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Well done, UPM and UTM

IT IS heartening to see Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) placed among the world's top 150 under 50-year-old universities in the UK's Times Higher Education rankings 2016.

Well done but don't rest on your laurels. Strive to achieve even higher positions next time.

Luc Soete, rector magnificus at Maastricht University (4th ranked), attributes his university's success to its "problem-based learning strategy", where small groups of students and their mentor explore together rather than listening to lectures.

Maastricht's "English unless" policy – which outlines that the default language for classes will be English – has proved highly effective.

Bertil Andersson, president of Singapore's Nanyang Technological University (2nd ranked), said: "Innovative approaches to learning and teaching in English make it easy for NTU to attract international faculty, top established and young researchers with a good blend of East and West and to collaborate with many other world-class universities as English is a common platform for us."

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