

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

High-Fliers Going it Alone to Beat the Recession

For immediate release

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Growing numbers of successful businesspeople are taking MBA courses so they can start their own companies.

High-fliers who are worried about lack of promotion prospects – or the prospect of redundancy – are looking to seize control of their own destiny by going it alone.

Figures from the QS World MBA Tour, which runs a worldwide tour of fairs for prospective MBA students, show a 10% leap in aspiring entrepreneurs – those who take the course so they can become self-employed. Nearly a third more students are specialising in entrepreneurship – up from 34% to 42%.

And more prospective MBA students than ever before say they expect to be running their own business in 10 years – up to 27% – according to the QS TopMBA Applicant Survey, which questioned nearly 4,000 MBA applicants from around the world.

The huge success of online startups that have grown to become global phenomena such as Facebook and Twitter have given MBAs the confidence to start their own business upon graduation or join smaller entrepreneurial organisations. Some schools are reporting that 10% or more have chosen to do so.

Colleen Clark, human resources vice-president at US outdoor clothing firm Eastern Mountain Sports spelled out the benefits of MBAs to entrepreneurs – including the ability to make young firms profitable more quickly.

She said: “MBAs bring business acumen, creative thinking and new knowledge – technology, people, branding and product development – to a business. They cut down on lag time between start up and return on investment.”

Zoya Zaitseva, Senior Operations Manager of the QS World MBA Tour said: “These figures show more and more students are looking to make themselves recession-proof – by putting their fate in their own hands rather than hoping for opportunities to arise within their present companies.”

“This is also reflected in significantly more students specialising in entrepreneurship as they seek to build up the leadership and organisational skills that will enable them to set up their own business.”

The QS World MBA Tour will be visiting the Middle East from the 9th of December till the 15th of December in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh and Manama. Candidates can register now for free at www.topmba.com

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Sources: QSTopMBA.com Salary & Recruitment Trends 2009 report; QSTopMBA.com Applicant Survey 2009 Report.

QS World MBA Tour

The QS World MBA Tour is the largest program of recruitment and information fairs for business school applicants. In 2009 over 80,000 potential applicants registered to visit 74 events in 35 countries.

The QS World MBA Tour offers a unique opportunity to meet admissions officers of the world's most influential business schools at venues around the world. Now in its sixteenth year, the Tour will consist of 85 events across 42 countries over five continents during 2010.

The QS team of over 100 individuals from the four corners of the world represent the experience and goals of the achievers we aim to assist. They include internationally recognised experts in the higher and business education arena.

QS operates globally from offices in London, Stuttgart, Paris, Singapore, Tokyo, Shanghai, Sydney, Washington DC, Boston, and Johannesburg.

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