

NUS named top Asian university for third straight year; NTU at No. 3

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The National University of Singapore (NUS) has kept the top spot in an annual ranking of Asian universities, while Nanyang Technological University (NTU) moved up one place to third.

Singapore Management University (SMU) entered the rankings for the first time in 60th place.

London-based education and career consultancy Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), which is releasing its rankings this morning, has expanded the top Asian universities list to include the region's 350 best universities, 50 more than in the previous year. QS has also added another metric – staff with a PhD – in order to add another dimension to its analyses of teaching quality.

The QS Asia University Rankings uses 10 key performance indicators to compare Asian universities, including academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty-student ratio, papers per faculty, the proportion of international faculty and students, and proportion of inbound and outbound exchange students.

QS said NUS, ranked No. 1 for the third year running, achieved a perfect score in four metrics: academic reputation; employer reputation; ci-



London-based education and career consultancy Quacquarelli Symonds says NUS achieved a perfect score in four metrics: academic reputation, employer reputation, citations per paper and international faculty. ST FILE PHOTO

tations per paper, which measures research impact; and international faculty, measuring an institution's ability to attract staff worldwide.

NTU also achieved a perfect score in four metrics: employer reputation; citations per paper; international faculty; and the proportion of outbound exchange students, which is used to assess a university's success in forging international partnerships with universities worldwide.

NUS president Tan Chorh Chuan said strong government support has enabled the local universities to push for excellence.

He added: "At NUS, our priority is in preparing future-ready graduates and developing top talent, driving innovation and forging strategic collaborations with academic and industry partners, and delivering impact from world-class research."

NTU president Bertil Andersson noted that NTU, despite strong competition from older and more established universities, stands out as No. 1 in Asia for citations per paper.

"This good result is further proof

that NTU's investments in research have paid off," he said.

Asked to comment on SMU's debut in the rankings, QS said it included the 16-year-old institution this year as it now offers degrees in information systems and social sciences.

It called SMU's 60th placing a "great achievement" as it is not a comprehensive university. It added that SMU ranks 25th regionally for citations per paper and had perfect scores for two indicators of internationalisation: international faculty and outbound exchange students.

SMU provost Lily Kong said the university "is highly committed to delivering high-quality teaching and research, for which ranking is only one possible – if imperfect – indicator".

The University of Hong Kong retained its second place, while China's Tsinghua University rose six places to fifth. The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology was placed fourth.

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Top 10

1	National University of Singapore
2	University of Hong Kong
3	Nanyang Technological University
4	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
5	Tsinghua University
6	Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology
7	City University of Hong Kong
8	The Chinese University of Hong Kong
9	Peking University
10	Seoul National University

Source: QUACQUARELLI SYMONDS, 2016

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