NUS slips 2 spots, NTU rises 3 places in rankings

Both S’pore varsities in global top 50; NUS pegged by two Chinese units as Asia’s No. 1

PHOTOS: GAVIN FOO, EPA-EFE

Last year, after three years in the running as Asia’s No. 1 university, the National University of Singapore (NUS) lost the title to Tsinghua University of China.

This year, it slid another two places, from 23rd to 25th globally, and was overtaken by yet another Chinese institution – Peking University – which placed second in Asia behind Tsinghua.

However, in the rankings released yesterday, the Singapore-based National University of Singapore (NUS) improved its standing by climbing three places to fourth.

Ms Ellie Bothwell, Times Higher Education (THE) rankings editor, said: “Singapore still produces well above its weight in higher education output.”

For such a small nation, to have seven of its universities placed in the global top 200 is fantastic achievement. However, NUS slipped to fifth place in the list showing that even Singapore – which is renowned for its leadership – has its limitations and that “we can never be the best.”

She added: “Singapore is well placed to continue to perform extremely well in the cut and highly competitive education market environment, but must be willing to look beyond its horizon and form the necessary strategic partnerships with institutions outside of the country.”

THE’s chief knowledge officer, Phil Baty, said: “NUS has not in any way diminished in its performance. What we have seen is that it has some of its main focused on our mission of educating, inspiring and transforming individuals and communities, in the strong desire to make quality contributions to Singapore and the global community.

The Singaporean government has invested heavily in its education to ensure that Singapore’s flagship university remains a leader in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The institution has made extensive efforts to attract top talent and retain them, ensuring that it remains competitive in the global higher education landscape.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings is a widely respected and authoritative ranking that assesses the performance of universities across 13 different metrics. These metrics are grouped into five areas: teaching (30%), research (30%), citations (30%), industry income (7%), and international outlook (7%).

University of Oxford, Imperial College London, and Stanford University remained in the top three spots, maintaining their positions in the rankings. The University of California, Berkeley, rose from fifth to second, while the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) rose from sixth to third. The University of Cambridge, meanwhile, dropped one place to third.

The US remains unequivocally the powerhouse of global research, with five of the world’s top 10 universities hailing from the US. However, the UK and China are making significant strides, with institutions like Imperial College London and Tsinghua University rising in the rankings.

Overall, British and American institutions continued to dominate the chart, demonstrating the strength and quality of their higher education systems. The rankings reflect a complex interplay of factors, including research output, teaching excellence, and international impact.

The Global Ranking of Academic Institutions (G-Rank) is a complement to the THE rankings, offering a comprehensive view of academic performance based on a wide range of criteria. This includes research performance, teaching quality, and the impact of research on society.

The National University of Singapore (NUS) is one of Asia’s leading universities and continues to make significant contributions to the global academic community. With its strong emphasis on research and innovation, NUS is well-positioned to further strengthen its global standing in the years to come.

For more information on the THE World University Rankings and the G-Rank, visit THE and G-Rank websites.