PRESS KIT

RISE: NEW STRATEGY, NEW AMBITIONS

13th October 2020
INFUSING LEADERSHIP WITH MEANING TO PREPARE A BETTER FUTURE

As these past few months have reminded us, we are collectively facing major economic, environmental, health, and social challenges that call for action. In this complex period of rapid and profound change, companies, organizations, and their leaders have a key role to play in responding to the questions that lie ahead. The business schools that train many of these leaders and influence their practices through research must transform themselves to be aligned with these new needs. In light of this, and true to its pioneering spirit, ESSEC is committed to becoming a business school of reference in terms of how it supports and positively influences the way we address the major challenges facing businesses, organizations and society.

This transformation is in keeping with the expectations of our students and executive education participants, who seek to undertake and create projects that are economically viable but also inclusive, innovative, sustainable, environmentally-sound, and respectful of all stakeholders. They also expect businesses to demonstrate ethical practices and their school to act responsibly towards the planet and society. They are well aware of the importance of the digital revolution, data, and artificial intelligence, all of which provide exceptional opportunities for value creation, but which also carry ethical, social and environmental risks. They expect their school to reflect seriously on how to support, engage with, and work for the common good.

True to the humanist values ingrained in our French roots, our global business school must now, more than ever, infuse tomorrow’s leadership with meaning, by producing relevant knowledge and preparing our students to create and run companies and organizations that can have a positive impact on the world. This ambition is reflected in our strategy, RISE, based on three strategic axes. We have named our 360-degree environmental and social transition plan “Together“. Its aim is to transform our training programs, our research, and life on our campuses in order to tackle environmental and social challenges. This requires innovation, experimentation, and the creation of new business and economic models. ESSEC is equally committed to working in its entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem through Enlightening Entrepreneurship, which aims to strengthen our course content, our incubation tools, and our support procedures, making ESSEC a unique platform for entrepreneurs, intrapreneurs, and innovators where uncertainty is seen as an opportunity and an invitation to act. ESSEC is aware that cutting-edge technologies are increasingly required to achieve social progress and sustainable economic development. To this end, we have created the Metalab, a unique multidisciplinary ecosystem that combines expertise in hard sciences and social sciences to inform practices at the intersection of “Data, technology and society” and put people at the core of all decision-making processes.

To accomplish our mission of inspiring new forms of leadership that provide meaning and direction and have a positive impact on the world, ESSEC is committed to three central axes of development: ensure sustainable growth for ESSEC, reinforce our premium and pioneering positioning and provide all stakeholders with an excellent ESSEC experience.

The creation of a model of sustainable growth at ESSEC is based on both the strategic management of our current programs in order to fully cultivate their potential and on the creation of new ones, to respond to the new expectations of pre-experience students and post-experience participants. Our objective is also to offer our alumni relevant programs throughout their professional lives, notably by relying on the power of our augmented digital campus for a lifelong experience. In all of our programs we reaffirm our values of excellence, selectivity, customizability, social learning, educational innovation and internationalization as central elements of our pedagogical signature.

This guiding principle is coherent with the strengthening of our premium and pioneering positioning, which aims to reinforce our reputation as a higher education institution of excellence on a global level. This occurs through the recruitment of exceptional international professors and through our policy of supporting the most rigorous and relevant research in order to enlighten the public debate and confront the complexity and challenges facing the world today. ESSEC is developing ever stronger collaborations with prestigious institutions, drawing upon the complementarity of ESSEC and other institutions’ areas of expertise.

Internationally, we offer a dual degree program with the Berkeley College of Engineering, and have partnered with four European business schools through the Corporate Programs Partnership to provide a unique offering of custom programs for businesses. We also offer an innovative joint program in the field of luxury with the New School’s Parsons School of Design in New York and are part of the global alliance COBIS (Council on Business and Society).

