



Malaysian universities in Times Higher Education Emerging Economies University Ranking 2019

Institution	2019 Rank	2018 Rank
Universiti Malaya (UM)	=18	27
Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP)	60	=77
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)	86	=101
Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)	105	135
Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR)	=117	=114
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)	132	=151
Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)	=145	108
Universiti Tenaga Nasional (Uniten)	=187	=159
Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM)	201-250	251-300
Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM)	351+	Not ranked
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas)	351+	Not ranked

Source: Times Higher Education (THE)

UM moved up nine places, to rank joint 18th with China's Tongji University in the Times Higher Education Emerging Economies University Ranking 2019. — File photo

UM leads local varsities in rankings

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THERE are 11 Malaysian institutions in the *Times Higher Education (THE) Emerging Economies University Ranking 2019*.

Nine institutions were ranked last year and the country also retains eight in the top 200 in 2019. (see table)

Universiti Malaya (UM) leads the list of Malaysian universities in the rankings and is in joint 18th place with China's Tongji University.

UM vice-chancellor Datuk Abdul Rahim Hashim reiterated that the university's participation in the ranking system is to further improve its value proposition and to benchmark UM against other higher learning institutions.

He said UM aims to improve its linkages and collaborations with strategic industries and international partnerships in order to better prepare its graduates to handle new technologies as the economy moves towards the fourth Industrial Revolution (IR 4.0).

"The challenge is how universities can handle these fast evolving smart technologies in this IR 4.0 era," he said in a statement.

THE global rankings editor Ellie Bothwell said UM rose significantly thanks to improvements in all indicators, particularly in international outlook and teaching environment.

Malaysia sees six of its total 11 institutions climb the ladder, with just three declining.

Universiti Teknologi Petronas (UTP) vice-chancellor Prof Dr Mohamed Ibrahim Abdul Mutalib said they are treating the ranking as a measure of the university's

overall performance.

"This enables us to develop strategies in addressing the gap and ensuring quality education," he added.

UTP climbed 17 spots to 60 this year.

"Our journey continues with emphasis on strategies leading towards academic leadership, research stewardship, students' experiences and operational excellence," he said.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia deputy vice-chancellor (academic and international affairs) Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Marzuki Mustafa said its rise in the ranking is an indication that it is on the right track to improve the university's performance.

"It also however highlights certain areas that we need to put more effort in to further improve our performance," he added.

UKM moved up 19 places to rank 132nd this year.

Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman president Prof Datuk Dr Chuah Hean Teik said he has consistently stood by the stance that rankings is "an exercise to improve ourselves."

"We must not forget our fundamental responsibility, which is to educate students with high moral values who are able to contribute to the society and nation," he added.

Bothwell said Malaysia's average overall score (when only counting universities included in 2019 and 2018) rose by almost three points, largely driven by improvements in its citation impact score (the number of papers a university publishes and which are quoted around the world).

"It is very impressive that Malaysia's average scores for the 13 individual performance indicators in the ranking all improved since last year," she added.

Malaysia is one of the success stories of this year's ranking, with many of the country's universities rising, she said, adding that the nation is rapidly becoming an international student hub and reforms aimed at granting students greater political freedoms and its universities more autonomy, are welcome.

However, she warned, budget cuts pose a threat to the country's university rankings in the future.

"Malaysia must ensure that its universities receive enough investment to thrive in an increasingly competitive global higher education market."

Mainland China remains the most represented nation in the annual listing, with 72 institutions in total, four of which are in the top five.

Tsinghua University leads the top five in the rankings followed by Peking University, Zhejiang University, the University of Science and Technology of China and Russia's

Lomonosov Moscow State University.

The overall 2019 ranking comprises nearly 450 universities – expanded from 378 last year – from 43 countries, across four continents.

Now in its sixth year, the Emerging Economies Ranking reflects the emerging potential of "diverse, innovative and ambitious" range of nations.

The Emerging Economies Ranking uses the same 13 carefully calibrated performance indicators to provide the most comprehensive and balanced comparisons but the weightings are specially recalibrated to reflect the characteristics of the emerging economy universities. The performance indicators are grouped into five areas namely Teaching; Research; Citations; International Outlook and Industry Income.

For more information, visit <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2019/emerging-economies-university-rankings>.