

**Press Release**

**ESSEC MBA AND UNIVERSITY PARIS DESCARTES SIGN A COOPERATION  
AGREEMENT FOR A DUAL MEDICINE-ESSEC MBA PROGRAM**

*Cergy, 21 April 2009*

ESSEC MBA and the Faculty of Medicine at the prestigious Université Paris Descartes (Paris V) have signed a partnership agreement which will enable a small number of medical students each year to work towards the ESSEC MBA. The double degree aims to provide the future leaders of leading medical institutions and university hospitals with top-level management training.

Medical students will be given the opportunity to develop private and public healthcare sector management skills, in addition to developing careers in pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and healthcare consulting and venture capital.

The ESSEC MBA offers an invaluable opportunity to gain international exposure and commercial knowledge. ESSEC's reputation is not only founded upon recognized excellence in teaching and academia but also on its ability to train flexible team players with a keen sense of social responsibility.

**SELECTION PROCESS**

Each year, between six and eight students in their second year of medical school will be pre-selected following the recommendation of Olivier Amédée-Manesme, Professeur of Therapeutics at Paris-Descartes and the Director of Paris Biotech, and Gérard de Pouvourville, Chair of Health Economics and Management, ESSEC.

Upon the completion of their fourth year of medicine, selected students will undertake the standard exams to pass the ESSEC MBA. Between the second and the fourth year, they will also be required to pass refresher courses in certain subjects such as economics and management prior to being admitted onto the ESSEC MBA. Refresher courses will take place either at ESSEC or in other higher-education institutions which have signed agreements with ESSEC and the Faculty of Medicine.

Students are equally encouraged to use their vacation time to undertake academic, professional or humanitarian internships abroad for which they will be awarded credits towards graduation.

## CURRICULUM

The program will be directly supervised by Gérard de Pouvourville, Chair of Health Economics and Management at ESSEC.

The duration of the ESSEC MBA is 4 years or the equivalent of 8 semesters. Taking into account the inherent volume of work necessary for the preparation of final medical exams, the last semester of the 6th year can instead be completed whilst in residency.

Once admission is confirmed, the student must fulfill the following 2009-2010 graduation requirements:

- Accumulation of 24 MBA credits, including :
  - at least 20 credits in management, of which 8 must be from core subjects and at least 2 in a subject undertaken in a language other than English
  - at least 6 credits must be acquired in a management subject completed in English
  - a minimum score of 850 on the TOEIC
- Completion of 18 months professional experience (6 credits)
- Completion of at least 6 months international professional experience (6 credits)

It is an additional requirement that 3 credits are acquired from the Healthcare and Economics Management Chair. It is also recommended that at least 2 credits be completed with the Therapeutic Innovation Chair.

ESSEC will evaluate which elements of the medical residency may count towards the professional training requirement.

4 students will be awarded grants from pharmaceutical companies, Servier, Sanofi-Aventis and Roche. Pfizer has also agreed to provide support for the refresher courses in economics and management.

This agreement marks the third partnership established between ESSEC Business School and Paris-Descartes University: The creation by INSERM and the Ecole Centrale Paris of the Paris Biotech Incubator and the Advanced Master's Program in Strategy and Management of Healthcare Industries, a course that bridges the gap between medical training and business management.

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### **About ESSEC**

*The ESSEC Group, the Ecole Supérieure des Sciences Economiques et Commerciales, founded in 1907, is a major player in management teaching on the world scene. Internationally renowned professor-researchers and highly-regarded business leaders ensure the high teaching standards. Together, they maintain the tradition of academic excellence, promote individual creativity and character building as well as the spirit of openness at the service of economic and business activities. For more information: [www.essec.edu](http://www.essec.edu)*

### **About Paris Descartes University**

*Paris Descartes University is the second greatest university in Paris. It owns one of the most important potential of research in France with more than 800 researchers and 1900 research professors. As a human and health science university, students are trained into 4 major fields: health, social sciences and technologies, law and economic sciences. Today, this university emphasises professionalization of teaching and professional integration by developing its relations with firms.*