

PRESS RELEASE

In Paris, on September 25th, 2019**Crédit Agricole CIB and HEC Paris create a Corporate Initiative dedicated to mergers and acquisitions**

Crédit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank, HEC Paris and the HEC Foundation announce the signing of a partnership to create the first Corporate Initiative for mergers and acquisitions. The aim of this educational initiative, which promotes the spread of knowledge and exchange between the academic world and the business world, is to encourage and promote teaching and applied research in this field.

During their professional lives, HEC Paris students will be called upon to deal, in one way or another, with various issues related to business co-operation, either directly, if they choose to pursue a career in the world of mergers and acquisitions, or more generally in the context of changes in the scope of activity of whichever company they choose to join. Mergers and acquisitions thus warrant special, broad-spectrum teaching to provide students with comprehensive training.

This Corporate Initiative draws on the expertise of HEC Paris' professors and that of professionals in the field alongside Crédit Agricole CIB's teams, offering an educational approach that is unique in France and Europe with the "M&A Certificate".

The M&A Certificate is an intensive training course for carefully selected postgraduate students at HEC Paris. The programme is multidisciplinary in nature and covers all the major topics around mergers and acquisitions: Finance, Strategy, Law, Taxation, Due Diligence, Private Equity, Corporate M&A, the cultural aspects of mergers, integration issues, etc.

Combining the skills of an internationally recognised business school with those of a leading financial institution, this initiative goes beyond the academic sphere to transmit knowledge and best practices to students with high potential, and will also promote reflection and applied research in the field of mergers and acquisitions.

The management of this Corporate Initiative has been given to Marc Vermeulen, Affiliate Professor of Finance at HEC Paris.

Didier Gaffinel, Head of Coverage & Investment Banking and H el ene Combe-Guillemet
Head of Investment Banking:

“Cr dit Agricole CIB is very happy with the launch of this partnership. As a major player in mergers and acquisitions, particularly in France, where it is a Tier 1 advisory bank, Cr dit Agricole CIB also offers young talent trained at HEC Paris an international perspective thanks to its various locations. This Corporate Initiative is also an opportunity to reflect on developments in the complex and exciting business of M&A consulting.”

Peter Todd, Dean of HEC Paris, says: *“We are delighted with this “Mergers and Acquisitions” Corporate Initiative, which allows us to expand our offering of sectoral expertise, now with 8 certificates. Collaborating with a partner like Cr dit Agricole CIB enriches our educational scope and fosters the creation and spread of new knowledge. Co-operation between the academic world and the business world allows us to make a tangible impact on new academic and societal models. I sincerely thank Cr dit Agricole CIB for the trust they have shown us.”*

About Cr dit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank (Cr dit Agricole CIB)

Cr dit Agricole CIB is the corporate and investment banking arm of Credit Agricole Group, the 12th largest banking group worldwide in terms of Tier 1 capital (The Banker, July 2019). Nearly 8,300 employees across Europe, the Americas, Asia-Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa support the Bank's clients, meeting their financial needs throughout the world. Cr dit Agricole CIB offers large corporate and institutional clients a broad range of products and services in the capital markets, investment banking, structured financing, commercial banking and international trade businesses. As a pioneer in Climate finance, the Bank has secured a leading position in this segment with a comprehensive range of products and services for all customers.

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About HEC Paris

Specialised in the field of research and education in management sciences, HEC Paris offers a unique portfolio of trainings designed for tomorrow's decision-makers: the Grande Ecole programme, the Specialised Masters, MSc, Summer School, MBA , Executive MBA, the TRIUM Global Executive MBA, PhD and a broad range of programmes for executives and managers.

Founded in 1881 by the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry, HEC Paris has 140 permanent professors and trains over 4,500 students and 8,000 executives and managers every year.

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About the HEC Foundation

Founded in 1972 and recognised as a public-interest organisation in 1973, the HEC Foundation's mission is to contribute to the funding of HEC's major areas of strategic focus. Each year, it supports the development of HEC Paris (7% of the School's operating budget) by funding:

- scholarships awarded to students regardless of their social or national origins,

- educational innovation and the development of digital technologies,
- academic excellence and research in management and management sciences,
- entrepreneurship and support for business creation.