UM among world's best universities for engineering

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PETALING JAYA: Universiti Malaya's (UM) Faculty of Engineering is among the world's best universities for engineering.

It is top in Malaysia and 15th (out of 750 schools by subject rank) in the *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Global Universities for Engineering.

The Best Global Universities for Engineering are described as "well-regarded universities from around the world that have shown strength in producing research related to a variety of engineering topics including aerospace engineering, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and civil engineering".

"All rely on the basic engineering concept of using maths and science to solve problems and are the world's best universities for engineering," said the *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Global Universities for Engineering.

UM was previously ranked 10th in 2017 but it is believed that the drop could be due to a lack of funding which affected a few areas including research.

Higher Education director-general Datuk Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir commended UM for being among the top 15 engineering universities in the world.

"All our research universities are engineering-based," she told *The Star*.

Siti Hamisah said that the government should continue to support these universities.

UM Faculty of Engineering dean Prof Dr Saad Mekhilef said this means that UM's engineering school is among the best in the world in terms of research quality and output produced by its researchers.

"The data for the *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Global Universities for Engineering ranking is extracted from the Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics), which is one of the most reliable citation databases in the world," he said.

Saad said that UM's top 15 placing is due to the dedication and the hard work of staff and students in the Faculty of Engineering and the support provided by the university's management.

"We must carry out more high-quality research and publish in the top journals to attract more citations. We want to sustain this achievement and improve further as we all know that when you are among the best 15 in the world, competition will be very stiff and dynamic," he said.

Saad said the faculty planned to maintain its position by retaining good talent and creating a culture of high-quality and high-impact research.

Tsinghua University, China, leads the Best Global Universities for Engineering followed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in second and the National University of Singapore in third.

UM leads Harvard University, Princeton University and the University of Cambridge which were placed 27th, 47th and 51st respectively.

For Malaysian institutions, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia is ranked in 40th place followed by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (147), Universiti Sains Malaysia (193), Universiti Putra Malaysia (220), Universiti Tenaga Nasional (253), Universiti Malaysia Pahang (271), Universiti Teknologi Petronas (285), Universiti Teknologi Mara (464) and Universiti Malaysia Perlis (654).

The *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Global Universities for Engineering is part of its 2020 edition of Best Global Universities rankings which the news agency announced on Tuesday.

For its 2020 list, *U.S. News* evaluated 1,500 schools – an increase from the 1,250 schools evaluated last year – across 81 countries.

The ranking takes 13 different variables that measure academic research into consideration, including academic reputation, international collaboration, publications and citations.

In order to gather information in these categories, *U.S. News* partnered with Clarivate Analytics to survey 26,810 professors, researchers, senior administrators, students and university employees from across the globe.