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Malaysia Leads Private Universities, Singapore Leads Public Universities in Latest ASEAN Rankings

AppliedHE has released its annual Private University Rankings and Public University Rankings for ASEAN, highlighting student satisfaction and employability. Universities from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and The Philippines Among Top 10.

SINGAPORE/BANDAR SUNWAY, Monday, 18 November 2024 – AppliedHE, the leading South East Asia-based higher education ranking and rating agency, today released the results of its new AppliedHE Public and Private University Ranking: ASEAN 2025. This is the second year that the ranking is being published in its current format.

The ranking is unique in its scope and ranking criteria. The ranking only includes universities located in Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries that award locally accredited degrees and has a strong focus on quality of Teaching and Learning (40%) and Employability (15-20%). Research, Internationalization, Community Engagement, and Institutional Reputation, or brand value, are also included.

The 2025 ranking results suggest that the center of gravity in ASEAN's higher education system is shifting towards Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia, with universities from these three countries dominating the top 10 places in the private and public universities ranking.

Among the 10 most highly ranked public universities, are 3 universities each from Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. Thailand's Chulalongkorn University is in 7th place this year. The #1 public university in ASEAN is the National University of Singapore (NUS), followed by city-state rival Nanyang Technological University.

Among the 10 most highly ranked private universities, once again 6 universities are from Malaysia, 2 are from Indonesia, with Thailand's Krirk University in 3rd place and The Philippines' Ateneo de Manila University in 10th place. The #1 private university in ASEAN for the second year is Malaysia's Sunway University, closely followed by Indonesia's Bina Nusantara University (BINUS).

With regards to the need for separate private and public university rankings, the AppliedHE Ranking Advisory Board Chairperson and City University of Hong Kong Secretary to Council and Court Professor Kevin Downing observed that: “This is the second year of running the AppliedHE rankings in their current format, showing that our rankings are fast gaining maturity. The AppliedHE rankings are a wonderful opportunity for ASEAN universities to showcase their excellence based on a highly relevant set of internationally recognized criteria.”

The rankings are based on a mix of university-submitted and publicly available data. Universities that submit data have their information audited by AppliedHE, and distribute the AppliedHE Ranking Student Survey to their students. External data from Google Scholar and Google News are also used, alongside a system of peer nominations, whereby universities can nominate other institutions which they hold in high regard. For universities that do not submit data, AppliedHE uses estimated or publicly available data.

Commenting on the rankings, AppliedHE Founder & CEO Ms. Mandy Mok noted that: “AppliedHE is always trying to measure what matters most to students and their parents. That means our ranking gives a different set of results, which makes it a valuable addition to the ranking landscape”, adding: “in a world with so many choices, it’s important that we give students and parents different perspectives on higher education”.

Sunway University President Professor Sibrand Poppema further added that: “University rankings highlight the competition between institutions, which I largely view as something positive. Sunway University, including all its staff and diverse stakeholders have worked incredibly hard to achieve this result. I am extremely proud of our #1 position for 2 years in a row.”

Ranking Results Tables – Private Universities Top 20

Rank	University	Country	Score
1	Sunway University	Malaysia	80.64
2	Bina Nusantara University (BINUS)	Indonesia	78.32
3	Krirk University	Thailand	75.75
4	Asia Pacific University of Technology and Innovation (APU)	Malaysia	73.60
5	Taylor's University	Malaysia	73.37
6	City University	Malaysia	73.11
7	Management and Science University	Malaysia	72.71
8	Infrastructure University Kuala Lumpur	Malaysia	71.67
9	Universitas Ahmad Dahlan	Indonesia	71.56
10	Ateneo de Manila University	Philippines	71.39

11	University of Santo Tomas	Philippines	71.36
12	Universitas Ciputra Surabaya	Indonesia	70.83
13	Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara	Indonesia	70.66
14	Telkom University	Indonesia	70.58
15	UCSI University	Malaysia	70.52
16	De La Salle University	Philippines	69.27
17	Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia	Indonesia	68.80
18	Al-Madinah International University	Malaysia	68.11
19	Lincoln University College	Malaysia	67.33
=	Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP)	Malaysia	67.33

Ranking Results Tables – Public Universities Top 20

Rank	University	Country	Score
1	National University of Singapore (NUS)	Singapore	82.71
2	Nanyang Technological University (NTU)	Singapore	81.71
3	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)	Malaysia	79.62
4	Universitas Sebelas Maret	Indonesia	79.24
5	Universitas Padjadjaran (UNPAD)	Indonesia	78.27
6	Universiti Malaya (UM)	Malaysia	75.99
7	Chulalongkorn University	Thailand	74.53
8	Universitas Indonesia	Indonesia	73.99
9	Singapore Management University (SMU)	Singapore	73.97
10	Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)	Malaysia	73.03
11	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia	Malaysia	72.62
12	Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD)	Brunei	71.39
13	Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)	Malaysia	71.34
14	Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)	Singapore	70.36
15	University of the Philippines	Philippines	69.75
16	Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS Surabaya)	Indonesia	69.70
17	Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM)	Malaysia	69.41
18	IPB University (aka Bogor Agricultural University)	Indonesia	69.13
19	Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB)	Indonesia	68.71
20	Mahidol University	Thailand	68.44

About AppliedHE

Founded in Singapore in January 2020 by veterans from QS Quacquarelli Symonds' Asia office, AppliedHE™ is a globally oriented higher education evaluation and branding company that is rooted in Asia which aims to positively disrupt the global higher education sector.

With a strong focus on bridging the gap between higher education and employment, the company offers a range of innovative solutions that benefit universities, students and employers. From authoritative rankings to customized tools and services, AppliedHE caters to the evolving needs of educational institutions worldwide, providing a personalized and supportive experience that enhances the quality of education and promotes successful career outcomes.

With its wealth of experience and dedication to excellence, AppliedHE is committed to driving positive change in the higher education sector. While operating as a global agency, AppliedHE maintains a friendly and local approach to service, ensuring a personalized and supportive experience for its clients.

AppliedHE's corporate headquarters is located in Singapore, with staff and agents in China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Philippines, Dubai, Australia and the United Kingdom.

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