

# Local unis rank among top 100 among emerging economies

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UNIVERSITI Putra Malaysia (UPM) climbed 14 places to make it to the top 100 of the Times Higher Education (THE) BRICS & Emerging Economies University Rankings 2017.

It is one of the three Malaysia institutions to be listed in the top 100, the other two being Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP) and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM).

They are joined by four other Malaysian universities namely Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) and Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) in the top 300 of the global list (*see table*).

The World University Rankings editor Phil Baty said: "We only rank the very best institutions in the THE 2017 BRICS & Emerging Economies Rankings so we congratulate all universities who have made this year's top 300 list."

Baty said it is great news that seven Malaysian universities made it to the list, up from four last year.

"This is the most competitive BRICS and emerging economies rankings to date with universities across 50 countries assessed.

"Malaysia invests a huge amount in higher education and has marketed itself as a knowledge economy and innovation hub in recent years," he added.

He said Malaysia's public universities have however been hit by a 15% budget cut this year after the economy came under pressure from lower oil and commodity prices.

"Malaysian institutions will have to run faster just to stand still in this list in future years," he said, adding that UPM's rise is due to improved performances around its research environment, research influence and attraction of international talent.

The THE BRICS & Emerging Economies University Rankings applies rigorous and demanding performance indicators as the overall World University Rankings.

Baty said institutions must demonstrate high standards of performance in teaching, research, international outlook and knowledge transfer.

## Malaysian institutions in the Times Higher Education BRICS & Emerging Economies University Rankings 2017.

University	2016	2017
Universiti Putra Malaysia	103	89
Universiti Teknologi Petronas	Not previously ranked	91
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	56	100
Universiti Sains Malaysia	112	114
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia	158	136
Universiti Utara Malaysia	Not previously ranked	201-250
Universiti Teknologi Mara	Not previously ranked	251-300

Source: Times Higher Education,  
<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2017/brics-and-emerging-economies-university-rankings>

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh congratulated Malaysian institutions for being in the top 100 universities in emerging economies worldwide.

"Rankings are useful benchmarks as to where our higher education institutions stand.

"At the same time; I am mindful that rankings may not always capture the more subtle points in higher education, such as the student

and learning experience. As such, the ministry and I have always taken a balanced position when it comes to rankings," he said in a Facebook post.

UPM vice-chancellor Prof Datin Paduka Dr Aini Ideris said that rankings are important as they are a benchmark for universities to take note of their progress and move forward.

"It's one of the many ways of

knowing what and how we can continuously improve to be among the top universities globally," she said. She added that rankings matter when it comes to forming stakeholders' perception of the university:

"The efforts and scholarly contributions by our staff has borne sweet fruits as we are one of the top research universities compared to other globally-renowned universities," she added.

Baty said UPM's rise is due to improved performances around its research environment, research influence and attraction of international talent.

UTP vice-chancellor Datuk Dr Abdul Rahim Hashim said the recognition by THE is an accomplishment that the university is proud of.

"Indeed, 2016 has been an amazing year for the university and this recent achievement bears testimony of our hard work and diligence in support of the university's journey towards achieving global prominence.

"We will continue to strive to move up in the rankings," he added

Peking University in China tops this year's ranking.