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Five varsities move up in world rankings

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PETALING JAYA: Universiti Malaya (UM) is leading the charge of Malaysian institutions in the QS World University Rankings 2018, moving up by 19 places to 114th position.

Four other research universities – Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) – have also improved, with USM climbing 66 places to 264.

This year, there are five Malaysian varsities among the top 300 universities while last year, there were only three – UM, UPM and UTM.

QS research director Ben Sowter said this had been a successful year for Malaysian higher education with the results indicating that Malaysia had nearly doubled its share of the top 300 universities.

He said UM reached its highest position since the first-ever edition of the QS World University Rankings in 2004.

The QS World University Rankings is an annual league table of the top universities in the world, which this year saw 4,854 institutions being considered and

959 institutions ranked.

Other Malaysian varsities in the ranking are Universiti Teknologi Petronas in the 601-650 bracket, International Islamic University Malaysia (701-750), Universiti Utara Malaysia (701-750) and Universiti Teknologi Mara (751-800).

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology topped the rankings this year, followed by Stanford University and Harvard University.

Universities are ranked based on six indicators – academic reputation (40%), employer reputation (10%), faculty student ratio (20%), citations per faculty (20%), international students (5%) and international faculty (5%).

Sowter said seven Malaysian universities saw better scores under academic reputation while eight saw improvement for employer reputation.

“These two make up 50% of an institution’s possible score. So, sustained work in improving worldwide academic and employer reputation over the years has been a contributing factor to their success this year,” he told *The Star*.

For more information, visit <https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2018>.