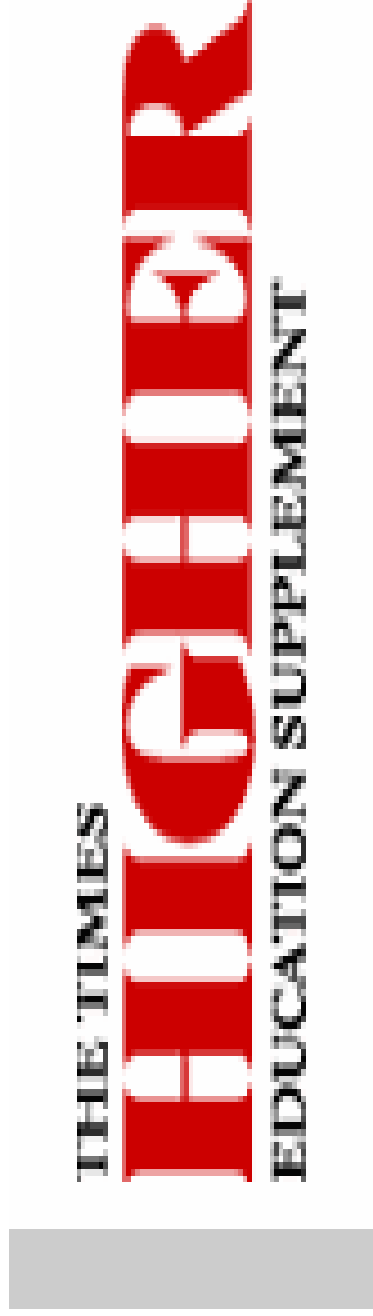


The World University Rankings



Ranking the world's universities

- Martin Ince
- Contributing editor, THES



Seoul, Korea
9 January 2007

The THES

- Since 1971
- Weekly newspaper formerly associated with The Times [of London]
- Group including TES
- Online at www.thes.co.uk since 1994

Why rank universities

- Interest in ranking things and people
 - Hospitals
 - Schools
 - Local authorities
 - Rich lists; Britain, world, Asian British, footballers
 - Universities: The Times

National Rankings

- The Times
 - produced by John O’Leary, editor of THES
 - Institutions as well as subjects

Criteria for subjects include:

- Teaching quality
- Research quality
- Entry standards
- Employability

National rankings (2)

- Criteria for institutions include
 - Teaching standards
 - Staff/student ratio
 - Library spending
 - Facilities spending
 - Good degrees
 - Jobs
 - Research

The US Comparison

- US News and World Report “America’s Best Colleges”
 - Mainly about how likely you are to graduate
 - Also student experience eg class size
 - However, many other tables eg liberal arts, business, engineering colleges
 - Main table has 18 columns of data
 - Likewise McLean’s et al including Korea

Why world rankings?

- Long overdue: higher education has always been very international
- Unique position of the THES
- Universities becoming more global
- Knowledge the real factor in international competitiveness
- Increasing desire for comparative information

Why world rankings (2)?

- GATS
- EU and Bologna
- 3 million students outside home country
- BTA
- UK as a major source and destination
- UK as major collaborator, eg several Korean universities
- UK universities opening in China and elsewhere
- Importance of English

In addition

- Interest from governments – UK Treasury
- EU, Germany
- Shanghai

How to do it?

- Audience not just possible students
- Internationally mobile staff
- Internationally mobile money
 - Focus on:
 - Teaching
 - Research
 - International orientation

How to do this

- Extensive data gathering exercise
- Mainly by UK firm QS
- Mix of data sources
- National
- Institutional
- Direct contact



Citations

- Like peer review
- Classic measure of research quality
- Use ESI from Thomson
- Our consultant Evidence Ltd



Comparison with Shanghai Jiao Tong

- Not a newspaper
- Nobel + Fields prizes
- These used twice
- Science and Nature
- Science and Social Science citations
- Theirs is a unique and valuable effort
- 500 rather than our 200

In addition...

