

## Savoir-Faire in a Turbulent World

Geopolitics.and.Systems.Thinking.in.Paris

### Course description

The world is changing faster than most strategy frameworks can keep up. Trade wars reshape supply chains overnight. AI disrupts entire industries before regulators can respond. A cathedral in Paris burns — and the story of its reconstruction reveals as much about geopolitics, national identity, and corporate strategy as any boardroom case study.

Savoir\_Faire.in.a.Turbulent.World is a one-week immersive program hosted by HEC Paris that challenges MBA students to think differently about the forces shaping tomorrow's business environment, with France (and, at times, the broader European continent) as a live case study.

This program is an intensive, on-the-ground experience, based on hands-on exercises, encounters with world-class experts, and visits to some of Paris's most iconic institutions. It is design to equip future leaders with the systems thinking skills they need to navigate complexity, uncertainty, and disruption, and to apply it to the case of France. Participants will learn to connect the dots between what's on the front page of the Financial.Times and what should be on the agenda of their Monday morning leadership meeting. They will wrestle with questions that have no clean answers: How do geopolitical shifts affect your value chain? What does "Made in France" mean in a fractured global order? And what kind of leader does a turbulent world actually need?

Whether you're headed into consulting, tech, finance, or entrepreneurship, this week will change the way you read the news, and the way you lead.

### Learning outcomes

By the end of this program, participants will be able to:

- Apply systems thinking frameworks to diagnose non-linear, complex business environments.
- Identify structural forces driving global change.
- Translate geopolitical disruptions into actionable strategic business insights.
- Use French savoir\_faire across luxury, innovation, and diplomacy as a comparative lens to evaluate sources of national and corporate competitiveness in a fragmented global order.
- Build a cross-cultural professional network of peers from leading business schools, leveraging diverse perspectives to stress-test their own strategic assumptions.

## Tentative schedule

### Monday — Welcome to the World We Live In

Location: HEC Paris Campus

Session	Description
Morning	Opening Keynote & Course Overview
Afternoon	Systems Thinking Workshop
Evening	Welcome Reception – French Touch event

### Tuesday — Paris as a Strategic Lens

Location: Central Paris — Site Visits

Session	Description
Morning	Workshop at a French research institute
Midday	Station F (incubator)
Afternoon	Innovation Lab Visit
Evening	Free evening to explore Paris.

## Wednesday — Expert Perspectives

Location: HEC Paris Campus

Session	Description
Morning	Guest Lectures
Afternoon	The Art of Savoir-Faire – workshop

## Thursday — Made in France: Identity, Luxury, and Resilience

Location: Central Paris

Session	Description
Morning	Notre-Dame de Paris — A guided visit with Prof. Anne Michaut. Why did the fire move the world? What does the reconstruction reveal about French identity, global branding, and the role of luxury houses (LVMH, Kering) in cultural preservation?
Late Morning	Workshop
Afternoon	Visit to La Concorde and Case study work session at the HEC Alumni Association.
Late Afternoon	Debrief with Anne Michaut — Synthesizing the day's insights.
Evening	Networking Reception

## Friday — The Leader the Future Needs

Location: HEC Paris Campus

Session	Description
Morning	Conclusion: So who leads in this world? With what savoir-faire?
Morning	Certificate Ceremony & Closing — Celebration and group photo.
Afternoon	Departure — participants released for travel.