



Portrait of an EMBA Student

DESPITE THE tough economic conditions, the quality of EMBA students remains high, according to the 2011 Membership Program Survey conducted by the Executive MBA Council, based in Orange County, California. Every metric that reflects the type of student attending EMBA programs was up in the 2011 survey, for which data was collected last summer. Nearly 290 member programs participated. The survey produced findings in a number of areas:

■ *Student caliber.* Today's students have slightly more managerial experience—8.5 years, compared to 8.3 in 2007. They also have more work experience, 13.3 years compared to 13 in 2007. The average GPA remains constant at 3.2.

■ *Tuition.* The percentage of students receiving full financial sponsorship from employers has declined from 34 percent in 2007 to 27 percent in 2011, but 36 percent of students now receive partial reimbursement, up from 34 percent in 2007. At the same time, total program cost has increased 23 percent in the past five years.

■ *Program structure.* The average program is 20 months long and enrolls 42 students with an average age of 37.1; of these, 75 percent are male. Sixty-six percent of programs require an international trip, with China being the most popular destination. The number of trips to Turkey and Chile has quadrupled since 2007. The percentage of program content delivered online has remained constant at 7 percent, but programs providing online content are increasing their asynchronous delivery.

■ *Alumni outreach.* Schools are hosting more alumni events, using social networking to connect former students, expanding alumni career services, and leveraging or founding alumni committees or boards.

More information about the organization can be found at www.executiveMBA.org.