NUS among top 10 in global university ranking for first time

It is first from Asia to be in top rung, rising from No. 11; NTU falls from 19th to 26th place

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The National University of Singapore (NUS) has broken into the top 10 in a global ranking of institutions for the first time. It emerged eighth in the latest Britain-based Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2024 released on Wednesday. It was previously 11th in the 2023 edition, which was released in 2022. It is the highest-ranked Asian university and the first from Asia to be placed among the top 10 in the table, which is dominated by universities from the United States and Britain.

The chart is topped by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, as it was in previous years, followed by the University of Cambridge and University of Oxford. Harvard University is fourth, and Stanford University fifth. The latest QS ranking is the 20th edition and features updated methodology using three new metrics — an institution’s commitment to sustainability, employment outcomes, and international research network.

QS has also made some changes to the weighting of some existing indicators: academic reputation, employer reputation and faculty-to-student ratio. For example, academic reputation is now worth 30 per cent, down from 40 per cent, while employer reputation is accorded 15 per cent instead of 20 per cent previously. NUS came in seventh for employment outcomes and 15th for academic reputation. It ranks 54th globally for employer reputation and 64th for citations per faculty, which measures research impact.

In a statement, NUS president Tan Eng Chye said: “This is a historic first for NUS to be placed within the top 10 globally, amongst many other prestigious institutions worldwide. “This is a testament to our capabilities and commitment to providing a world-class and interdisciplinary education to nurture agile and resilient graduates with diverse skills and knowledge for an ever-changing world.”

He added: “This achievement was made possible by the excellent contributions and outstanding work of our talented faculty, staff and students who remain deeply committed to flying the flag of our distinguished quality of education and creating positive impact in the classroom and beyond.”

QS chief executive Jessica Turner said: “This unprecedented milestone marks a remarkable moment for Asian higher education and showcases NUS’ dedication to research excellence, innovation and sustainability.”

Nanyang Technological University was ranked 26th in the latest table, down from 8th in the previous edition.

Singapore Management University was in 64th position, and the Singapore University of Technology and Design made its debut in 439th place.