



Rennes, 26th June 2020

PRESS RELEASE

An open, secure campus, and adapted teaching: Rennes School of Business is preparing to welcome its students in excellent conditions as they return to classes in September

On 8th June, Rennes School of Business communicated the general outline of its approach to the new academic year in order to offer an enriched, student-centred educational experience. Today, the school has just detailed the organisational procedures for its community, highlighting the significant efforts made to ensure the best possible conditions for everyone in the current health context.

In a health context that may evolve, resulting in more or less restrictive circumstances, the Rennes School Management has determined, with its teams and partners, the majority of conditions for life on campus at the start of the academic year in September. Drawing on the experience of the recent semester and feedback from students, of whom nearly 95% supported the School's crisis management, and 97% of whom acknowledged that Rennes SB had taken the appropriate measures to protect them (1), the Rennes establishment was thus able to calmly establish the procedures for the autumn. As a reminder, the school was the first of the Grandes Écoles to react at the beginning of March and to guarantee educational continuity by successfully switching all courses online.

Thomas Froehlicher, CEO and Dean of Rennes School of Business, explains: "Under the current regulatory measures, it is not possible to host 3,000 students on campus in September without restrictions. It is my responsibility to guarantee the safest and best possible welcome, learning and general experience for all our students, teachers and staff, under all circumstances, and in consultation with all stakeholders. That said, everything possible is being done to make life on our campus function as well as possible. It will be open and adapted to expand its reception areas, and through significant investment in technology, to consolidate the teams responsible for educational engineering and the faculty. "



A range of teaching formats adapted as closely as possible to students according to their programme

With regard to courses, four systems are offered as explained in the previous communication. The most innovative is eLive, which makes it possible to offer a course to some students in-person and, simultaneously, to other students remotely. This format has already launched in June for EMBA students and has performed to our satisfaction.

A video presenting the Flex Project is available online: <https://youtu.be/clqmRiXuDRI>

A quarter of the rooms will thus be equipped with appropriate audio-visual equipment by the end of the academic year.

This eLive format will be offered mainly to students in IBPM3, PGE3 and MSc. These groups are made up of many international students, most of whom will not be able to come to campus at the start of the academic year due to current travel constraints. Although the recent announcements by the French authorities on the issuance of visas for international students are very positive, the situation in certain areas, such as Latin America and China, must be taken into account. The eLive format therefore guarantees access to the programmes for all, including international students who may only be able to come to campus several months later.

Distance classes will also be prioritised for work-study trainees in the final year of the PGE in order to mitigate the challenge of having two accommodations, one on campus and one near the host company. 85% of work-study trainees are based in the Paris region.

Across the range of educational formats offered, face-to-face and on-site experiences will be prioritised for IBPM1, IBPM2, PGE1 and PGE2 in order to welcome these new students with the optimal level of support and successfully integrate them into Rennes School of Business. For the first and second years of the PGE, the School plans that 80% of time will be spent in classroom, and 20% of the time will be spent on distance learning, allowing for more in-depth independent teaching.

FIRST SEMESTER 2020-2021: TEACHING MODEL BY PROGRAMME



With regard to supporting students in their career path, the Talents & Career department will strengthen its measures and Rennes School of Business will continue its active participation in the EFMD Virtual Career Fairs launched last spring by EFMD and HigherEd. Several hundred students have already taken this opportunity to meet the largest international employers. Finally, the School, which launched the Initiative Bretagne Solidarité programme in May, will extend this to allow students to take advantage of the opportunity to experience corporate assignments, particularly within start-ups in the Brittany region.

Support for change and the use of tools for the entire Rennes School of Business community

Microsoft Teams is becoming the cornerstone for distance learning, student collaborations and interactions with school staff. Training will continue throughout the summer for the entire Faculty and will be extended to all students as soon as they begin classes. Moodle remains the Learning Management System for this academic year.

In addition to equipment, the IT team has been reinforced to support these long-term changes.



New spaces developed on campus for a better welcome

The main building (no. 1) has been open to staff since 2nd June, with all facilities necessary to comply with health rules. Via a pre-registration platform, students who wish to do so can also return. Similarly, small group visits are offered to prospective and future students, as well as their families, to discover the campus before the start of the academic year.

During the summer, developments will continue to strengthen the reception capacity of the campus: extensions will be added to building 1, the cafeteria will be completely renovated and a terrace will be added, and marquees will be installed in the outdoor spaces to increase the number of spaces available for use. Onboarding, meaning the administrative and personalised welcome offered to each student, will take place flexibly: mainly via an online platform, and at multiple reception desks to avoid creating large groups.

