

NUS tops Asia uni rankings for 3rd year

NTU drops one place to joint fifth, amid rising competition from China and Hong Kong

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The National University of Singapore (NUS) has been ranked as the top university in Asia by the London-based Times Higher Education magazine for the third year in a row.

NUS improved its scores in almost all areas, picking up extra points for its teaching, research, citation impact and knowledge transfer.

It was followed by China's Tsinghua University in second place and Peking University in third.

Nanyang Technological Univer-

sity (NTU) also improved in most areas, but dropped one place to be ranked joint fifth with Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. NTU was overtaken by University of Hong Kong in fourth place.

Both NUS and NTU achieved high scores in all areas of the ranking, particularly in citation impact and international outlook.

Times Higher Education (THE) said the main trend in this year's Asia rankings is the continued rise of China, which now claims almost one in five places in the rankings.

Mr Phil Baty, editorial director of global rankings at THE, said: "Singapore is the shining star of the THE

Asia University Rankings, thanks to its sustained support of its two leading institutions.

"But while NUS still clings on to the No. 1 spot, NTU's position has declined for the second year in a row due to increased competition from China and Hong Kong."

He said NUS' achievement is particularly impressive as it comes against a background of increasingly intense competition, especially from China.

THE Asia University Rankings uses 13 performance indicators, such as research performance, teaching environment and research citations. The 2018 ranking has expanded to include 359 universities, up from 298 last year.

NUS president Tan Eng Chye said it is an affirmation of its "strong progress as a leading global centre

of education and research" and "strong recognition" of quality work by faculty, staff and students.

Meanwhile, NTU president Subra Suresh noted that NTU has made impressive progress in a very short time, having risen from No. 11 when THE Asia rankings began in 2013.

"NTU continues to make overall progress including in the areas of research, international outlook and industry engagement," he said.

He added that NTU is tops among Singapore universities in three areas – citations per paper, industry income and international outlook.

Professor Suresh, who was hand-picked by former United States president Barack Obama to helm the National Science Foundation in the US, took over the helm at NTU last month. He said Singapore universities will face growing chal-

lenges as they compete with the rest of Asia and the world for the best talents and resources.

He added: "Singapore is new to the global innovation game, and will face formidable competition from the traditional Asian giants, China and India, that have young and dynamic populations, and other universities that are steadily catching up."

"The challenge for us is to be nimble and to continue to attract, nurture and retain top talent, and establish strategic partnerships with leading academic and industrial organisations."

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• For the full table and analysis, go to <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2018/regional-ranking>