- Subject specific data not feasible
- Reasons of space as well as data gathering
- But we did use what we term the faculty-specific data
- This is a far less subtle exercise

Faculty-specific data

- Peer opinion
- Citations per paper
- Not aggregated

What did we find?

- Harvard
- The US – 56 in top 200
- Harvard's lead the smallest yet
- Oxford and Cambridge also well placed
- But that's only part of the story

Our main finding

- The top 200 includes universities in 30 states
- US, UK, Australia, Netherlands
- Korea, China, Japan
- Thailand, Malaysia
- Continental Europe
- Developing world small (1 in 2004, 2 in 2005, only Unam in 2006)

International commitment

- US shows up badly
- Macquarie top in staff
- London School of Economics top in students
- Yale among few US with international staff

Peer review

- Harvard
- Oxford and Cambridge
- Well-liked universities all over the world
- Little evidence of patriotism bias
- US, UK, Australia, Japan, China, Singapore dominate the top 20

Citations

- Medical faculty is a big plus
- Or major biomedical income
- CalTech the winner, then Harvard, Stanford, MIT, Texas
- Big country effect is at work here

Staff/student ratio

- Winner Duke, US
- US, French, Swiss, Netherlands etc institutions all well placed
- Harvard shows badly here
- Asian and European universities well-placed
- Weak correlation with research – but not zero

Take home message

- Small variations don't matter much
- A position can be gained by many combinations of weakness and strength
- eg, many Asian institutions do well despite scoring zero on citations

Subsets

- Our faculty-level opinion produced some good surprises
- Cambridge and Oxford top for science
- Followed by Berkeley and then Harvard
- Citations tell a different story
- But Cambridge, Harvard Oxford in biomedicine

Technology

- Harvard at 21
- MIT and Berkeley at 1 and 2
- IIT at 3
- Many good specialist institutions eg KAIST

Arts, humanities, social sciences

- Harvard
- Table has less Asian presence
- A few big-name people make a big difference

Korea's Universities; how good?

- We find three in the top 200
- They are Seoul National, Korea and KAIST
- They appear at 63, 150 and 198

....in detail

- Peer review

Seoul National 43/100, more than
institutions with similar overall score
Korea University 25/100, less than nearby
institutions
KAIST 24/100, also lower than neighbours

....however

- Employer scores generally low

Seoul National 13/100

Korea 8

KAIST 11

Research

- Citations per person
- Seoul National 4/100
- Korea 1/100
- KAIST 12/100

International orientation

- Overseas staff and students
- Seoul National 15 for students, 23 staff
- Korea 19 for students, 5 staff
- KAIST 6 for students, 14 staff

Teaching

- Staff/student ratio

Seoul National 57/100

Korea 55

KAIST 29

In the top 500...

- Pohang 240-250
- Chonbuk National 400-450
- Yonsei 450-500
- Pusan National 450-500
- Hanyang 450-500

...and almost

- Kyung Hee 500-550
- Chungnam National 500-550
- Sungkyunkwan 500-550
- Chonnam National 500-550
- Sogang 500-550
- Ehwa Women's 500-550
- Kyungpook 500-550

In general..

- Large teaching institutions
- Show poorly in citations
- Not very international
- Strategic decision for them
- Same issue in the UK

KAIST

- 198 in world
- 37 in technology
- 82 in science
- Less good in biomedicine, arts, social sciences

Good at..

- Staff/student ratio
- Citations
- International staff

Less good at..

- International students
- Recruiters
- Peer review

But..

