

China retains lead in Asia University Rankings 2026 as participation hits record high

STRICTLY EMBARGOED: 21.00, Beijing, China (CST), 23 April 2026

- **China** leads the Asia University Rankings 2026, retaining first and second place
- Five of the top 10 spots held by mainland **Chinese** institutions
- **Singapore** and **Hong Kong** have two universities each in top 10
- **Japan** has one university in top 10 – Tokyo achieves highest position in a decade
- Two newly ranked **Hong Kong** universities enter straight into top 100
- **Macao** makes debut in top 30
- **Malaysia** joins top 40 for first time, and doubles top 100 places
- Record 929 universities ranked in 2026, compared with 853 in 2025
- 36 countries/territories included, one more than last year
- **Yemen** makes its debut in the ranking
- The most comprehensive and balanced assessment of Asia’s research universities
- **Scroll down for country/territory highlights for systems in East Asia, South Asia, South-east Asia and Central Asia**

Top 10 universities overall in the Asia University Rankings 2026

Institution	Country/territory	Rank 2026	Rank 2025
Tsinghua University	China	1	1
Peking University	China	2	2
National University of Singapore	Singapore	3	3
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore	Singapore	=4	4
The University of Tokyo	Japan	=4	5
University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong	6	6
Fudan University	China	7	7
Zhejiang University	China	8	8
Shanghai Jiao Tong University	China	9	10
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong	10	9

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China once again leads the latest *Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings*, with Tsinghua University in top position for the eighth year running, and Peking University retaining second place.

Mainland China takes five of the top 10 spots in the 2026 table, with Fudan University and Zhejiang University retaining their positions at seventh and eighth respectively. Shanghai Jiao Tong University moves up one place to ninth.

The rest of the top 10 comprises two institutions each from **Singapore** and **Hong Kong**, and one from **Japan**, with very little movement at the top from the 2025 ranking.

Alongside **mainland China's** success, it is also a strong year for the country's two special administrative regions. All six of **Hong Kong's** ranked universities from last year remain in the top 50 and its two newly ranked universities enter straight into top 100. Meanwhile, **Macao** makes the top 30 for the first time, with the University of Macau climbing six places to 28th.

Malaysia is another stand-out performer this year; it now features in the top 40 for the first time, with Universiti Teknologi Petronas rising eight places to joint 35th this year. And a record six of its universities are in the top 100, double last year's tally.

In total, a record 929 universities are ranked from 36 countries/territories, up from 853 universities and 35 countries/territories last year.

India is the most-represented nation, with 128 institutions ranked, followed by **Japan** with 115 and **Turkey** with 109. **Yemen** is newly ranked this year.

Phil Baty, THE's chief global affairs officer, said: "China's extraordinary performance and progress in higher education and research is laid bare in the results of this year's Asia University Rankings – reflected not just by the mainland's continued prominence at the top of the table, but also in the rising performance of its special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macao.

"It is also encouraging to see strong results from South-east Asia – one of the most dynamic regions in the world. Malaysia, in particular, has made great strides in the rankings this year and will be one to watch, as it increasingly becomes a major higher education player, not just in the continent but the world."

Country and territory highlights

Mainland China: leads region for eighth consecutive year

China's top university is Tsinghua University, which leads the overall ranking and retains its number one spot from last year. Tsinghua has held this position for eight years in a row.

China also dominates the overall top 10, with five universities, all of which held their places from last year, apart from Shanghai Jiao Tong University, which moved up one spot into ninth position.

China's dominance can be partly attributed to the continuing success of its higher education excellence initiative, the Double First-Class initiative. *THE* analysis from last year's Asia rankings revealed that since the 2023 edition of the rankings, Double First-Class universities have been improving at a much faster rate than the rest of **China's** institutions.

There are 20 Chinese institutions in the overall top 50. Overall, **China** has 97 universities ranked, which is an increase of three from last year's table.

A total of 21 Chinese universities improved on last year's positions. However, 33 Chinese institutions slipped down the table, and 10 dropped out of the table.

China has improved its overall score by making strides in several metrics, particularly patents, research excellence and research influence.

Hong Kong: two universities in top 10 and growth in participation

Hong Kong retains two universities in the overall top 10. Its best-ranked institution is the University of Hong Kong, which holds on to sixth place overall. The Chinese University of Hong Kong is in 10th position.

In total, **Hong Kong** has eight universities ranked, up from six last year, with the two newly ranked universities going straight into the overall top 100. The Education University of Hong Kong is the second-highest new entrant to the regional table, in 37th place.