In France, we have formed a strong alliance with the engineering school, CentraleSupélec, with which we deliver two joint programs, the MSc in Data Sciences and Business Analytics, ranked third in the world by QS and the MS Centrale-ESSEC Entrepreneurs. We are also associated with CY Cergy Paris University, with which we have created an international visiting scholars program, recruited eight international professors, financed chairs together and collaborated on more than 30 research projects.

In order to make ESSEC a standard of international excellence, ESSEC is committed to guaranteeing the best possible experience for everyone: students and executive education participants, professors, personnel, alumni and corporate partners. The COVID-19 crisis reinforced the flexibility of our school and our capacity to maintain a high level of quality despite the unusual circumstances. Drawing strength from this experience, we have decided to invest even more in our digital transformation, putting digital tools at the service of our teaching staff, systems and management and by reinventing our teaching spaces.

ESSEC also guarantees a quality experience for its business partners, many of whom count on ESSEC to train and recruit their talent but also to question their current models and to co-create their future world. New chairs such as “Shaping the Future with Finance” with Axa IM AItS around responsible finance, or the “ESSEC Sports Chair” with Allianz France, EDF, The French Basketball Federation and the Paris Saint-Germain football club, demonstrate the relevance of the close collaboration in research and teaching between students, faculty and businesses.

ESSEC, as a World School, can count on its campuses in Singapore and Morocco to provide international influence, a multicultural environment, and reconcile global issues and local perspective. Additionally, its digital augmented campus makes this ESSEC offer accessible at any moment and everywhere in the world.

ESSEC’s international and multicultural approach favoring immersion over the long-term and local and regional recruitment is crucial to training inclusive leaders. We are facing huge challenges, but we are ready to play our part as a higher education institution of excellence to “Enlighten, Lead and Change” our world, to create more value, and to make it more sustainable, inclusive and fair.
Environmental challenges and current health and social issues have forced us to rethink our organizations, our economic systems and our management models. We recognize that the fight against climate change constitutes the most important challenge facing humanity, and taking on that fight requires deep changes within business schools and a willingness to reconsider the role of organizations and their impact on the planet and on society. A major transition - social, democratic and technological - is necessary to build a sustainable future. Our ambition is to support this global environmental and social transition through training and research, and by implementing an ambitious approach that takes into account all stakeholders.

At ESSEC, we are committed to taking this issue seriously and exploring all new avenues towards solutions. Environmental and social problems can no longer be sidelined. At ESSEC, we increasingly take these issues into account in our research, teaching, on our campuses as well as in the activities of our students, professors and partners with the goal of:

1. Training 100% of our students and participants, across all our programs, about social and environmental challenges.

A compulsory foundation course in environmental and social challenges is fully integrated in all our post-secondary courses and continuing education programs.

Since September 2020, the 2100 students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs (Global BBA, Master in Management, Advanced Masters and MSs) take a compulsory 20-hour course on climate change challenges and a 15-hour training course on social responsibility. They also benefit from newly transformed core courses in management (strategy, accounting, finance, management control, marketing, economics, etc.) that take into account the interface between disciplines and societal challenges. In our executive education programs, all participants are offered the possibility of taking the new online “Businesses and the Climate” module, created with experts from Carbone 4, a consultancy firm specialized in low carbon strategy, as well as a module on social responsibility.

2. Transforming ESSEC’s Cergy campus into an exemplary sustainable campus.

The “Campus 2020” project aims to make ESSEC’s Cergy campus an exemplary example in the management of energy, recycling, biodiversity, and the circular economy. This project will ensure the improvement of the energy efficiency of the buildings on ESSEC’s Cergy campus and shift towards producing green energy, using recycled and/or recyclable materials, and collecting and reusing rainwater. Furthermore, a policy of zero waste will be progressively implemented.

The “Pierre Nanterme Center for Responsible Leadership,” at the heart of this renovated campus, will be a unique place for pedagogical innovation and research on new approaches to responsible leadership. The building’s construction is being financed by a donation from Accenture in memory of Pierre Nanterme (E81), Accenture’s former CEO.

