**INFORMATION UNDER STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL WEDNESDAY 12th MARCH 11:00 AM CEST**

**QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025**

**German Higher Education among World Leaders in Philosophy, Classics and Religious Studies**

*Underpinned by strong international reputation and excellent research, Germany is the European leader for the study of Philosophy, Classics & Ancient History, and Theology & Religious Studies*

***London, Wednesday 12 March 2025:*** Global higher education experts QS Quacquarelli Symonds have today released the fifteen annual edition of the [QS World University Rankings by Subject](https://www.topuniversities.com/subject-rankings/2024)\*. \*The link will be updated with this year’s results when the embargo lifts

The rankings provide an independent comparative analysis of the performance of more than 21,000 academic offerings at more than 1700 universities across 100 countries and territories in 55 subjects and five faculty areas (Arts & Humanities, Engineering & Technology, Life Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences).

**Executive Summary – Germany**

Germany is the most represented Continental European country in the rankings, with 799 subject entries featured, fifth most in the world. However, it has the second most featured universities, with 61, behind France’s 80, which reflects the equality of its universities.

Of Germany’s total ranked subject entries, 9% (75) climb, 45% (359) drop and 39% (314) remain stable while 51 rank for the first time, giving Germany an overall decline of 36%. Germany sees 212 entries place in the world’s top 100 for their subjects. Additionally, Germany has 130 entries in the Broad Faculty Areas. Of these, 29% (38) climb, 56% (73) drop and 15% (19) remain stable.

* **Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München** stands out as Germany’s top-performing university in this edition, securing **37 subject entries**.
* **Germany leads in Philosophy**, boasting two top-20 rankings, including its highest-ranked entry—**Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München**, which claims **6th place** globally.
* **Classics & Ancient History remains a stronghold for Germany**, with two universities securing spots among the **world’s top 10**.
* **German universities excel in Theology & Religious Studies**, with **three institutions** ranked among the **global top 20**.
* **Data Science & AI continues to rise**, as **Technical University of Munich** breaks into the **world’s top 20** for the subject.

**QS Senior Vice President Ben Sowter** said: "*Germany’s academic excellence is once again affirmed in the latest QS rankings, with* ***Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München*** *leading national performance across multiple disciplines.”*

**Sowter** continued*: The country remains a powerhouse in Philosophy, Classics & Ancient History, and Theology & Religious Studies, with multiple institutions securing top global positions. These results reflect Germany’s enduring strength in the humanities and its broader commitment to world-class education and research."*

He added: "*Germany’s higher education system continues to evolve, driven by increasing international student enrolment, digital transformation, and strategic policy reforms. With nearly* [*380,000 international students in 2023/24*](https://thepienews.com/germany-reaches-record-high-with-380k-international-students/) *and projections surpassing 400,000 next year, the country is emerging as a global education hub.”*

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| **Top Countries/Territories by No. Entries (Subjects)**  |
| **Country / Territory**  | **Total Entries** | **Total Institutions**  | **Ups**  | **Neutrals**  | **Downs**  | **New**  | **% Swing**  | **Top 1**  | **Top 3**  | **Top 10**  | **Top 20**  | **Top 50**  | **Top 100**  |
| United States  | **3245** | 220 | 859  | 1042  | 1028  | 316  | -5%  | 32  | 80  | 243  | 452  | 841  | 1341  |
| United Kingdom  | **1662** | 104 | 320  | 591  | 610  | 141  | -17%  | 18  | 56  | 139  | 221  | 404  | 711  |
| China (Mainland)  | **1230** | 124 | 735  | 107  | 30  | 358  | 57%  |    | 4  | 19  | 75  | 217  | 408  |
| Australia  | **836** | 38 | 164  | 292  | 321  | 59  | -19%  |    | 3  | 13  | 30  | 187  | 373  |
| **Germany**  | **799** | **61** | **75**  | **314**  | **359**  | **51**  | **-36%**  |   |   | **3**  | **11**  | **75**  | **212**  |
| Canada  | **674** | 34 | 113  | 218  | 291  | 52  | -26%  |    | 2  | 16  | 44  | 145  | 227  |
| Italy  | **632** | 56 | 74  | 251  | 232  | 75  | -25%  | 1  | 1  | 7  | 16  | 40  | 138  |
| France  | **557** | 80 | 72  | 169  | 243  | 73  | -31%  |    | 1  | 6  | 15  | 67  | 150  |
| Republic of Korea  | **545** | 47 | 328  | 66  | 15  | 136  | 57%  |    |    | 2  | 10  | 96  | 198  |
| Spain  | **517** | 42 | 63  | 193  | 188  | 73  | -24%  |    |    |    | 2  | 19  | 90  |

**Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München** is Germany’s top performing university in this edition based on its number of subject entries, with 37. It also achieves Germany’s highest ranked subject entry, with *Philosophy* in sixth.