Hong Kong also has five universities in the overall top 20 and seven in the top 50. All six of Hong Kong's ranked universities from last year remain in the top 50, including a big leap for Hong Kong Baptist University to 40th from 50th position.

South Korea: four universities in overall top 20

South Korea's best-performing university is Seoul National University, which holds steady in 15th place. It is followed by Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) at number 17.

South Korea has 41 universities ranked. It retains four universities in the top 20 and nine in the top 50. However, 25 of its universities slipped down the table this year and only six improved.

Japan: Tokyo in highest position in a decade

Japan has 115 universities ranked, making it the second most-represented country in the ranking. Its best performer is the University of Tokyo, which moves up one spot to joint fourth – its highest position since 2015. It is also one of two Japanese universities in the overall top 20, the other being Kyoto University, in 16th place.

The newly merged Institute of Science Tokyo is the highest-ranked new entrant to the regional table, in 34th place.

Tokyo was the only Japanese institution to improve its position, however. Overall, 61 universities slipped down the table, and within the top 200, 10 Japanese universities remained stable or declined.

India: participation reaches new high

India has a record 128 universities ranked, making it the most-represented country in the ranking. This is an increase on last year's 107 and means Indian institutions make up 14 per cent of all universities in the ranking.

India's best performer is the Indian Institute of Science, in joint 43rd place.

India has made progress in several metrics in the latest ranking, including research productivity and research excellence.

Indonesia: steady improvement and record participation

Indonesia's top institution is the University of Indonesia, in the 201-250 band. Indonesia has a record 35 universities ranked, an increase of four on last year's tally.

A number of Indonesian institutions have made impressive gains this year, including Institut Teknologi Bandung (up to 351-400 band from 501-600), and Universitas Gadjah Mada and Universitas Sebelas Maret (both moving into 351-400 band from 401-500 last year).

Malaysia: enters overall top 40 for first time in year of record participation

Malaysia has a record 27 universities ranked, four more than last year. Its best-performing institution is Universiti Teknologi Petronas, which rises eight places to joint 35th, its highest ever position, putting it in the region's top 40 for the first time.

Malaysia has six universities in the overall top 100, double last year's tally, including three institutions that have made significant progress. Sunway University rises to joint 84th from joint 141st last year; Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia rises to joint 87th from joint 103rd; and Universiti Sains Malaysia rises to joint 100th place from joint 103rd.

Nine Malaysian universities improved their positions and a further eight retained their spots from last year.

Singapore: two universities in overall top 10

Singapore has two universities in the ranking, both of which are in the regional top 10. Its top-ranked institution is National University of Singapore, which once again holds on to third place, followed closely by Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, in joint fourth position.

Thailand: two universities in top 150 as participation reaches record high

Thailand has a record 21 universities ranked, an increase of one on last year. Its best performer is Chulalongkorn University, in joint 134th position. Its second highest-ranked institution, Mahidol University (joint 146th), has made impressive progress, moving into the regional top 150 from 199th place in 2025.

Turkey: consolidates position as participation reaches record high

Turkey has a record 109 universities ranked in 2026 – a large increase on last year's 91.

A number of Turkish institutions have made impressive progress at the top of the table. Turkey's best performer, Koç University (joint 73rd), enters the top 75 from 79th place last year. Meanwhile, Bilkent University (joint 137th) enters the top 150 from joint 158th place in 2025, and Yildiz Technical University (171st) enters the top 200 from 201-250 band in 2025.

Turkey has improved its overall score by making strides in several metrics, particularly research income, research excellence and research influence.

Pakistan: record participation and improved overall score

Pakistan has a record 48 universities in the table, up from 47 last year. Its top institution is Quaid-i-Azam University, in joint 148th position.

Pakistan has improved its overall score by making progress in several metrics, particularly patents, research excellence and research strength.

Kazakhstan: holds steady in top 150 as participation rises

Kazakhstan has a record five universities ranked. Its top-ranked institution is Nazarbayev University, which retains 150th place.

Kazakh National Agrarian Research University makes its debut in the ranking in the 801+ band.

Uzbekistan: participation rises

Uzbekistan has a record four universities in the table, up from three last year. Its best performer is Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanisation, in the 201-250 band.

Tashkent State Technical University makes its debut in the table in the 501-600 band, making it **Uzbekistan's** second-highest ranked university.

Macao: enters overall top 30 for first time

Macao has a record three ranked universities this year, up from two last year. **Macao's** best-performing institution is the University of Macau, which is in 28th place overall, up from 34th last year. This is its highest ever position and puts Macao in the region's top 30 for the first time.

