

NUS and NTU tie as Asia's top university



With Nanyang Technological University's improvement, global higher education consultancy Quacquarelli Symonds says the prospect of a Singapore university entering the world's top 10 has increased.

PHOTO: The Straits Times

THE STRAITS TIMES | Jun 19, 2019

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) has joined the National University of Singapore (NUS) in the top spot in Asia in an annual global ranking of universities that is read by educational institutions and governments.

In the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings released this morning, NTU rose by one position and NUS retained its rank from last year, to share the top spot in Asia and 11th place in the world.

The Singapore Management University (SMU) climbed to 477th position from 500th last year.

The top three institutions worldwide on the list, which is in its 16th edition, are all from the United States: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University and Harvard University.

The QS rankings employ six performance indicators to assess a university's strengths in research, teaching, employability and internationalisation.

Global higher education consultancy QS said the latest result "sees the prospect of a Singaporean university entering the world's top 10 increase with NTU's improvement".

QS research director Ben Sowter said: "Prolonged appearances among the global top 20 have ensured that Singapore's leading universities have earned the right to classify

themselves among the world's leading universities, according to our methodology and data set."

NTU received higher scores than NUS in faculty-to-student ratio and citations per faculty, an indicator of institutional research impact. NTU moved up 10 positions to 36th for research citations per faculty, with the highest score of 88.8 out of 100 among the three local institutions.

But NUS is more well-known among academics and employers than NTU, staying at 11th in the world for academic reputation with a score of 99.8, based on responses from over 94,000 academics.

With a score of 99.2, NUS also moved up four places to 14th for employer reputation, which is based on feedback from more than 44,000 employers about the quality of an institution's graduates.

How they rank

Latest	Previous	Institution
1	1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2	2	Stanford University
3	3	Harvard University
4	5	University of Oxford
5	4	California Institute of Technology
6	7	ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology)
7	6	University of Cambridge
8	10	UCL (University College London)
9	8	Imperial College London
10	9	University of Chicago
11	12	Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
11	11	National University of Singapore (NUS)
477	500	Singapore Management University (SMU)

Source: QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS
STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

NUS, NTU and SMU scored full marks for international faculty ratio, which measures the proportion of non-local faculty at an institution.

But compared with global faculty count, they received lower scores for international student ratio, which looks at the proportion of foreign students at an institution and provides an indicator of its ability to attract global talent.

NTU and NUS said the QS rankings show their efforts in research and education are being recognised. NUS and NTU have some 39,000 and 32,000 students respectively.

An NTU spokesman said that along with the appointment of Professor Subra Suresh as president in January last year, the new leadership team has overseen the hiring of top talent in the past 1 1/2 years.

For instance, the Presidential Post-doctoral Fellowship programme, started last year, attracted applications from nearly 900 young people from top global institutions for 12 positions this year.

It also set up in March the NTU Institute of Science and Technology for Humanity to study the impact of technology on society.

An NUS spokesman said: "We are honoured that many academics and employers around the world continue to regard NUS as among the best in Asia and globally... The remarkable global standing of our local universities attests to the quality of Singapore's higher education system."

Source: <https://www.asiaone.com/singapore/nus-and-ntu-tie-asias-top-university>