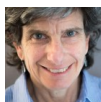


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# The World's Best New Universities 2014

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The World's Best New Universities 2014



## The World's Best New Universities 2014

*Times Higher Education*, a London magazine that covers higher ed, has put out a list of the world's 100 top schools that are less than 50 years old. Its criteria emphasize global scholarship and reputation. Measures include how often the schools are cited in academic research, the volume and impact of the research, the number of degrees awarded, staff-to-student ratios, diversity of the student body and responses to an

We all know the schools that come out on top in university rankings: Harvard, Yale, Stanford, MIT and a smattering of venerable British institutions like University of Oxford and University of Cambridge. American institutions dominate the rosters. But adventurous American students open to a challenging international experience should consider a list released today: the [Times Higher Education 100 Under 50](#). It's a tally of the 100 top universities in the world that are less than 50 years old, put out for the last three years by *Times Higher Education (THE)*, a weekly London magazine that tracks the higher ed market. "This list functions as a kind of hot list," says *THE's* rankings editor Phil Baty. "It's a mix of the bright young things and the institutions that will be the next generation of Harvards and MITs. It's an

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exciting, forward-looking list of some dynamic institutions.”


The No. 1 school for the third year in a row: Pohang University of Science and Technology in Pohang, South Korea, founded in 1986. Known as POSTECH, the school had an unprecedented beginning. The late Park Tai-joon, the head of POSCO, a major steel company located in the same city, founded it with a massive \$1.2 billion endowment. He modeled it on the [California Institute of Technology](#) in Pasadena, CA, with an emphasis on science and engineering. Its focus is to develop new technology that can bolster the Korean economy and to make sure that Korea produces home-grown talent. Though most of its student body is Korean, POSTECH is making an effort to attract foreign students. Since 2010 it has run as a bilingual institution with most of its lectures and faculty meetings held in English. The student body is relatively small, with 1,400 undergraduates and 1,900 graduate students. Tuition is only \$5,900 and the total cost per year is \$9,700.



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### America's Top Colleges 2013

Unlike the U.S. News & World Report rankings or Forbes' own college ranking system, *THE* does not measure things like entry requirements, graduation rates, SAT scores, professor ratings by students or alumni salaries. Instead it emphasizes global scholarship and reputation. For the past decade *THE* has also put out [a list of the world's top universities](#). It uses the same methodology for the under-50 ranking, though with a different weighting, putting less emphasis on international prestige, since the schools are still developing their reputations. It counts the number of times schools are cited in academic research, the impact of those citations on other research, and the volume, income and reputation of research the schools produce. It also looks at the number of degrees awarded to undergraduates and to academic staff, and teaching measures like staff-to-student ratios and does its own extensive reputation survey with 60,000 respondents. (For more on the methodology, click [here](#).)

Of the schools on the under-50 list, the top 15 all rank on *THE*'s list of the top 200 universities, establishing themselves as competitors with the world's top schools. But Baty says that the schools on the under-50 list are more oriented toward helping students build practical skills that they can use in the workplace, rather than the ivory tower. Says Baty, “these institutions spend less time doing blue-sky research, and more time working directly with businesses on real-world solutions to business problems, and creating technological advances with immediate and direct commercial outcomes.”

No. 2 on the list, École Polytechnique Fédérale de

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Caroline Howard  
Forbes Staff

Lausanne, traces its roots back farther than 50 years. It started out as part of an institution founded by the Swiss government in 1853. But in 1969 it split from the larger University of Lausanne and then established its own campus in a suburb southwest of the city in 1978. Like Postech, EPFL emphasizes science and engineering. Still run by the Swiss government, it has its own nuclear reactor which it uses to teach physics. EPFL has a student body of 9,900, including graduate students, and its tuition is a low \$1,400.

The third school on the list is another Korean university, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) in the city of Daejeon. It was founded by the South Korean government in 1971 as a graduate school; the undergraduate program was added in 1984. KAIST has a similar emphasis to the top two schools on the list, with a focus on science and engineering. In 2009 it merged with another state school, the Information and Communications University. Like Postech, KAIST enjoys support from companies that want to take advantage of its research. It also boasts a prolific scholarly output, publishing many papers in international journals and getting cited and shared by academics. KAIST has some 10,250 students including 670 international students. The school offers tuition subsidies for all students. Freshmen get a full subsidy, worth \$6,800, for the academic year. Students who maintain a GPA of 2.7 and above enjoy the full subsidy throughout their time at KAIST. Those scoring below 2.7 get half their tuition subsidized. Last year KAIST got a new president, Sungo-Mo "Steve" Kang, who studied in the U.S. and worked as a professor at University of Illinois and as dean of the engineering school at [University of California, Santa Cruz](#).

One school that's moved up the ranking: Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, which went from eighth to fifth place. It opened in 1991 as an engineering school and has since expanded far beyond, with a focus on science, technology and international partnerships, including one with Imperial College, London, for a new medical school. Nanyang also works closely with auto makers like Rolls Royce, Volvo and BMW, which support its programs. Tuition for international students, at \$27,000, is higher than many other schools on the list but still lower than private U.S. universities like Harvard, which charges \$42,000.

One more school Baty says is up and coming as a destination for international students: Maastricht University in the Netherlands, where roughly half of the school's 16,000 students come from outside the country. It ranks No. 6 on the list. Tuition for international students: \$14,000.

The highest-ranked U.S. school comes in at No. 5, the [University of California, Irvine](#), founded in 1965 to accommodate the growing number of students enrolling in the U.C. system. It has 30,000 students, including 23,000 undergraduates. Out-of-state tuition is fairly high at \$34,000. There are just seven other U.S. schools on the list, including U.C. Santa Cruz at No. 11, [University of Illinois, Chicago](#), at No. 13 and University of Texas at Dallas, No. 15. While U.S. schools dominate *THE*'s general world ranking, taking 76 of the top 100 slots, many top U.S. schools trace their lineage back to the 19th century.

Internationally-minded American students should keep the low costs of some of the top new universities in mind, especially now that the total four-year cost for a highly-ranked private U.S. school like [University of Chicago](#) is more than a quarter of a million dollars. Aside from KAIST, which pays the total tuition for students with strong grade point averages, the two French universities in *THE*'s top 10 offer great deals. At Université Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris, undergraduate tuition is just \$250, and the French government subsidizes most of that and other college costs. At Université Paris-Sud in Orsay tuition is totally free for all students.

Baty says the under-50 list shows how much the world of higher education is changing, with both the private and public sectors in many countries outside the US and the UK investing in young universities. He encourages American and British students to consider doing both their undergraduate and graduate work overseas. "If you're an ambitious student, you can get a fantastic education in Singapore or Hong Kong. You'd be at the heart of Eastern cultural understanding and at the center of the booming economies of the East."

For *THE*'s complete list of the top 100 universities under 50 years old, click [here](#).

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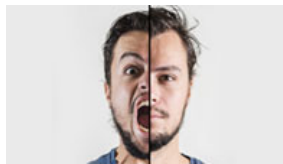
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