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# NUS and NTU are top universities in Asia in QS world university rankings



16 courses from NUS and seven from NTU made the global top 10 lists of the QS World University Rankings by subject. PHOTOS: ST FILE

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SINGAPORE - The National University of Singapore (NUS) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) have emerged as the top universities in Asia based on global rankings by subjects.

Singapore has 23 university courses - 16 from NUS and seven from NTU - that made it to the global top 10 lists of the Britain-based Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by subject.

The rankings were released on Wednesday (April 6).

The QS lists are based on a survey of 1,543 universities of which 376 universities are in Asia, taking into account areas such as academic reputation, standing with employers, faculty-to-student ratios and citations per faculty.

Singapore ranked higher than Hong Kong, which has seven courses in the top 10 lists, China has four, and Japan, three.

According to the QS rankings, Singapore has the best higher education system in Asia, based on the Republic's share of programmes in the top 10 global lists. In Asia, the Republic's top spot is followed by Hong Kong, China and Japan.

Globally, Singapore has the fourth-best higher education system in the world, after the United States, Britain and Switzerland.

NUS and NTU stand out in engineering education and research.

The QS rankings placed NUS' petroleum engineering programme in the top spot, a position it also attained last year out of 151 contenders. Five other engineering programmes in Singapore were among the global top 10, including chemical engineering, where NUS is ranked third, and NTU seventh.

Some degree courses made significant jumps in the rankings. NUS' anthropology course shot up from 14th in 2021 to 10th place this year, while the linguistic programme at NUS jumped from 17th to 10th.

Singapore Management University (SMU) broke into the top 100 for the study of law compared with last year. Meanwhile, SMU also rose two places to rank 36th for business and management studies.

"The consistent improvements made by Singaporean institutions in our rankings result from a decade of investment and strategising," said Mr Ben Sowter, research director at QS.

"It was in 2010 after all, that the Singaporean Government inaugurated the Singapore Universities Fund, with a view to avoiding the sort of downturn-driven... funding cuts that have beleaguered universities across the world."

An NTU spokesman said: "NTU's established strengths across engineering, science, business, education, and the arts and social sciences continue to make their mark on the global table."

NUS senior deputy president and provost Professor Ho Teck Hua said NUS is delighted as it continues to be among Asia's best universities: "This is high international recognition of our world-leading faculty, talented students, staff and alumni, and serves as strong encouragement for all of us at NUS."