Macau University of Science and Technology moves up five places to joint 52nd, and City University of Macau makes its debut in the ranking in the 201-250 band.

Iran: rapid growth in participation and improved overall score

Iran has recently seen significant growth in participation in the ranking. It now has 90 ranked universities, an increase of nine since 2025. Iranian universities now make up 10 per cent of the total number of ranked institutions in the region.

Iran's best-performing institution is Sharif University of Technology, in joint 76th position. Iran has 14 institutions in the overall top 200.

Iran has improved its overall score this year by making strides in several metrics, particularly student-staff ratio, patents and international students.

THE Asia University Rankings 2026 country summary

Country/territory	Best university	Rank of best university	Total number of universities ranked
India	Indian Institute of Science	=43	128
Japan	The University of Tokyo	=4	115
Turkey	Koç University	=73	109
China	Tsinghua University	1	97
Iran	Sharif University of Technology	=76	90
Pakistan	Quaid-i-Azam University	=148	48
Taiwan	National Taiwan University (NTU)	=26	47
South Korea	Seoul National University	15	41
Indonesia	University of Indonesia	201-250	35
Saudi Arabia	King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals	32	31
Malaysia	Universiti Teknologi Petronas	=35	27
Iraq	University of Technology, Iraq	401-500	25
	Tishk International University	401-500	25
Thailand	Chulalongkorn University	=134	21
Bangladesh	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology	301-350	19
	University of Dhaka	301-350	19
Jordan	Al-Ahliyya Amman University	132	14
Vietnam	UEH University	=184	11
Hong Kong	University of Hong Kong	6	8
Israel	Tel Aviv University	=52	8
United Arab Emirates	United Arab Emirates University	=55	8
Philippines	Ateneo de Manila University	501-600	6
Sri Lanka	University of Colombo	501-600	6
Kazakhstan	Nazarbayev University	=150	5
Lebanon	Lebanese American University	94	5
Uzbekistan	Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanisation	201-250	4
Macao	University of Macau	28	3
Oman	Sultan Qaboos University	=180	3
Bahrain	Arabian Gulf University	201-250	2
Brunei Darussalam	Universiti Brunei Darussalam	113	2
Kuwait	American University of the Middle East	201-250	2
Palestine	An-Najah National University	351-400	2
Singapore	National University of Singapore	3	2
Mongolia	National University of Mongolia	801+	1
Nepal	Tribhuvan University	801+	1
Qatar	Qatar University	=47	1
Syria	Damascus University	801+	1

Yemen	Taiz University	501-600	1
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Notes to editors

1. For more information, or to arrange an interview, please email media@timeshighereducation.com
2. *THE* is the trusted global data partner for higher education. Drawing on five decades of expertise in the sector, millions of individual data points and with more unique institutions participating in our flagship university rankings than any other, we offer deeper and richer insight into university performance than anyone else. From powerful data-driven insights and strategic consultancy support to agenda-setting events, student recruitment and hiring solutions, our products and services enable everyone in higher education to make smarter, more informed decisions. For more information, visit [Times Higher Education](https://www.timeshighereducation.com) or find us on Twitter/X: [@timeshighered](https://twitter.com/timeshighered) [@THEworldunirank](https://twitter.com/THEworldunirank)
3. *THE* Asia University Rankings 2026: top 200
The full ranking is available under embargo on request

University	Country/territory	Asia rank 2026	Asia rank 2025
Tsinghua University	China	1	1
Peking University	China	2	2
National University of Singapore	Singapore	3	3
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore	Singapore	=4	4
The University of Tokyo	Japan	=4	5
University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong	6	6
Fudan University	China	7	7
Zhejiang University	China	8	8
Shanghai Jiao Tong University	China	9	10
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong	10	9
University of Science and Technology of China	China	11	11
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Hong Kong	12	12
Nanjing University	China	13	14
City University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong	14	16
Seoul National University	South Korea	15	15