1,500 spaces open per day on campus

For the first half of the year, based on current health recommendations, it will be possible to simultaneously accommodate up to 1,500 people: 1,000 spaces in classrooms, 250 spaces for associations in dedicated spaces (pre-registration online) and 250 spaces for staff and teachers. These capacities may be adjusted based on changes in the health situation. The traditional back-to-school Design Sprints will continue, and will take place in different rooms on campus and online for workshops or plenary sessions, rather than in the large amphitheatre as usual. For AST2, campus games and city tours will be replaced by another Design Sprint around the theme of student associations, in order to co-construct the projects and organisations of the new associations' clubs. More than ever, student facilitators will play a crucial role in leading these creative and collective events.

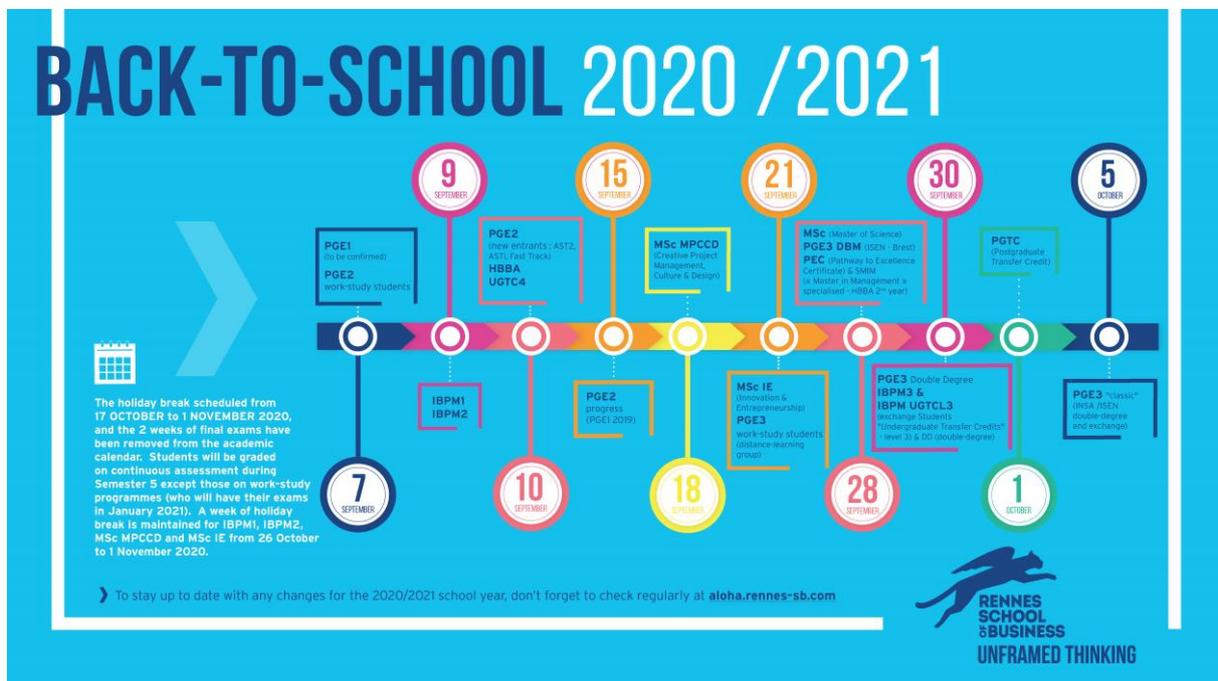
Student life will be lively, even in the context of health restrictions, with new dedicated spaces and digital tools which will excite members of associations, given that the old premises on the inner street are currently very limited in their capacity. The Student Advisory Board, delegates and representatives of associations are involved in organising student life in this specific context.

Finally, the graduation ceremony initially scheduled to be held in June 2020 is postponed to June 2021 so as not to penalise the class concerned and to offer graduates and their families this long-awaited moment of pride and joy.

Investments in line with the mission of the School

Thomas Froehlicher explains: “Students who join the School at the start of the academic year will thus benefit not only from additional investments and a guarantee of the best possible conditions for their studies, but also from the experience accumulated over the past 29 years, which make the Rennes School of Business one of the best French schools in terms of academic excellence, recognised by a growing number of accreditations and rankings. A School means a permanent presence in the teaching and administrative teams, on a campus that is continuously growing and engaged in a constant effort to gain visibility and recognition at the global level. More than ever, the School's associative and independent status, and recognised by the Higher Education Institution of General Interest label by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, guarantees the reinvestment of resources for the benefit of students and graduates. ”

As a reminder, here are the start dates of the different programmes:



(1) Voice internal survey of 960 students, May 2020



About Rennes School of Business

Rennes School of Business is an international management school located in Ille-et-Vilaine, Brittany. Rennes School of Business offers the opportunity to experiment with diversified management practices from across the world and to develop the essential skills that companies need. Cosmopolitan Management School - 95% of professors and 55% of students are international - Rennes School of Business offers a wide range of programmes whose mission is to enable students to effectively act outside the box and invent the world of tomorrow. #UnframedThinking
EQUIS, AACSB, AMBA accredited | 4500 students | 300 major partner universities on 5 continents.
More information at: www.rennes-sb.com

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