**UNDER STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL THURSDAY, 16th OCTOBER AT 11:00 AM BST**

**QS World University Rankings: Arab Region 2026**

### **Saudi Arabia’s KFUPM crowned best; Egypt leads in Africa; UAE climbs; Algeria emerges**

**London, 16 October 2025:** International higher education experts **QS Quacquarelli Symonds** today released the   
[QS World University Rankings: Arab Region 2026](https://www.topuniversities.com/arab-region-university-rankings)\*.  
*(The link will be updated with the latest results when the embargo lifts.)*

Algeria is the most represented nation, with 46 ranked universities, including 32 new entrants – the largest increase of any country. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates continue to dominate the regional landscape, each with three universities in the top 10 and six in the top 20 – double that of any other country.

New entrants to the top 50 include the German Jordanian University (39th), the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik in Lebanon (46th), and Kuwait University (49th). Egypt is the second most represented overall in Africa and leads the continent in the top 50 with six universities, led by the American University in Cairo (13th).

Six countries show overall system-wide improvement: the UAE, Oman, Palestine, Jordan, Iraq, and Lebanon. Morocco excels in teaching quality, boasting the most top-10 universities for Staff with PhD. Iraq leads in teaching resources, with three universities in the top 10 for Faculty–Student Ratio.

Qatar maintains its concentration of higher education excellence: Qatar University ranks 2nd overall, while Hamad Bin Khalifa University tops four indicators- more than any other institution.

The results see Saudi Arabia’s King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM) ranked first in the region for the third consecutive year, followed by Qatar University in second place. The UAE’s Khalifa University climbs to third, its highest-ever position, overtaking King Saud University, which falls to fourth.

Lebanon, Oman, and Jordan’s highest-ranked universities also feature in the top 10, with the American University of Beirut (AUB) in sixth, Sultan Qaboos University in eighth, and the University of Jordan in 10th, down one place from ninth last year.

While no new institutions enter the top 10, the UAE’s University of Sharjah, Kuwait’s American University of the Middle East, and Cairo University in Egypt all break into the top 20.

**Dr Ashwin Fernandes,** **QS Executive Director AMESA,** said:

“This year’s Arab Region Rankings are our largest ever and continue to provide an important comparative tool for students, higher education leaders, and policymakers.”

Dr Fernandes continued:

“Algeria’s remarkable rise exemplifies the dynamism and momentum across the region, while this year’s results highlight the continued dominance of Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Their universities are consolidating their positions as regional leaders and setting new benchmarks for excellence in higher education.”

He added:

“The story of higher education across the Arab Region is one of great dynamism and nuance. While some systems—buoyed by economic growth—are rapidly expanding and investing in research and innovation, others continue to face challenges of limited resources and capacity.

Across the region, universities face mounting pressure from population growth, technological disruption, and shifting labour markets. Yet by prioritising equity, innovation, and international collaboration, the region holds immense potential to shape its universities into global engines of knowledge, opportunity, and development.”

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| **Table 1: Arab Region – Top 20** | | | |
| **2026 Rank** | **2025 Rank** | **Institution** | **Location** |
| **1** | 1 | KFUPM | Saudi Arabia |
| **2** | 2 | Qatar University | Qatar |
| **3** | 4 | Khalifa University | United Arab Emirates |
| **4** | 3 | King Saud University | Saudi Arabia |
| **5** | 5 | United Arab Emirates University | United Arab Emirates |
| **6** | 6 | American University of Beirut (AUB) | Lebanon |
| **7** | 7 | King Abdulaziz University (KAU) | Saudi Arabia |
| **8** | 8 | Sultan Qaboos University | Oman |
| **9** | 10 | American University of Sharjah | United Arab Emirates |
| **10** | 9 | University of Jordan | Jordan |
| **11** | 12 | Abu Dhabi University | United Arab Emirates |
| **12** | 17 | Ajman University | United Arab Emirates |
| **13** | 13 | The American University in Cairo | Egypt |
| **14** | 22 | University of Sharjah | United Arab Emirates |
| **15** | 14 | Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University (IAU) | Saudi Arabia |
| **16** | 16 | Jordan University of Science & Technology | Jordan |
| **17** | 11 | King Khalid University | Saudi Arabia |
| **18** | 15 | Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd university | Saudi Arabia |
| **19** | 23 | American University of the Middle East | Kuwait |
| **20** | 21 | Cairo University | Egypt |

The [QS World University Rankings: Arab Region 2026](https://www.topuniversities.com/arab-region-university-rankings) features 298 universities from 20 countries. For the first time ever, **Algeria** is the most represented country, with 46 ranked universities, adding an exceptional 32 institutions to the rankings this year, more than any other country and more than tripling its total year-on-year. It is followed by **Egypt** with 42. Seventy-three Arab universities debut in this edition.

