



IE Business School - International MBA Exchange Program

As being the first student from Recanati Business School that participated in the International MBA Exchange program at IE business School, I am happy to share with you some of my insights and practical "tips" based on my own private experience. This overview, by no means, aims to be a complete overview of the school or the program. I urge you to look for more information on the net. You can start from these useful links:

- <http://imba.ie.edu/>
- [http://www.imba.ie.edu/pdf/IE International MBA Brochure.pdf](http://www.imba.ie.edu/pdf/IE_International_MBA_Brochure.pdf)
- <http://rankings.ft.com/businessschoolrankings/ie-business-school>
- http://www.businessweek.com/bschools/rankings/full_time_mba_profiles/empresa.html

Trying to be as unbiased as I can, all I will say is that I believe the exchange program, and especially being an exchange student at IE Business School is truly a unique and an amazing experience. As a student at IE, you will be part of one of the top MBA programs in the world. You will participate in fascinating courses given by top of the line professors surrounded by top of the line students. Much more, you will be able to participate in many of the extra activities that IE offers, activities which will highly enrich your stay. And of course, you will meet students from all over the world, students who come from a variety of backgrounds and with different expertise. You will spend days and nights with them learning, working together or just enjoying your free time. I'm convinced that you will enjoy your stay at IE, and that you will gain an experience that you will not forget easily.



About IE Business School

Founded in 1973, IE Business School has undergone a rapid process of growth and internationalization and is now recognized as one of the world's leading business schools. The School has an urban campus in Madrid and a faculty of more than 400 professors, 100 of them full-time, who teach students from 81 countries on its master, PhD and executive education programs. IE Business School is regularly ranked among the top 20 business schools by BusinessWeek, Financial Times, The Wall Street Journal and The Economist, who consider IE's flagship International MBA and Executive MBA programs as among the best in the world. Founded by entrepreneurs, the entrepreneurial vein runs deep at IE, where business creation is seen as an engine for growth, value generation, employment and social well-being.

*Taken from IE official publishing

Joining the International MBA program at IE Business School

As an exchange student, you will join IE's full time International MBA elective period. You will be able to choose from about 80 elective courses from different areas of specialization, such as: Entrepreneurship, Strategic Management, Financial Management, Economic Environment, Marketing and many more.

Elective Courses are usually comprised of 12 or 20 sessions of 1.5 hours each. IE students are expected to take between 96 and 140 sessions (6-8 courses). Exchange students, however, select their own course work based on the requirements they need to meet for their homeschool. Learning at IE is intensive and you should leave enough time to enjoy some of IE's extra-curricular activities, student clubs and of course the vibrant city of Madrid – so I advise you not to exceed this number of courses.

Almost all IE Business School classes rely on the case method to drive the learning experience that enables participants to learn concepts, tools and theoretical foundations of management through the examination of real companies in the real world. Students are assigned to small workgroups, designed to maximize diversity in which they discuss and prepare cases and complete assignments.



As mentioned above, IE Business School also gives the opportunity to participate in many extra-curricular activities. You will be granted access to the Student Office and all the different clubs the school offers. There are more than 60 clubs at IE including academic, regional, sports, and affinity clubs. A few of the most popular are: Finance, Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Football, Basketball and Net Impact Club. IE also offers many workshops and seminars, such as: building your career, leadership, giving effective presentations and many others. All these extra activities are available for the exchange student and I highly advise to make the most out of this opportunity.

Life Outside School

Besides of taking courses and joining IE's extra activities you will also have many networking opportunities outside of school. One of the best places to do so is in "IE's Bar of The Week" (BOTW) where IE's students meet once a week to enjoy a night out in one of Madrid's bars. Actually, Nightlife is just life in Madrid, so expect to stay out late enjoying the countless number of bars and clubs around Madrid.

Madrid is also one of the greatest cultural hubs in the world and offers many museums, exhibitions, concerts and much more. Madrid's efficient Metro helps traveling around the city quickly and comfortably, so make sure you enjoy it.

Traveling in Spain and in Europe from Madrid is also easy, so in case you have some free time you can always travel outside of Madrid.



Getting Ready

Registration

Once you've been nominated to spend your exchange period at IE Business School, the school representative will contact you. You will have to submit a data sheet with basic personal information, digital photo, C.V. and a copy of the first page of your passport. IE's representative will keep supporting and guiding you throughout the entire process.

Students are required to have a valid Student Visa. The application must be submitted in person to Spain embassy in Tel-Aviv, and the processing period should take a few weeks.

Once you finish your registration to IE, you will grant with access to IE's website. This website will provide you with a lot of general information about IE (including accommodation issues, visa details, etc...) as well as information about the exchange program.

Accommodation

IE does not offer dorms or any other kind of accommodation, and you should bear in mind that finding accommodation can be a difficult and time-consuming task. In order to help students, the Students Office has developed an extensive database of available housing. Although the school does not guarantee the standard of the accommodation, it does provide a valuable resource as the database itself is searchable and many of the properties are offered under favorable circumstances (often not requiring a guarantor for example, usually a significant obstacle when searching for accommodation in Madrid). If you prefer to share, there is also a housing forum for you to get in touch with other students looking for a roommate.

Please feel free to contact me, I will be happy to share more information and I will do my best to assist in any possible way.

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<http://www.facebook.com/ido.stav>

<http://il.linkedin.com/in/idostav>