

NUS ranked top varsity in Asia for fifth year running



It keeps 11th spot from last year in global ranking; NTU slips to 19th from 12th amid tight competition

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The National University of Singapore (NUS) has been named Asia's best university in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) annual higher education ranking, while Nanyang Technological University (NTU) slipped several notches.

In the latest ranking, NUS came in 11th globally, retaining its place from last year, while NTU took 19th place, down from 12th last year.

NUS has held the top position among Asian universities for the past five years in Britain-based higher education analysis firm QS' ranking.

It also comes out ahead of institutions such as the University of Pennsylvania, The University of Edinburgh, Princeton University and Yale University.

Meanwhile, NTU lost its spot as the second-best university in Asia to China's Peking University.

This year's QS table is the largest, comprising 1,418 universities, up from 1,300 last year.

Globally, the top 10 continued to be dominated by American and British universities.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the United States topped the list, while the University of Cambridge in Britain came in second.

Stanford University, the University of Oxford and Harvard University rounded up the top five.

Same as last year, the only university in the top 10 outside the US and Britain was the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, which came in at ninth place.

QS evaluated the institutions on six indicators: academic reputation, reputation among employers, citations per faculty member, faculty to student ratio, ratio of international faculty members and ratio of international students.

The results are based on 16.4 million academic papers published between 2016 and 2020 and 117.8 million citations received by those

papers. They also account for the opinions of more than 151,000 academic faculty and over 99,000 employers.

This year, two additional factors were also considered: employment outcomes and international research network, which measures the extent and volume of global collaboration.

QS said in a statement that competition is "very tight" among the world's top 20 universities.

"Although NTU's overall score dropped just 2.4 points (from 90.8 to 88.4), even a minor change can make a substantive difference at the top of the table," it said.

Some of the factors that contributed to NTU's drop were citations per faculty, employer reputation, and faculty to student ratio.

Still, QS senior vice-president Ben Sowter said in the statement that NTU has been among the top 20 globally for seven consecutive years, and moved up from a decade ago when it was ranked 58th.

This is an achievement for an institution that was founded as recently as 1991, he said.

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Top 20

2023 rank	2022 rank	Institution	Location
1	1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	US
2	3	University of Cambridge	Britain
3	3	Stanford University	US
4	2	University of Oxford	Britain
5	5	Harvard University	US
6	6	California Institute of Technology	US
6	7	Imperial College London	Britain
8	8	University College London	Britain
9	8	ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology	Switzerland
10	10	University of Chicago	US
11	11	National University of Singapore	Singapore
12	18	Peking University	China
13	13	University of Pennsylvania	US
14	17	Tsinghua University	China
15	16	The University of Edinburgh	Britain
16	14	Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne	Switzerland
16	20	Princeton University	US
18	14	Yale University	US
19	12	Nanyang Technological University	Singapore
20	21	Cornell University	US

Source: QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

The National University of Singapore came out ahead of institutions such as the University of Pennsylvania, The University of Edinburgh, Princeton University and Yale University in the latest Quacquarelli Symonds ranking.

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