

S'pore's higher education system top in Asia; NUS Civil and Structural Engineering world's 2nd best

BY LOW YOUJIN



TODAY file photo The National University of Singapore's Civil & Structural Engineering department clinched the second spot in the 2019 QS World University Rankings by Subject, moving up by four ranks from last year's 6th position.

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SINGAPORE — The National University of Singapore's (NUS) Civil and Structural Engineering department has overtaken the University of Cambridge and the University of California at Berkeley to clinch second spot in a global ranking of varsity departments.

It is the highest rank achieved by a local university in the latest [QS World University Rankings by Subject](#), released on Feb 27 by higher education analysts Quacquarelli Symonds. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) took top spot for the subject. NUS placed sixth in last year's rankings.

The Republic's higher education system has also emerged top in Asia, the QS survey revealed, with 14 university departments here ranked in the global top 10 list for their respective fields — nine from NUS and five from the Nanyang Technological University (NTU). NTU's Material Sciences department, for example, maintained its position as the third best in the world.

The number of Singapore university departments ranked in the global top 10 is more than the combined totals of China, with four departments on the list, Hong Kong and Japan, with three departments each.

“No other Asian location has a top-10 university in any subject table,” said QS, a company which provides information on higher education and career choices.

Singapore’s universities are also improving, with 41 of 76 departments here rising in the ranks year-on-year.

“These results come in the context of widespread Asian malaise at the very top, with China, South Korea, Hong Kong and Japan all regressing”, said QS.

RANKING OF S’PORE’S TOP 14 UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENTS

NUS

Subject	2019	2018
Architecture/Built Environment	8	10
Chemistry	7	7
Computer Science & Information Systems	10	10
Engineering (Chemical)	7 (shares the spot with California Institute of Technology)	9
Engineering (Civil & Structural)	2	6
Engineering (Electrical & Electronic)	9 (shares the spot with Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne)	10
Environmental Sciences	10	10
Geography	8	10
Statistics & Operation Research	9	11

NTU

Subject	2019	2018
Chemistry	9	11
Communication & Media Studies	8	12
Engineering (Civil & Structural)	10	21
Engineering (Electrical & Electronic)	6	12
Material Sciences	3	3

NTU RETAINS RANK; SMU BREAKS INTO BUSINESS TOP 50

NTU kept its spot as the world’s third-best university for the study of Material Science. The first and second spot are held by MIT and Stanford University respectively.

And for Business and Management, the Singapore Management University (SMU) reached its highest-ever rank — 41st — breaking into the top 50 for the first time since 2015.

‘S’PORE’S ASCENDANCY’

Mr Ben Sowter, Director of Research at QS, said: “Singapore has long been Asia’s most successful higher education system in our rankings, but there is some evidence that its ascendancy may be beginning to increase further.”

While China, Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan saw their number of top-10 and top-20 places increase, he noted that Singapore is the only major Asian higher education system to “record consistent improvements”.

“This is driven by the increasing desirability of Singaporean graduates, with the average score achieved by its universities for our Employer Reputation indicator rising this year.”

Mr Sowter also stressed the importance of a nation cultivating a successful system.

“The best higher education sectors are those that serve an entire population — Singapore’s trajectory could see it take a global number-one rank in our subject tables in future years, while its universities have come close to entering the global top-10 in the overall QS World University Rankings,” he said.

He added that these would be “significant milestones” for a “group of universities that remain as ambitious as they are competitive”.

Source: <https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/spores-higher-education-system-ranked-top-asia-nus-civil-structural-engineering-worlds-2nd>