Kyoto University	Japan	16	13
Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)	South Korea	17	17
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Hong Kong	18	18
Yonsei University (Seoul campus)	South Korea	19	=19
Sungkyunkwan University (SKKU)	South Korea	20	=19
Tohoku University	Japan	21	21
Harbin Institute of Technology	China	22	23
Tongji University	China	23	22
Wuhan University	China	24	25
Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH)	South Korea	25	24
Korea University	South Korea	=26	=27
National Taiwan University (NTU)	Taiwan	=26	30
University of Macau	Macao	28	34
Beijing Normal University	China	29	26
The University of Osaka	Japan	30	=27
Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech)	China	31	=35
King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals	Saudi Arabia	32	31
Huazhong University of Science and Technology	China	33	29
Institute of Science Tokyo	Japan	34	NR
Tianjin University	China	=35	=32
Universiti Teknologi Petronas	Malaysia	=35	=43
The Education University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong	37	NR
Beijing Institute of Technology	China	=38	40
Sichuan University	China	=38	=35
Hong Kong Baptist University	Hong Kong	40	50
Xi'an Jiaotong University	China	41	41

Kyung Hee University	South Korea	42	=45
Beihang University	China	=43	=45
Indian Institute of Science	India	=43	=38
Shandong University	China	45	NR
Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST)	South Korea	46	=38
Qatar University	Qatar	=47	54
Sun Yat-sen University	China	=47	47
Nagoya University	Japan	49	=48
Hanyang University	South Korea	50	=43
Northwestern Polytechnical University	China	51	=51
Macau University of Science and Technology	Macao	=52	57
South China University of Technology	China	=52	=48
Tel Aviv University	Israel	=52	42
Southeast University	China	=55	=51
United Arab Emirates University	United Arab Emirates	=55	55
Khalifa University	United Arab Emirates	=57	37
King Saud University	Saudi Arabia	=57	=60
Central South University	China	59	NR
Southern Medical University	China	60	59
East China Normal University	China	61	56
Hebrew University of Jerusalem	Israel	=62	=82
Xiamen University	China	=62	67
Sejong University	South Korea	64	=51
University of Malaya	Malaysia	65	64
Hunan University	China	66	=60
Nankai University	China	67	58

University of Electronic Science and Technology of China	China	68	63
Kyushu University	Japan	69	62
China Medical University, Taiwan	Taiwan	70	66
Daegu Gyeongbuk Institute of Science and Technology (DGIST)	South Korea	71	65
Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST)	South Korea	72	68
Chongqing University	China	=73	80
Dalian University of Technology	China	=73	78
Koç University	Turkey	=73	79
Sharif University of Technology	Iran	=76	69
Technion Israel Institute of Technology	Israel	=76	76
Middle East Technical University	Turkey	78	=72
Amirkabir University of Technology	Iran	79	=70
National Tsing Hua University	Taiwan	80	=82
National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University (NYCU Taiwan)	Taiwan	81	=72
Chung-Ang University	South Korea	=82	81
Sabancı University	Turkey	=82	=74
Lingnan University Hong Kong	Hong Kong	=84	NR
Sunway University	Malaysia	=84	=141
National Taiwan University of Science and Technology (Taiwan Tech)	Taiwan	86	=74
Iran University of Science and Technology	Iran	=87	77
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia	Malaysia	=87	=103
University of Tsukuba	Japan	=87	87
Shenzhen University	China	90	85
Abu Dhabi University	United Arab Emirates	=91	=70
Hokkaido University	Japan	=91	=82

King Khalid University	Saudi Arabia	93	96
Lebanese American University	Lebanon	94	92
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	Malaysia	95	86
Pusan National University	South Korea	96	=99
Istanbul Technical University	Turkey	=97	=97
Taipei Medical University	Taiwan	=97	=94
University of Sharjah	United Arab Emirates	=97	88
Beijing University of Chemical Technology	China	=100	105
Universiti Sains Malaysia	Malaysia	=100	=103
Ajou University	South Korea	=102	101
Boğaziçi University	Turkey	=102	123
Konkuk University	South Korea	=102	93
National Cheng Kung University (NCKU)	Taiwan	105	106
Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University	Saudi Arabia	=106	89
Shanghai University	China	=106	90
Kyungpook National University (KNU)	South Korea	108	91
China University of Petroleum, Beijing	China	109	102
Donghua University	China	110	110
Tehran University of Medical Sciences	Iran	111	109
King Abdulaziz University	Saudi Arabia	112	=99
Universiti Brunei Darussalam	Brunei Darussalam	113	144
Northeastern University, China	China	114	=112
Prince Sultan University (PSU)	Saudi Arabia	115	129
Prince Sattam Bin Abdulaziz University	Saudi Arabia	=116	201-250
Soochow University, China	China	=116	108
Yangzhou University	China	=116	117
Ewha Womans University	South Korea	119	=112
University of Tehran	Iran	=120	=97

