

International Exchange Program at Ross School of Business

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Each year, the Center for International Business Education at Ross selects approximately 20 MBA students to participate in the International Exchange Program—a semester long study-abroad program with partner business schools in Europe, Asia, and Australia. This is a great opportunity, particularly for Evening MBAs, to experience the full time MBA life, interact with students from other top programs worldwide, and pursue international opportunities across the globe. As a part of this program in 2007, I took a four-month educational leave from my full-time work and represented Ross at the London Business School (LBS) in UK. In the following paragraphs, I am happy to share this great experience with you.

I joined the Ross School of Business in fall 2004 with a dream of working at a top tier strategy consulting firm in Europe. Thanks to the International Exchange Program, I expanded my personal horizons, reached my professional goal, and completed my transformation into a global leader. In Business, as the world's leading center for international commerce, London provided me with unrestricted access to the world's most prestigious consulting firms, and enabled me to foster relationships with key companies that I targeted for recruiting purposes. I was literally within a cab's ride of the headquarters of some of the largest global companies in Europe. Plus, all of the school's career service resources such as access to online job/CV databases, industry/consulting career fairs, and presentation materials were available to me even before I became a student at LBS. These resources, coupled with the support I received from the Office of Career Development (OCD) at Ross, helped me bridge the gap between classroom discussion and real-world application. As a result, I secured offers from all of the top three consulting firms during on-campus recruiting process, and I will join Bain & Company in London.

In academics, the International Exchange Program offered me the specific coursework needed to develop my expertise in two subjects I am most uncomfortable with—finance and entrepreneurship. I still remember my 1:00am discussions with fellow exchange students from Michigan, NYU, Kellogg, and MIT to complete our excel-based valuation model to estimate Vodafone's *Weighted Average Cost of Capital* and finalize our case write-up due 9:00am in the morning. If you don't know how to calculate WACC, don't worry because you will soon learn it in FIN551! These hours certainly helped me to hone in on the latest valuation techniques in mergers & acquisitions, and prepared me for the long nights I would soon be enjoying in consulting.

With over 200 museums and galleries, five world-class symphony orchestras, two opera houses and 150 theatres, London also offered me an exceptionally rich cultural experience. At any given time, there were a number of events planned by the school's truly global student body comprised of over 85% international students from 75 countries. For example, most weekends, I joined the photography club members and wandered around Portobello Road Market in Notting Hill with my camera to catch one of many postcard-perfect moments created by the city's dynamic crowd buying second-hand clothing or vintage jewelry. Alternatively, I sailed my radio controlled yacht (depending on wind conditions) on the Round Pond in Kensington Gardens to relax before hitting the library and getting ready to my New Venture Development class the following week when I would pitch my business plan to a panel of European venture capitalist and angel investors.

Whether you are looking to gain a more global perspective, planning to switch careers, or looking to make a change to another geographic location, International Exchange Program at Ross School of Business is an invaluable opportunity to co-create your MBA experience and to take ownership of your professional and personal development.

For more details and to apply to The International Exchange Program, please visit The Center for International Business Education website at <http://www.umich.edu/~cibe/students/exchangeMBA.htm>