

Press release

QS Asia University Rankings 2026

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Hong Kong takes Top Spot as Mainland China Surpasses India as Most-Represented System



LONDON, Nov. 4, 2025 /PRNewswire/ -- QS Quacquarelli Symonds today released the [QS World University Rankings: Asia 2026](#), revealing a region expanding in scale, diversifying in quality, and accelerating in research and international engagement.

The University of Hong Kong rises to first place, overtaking **Peking University** (2nd). **Nanyang Technological University** climbs to joint third alongside the **National University of Singapore**. This year's edition evaluates **1,500+ institutions across 25 higher-education systems**, including **550+ new entrants**—the ranking's most extensive assessment to date.

Mainland China now leads representation with **395 ranked universities**, surpassing **India (294)**, followed by **Japan (147)** and **South Korea (103)**. **Hong Kong SAR** records its strongest-ever showing, hosting **five of Asia's top ten** universities.

Asia's Top 10 Universities

2026 2025 Institution

- | | | |
|----|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | The University of Hong Kong |
| 2 | 1 | Peking University |
| =3 | 4 | Nanyang Technological University |

=3	3	National University of Singapore
5	5	Fudan University
6	11	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
=7	10	City University of Hong Kong
=7	6	The Chinese University of Hong Kong
9	7	Tsinghua University
10	17	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Highlights

India shines for research productivity and staff with PhD

Malaysia is one of the most improved higher education systems in this edition.

South Korea shows system-wide strength, matching China for the most top-20 positions; **12 of its 15** top-100 universities improve.

Japan remains a benchmark for teaching quality and research impact, anchored by the **University of Tokyo (26th)**.

Taiwan sees **seven of its top ten** universities rise, led by **National Taiwan University (23rd)**.

Thailand drops out of the top 50 but records more universities rising than declining.

Vietnam National University emerges as the nation's top institution.

The **top ten Indonesian universities** rise in both academic and employer reputation, strengthening the country's regional influence.

Pakistan, with **82 ranked universities**, is Asia's **sixth most-represented** higher-education system.

The Philippines marks a milestone with **35 ranked universities, 11 more** than the previous edition.

Kazakhstan dominates Central Asia, boasting all three of the subregion's top 100 universities while **Uzbekistan's** top universities record exceptional rises.

Ben Sowter, Senior Vice President, QS, said:

"Asia's higher education story is one of diversity and dynamism. While systems such as China, South Korea, and Singapore are consolidating excellence, others—including Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam — are advancing rapidly despite structural and

resource challenges. The region's evolution reflects both its opportunity and its complexity."

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