

# Research Paper

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# **Australian University Rankings**

#### Introduction

Australia does not officially rank its universities in the way some other popular international student destination countries do. However, there are annually published rankings of universities around the world which confirm how highly regarded Australian universities are compared to others around the world. These rankings show many Australian universities ranked in their top 100.

This paper highlights where Australian universities were placed in the three key university rankings for 2012— The Academic Ranking of World Universities; The Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings; and The Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

# The 2012 Academic Ranking of World Universities

The Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), sometimes referred to as the Shanghai Jiao Tong (SJT) Rankings is published annually by The Centre for World-Class Universities at the Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China.

## Australia's 19 Universities in the ARWU rankings for 2012

2012 Rank <sup>(a)</sup>	2011 Rank	Institution
57	60	University of Melbourne
64	70	Australian National University
90	86	University of Queensland
93	96	University of Sydney
96	101-150	University of Western Australia
101-150	151-200	Monash University
101-150	151-200	University of New South Wales
201-300	201-300	Macquarie University
201-300	201-300	The University of Adelaide
301-400	301-400	Flinders University
301-400	401-500	Griffith University
301-400	301-400	James Cook University
301-400	401-500	Swinburne University of Technology
301-400	301-400	University of Newcastle
301-400	301-400	University of Tasmania
301-400	401-500	University of Wollongong
401-500	401-500	Curtin University of Technology
401-500	401-500	La Trobe University
401-500	401-500	University of Technology, Sydney

<sup>(</sup>a) Rankings above 100 are in ranges. Institutions within the same rank range are listed alphabetically.

## The ARWU rankings and Australia's universities

Australia has 19 universities in the ARWU top 500 rankings for 2012. Some of the highlights of the latest rankings show:

- Australia has one more university in the top 100 rankings when compared with 2011. The University of Western Australia has moved to 96<sup>th</sup> rank in 2012 from just outside the top 100 last year.
- Five Australian universities were ranked in the top 100; seven were in the top 200.
- 49 per cent of Australia's universities were ranked in the top 500.
- The highest ranked Australian university was the University of Melbourne, up to 57<sup>th</sup> in 2012 from 60<sup>th</sup> in 2011;
- The next highest was the Australian National University, ranked 64<sup>th</sup>, up from 70<sup>th</sup> in 2011;
- The University of Queensland, the University of Sydney and the University of Western Australia were the other universities in the top 100;
- All Go8 universities are included in the top 500;
- All but one Australian university in the top 500 either remained at the same rank grouping or improved their position when compared with the 2011 rankings.
- The only exception was the University of Queensland which moved down from 86<sup>th</sup> in 2011 to 90<sup>th</sup> in 2012 however, it remains Australia's third highest ranked university.

# **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings**

First compiled in 2004, QS World University Rankings are based on data covering four key areas: research, employability, teaching and internationalization.

The research claims to consider over 2,000 universities world-wide, and ranks over 700. The top 400 are ranked individually, whereas those placed 401 and over are ranked in groups.

#### Australia's Universities in the top 500 QS rankings for 2012

201	2012 Rank 2011 Rank			
Overall	Academic <sup>(a)</sup>	Overall	Academic <sup>(b)</sup>	Institution
24	21	26	20	Australian National University
36	16	31	16	The University of Melbourne
39	23	38	23	The University of Sydney
46	42	48	45	The University of Queensland
52	44	49	41	The University of New South Wales
61	41	60	39	Monash University
79	90	73	87	The University of Western Australia
102	110	92	103	The University of Adelaide
233	228	211	192	Macquarie University
246	233	228	196	RMIT University
258	268	258	258	Curtin University of Technology
264	301+	269		University of Wollongong
268	225	291	235	University of Newcastle
281	251	267		Queensland University of Technology
284	267	268	263	University of Technology, Sydney
293	299	256=	269	University of South Australia
342	301+	299		Flinders University
357	301+	343		University of Tasmania
362	301+	352		James Cook University
368	301+	346		Griffith University
375	301+	317	253	La Trobe University
380	301+	n.r.		Bond University
401-450		401-450		Deakin University
401-450		501-550		Murdoch University
451-500		401-450		Swinburne University of Technology

<sup>(</sup>a) Rankings for top 400 institutions in 2012. (b) Rankings for top 300 institutions in 2011. n.r. Not ranked. Ranking Criteria are available at http://www.iu.gs.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/

## The QS Rankings and Australia's universities

- Seven of Australia's 39 universities were ranked in the top 100; and four were ranked in the top 50.
- About two-thirds (64%) of Australia's universities were ranked in the top 500.
- Australian National University was Australia's highest ranking university (although SJT shows the University of Melbourne to be highest).

# **The Times Higher Education World University Rankings**

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings for 2012-2013 claim to judge world class universities across all of their core missions - teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook.

Australia's 19 Universities in the top Times Higher Education World University rankings for 2012-13

2012-2013 Rank	2011-2012 Rank	Institution
28	37	The University of Melbourne
37	38	The Australian National University
62	58	The University of Sydney
65	74	The University of Queensland
85	173	The University of New South Wales
99	117	Monash University
176	201-225	The University of Adelaide
190	189	The University of Western Australia
251-275	226-250	Macquarie University
251-275	276-300	Queensland University of Technology
276-300	276-300	University of Newcastle
301-350		Murdoch University
301-350	351-400	University of South Australia
301-350	251-275	University of Wollongong
351-400	301-350	Charles Darwin University
351-400	351-400	Deakin University
351-400	351-400	Flinders University
351-400	301-350	University of Tasmania
351-400		University of Technology Sydney
	351-400	Curtin University
	351-400	Griffith University
	351-400	La Trobe University
	351-400	Swinburne University of Technology

Ranking methodology is available at: <a href="http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/world-university-rankings/2012-13/world-ranking/methodology">http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/world-university-rankings/2012-13/world-ranking/methodology</a>

# The Times Higher Education World University rankings and Australia's universities

- Australia has 19 universities in the top 400 world university rankings.
- The University of Melbourne as Australia's highest ranking university in top 400 world universities same as the SJT ranking. However, the University of Melbourne is ranked 28 in top 400 by the Times Higher Education World University ranking, whereas the University of Melbourne is ranked 57 in top 500 by the SJT ranking for 2012.
- Australia has 14 universities in the top 100 under 50 years old Universities.
- Both University of Wollongong and Macquarie University ranked 33 in the top 100 under 50 years old universities.