However, keep in mind that the city center is quite small so you can easily get from one place to another just by walking/riding bicycles. Integrated TMB travel card - The integrated TMB travel card system allows you to travel on buses, the metro, the tram and the two train services, Renfe and FGC (a local train system) . most of the places you will need to get to within the city are in ZONE 1. There are two types of passes I recommend you to consider using: T-10 or T-50/30. Start with T10: It is unlimited in time and impersonal - can be used by one person for 10 rides or 10 people for 1 ride.

When you begin school you should buy T50/30: gives you 50 voyages over 30 consecutive days but this one is a single person ticket (on average, this option is better than the monthly ticket)

# About IESE Exchange Adventure

## IESE Introduction

As you probably already know, IESE is one of the finest schools in Europe and in the world. It is ranked #3 in Europe right after Insead and LBS, and #7 in the world by the Financial Times.

IESE was established by Harvard as the first MBA program in Europe.

A lot of the professors teaching at IESE are Harvard/Wharton/Insead graduates, which in turn makes it very interesting to study there because each and every one of them brings a different perspective to his classes.

80% of IESE students are international coming from ALL over the world. So, it's a great opportunity to meet new people and cultures and establish some connections as we Israelis like to do. I personally have 3 new best friends – Singaporean, American and an Israeli born in Guatemala.

One day before the semester starts, you (exchange students) will be gathered in IESE in order to meet each other and walk over all the services, perks and schools facilities you will be offered during the semester. For this day you will be asked to come in official looks – suits! Since you will be photographed for the Exchange program photo chart.

There are some surprises at this day as well, but I won't ruin it for you 😊.

I personally recommend coming to school a couple of days before in order to get around and get familiar with the public transportation hours and stops.

## Teaching Method

As I said before, IESE is a very demanding school. It is case study based, which means you will have to read a case for every class (some courses have 2 classes a week) and analyze it – you better do it because the chances are you will get cold called if you choose not to participate..., and believe me its embarrassing not to know the case materials if you are being asked about it.

Most elective courses are project based (no final exam), but be aware, the presentations level is very high there.

enjoy ☺.

## Extra Curriculum Activity

1. Sign up to the clubs offered within school, it's very interesting and a great way to make local friends.

There are various clubs and they are run by 2<sup>nd</sup> years. I personally signed up to the sport technology and entrepreneurship clubs – they are all great.

With the clubs you can go to treks in different places in Europe and get to meet interesting companies and executives, For example the technology club had a trek to London and Dublin to twitter/google/dropbox headquarters in Europe.

2. BOW – bar of the weekend. Every week the student council arranges a party at a new club/bar in Barcelona with discounts on alcohol for IESE students – this is really great since you will get to visit all the best clubs in Barcelona.

## General Tips & suggestions

- Participate in class, although it seems scary it will improve your English and your grade significantly.
- attend classes - that's what you came there for
- Get to know Barcelona and its little secrets (Park Guell at sunset is one of them)
- Use yelp and Uber to get around
- Meet new people!
- Go to BOW! it's the best way to get some gossip and make friends.
- Travel around! flights within Europe are very cheap.
- Go to Madrid – I found it very different and interesting
- Use AirBnb, its amazing.
- Eat the chocolate croissant from the cafeteria every morning – promise it's the best you will ever have.

## Wrap Up

The student exchange program has been a great meaningful experience and I would highly recommend it to any of the MBA students. To live in a foreign country, study at one of the world's finest business schools, challenge yourself with a new culture and meet new people, is truly a once in a lifetime experience, especially in Barcelona. These months will go by quicker than you can imagine, so don't forget to go out and enjoy the city, meet new people, broaden your international connections, travel around Europe & Spain, do the things you like and make the best out of it.

GOOD LUCK!

phone #: 0547929473

Mail: elifain1987@gmail.com