

ESCP Europe (London) has not been afraid to tackle the questions and challenges thrown up by a rapidly changing political and commercial environment – and in doing so via a wide range of pioneering initiatives it has claimed the title of Business School of the Year.

Responding to Brexit, the school put politicians from the UK and continental Europe together with leading industry figures for a series of "Re-thinking Europe" events. It launched a collaborative book project in which students worked with Nicole Fontaine, former president of the European Parliament. Such activities cemented the school as a symbol of not only Anglo-French cooperation but also as a distinctly European UK institution.

The school launched a new MBA in international management and a new executive master's in automation and digital transformation, run in collaboration with the advanced robotics company Comau, as a direct response to a call in the UK government's industrial strategy to develop executives for the fourth industrial revolution. ESCP also expanded its innovative bachelor's programme, which moves students across three European countries in three years and taps into its network of six European sites.

The judges were particularly impressed by ESCP's European electric vehicle road trip, in which students took two weeks to visit 10 countries across Europe to encourage the use of carbon-neutral transport and the reduction of emissions.

They praised ESCP for undertaking activities that were not only responsive but also innovative. "Higher education is not always credited with being quick to respond to changing business and political environments, but this business school managed to deal with changing government priorities in an engaging way, producing programmes around Brexit and the industrial strategy," the panel said.