**Saudi Arabia** and **UAE** are the top performing countries, based on their number of elite universities. Each boast three universities in the top 10 and six in the top 20, more than double that of any other country.

Six countries see overall improvement in this edition, meaning more of their previously ranked universities climb than drop. The countries include the **UAE**, **Oman**, **Palestine**, **Jordan**, **Iraq** and **Lebanon**.

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| **Table 2: Top 10 countries by total ranked universities** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Location** | **Total ranked** | **Down** | **Same** | **Up** | **New** | **Top 10** | **Top 20** | **Top 50** | **Top 100** | **Top 200** | **Top university** | **Rank** |
| Algeria | 46 | 26% | 4% | 0% | 32 |  |  |  |  | 13 | Badji Mokhtar-Annaba University | =109 |
| Egypt | 42 | 49% | 10% | 24% | 7 |  | 2 | 6 | 14 | 34 | The American University in Cairo | 13 |
| Iraq | 36 | 17% | 17% | 39% | 11 |  |  | 1 | 9 | 25 | University of Baghdad | 34 |
| Saudi Arabia | 34 | 62% | 6% | 26% | 2 | 3 | 6 | 12 | 23 | 33 | KFUPM | 1 |
| Jordan | 24 | 29% | 17% | 54% | 0 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 12 | 21 | University of Jordan | 10 |
| Lebanon | 17 | 29% | 12% | 35% | 4 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 11 | American University of Beirut | 6 |
| UAE | 15 | 27% | 7% | 60% | 1 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 13 | 15 | Khalifa University | 3 |
| Palestine | 12 | 18% | 27% | 45% | 1 |  |  |  | 5 | 8 | Al-Quds University | 52 |
| Oman | 11 | 9% | 18% | 36% | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 9 | Sultan Qaboos University | 8 |
| Libya | 11 | 36% | 9% | 9% | 5 |  |  |  |  | 3 | University of Tripoli | 136 |

The QS Arab Region Rankings assess university performance based on 10 indicators, which have been tailored to reflect the nuances of the region and differentiate it from the QS World University Rankings. The below table shows the top performing university in the Arab Region in each of QS’s indicators. Detailed methodological information can be found at [here](https://www.topuniversities.com/arab-region-rankings/methodology#:~:text=QS%20University%20Rankings:%20Arab%20Region%20%E2%80%93%20Methodology%201,(5%25)%20...%207%20Papers%20per%20faculty%20(5%25)%20).

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| **Table 3: Regional leader by indicator** | | | | |
| **Indicator** | **Weight** | **Regional Leader** | **Country** | **Overall Rank** |
| Academic Reputation | 30% | King Abdulaziz University (KAU) | Saudi Arabia | 7 |
| Employer Reputation | 20% | KFUPM | Saudi Arabia | 1 |
| Faculty Student Ratio | 15% | Hamad bin Khalifa University | Qatar | 29 |
| Citations per Paper | 5% | Tissemsilt university | Algeria | 251-300 |
| Papers per Faculty | 5% | Hamad bin Khalifa University | Qatar | 29 |
| Staff with PhD | 5% | Khalifa University; Hamad bin Khalifa University; Universit Sultan Moulay Slimane; Beni-Suef University | UAE; Qatar; Morocco; Egypt | 3; 29; 191-200; 99 |
| Web Impact | 5% | King Saud University | Saudi Arabia | 4 |
| International Research Network | 10% | King Saud University | Saudi Arabia | 4 |
| International Faculty | 2.5% | Al Ain University | UAE | 25 |
| International Students | 2.5% | Hamad bin Khalifa University | Qatar | 29 |

### **Arab Region: In Focus**

Three universities break into the top 50 in this edition, including the **German Jordanian University**, rising 15 positions to 39th; the **Holy Spirit University of Kaslik** in Lebanon, up 10 to 46th; and **Kuwait University**, up two to 49th.

In total, **123 African universities** are ranked across **eight Arab League countries**. **Egypt** is the strongest performer by a considerable margin, with six institutions in the top 50. **Tunisia** is home to the only other African university in the top 50, **Université de Tunis El Manar**, which ranks 41st. **Egypt’s Delta University for Science and Technology** is the most improved university in this edition, climbing 33 places from the 151–160 band to 118th, driven by gains in **Academic and Employer Reputation**, **International Research Network**, **Citations per Paper**, and **International Faculty Ratio**.

In QS’ measure of class size and teaching resources, **Faculty per Student Ratio**—a proxy for learning experience—**Iraq** performs exceptionally well, with three universities in the top 10, more than any other country. However, **Tunisia** achieves the highest average score in this indicator among countries with five or more ranked universities.

