

Vice-chancellor lauds UM for improved world ranking

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PETALING JAYA: Universiti Malaya's (UM) big leap in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2021 reflects its standing as a high-calibre research and education institution, its vice-chancellor Datuk Abdul Rahim Hashim said yesterday.

UM shot up from 70th to the 59th spot in the rankings released yesterday. Four other local universities – Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) – are among the top 200 universities in the world.

“UM has continued its upward trajectory in the face of fiscal challenges and emphasised the wisdom and the value of increased financial governmental support to UM in order to achieve excellence in the years ahead,” Abdul Rahim said.

Its goal has always been to strive for excellence by benchmarking itself against outstanding universities across the world and raise the Malaysian higher education standard as well as enhance its reputation as a global institution of higher learning, he said.

“UM has been successfully ranked as one of the top 100 best universities since 2018, seven years ahead of its target, and it even managed to maintain and improve its position

every year,” the Higher Education Ministry said in a statement.

The QS ranking system assesses six areas – Academic Reputation (40%), Employer Reputation (10%), Faculty Student (20%), Citations per Faculty (20%), International Faculty (5%), and International Student (5%).

Meanwhile, UPM ranked better, at 132 compared with 159 the year before. UKM took the 141th spot, from 160 previously. USM also improved at 142, compared with 165, while UTM bagged the 187th spot from its previous 217th ranking.

Three private universities that made it into the top 550 are Taylor's University, UCSI University and Universiti Teknologi Petronas.

They ranked number 379, 391 and 439 respectively, all doing better than the previous year.

Taylor's University vice-chancellor and president Prof Michael Driscoll said the rankings speak for itself.

“The high ranking achieved by Taylor's follows the recent QS 5 Stars rating (the highest level) for the quality of our online learning, which served our students well during the campus closure enforced by the government.

“Our world-class online learning is enabling our students to complete their studies without interruption and graduate on time,” he said yesterday.