

Melbourne school merger

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Melbourne Business School and the University of Melbourne have announced plans to merge.

The business school merger, with the university's faculty of economics and commerce, will create a new faculty of Business and Economics at Melbourne University, operated by Melbourne Business School Ltd.

This will be the second merger Melbourne Business School has experienced in recent years. In 2004 it merged with executive education provider Mt Eliza Business School in Victoria.

In this latest merger, Mt Eliza Executive Education will become the new faculty's executive education arm - Melbourne Executive Education - offering open and tailored programmes. Melbourne Business School will offer business and economics graduate programmes, including the MBA, whilst a school of economics and commerce will offer undergraduate business degrees.

The new entity plans to establish a different governing structure, with business, government and community leaders having "a substantial direct investment and meaningful role in governance through a board of management."

Business school mergers are becoming a familiar theme across the globe.

In 1998 the Australian Graduate School of Management of the University of New South Wales merged with the Graduate School of Business at the University of Sydney. The University of Sydney ended its association with the school in 2005 and last year AGSM merged with the faculty of commerce and economics at the University of New South Wales. It is now known as the Australian School of Business.

In France, Ceram Business School and ESC Lille announced their merger in June, creating the largest French business school in terms of student numbers. Whilst in the UK, Henley Management College and Reading University joined forces in the second half of last year, with Henley now being known as Henley Business School at the University of Reading.

Financial Times, London, Aug. 7th 2009, Business Education, online.