Zhejiang University of Technology	China	=120	=175
The Catholic University of Korea (CUK)	South Korea	122	119
Asia University, Taiwan	Taiwan	=123	107
Universiti Putra Malaysia	Malaysia	=123	=132
Universiti Utara Malaysia	Malaysia	125	127
Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics	China	=126	=121
National Taiwan Normal University	Taiwan	=126	118
Jinan University (China)	China	=128	126
Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences	India	=128	149
University of Ulsan	South Korea	130	124
Kermanshah University of Medical Sciences	Iran	131	=121
Al-Ahliyya Amman University	Jordan	132	186
East China University of Science and Technology	China	133	135
Al Ain University	United Arab Emirates	=134	128
Chulalongkorn University	Thailand	=134	=132
Jiangsu University	China	=134	130
Bilkent University	Turkey	=137	=158
Isfahan University of Technology	Iran	=137	=115
Nanjing University of Science and Technology (NJUST)	China	139	NR
Zayed University	United Arab Emirates	140	114
Ajman University	United Arab Emirates	=141	=156
Indian Institute of Technology Indore	India	=141	131
American University of Sharjah	United Arab Emirates	=143	148

National Yunlin University of Science and Technology	Taiwan	=143	=132
University of Haifa	Israel	=143	153
Mahidol University	Thailand	=146	199
Xidian University	China	=146	=141
Jiangnan University	China	=148	=158
Quaid-i-Azam University	Pakistan	=148	=137
National University of Sciences and Technology	Pakistan	=150	145
Nazarbayev University	Kazakhstan	=150	=150
Harbin Engineering University	China	=152	162
Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University	Saudi Arabia	=152	=150
Gachon University	South Korea	=154	=146
Hiroshima University	Japan	=154	=150
Umm Al-Qura University	Saudi Arabia	=154	=137
Yeungnam University	South Korea	157	=156
Ocean University of China	China	=158	NR
Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences	India	=158	=146
Bar-Ilan University	Israel	=160	=115
Jamia Millia Islamia	India	=160	161
Tarbiat Modares University	Iran	162	NR
National Sun Yat-Sen University	Taiwan	163	=141
Chang Gung University	Taiwan	164	139
Universiti Malaysia Pahang Al-Sultan Abdullah (UMPSA)	Malaysia	165	163
Shiraz University of Technology	Iran	166	155
Nanjing Forestry University	China	167	=170
Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris	Malaysia	168	=173
KIIT University	India	=169	=184

University of International Business and Economics	China	=169	=179
Yildiz Technical University	Turkey	171	201-250
Guangdong University of Technology	China	=172	=164
Kobe University	Japan	=172	166
Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences	Iran	=172	154
South China Normal University	China	175	=175
Juntendo University	Japan	=176	169
Yuan Ze University	Taiwan	=176	201-250
Applied Science Private University	Jordan	=178	183
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev	Israel	=178	120
Kaohsiung Medical University	Taiwan	=180	=200
Southwest Jiaotong University	China	=180	172
Sultan Qaboos University	Oman	=180	=200
University of Tabriz	Iran	=180	160
Nanjing Tech University	China	=184	=173
UEH University	Vietnam	=184	136
Aligarh Muslim University	India	=186	=188
National Institute of Technology Rourkela	India	=186	=191
Tabriz University of Medical Sciences	Iran	=186	=179
Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN)	Malaysia	=186	=181
University of Nizwa	Oman	190	NR
Capital Medical University	China	=191	=170
Shiraz University of Medical Sciences	Iran	=191	251-300
The University of Jordan	Jordan	=191	201-250
Fuzhou University	China	194	178
Inha University	South Korea	=195	193
Isfahan University of Medical Sciences	Iran	=195	251-300
Lovely Professional University	India	=197	201-250

Manipal Academy of Higher Education	India	=197	201-250
Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology	India	=197	201-250
University of Delhi	India	=197	201-250

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4. Information about the methodology

The *THE* World University Rankings 2026 is the only global performance table that judges research-intensive universities across all their core missions: teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook.

The methodology behind the Asia University Rankings is based on the same framework as the global rankings but the weightings are recalibrated to reflect the priorities of Asian institutions.

We use 18 carefully calibrated performance indicators to provide the most comprehensive and balanced comparisons, trusted by students, academics, university leaders, industry and governments. One of the metrics (study abroad) currently has zero weight but will be counted in future. The performance indicators are grouped into five areas: Teaching (the learning environment); Research environment (volume, income and reputation); Research quality (citation impact, research strength, research excellence and research influence); International outlook (staff, students and research); and Industry (income and patents).

For more information, see the full methodology: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/asia-university-rankings-2026-methodology>