John Quelch to leave LBS

John Quelch, dean of London Business School, is to step down from his post at the end of the academic year.

The move has taken the school - number eight in the world according to the Financial Times MBA 2000 rankings - by surprise. Prof Quelch joined the school less than three years ago and would have been expected to be there for at least five years.

A spokesperson for LBS said that Prof Quelch was leaving for personal reasons. It is thought that he and his American-born wife, Joyce will return to their Boston home in July, but it is not known what position Prof Quelch will take up.

Prof Quelch, 49, joined LBS as dean on July 1 1998 from Harvard Business School, where he was head of marketing. Although British by birth, he has worked mainly in the US. He beat three internal candidates for the job at LBS: David Currie (Lord Currie of Marylebone), who is now the new dean at City University Business School; Tom Robertson, who subsequently became dean of Emory University's Goizueta Business School, Georgia; and Michael Earl, who is professor of information management at the school.

Since taking on the role Prof Quelch has proved himself to be a mover and a shaker at the school. He was a driving force behind LBS's decision last May to update their knowledge.

The sessions will be delivered via Digital Island. "You are going to see exactly what is happening in the class. I think it could be much more exciting for the students watching the webcast than a scripted videotape."

Prof Harvey believes Duke's pioneering move will have significant implications for the MBA model. "In the future people who are enrolled in one school may be able to diversify and tap into the Duke web. There is real potential here. I am serving a niche of the market that has not been served before."

This year the virtual students watching around the world will not be able to take part in any discussions but in the future Prof Harvey envisages a facility to field e-mail questions live.

The course will also be available in archive form for virtual students unable to view the live broadcast.

Last year the Fuqua school spun off its client-based executive education department into a profit-making company, with the aim of delivering high-quality executive education to every layer of management in the world's largest corporations.

The new company, Duke Corporate Education, hopes that within 10 years it will have an annual revenue of $10bn (6.7bn). Fuqua: www.fuqua.duke.edu