Three German institutions achieve top 10 subject rankings, including **Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin** and **Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg. Technical University of Munich** and **Freie Universitaet Berlin** also perform excellently, boasting 12 and 11 entries respectively among the world’s top 50 across the subject tables.

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| **Top Universities by Total Entries (Subjects)**  |
| **Institution**  | **Total Count**  | **Top 1**  | **Top 3**  | **Top 10**  | **Top 20**  | **Top 50**  | **Top 100**  |
| Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München  | 37  | 0  | 0  | **1**  | 2  | 12  | 27  |
| Albert-Ludwigs-Universitaet Freiburg  | 34  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 5  |
| Universität Hamburg  | 34  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 6  |
| Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main  | 32  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 3  |
| Freie Universitaet Berlin  | 31  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 11  | 19  |
| Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  | 31  | 0  | 0  | **1**  | 2  | 8  | 20  |
| University of Göttingen  | 31  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 5  |
| Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg  | 30  | 0  | 0  | **1**  | 2  | 8  | 13  |
| Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen  | 29  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 2  | 2  | 6  |
| University of Cologne  | 29  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 3  |
| Technical University of Munich  | 28  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 1  | 12  | 23  |

German universities shine in subjects in *Arts & Humanities*, emerging as world-leaders in *Classics & Ancient History*, *Philosophy*, and *Theology & Religious Studies*. In all these subjects, Germany has the highest number of top 20 entries in Europe and the third highest in the world, behind the US and the UK.

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| **German Entries in World’s Top 20 (Subjects)**  |
| **2025 Rank**  | **2024 Rank**  | **Institution**  | **Subject**  |
| 6  | 6  | Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München  | Philosophy  |
| 7  | 4  | Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg  | Classics & Ancient History  |
| 10  | 7  | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  | Classics & Ancient History  |
| 11  | 13  | Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg  | Theology, Divinity & Religious Studies  |
| 11  | 11  | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  | Philosophy  |
| 12  | 5  | Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen  | Theology, Divinity & Religious Studies  |
| 12  | 12  | Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen  | Archaeology  |
| 14  | 8  | Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München  | Classics & Ancient History  |
| 19  | 18  | KIT, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology  | Petroleum Engineering  |
| 20  | 35  | Technical University of Munich  | Data Science and Artificial Intelligence  |

*Biological Sciences* is Germany’s most prolific subject, with 45 universities ranked. **Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg** offers Germany’s best entry in this subject, placing 32nd.

**Top Climbers**

**Ruhr-Universität Bochum** is Germany’s most improved university among those with 10 or more ranked subject entries. Of its 14 ranked entries, six climb, four drop, three remain stable and one ranks for the first time, giving it an overall improvement rate of 14%. It achieves its highest rank for *Philosophy,* which breaks into the top 50 this year, placing 46th.

**Technical University of Munich** climbs into the top 20 in *Data Science & Artificial Intelligence*, up from 35th to 20th due to a significant rise in *Academic Reputation* alongside a more moderate rise in *Employer Reputation*.

Five German universities climb into the top 50 across the subject tables in this edition, highlighting the country’s continued academic excellence.

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| **German subject entries to break into top 50**  |
| **2025 Rank**  | **2024 Rank**  | **Institution**  | **Subject**  |
| 44  | 51-100  | Universität der Knste Berlin  | Performing Arts  |
| 48  | 51-100  | Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München  | Dentistry  |
| 49  | 51-100  | Freie Universitaet Berlin  | Anthropology  |
| 46  | 51-100  | Ruhr-Universität Bochum  | Philosophy  |
| 49  | 51-100  | Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg  | Philosophy  |

**Broad Faculty Areas**

In the five broad faculties, German universities occupy nine top-50 positions, with *Arts & Humanities* a particular strength.