- These are general problems with Korean institutions
- KAIST is the Korean technology champion
- Compare Imperial, CalTech, TITech, Nanyang et al
- Possible to build its position in future years

What we didn't find

- Data on 500 institutions
- Have to teach undergraduates
- Subset data on non-university institutions
 - Government labs eg LLNL, both civil and military, MPS, CNRS
 - Companies eg IBM
 - Some prefer patents
 - US and European domination

Things that don't work

- Library spending
- Course cost
- Completion
- Entry standards
- Wealth
- Alumni giving

Response

- More work than writing the thing
- Last year about 30 newspaper articles in Mexico alone
- Interest from media, universities etc across Europe and Asia
- Less from the US

Types of response

- Who told you that?
- Reject the whole idea
- Complain about their position
- Think it is about right
- Wonder how to do better

How to do better

- Publish more in the right places
- Be more international
- Be better represented academically around the world
- Have better employer links
- Have enough staff to teach your students

Future developments

- New data
 - Any suggestions?

Refine existing data, eg from employers

More global reach, eg Africa

New analyses

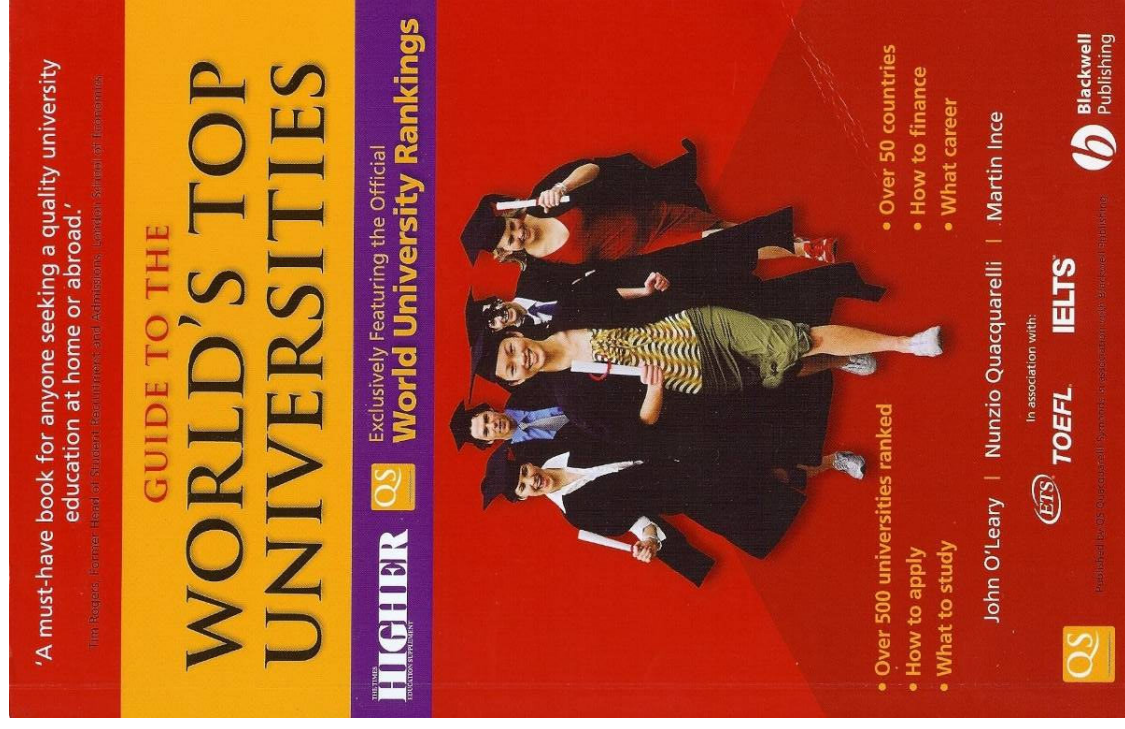
New entrants

And most importantly....

The book

- First published October 2006
- 500 institutions including articles on the top group and shorter details on the rest
- Data in groups of 50

.... See www.topuniversities.com



...really the last slide

- Thanks to
John O’Leary, editor of The THES
Nunzio Quacquarelli, QS
Ben Sowter, QS
Jonathan Adams, Evidence Ltd
and their colleagues