**Morocco** stands out for teaching expertise, with more universities in the top 10 for **Staff with PhD** than any other country, including the region’s joint top performer in this metric, **Université Sultan Moulay Slimane** (191–200 band).

**Saudi Arabia’**s Almaarefa University (94th), **Oman’**s Modern College of Business and Science (98th), and **Palestine Ahliya University** (100th) are the only newly ranked institutions to enter the top 100.

**Qatar** continues to demonstrate a remarkable concentration of higher education excellence. Although only three Qatari universities are ranked, **Qatar University** places second overall, supported by high-quality research and a strong international reputation. **Hamad Bin Khalifa University**, Qatar’s second-highest ranked institution, also performs impressively—topping **four indicators**, more than any other university in the region.

**Saudi Arabian** universities remain among the region’s most internationally renowned. In **Academic Reputation**, three Saudi institutions appear in the top five, including the region’s leading performer, **King Abdulaziz University (KAU)**, which also ranks second among international academics. The **Academic Reputation** indicator is led by **King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM)**, placing third among academics. Saudi Arabia also leads the region in research collaboration, with all three of the highest-ranked universities in **International Research Network** based in the Kingdom.

The **United Arab Emirates** records the greatest overall improvement, with nine of its previously ranked universities rising and four falling, resulting in an improvement rate of 33%. The UAE has seen significant gains in **Employer Reputation**, alongside moderate progress in **Web Impact** and **International Student Ratio**. The country dominates QS’ internationalisation indicators: nine of the top 10 universities in **International Faculty Ratio** are Emirati, including the seven highest-ranked. In **International Students**, seven UAE universities feature in the top 10, including two in the top five and the region’s second-highest ranked, **Ajman University**.

The full results of the **QS World University Rankings 2026: Arab Region** will be published at [www.topuniversities.com/arab-region-university-rankings](https://www.topuniversities.com/arab-region-university-rankings) once the embargo lifts.

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**Notes for Editors**

**QS Quacquarelli Symonds** is the world’s leading provider of services, analytics, and insight to the global higher education sector, whose mission is to empower motivated people anywhere in the world to fulfil their potential through educational achievement, international mobility, and career development*.*

The *QS World University Rankings*portfolio, inaugurated in 2004, is the world’s most popular source of comparative data about university performance. Their flagship website, [www.TopUniversities.com](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/france/glossary_fr) – the home of their rankings – was viewed more than 120 million times in 2024, and over 134,000 media clippings pertaining to, or mentioning, QS were published by media outlets across the world in 2024.

**Appendix**

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| **Arab Region: Top 50** | | | |
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| **19** | 23 | American University of the Middle East | Kuwait |
| **20** | 21 | Cairo University | Egypt |
| **21** | 24 | Canadian University Dubai | United Arab Emirates |
| **22** | 26 | Lebanese University | Lebanon |
| **23** | 20 | Zayed University | United Arab Emirates |
| **24** | 31 | Lebanese American University | Lebanon |
| **25** | 27 | Al Ain University | United Arab Emirates |
| **26** | 34 | King Faisal University | Saudi Arabia |
| **27** | 19 | Umm Al-Qura University | Saudi Arabia |
| **28** | 28 | Ain Shams University in Cairo (ASU, Cairo) | Egypt |
| **29** | 18 | Hamad bin Khalifa University | Qatar |
| **30** | 25 | Applied Science University - Bahrain | Bahrain |
| **31** | 29 | Beirut Arab University | Lebanon |
| **32** | 43 | Al-Ahliyya Amman University | Jordan |
| **33** | 30 | Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University | Saudi Arabia |
| **34** | =38 | University of Baghdad | Iraq |
| **35** | =48 | Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ) | Lebanon |
| **36** | 32 | Alexandria University | Egypt |
| **37** | =48 | Applied Science Private University - Jordan | Jordan |
| **38** | 35 | Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University – IMSIU | Saudi Arabia |
| **39** | 54 | German Jordanian University | Jordan |
| **40** | 42 | Yarmouk University | Jordan |
| **41** | 44 | Université de Tunis El Manar | Tunisia |
| **42** | 36 | Gulf University for Science and Technology | Kuwait |
| **43** | 33 | Ahlia University | Bahrain |
| **44** | 40 | Jouf University | Saudi Arabia |
| **45** | 50 | Future University in Egypt | Egypt |
| **46** | 56 | Holy Spirit University of Kaslik | Lebanon |
| **47** | 45 | American University in Dubai | United Arab Emirates |
| **48** | 37 | Qassim University | Saudi Arabia |
| **49** | 51 | Kuwait University | Kuwait |
| **50** | =38 | Mansoura University | Egypt |