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| **Broad Faculty Areas: German Universities in Top 50**  |
| **2025 Rank**  | **2024 Rank**  | **Institution**  | **Subject**  |
| 18  | 23  | Technical University of Munich  | Natural Sciences  |
| 19  | 19  | Technical University of Munich  | Engineering & Technology  |
| 26  | 29  | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  | Arts & Humanities  |
| 33  | 38  | Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg  | Life Sciences & Medicine  |
| 36  | 46  | KIT, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology  | Natural Sciences  |
| 38  | 41  | Freie Universitaet Berlin  | Arts & Humanities  |
| 40  | 38  | Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München  | Arts & Humanities  |
| 45  | 45  | Technische Universität Berlin (TU Berlin)  | Engineering & Technology  |
| 47  | 42  | Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München  | Natural Sciences  |

**Top Performers**

The below table displays Germany’s top-performing entrants across the Subject and Broad Faculty tables.

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| **Top Entries (Subjects and Faculty Areas)**  |
| **Subject/Faculty Area**  | **Total Entries 2025**  | **Total Entries 2024**  | **Top Ranked University**  | **Top Rank** |
| Biological Sciences  | 45  | 44  | Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg  | 32  |
| Chemistry  | 42  | 42  | Technical University of Munich  | 22  |
| Physics & Astronomy  | 42  | 42  | Technical University of Munich  | 23  |
| Computer Science & Information Systems  | 35  | 31  | Technical University of Munich  | 35  |
| Natural Sciences  | 34  | 36  | Technical University of Munich  | =18  |
| Medicine  | 33  | 33  | Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg  | 32  |
| Life Sciences & Medicine  | 32  | 33  | Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg  | 33  |
| Materials Science  | 28  | 27  | KIT, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology  | 25  |
| Arts & Humanities  | 25  | 27  | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  | 26  |
| Earth & Marine Sciences  | 23  | 21  | Christian-Albrechts-University zu Kiel  | 51-100  |
| Engineering & Technology  | 21  | 22  | Technical University of Munich  | 19  |
| Geophysics  | 19  | 18  | Christian-Albrechts-University zu Kiel  | 51-100  |
| Geophysics  | 19  | 18  | KIT, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology  | 51-100  |
| Geophysics  | 19  | 18  | Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München  | 51-100  |
| Geophysics  | 19  | 18  | Technical University of Munich  | 51-100  |
| Geophysics  | 19  | 18  | Universität Bremen  | 51-100  |
| Geophysics  | 19  | 18  | Universität Potsdam  | 51-100  |
| Geology  | 19  | 17  | Christian-Albrechts-University zu Kiel  | 51-100  |
| Geology  | 19  | 17  | KIT, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology  | 51-100  |
| Geology  | 19  | 17  | Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München  | 51-100  |
| Geology  | 19  | 17  | Technical University of Munich  | 51-100  |
| Geology  | 19  | 17  | Universität Bremen  | 51-100  |
| Geology  | 19  | 17  | Universität Potsdam  | 51-100  |
| Social Sciences & Management  | 18  | 20  | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  | 78  |
| Philosophy  | 18  | 19  | Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München  | 6  |
| Engineering - Mechanical, Aeronautical & Manufacturing  | 18  | 17  | RWTH Aachen University  | 23  |
| Archaeology  | 16  | 17  | Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen  | 12  |
| Engineering - Electrical & Electronic  | 15  | 14  | Technical University of Munich  | 23  |
| Engineering - Chemical  | 15  | 15  | KIT, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology  | 25  |
| Politics & International Studies  | 15  | 11  | Freie Universitaet Berlin  | 32  |
| Sociology  | 15  | 19  | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  | 36  |
| Modern Languages  | 15  | 16  | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  | 39  |
| Law  | 15  | 13  | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  | 41  |
| English Language & Literature  | 15  | 15  | Freie Universitaet Berlin  | 48  |
| Theology, Divinity & Religious Studies  | 13  | 13  | Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg  | 11  |
| Classics & Ancient History  | 12  | 11  | Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg  | 7  |
| Communication & Media Studies  | 12  | 10  | Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München  | 24  |
| History  | 12  | 12  | Freie Universitaet Berlin  | 30  |
| Agriculture & Forestry  | 11  | 10  | University of Göttingen  | 21  |
| Statistics & Operational Research  | 11  | 11  | Technical University of Munich  | 22  |
| Geography  | 11  | 10  | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  | 23  |
| Architecture / Built Environment  | 9  | 9  | Technische Universität Berlin (TU Berlin)  | 27  |
| Engineering - Civil & Structural  | 9  | 9  | Technical University of Munich  | 36  |
| Anthropology  | 9  | 8  | Freie Universitaet Berlin  | 49  |
| Performing Arts  | 7  | 6  | Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin  | 38  |
| Social Policy & Administration  | 6  | 4  | Freie Universitaet Berlin  | 51-100  |
| Social Policy & Administration  | 6  | 4  | Hertie School of Governance  | 51-100  |
| Social Policy & Administration  | 6  | 4  | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  | 51-100  |
| Social Policy & Administration  | 6  | 4  | Universität Bremen  | 51-100  |
| Art & Design  | 4  | 4  | Universität der Knste Berlin  | 42  |
| Dentistry  | 4  | 4  | Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München  | 48  |
| Library & Information Management  | 3  | 1  | Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin  | 51-100  |
| Library & Information Management  | 3  | 1  | KIT, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology  | 51-100  |
| Library & Information Management  | 3  | 1  | RWTH Aachen University  | 51-100  |
| Engineering - Mineral & Mining  | 3  | 2  | RWTH Aachen University  | 21  |
| Petroleum Engineering  | 2  | 2  | KIT, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology  | 19  |
| Data Science and Artificial Intelligence  | 2  | 1  | Technical University of Munich  | 20  |
| History of Art  | 2  | 2  | Technical University of Munich  | 21-50  |
| History of Art  | 2  | 2  | Technische Universität Berlin (TU Berlin)  | 21-50  |
| Veterinary Science  | 2  | 2  | Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München  | 40  |