3. Make ESSEC campuses carbon neutral.

An initial objective to reduce emissions by 25% is set for the end of 2023. This will be achieved by combining several actions: renovating the oldest and therefore least energy-efficient buildings (Project Campus 2020), reducing the frequency of airplane journeys, improving the heating system on the Cergy campus together with the local community, launching a major campaign to raise awareness of eco-practices, and finally, if necessary, carbon offsetting to ensure the objective is met.

4. Deepen our social diversity and anti-discrimination policy.

Since 2003, ESSEC has been deeply committed to equal opportunities in education through a variety of mentoring programs for underprivileged youths. A new program, “Find your way,” makes information widely available to more than 300 partner educational institutions reaching 60,000 middle school and high school students.

As part of its commitment to social diversity, ESSEC sets the target to recruit 27% of its students from low-income backgrounds, providing them with specific mentoring programs as well as financial support.

In terms of gender equality, ESSEC has created an innovative educational workshop, La Fresque de la Diversité (the Diversity Collage) which, like the Climate Collage workshop, aims to raise awareness about discrimination among all students and the ways to overcome discrimination to build a fairer and more inclusive society.

In terms of gender equality, anti-discrimination policies and the promotion of respect and diversity, ESSEC is working to ensure equal opportunities for women and men in its governance. Since 2018, ESSEC has developed a “Charter for the Respect of Others” which is a defining element of the school policy. Thanks to a warning system which flags and addresses each alert, ESSEC reasserts its Zero Tolerance policy to sexual misconduct.

5. Committing to a regional alliance in changing times.

By joining forces with CY Cergy Paris Université, along with the regional authorities and local associations, ESSEC is helping to transform the Cergy-Pontoise area into a testing ground for developing strategies and practices that will foster a strong transition to the world of tomorrow. To this end, ESSEC has become a member of the local electricity production cooperative.

6. Putting environmental and social transition at the heart of its governance.

By creating the position of “Associate Dean for Sustainability” within its executive committee, ESSEC guarantees that environmental and social challenges will be taken into account in all strategic decisions made by the school. To ensure that the whole community is mobilized and democratically involved in this transformation, ESSEC has also created the COCON, a coordination committee composed of elected members of faculty, the student body, staff, and alumni as well as representatives from each of the four physical campuses. This committee is given an annual participatory budget of 150,000 Euros. It is supported by a team dedicated to carrying out the transition and by thematic working groups involving the whole community.
Artificial intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning are profoundly transforming businesses and society. With the emergence of new managerial models, new jobs, and fresh challenges, society will increasingly call on the services of managers who understand and can use new technologies to serve businesses’ main stakeholders. The power of AI and Machine Learning stems from the modification of business models and managerial practices, enabling businesses to make better-informed decisions using more precise and more extensive predictions and recommendations.

Our ambition is to help businesses and society understand and use artificial intelligence and the power of data to enable individuals and citizens to make well-informed decisions in an ethical and fair manner.

At ESSEC, our objective is to help businesses move from data-based decision-making to new decision-making models that combine the power of AI and human judgment. Many routine decisions based on structured data and subject to cognitive bias can be automated with the help of prescriptive analytics tools and AI. With other more strategic decisions, AI takes advantage of human judgment by generating various possibilities, the best of which is chosen by the decision-makers themselves. Hence, we believe that the biggest obstacle to the implementation of AI in businesses is not the lack of data scientists, but the lack of leaders trained in AI.

1. The creation of the Metalab for Data, Technology and Society.

ESSEC’s Metalab is an interdisciplinary lab for scientific research and pedagogical innovation. It brings together professors and researchers from different horizons (economics and management sciences, humanities and social sciences, statistical and engineering sciences). The Metalab is positioned at the interface of science, management and society. It reflects on the cultural and human impacts of science and technology. To this end, it capitalizes on ESSEC’s ecosystems of internal initiatives, and national and international partners to create knowledge focused on these themes:

- Business Data Science: methods and applications of data science and AI for business decision making processes
- The Future of Work: new forms of work, types of jobs and corporate structures
- AI Governance: Transformation of the economy, ethical issues, and regulation.
- The cultural impact of AI: Transformations in society, culture, and the arts caused by technology and the biases they may generate.

ESSEC capitalizes on a very rich ecosystem of unique programs and initiatives which is already producing such leaders, such as the ESSEC-CentraleSupélec Master in Data Sciences and Business Analytics (ranked 3rd best program in the world by QS), the Accenture Chair in Business Analytics, the Digital Disruption Chair in collaboration with BNP Paribas, the Executive Master in Digital Transformation (fully taught online throughout the Augmented Digital Campus), and the PhD in Data Analytics.

ESSEC is increasing its investment in research on the impact of Artificial Intelligence with a resolutely interdisciplinary, reflexive and responsible positioning. In this way, ESSEC intends to build new bridges but also question the interactions between science and society, as well as the challenges linked to the governance of Artificial Intelligence and data ethics. By integrating the human factor into AI, we can produce commercial decision-making models guided by concern for their impact on society but also with clear objectives, understandable criteria and actionable processes.

ESSEC’s investment at the confluence of artificial intelligence and society is demonstrated by:

2. An enhanced portfolio of Business Data Science programs.

ESSEC is committed to providing all students, from the youngest to the most experienced, with training in Artificial Intelligence, data science and the digital economy. To do this, ESSEC is reinforcing its offer of programs by launching:

- A Global BBA program specializing in Digital Innovation and Management in Morocco, in partnership with the École Centrale of Casablanca.
- A series of dual degrees between the College of Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley and the ESSEC Masters in Management, in Finance and in Data Science and Business Analytics.

In addition, ESSEC will train all its students in AI and digital transformation, whatever their level or needs, with the help if its Augmented Digital Campus.

3. An evolution of the Global MBA program to train “digital leaders”.

The GMBA program is being completely redesigned to equip students with the ability to tackle the challenges of digital transformation and Artificial Intelligence. This program is being offered both in France and Singapore, and it integrates within both its specializations in Strategy and Luxury, new educational content focused on corporate digital challenges. Using advanced technologies (virtual reality headsets, augmented digital campus ...), students obtain an in-depth knowledge on these subjects and interact with an extended ecosystem of partners in order to expand their expertise and professional network.

4. The most effective digital educational technologies globally, thanks to our Augmented Digital Campus and our virtual classroom “The Deck”.

Thanks to ESSEC’s Augmented Digital Campus, we offer a unique and immersive distance learning environment that lets students obtain the necessary training throughout their careers without being physically present on our campuses. This sophisticated tool is ESSEC’s fifth campus, where our students and participants access their courses, interact with professors and experts and obtain many other resources, online and through podcasts. The Digital Campus is not only a technological innovation but also a new educational tool that uses inverted classroom devices, peer-learning and peer-evaluation. It fosters innovation in digital pedagogy, such as with the “Executive Masters in Digital Transformation” program. Its virtual classroom “The Deck” – made possible with the support of the joint “investment for the future” initiative between ESSEC and CY Cergy Paris Université – enables professors to concentrate on activities with the highest value added for students and participants, offering them the enhanced social interactions similar to those obtained on our physical campuses.
"ENLIGHTENING ENTREPRENEURSHIP"

ESSEC TRAINS LEADER-ENTREPRENEURS CAPABLE OF TACKLING CHALLENGES IN AN EVER-CHANGING WORLD

Since its creation, ESSEC has always cultivated a spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation, which lies at the very core of its educational approach, research, and managerial practices. At ESSEC, we believe that everyone can be an entrepreneur, and that entrepreneurial experiences encourage a capacity to find solutions to tomorrow’s problems and to adapt to the changes and challenges we all face. Our ambition is to ensure that each ESSEC graduate views uncertainty as a call to action.

Over the past few decades, ESSEC has designed a combination of courses, seminars, internships, professorships, and incubators to facilitate and nourish the entrepreneurial spirit of its students and participants. Through its student incubator, ESSEC Ventures, its social enterprise accelerator program "Antropia ESSEC" and its "Club Generation Startupeuse" which supports female entrepreneurship, ESSEC has established a unique entrepreneurial ecosystem.

It enables students, participants in continuing education programs and external entrepreneurs to benefit from dedicated support to create and grow enterprises in a variety of areas.

As part of the School’s new strategy, this historic commitment to entrepreneurship and innovation remains intact and is gaining strength. These are opportunities that ESSEC provides to students and participants with the aim of nurturing their entrepreneurial reflexes.

It is with this in mind that ESSEC has committed to an ambitious plan, "Enlightening Entrepreneurship", to consolidate and strengthen our current entrepreneurial ecosystem. This requires new approaches and new skills, putting people at the center of our desire to develop the capacity of entrepreneurs to act in the face of uncertainty.

ESSEC has invested in entrepreneurship in the following ways:

1. Doubling resources for entrepreneurship.

With the recruitment of new professors, ESSEC brings to 20 the number of professors specialized around entrepreneurship. We have strengthened our ecosystem to support entrepreneurs by doubling the capacity of our "ESSEC Alumni in Residence" program (Entrepreneurs, Business Angels, CTOs, CFOs, experts in marketing, communication, human resources, logistics, and sustainable development).

2. A commitment to train 100% of its students and participants in continuing education programs in entrepreneurship.

By including entrepreneurship as a key component of our programs, be they post-secondary or continuing education programs, ESSEC increases its students’ and participants’ capacity to transform their knowledge into action and find solutions to tomorrow’s challenges. Relying on the joint expertise of ESSEC Ventures and Antropia ESSEC, ESSEC is committed to raising the awareness of and educating our student entrepreneurs on the challenges of sustainable development, and to support those who wish to develop businesses with strong social and environmental impact.


CentraleSupélec and ESSEC, strategic partners since 2009 (double diploma, MS in Data Sciences & Business Analytics, MS Centrale-ESSEC Entrepreneurs) join forces to provide support (incubators, Fab Labs, alumni networks, etc.) to student-entrepreneurs who create projects with a strong focus on technology and sustainable development (environment, energy, health). These students and participants, both pre-experience and post-experience, will therefore benefit from an unparalleled spectrum of skills and expertise to help them achieve their goals.

4. The strengthening of the dynamic of sustainable entrepreneurship centered around two main axes:

- Support for the creation and development of startups committed to sustainable development with the coaching from ESSEC Ventures to the approximately 12,000 students and executive education participants at ESSEC.
- Support for the creation and development of businesses with a social or environmental mission, drawing on robust economic models developed by Antropia ESSEC and the Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship Chair.

5. The launch of thematic Tech communities between ESSEC and ESSEC Alumni.

#FinTech, #FoodTech, #HealthTech, #CleanTech, etc. These vertical communities will bring together our alumni innovators and decision-makers of the various parts of the value chain that make up these ecosystems: startups, investors, large companies, consultants, etc. as well as existing student associations by adding an entrepreneurial and technological dimension. They will rely on physical meetings and digital platforms and will allow the sharing of experience and mutual support in the sectors most subject to technological breakthroughs.
A NEW BRAND IMAGE WITH ADDED MEANING AND COMMITMENT

After several months of reflection and discussion about our positioning, ESSEC has adopted a new brand strategy, the objective of which is to add meaning to our practices and enable our institution to be more relevant when faced with contemporary challenges and the expectations of students, participants, alumni, employees, and all stakeholders.

In rethinking our brand image, ESSEC has reaffirmed its commitment to providing solutions to major contemporary questions and developing responsible and enlightened leaders. ESSEC thus acknowledges its role and its responsibility as a business school in creating and transferring innovative knowledge to develop the skills, know-how, and life skills of the next generation.

A new signature, brand manifesto, and communications campaign form the new brand platform, produced in collaboration with the Havas Paris agency, and which will allow ESSEC’s strategic plan to resonate strongly.

A new signature, reflective of ESSEC’s goals

A manifesto to take on our role

With this manifesto, ESSEC states its position and reveals its new compass. The manifesto clearly expresses our values and our goals in the context of increasingly tight international competition. Staying true to our heritage and our values, our guiding light since 1907, ESSEC takes on its responsibilities in this rapidly changing world.

A brand campaign to highlight the challenges facing our world

To illustrate this positioning, a true milestone for ESSEC, we have launched a new brand campaign in the French and international press.

This campaign is more socially involved, more committed, and brings hope: it illuminates the role of a business school in the 21st century faced with the major questions of our time. The new graphics are modern yet traditional, playing with colors and highlighting our iconic crest. People are placed at the heart of this campaign with looks and expressions that challenge us when reading the taglines that emphasize the major challenges that we must respond to together.

Since its founding, our school has proudly embodied its values and developed an educational model that has kept pace with modern times and positively impacted the ways that we address the major challenges facing businesses, organizations and society.

Today, at a time when economic, social, political, and environmental change have never occurred so quickly, so profoundly, and on such a global scale, we believe it is more important than ever for our world school with French roots to fully step into its role of infusing tomorrow’s leadership with meaning and preparing responsible and inclusive leaders.


Enlighten refers to harnessing the power of research and education to better understand the world and the challenges it is facing by using a multicultural and multidisciplinary approach.

Lead stands for our school’s aim of initiating and guiding all types of transformation, whether technological, industrial, managerial or social, to make them more meaningful, sustainable and inclusive.

Change means being an agent of change, by supporting companies in their ambition to reconcile value creation and contribution to the common good.

By acting with humility and conviction and always working together. While keeping in mind the current complexity of the world and the uncertainty of tomorrow. As a school, we make sure to provide meaningful and customizable experiences, built on openness and a respect for others.

We are facing huge challenges. It is thus essential to develop new ways of working, managing and innovating. This makes entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship more important than ever before. We need to create new practices and know-how that leverage the potential of the digital economy and artificial intelligence.

We must invent new forms of leadership that are focused on responsible value creation. Forms of leadership that are more respectful of the environment, more locally embedded and which consider their impact on society. In keeping with its pioneering spirit, ESSEC stands ready to play its part in creating tomorrow’s world.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF KNOWLEDGE IN AN INCREASINGLY UNCERTAIN WORLD?


IF THE JOBS OF THE FUTURE DON'T YET EXIST, HOW CAN WE PREPARE FOR THEM?


HOW CAN WE EDUCATE LEADERS DIFFERENTLY TO BUILD A MORE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD?


WITH THE EMERGENCE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, CAN DECISION-MAKING STILL BE HUMAN?


ISN'T ENTREPRENEURSHIP ABOUT CREATING SOLUTIONS EVEN WHEN THEY SEEMED UNTHINKABLE?

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS FROM THE LAST 5 YEARS

Publications in academic journals

⭐⭐⭐ 37 Excellent
⭐⭐ 345 High quality
⭐ 423 Very good

Collective works

158

Professional reviews

94

Books

54

Editorial activities

(Over the past 5 years, reviews of all groups and editorial status)

261

Key figures

62,000 graduates worldwide
4 campuses in Cergy, Paris-La Défense, Singapore and Rabat
augmented digital campus

7,060 students in full-time undergraduate and graduate programs

35% 102 nationalities represented

35 grants
4 Million € received (from external public grants: Isite, Labex)

Rewards

19 prizes and distinctions have been received by ESSEC professors since May 2019

Grants

35 research projects ongoing
4 Million € received (from external public grants: Isite, Labex)

International Rankings Business Education

#7 European Business School (2019)
#3 Master in Management (2020)
#4 Master in Finance (2020)
#5 Executive Education Programs (2020)

2.000 degrees awarded each year, including 1,600 at graduate level

218 partner universities in 45 countries

75 PhD students

21 learning and research chairs

32 double degree programs (26 international, 6 national)

142 permanent faculty of 37 nationalities including 21 emeriti professors

5,000 managers in executive education

+500 partner companies in education and recruitment

218 partner universities in 45 countries

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