

flyingstart



Names - Will Hayler and Linley Lewis
Ages - 26 years and 27 years
Business: Ticket to Ride
Service: Specialist providers in worldwide surf adventure courses
Website: www.ttride.co.uk
University - Newcastle University/ University of Birmingham

Business Aim - The core aim of Ticket to Ride Limited is to remain the number one provider of gap year, mini gap and career break surf adventure courses.

- Second to this the aim for Ticket to Ride to expand its courses to include winter ski and snow-board adventures.

- Finally the long-term aim for Ticket to Ride is to become the established platform for people to lead more fulfilling lifestyles through extreme sports.

Brief description of business: Currently Ticket to Ride offers its 'Riders' the opportunity to learn to surf and gain globally recognised qualifications as surf instructors / beach lifeguards. Also to travel to developing countries and put something back into the local community.

At a glance....
Started Trading: January 2006
Turnover: £350,000
Investment: £35,000
Number of employees: 6

Business growth: Increased turnover by £100k each year since January 2006.

Business achievements: Produced a net profit in second year of trading. Awarded South East Young Entrepreneurs of the year at the SEEDA Business Awards 2008.

Ticket to Ride on how Flying Start has helped:

The Flying Start programme held at Reading University in March 2006 enabled us to experience the benefit of business mentoring and also introduced us to the Surrey Enterprise Hub. As Portfolio members we have been able to draw on a wide range of business resources which we continue to benefit from.

About the FlyingStart Programme

This 12-month business start-up programme for new entrepreneurs is delivered by the NCGE and supported by the UK Government's Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). An intensive three-day residential training course is followed by 12 months of specialist mentoring and support. The aim is to have 60% of all graduates trading within one year. FlyingStart ensures all new graduate businesses have a ready-made national and regional network, a dedicated mentor, appreciate the 'know-hows and know-whos' of practical business, and understand how to make money.