**Global Highlights**

* **US** universities lead in 32 subjects. Harvard University is the world’s strongest-performing institution, ranking first in 15 disciplines. It is followed by MIT which leads in 11 subjects.
* **UK** institutions top 18 subject tables, with the University of Cambridge leading in four.
* **Canada** is home to two top three global programs and the University of British Columbia is joint top in the world for number of entries featured in the ranking this year with 52 mentions.
* **Switzerland** is home to four top ranked entries, with EHT Zurich – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology top in three subjects.
* The **Netherlands** and **Italy** are the only other two countries home to the world’s best programs. Sapienza University of Rome maintains its number one spot for Classics and Ancient History, while the University of Amsterdam’s Communication & Media Studies and the Agriculture & Forestry offering at Wageningen University & Research are also first in their respective subjects.
* **Hong Kong** - 55 of The University of Hong Kong’s subject rankings feature in their respective top 200, the highest out of all institutions. It also saw the highest number of ranking increases this year, with 47, while The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) saw 43 rises.
* **China** is home to universities with the most new entries this year. Sun Yat-sen University and Xiamen University both saw 13 more entries included this year. Peking University saw 43 of its 50 entries rise in the ranking this year, joint second most in the world.

**Ben Sowter**, **QS Senior Vice President**, said: *“Our largest-ever subjects rankings continues to illuminate factors influencing the quality of higher education institutions globally. The countries that have traditionally led international university rankings, despite continuing to dominate the top places, are beginning to be challenged by developing higher education markets. This is evident in the strong performances of countries in Asia and the Middle East this year – a trend that is likely to only continue given the financial hardships universities in the US, UK, Australia and Canada are facing.”*

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| **World’s No 1 Universities by Subject**   |
| **Institution**   | **Country**   | **Subject**   | **2025**   | **2024**   |
| Harvard University   | USA   | Accounting & Finance   | 1   | 1   |
| Wageningen University & Research   | Netherlands   | Agriculture & Forestry   | 1   | 1   |
| University of Oxford   | UK   | Anatomy & Physiology   | 1   | 1   |
| Harvard University   | USA   | Anthropology   | 1   | 2   |
| University of Cambridge   | UK   | Archaeology   | 1   | 1   |
| The Bartlett School of Architecture | UCL   | UK   | Architecture / Built Environment   | 1   | 1   |
| Royal College of Art   | UK   | Art & Design   | 1   | 1   |
| Harvard University   | USA   | Biological Sciences   | 1   | 1   |
| Harvard University   | USA   | Business & Management Studies   | 1   | 1   |
| Harvard University   | USA   | Chemistry   | 1   | 1   |
| Sapienza University of Rome   | Italy   | Classics & Ancient History   | 1   | 1   |
| University of Amsterdam   | Netherlands   | Communication & Media Studies   | 1   | 1   |
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)   | USA   | Computer Science & Information Systems   | 1   | 1   |
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)   | USA   | Data Science and Artificial Intelligence   | 1   | 1   |
| University of Michigan-Ann Arbor   | USA   | Dentistry   | 1   | 1   |
| University of Sussex   | UK   | Development Studies   | 1   | 1   |
| ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology   | Switzerland   | Earth & