U-MULTIRANK
2020
Japanese Universities in Global Comparison
U-MULTIRANK 2020

U-Multirank is a unique, multidimensional and international ranking of higher education institutions. It compares university performance across teaching and learning, research, knowledge transfer, international orientation and regional engagement. It is the largest and most inclusive ranking showcasing the diversity in higher education around the world. It is not a league table and does not use composite indicators, nor reputation weights. Therefore, there is no one best university in U-Multirank. The performance of a university is presented with individual scores – graded from ‘A’ (very good) to ‘E’ (weak) across the different areas.

U-Multirank’s 2020 edition presents data on 34 Japanese higher education institutions. For the full list of all universities from Japan included in U-Multirank, please visit our website.

CONTENTS

3 AT A GLANCE: HOW DO JAPANESE UNIVERSITIES FARE IN U-MULTIRANK?

4 WHICH ARE THE TOP PERFORMING UNIVERSITIES IN JAPAN?

5 WHAT ARE THE PERFORMANCE PROFILES OF JAPAN TOP SCORING UNIVERSITIES?

6 WHAT DO JAPANESE UNIVERSITIES DO BEST?

7 HOW DO JAPANESE UNIVERSITIES PERFORM GLOBALLY?

8 APPENDIX: HOW CAN DETAILED RESULTS BE PRESENTED?

9 WHAT IS U-MULTIRANK?
• The 2020 edition of U-Multirank includes 34 universities from Japan.

• 7 universities from Japan score more than 10 top group positions (‘A’), with Osaka University reaching 16 ‘A’ scores. Hokkaido University and Tokyo Medical and Dental University follow with 12 top group positions. Keio University, the Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST), Tohoku University and Nagoya University achieved 11 ‘A’ scores.

• Compared to the full global sample of institutions, Japanese universities perform particularly well in the Teaching & Learning as well as in the Knowledge Transfer Dimension. 98% of all indicator scores of Japanese universities in Teaching & Learning and 88% in Knowledge Transfer are above average, i.e. in the rank groups ‘A’ or ‘B’.

• This strong performance in Knowledge Transfer is highlighted by the fact that 6 universities from Japan are listed among the global Top 25 performers in the (size-normalised) number of patents awarded to the universities: The Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST), Kanazawa University, Kumamoto University, Kyoto University, Shinshu University, and the University of Tokyo, with the latter being part of the Top 25 in terms of the absolute number of research publications just as well.
WHICH ARE THE TOP PERFORMING UNIVERSITIES IN JAPAN?

Osaka University received the highest number of ‘A’ (very good) scores on the institutional level for Japan in 2020.

In this section we highlight the universities receiving the highest number of ‘A’ (very good) scores on the institutional level for the respective country. Although the number of ‘A’ scores shows top performance for the respective university, it does not imply one university is the ‘best’ in the country, as each university profile highlights different strengths.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Japanese universities with the highest number of overall top scores in 2020</th>
<th>Total 'A' scores 2020</th>
<th>Total 'A' scores 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Osaka University</td>
<td>16 ↓</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hokkaido University</td>
<td>12 ↑</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU)</td>
<td>12 =</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keio University</td>
<td>11 ↑</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST)</td>
<td>11 =</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tohoku University</td>
<td>11 =</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nagoya University</td>
<td>11 ↓</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The list includes different profiles of institutions: comprehensive universities, as well as business schools and technical universities.
WHAT ARE THE PERFORMANCE PROFILES OF JAPAN TOP SCORING UNIVERSITIES?

Using our unique sunburst chart, a clear picture is shown of the university’s overall performance (the longer the bar, the higher the score).

*For a list of definitions and calculations of indicators, see our Indicator Book.*
Global Top Performing Japanese Universities

In this section, U-Multirank presents the global Top 25 performers in a set of 10 indicators measuring different dimensions of performance. These lists highlight the 25 top-performing universities from around the world with the highest scores.

Japanese universities that have achieved a global Top 25 score are listed under the respective categories:

**Patents awarded (size-normalised)**
- Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST)
- Kanazawa University
- Kumamoto University
- Kyoto University
- Shinshu University
- The University of Tokyo

**Research publications (absolute numbers)**
- The University of Tokyo

*For the full lists of all global Top 25 performers, please visit our [website](#).
Japanese higher education institutions perform strongest in U-Multirank’s Teaching & Learning and Knowledge Transfer dimensions.

Above or below average?

In this section we highlight the overall performance of Japanese universities on the institutional level per U-Multirank dimension.

The below table shows the national breakdown of Japanese universities and how they stand across the spectrum of above average (receiving a score of ‘A’ (very good) or ‘B’ (good)), or below average (receiving a score of ‘D’ (below average) or ‘E’ (weak)). In doing so, U-Multirank offers a clear picture on the countries strengths, and areas for improvement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Above Average</th>
<th>Below Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional Engagement</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Orientation</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge Transfer</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching &amp; Learning</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If you want to analyse further the performance of the universities in your country you can click the following links.

The below links lead directly to the national results pages where we pre-filtered the universities in your country into one list (for the university as a whole and for the subject areas included in U-Multirank so far). You can use the table to produce national rankings (see image below), or for personalised interactive analyses with the data.

If you’re interested in tailor-made tables (institutional level, subject level, or with a specific focus in mind, such as internationalisation), please contact us, at info@umultirank.org. These links are also accessible via your country’s ‘Study in’ page.

---

**U-Multirank’s National University Rankings 2020-2021 – Japan**

- Institutional Rankings

**Press materials:**

- Advanced press release (includes graphics and tables for download in Appendix)
- FAQ
- Overview Infographic 2020
U-Multirank is a multidimensional, user-driven approach to international ranking of higher education institutions. It compares the performances of higher education institutions – in short: universities – in the five dimensions of university activity:

(1) teaching and learning, (2) research, (3) knowledge transfer, (4) international orientation and (5) regional engagement.

The U-Multirank web tool enables comparisons at the level of the university as a whole and at the level of specific study programmes. Based on empirical data, U-Multirank compares institutions with similar institutional profiles (‘like-with-like’) and allows users to develop their own personalised rankings by selecting indicators in terms of their own preferences.

Based on the results of a feasibility study covering 150 universities which was carried out in 2010/11, the European Commission decided to fund the implementation of U-Multirank. This roll out is carried out by a consortium led by Professor Frans van Vught of the Center for Higher Education Policy Studies (CHEPS), University of Twente in The Netherlands and Professor Frank Ziegele of the Centre for Higher Education (CHE) in Germany as well as the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS) from Leiden University, Fundacion CYD and Folge 3. U-Multirank is funded by the European Commission, the Bertelsmann Foundation and Banco Santander. The consortium also works closely with a range of national ranking partners and stakeholder organisations.

The work of the U-Multirank consortium is overseen by an Advisory Board.