

HIGHER EDUCATION

# Universities move up in rankings

Seven institutions cited in Top 50 list of key subjects but still have 'a way to go'

By CAO YIN in London and ZHAO XINYING in Beijing

Academic performance in key subjects at Chinese universities continues to be strong, according to newly released rankings.

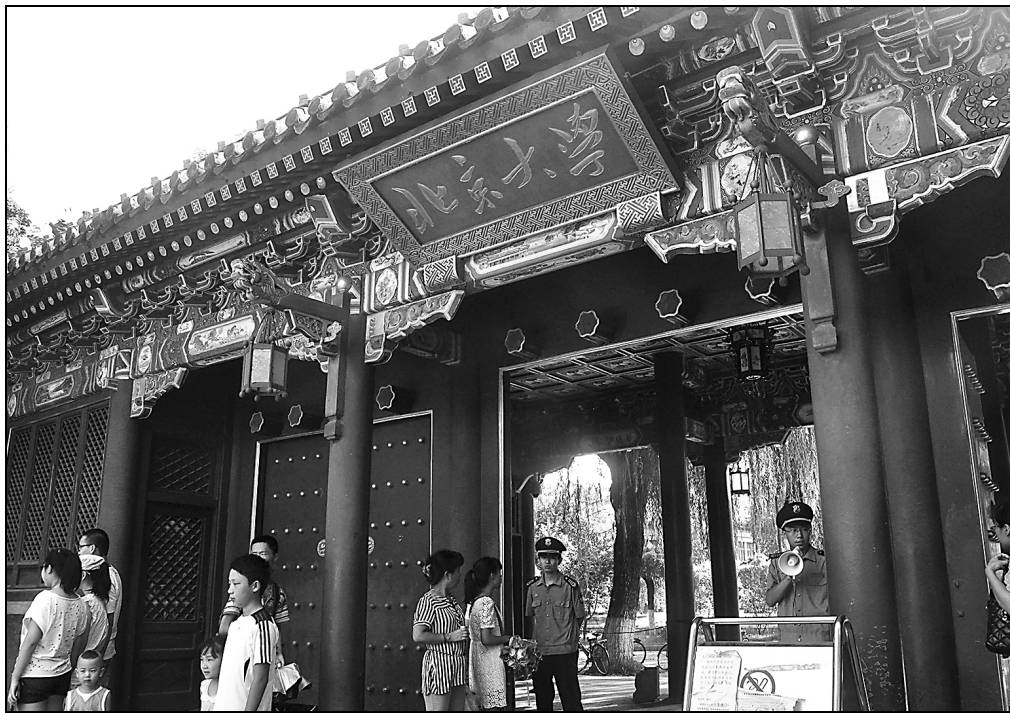
Quacquarelli Symonds, a British company specializing in education and studies abroad, published its latest Worldwide University Rankings by Subject on its website recently. The rankings showed that seven universities in China this year offer subjects listed among the Top 50 around the world.

Among them, Peking University had 22 subjects, including linguistics, chemistry and law, in the global Top 50.

Tsinghua University was next, with 15 subjects in the list, including civil engineering, architecture, materials science and mechanical engineering.

The rankings were compiled from the professional opinions of 85,062 scholars and 41,910 university officials, as well as 17.3 million academic publications and more than 100 million bits of data analysis, according to a statement provided by Quacquarelli Symonds.

"Such good rankings show that China has been rewarded after investing in higher education over the past 20 years," said Ben Sowter, chief inspector of research at QS. "The success of Chinese universities also represents a global power transfer. Asian colleges



For years, Peking University in Beijing has been the top university in the country. YAN DAMING / FOR CHINA DAILY

“Chinese universities still have a long way to go.”

Jiang Guohua, academic committee director of the website cuaa.net

have become strong competitors to those in the UK and the United States, especially in the sciences, technology, math and engineering.”

The annual global universi-

ty ranking by subject is a comprehensive guide to the world's top universities in a range of popular subject areas.

Previously, using schools' reputations and research citations, the rankings highlighted the 200 top universities in the world across 30 disciplines. This year, the rankings broke a record as they cover 36 subjects.

Universities of China have performed well in the QS rankings in recent years. In 2014, 26 subjects from eight Chinese universities were listed in the Top 50.

However, Jiang Guohua,

academic committee director of the website cuaa.net who has watched university ranking for years, believed that people should remain calm about the results.

"Chinese universities still have a long way to go, compared with the world's top universities, and people should not be too excited about Chinese performance in world university rankings," Jiang said.

He added that the rankings enable Chinese universities to reflect on their strengths and weaknesses.

"It's undeniable that higher education in China has been

developing rapidly since reform and opening-up in 1978," he said. "But generally speaking, most Chinese universities are now lingering around the medium level. There are too few world-class universities in China, considering the great number of higher education institutions in the country."

Other Chinese universities ranked were Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Fudan University, Tongji University, China Agricultural University and Beijing Normal University.

Contact the writer at cao-yin@chinadaily.com.cn

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

# More Chinese are studying in Dubai

By ZHAO XINYING zhaoxinying@chinadaily.com.cn



Abdulla Al Karam, director general of Dubai's Knowledge and Human Development Authority

The number of Chinese students studying in Dubai has grown quickly during the past five years, in step with the rapidly growing trade and business between China and the United Arab Emirates city.

There are 815 Chinese students studying in Dubai this year, up from 304 in 2010, Abdulla Al Karam, director general of Dubai's Knowledge and Human Development Authority, told China Daily.

"That is in line not only with the population growth, but also with the economic ties between China and Dubai," he said during his visit to Beijing for Dubai Week, a seven-day event held by Dubai and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries to enhance Chinese people's knowledge and understanding of the international city.

Both the number of Chinese living in Dubai and the number of Chinese businesses in Dubai grow every year, Karam said. He believed that as both numbers grow, Dubai will see Chinese families coming on a larger scale.

According to Karam, apart from economic factors, there are many other reasons for Chinese parents to choose education in Dubai for their children. Diversity, which Karam said is what's unique about Dubai education, comes first.

For example, at the university level, Karam said, Dubai now has 26 branches of international universities from 11 countries, including Canada, the United States and Israel. They were all built during the past decade.

"It is a very unique system

because it provides a lot of nice options for the parents to choose," he said. "Parents have more choices in Dubai than they do anywhere else."

Safety, which is valued by many parents, is the second appeal, Karam said.

"If we ask the parents why they send their children to study in Dubai, the number-one reason besides the diversity is that Dubai is a very safe place," he said.

In addition, Karam believed the school's strengths lie in the great attention they pay to student happiness.

"We find that students are very happy in Dubai because they get to meet students from 200 different nationalities in the same schooling environment. That makes them very happy," he said.

As economic ties between China and Dubai grow, collaboration in the education field has also been strengthened, Karam said.

He said Dubai is working with the Chinese government to design and open Chinese curricula in Dubai, and they are also collaborating at the higher education level, for example by setting up scholarships to support student and faculty visits and exchanges.

"Eventually, I think, we will have some branch universities from China open in Dubai," he said.

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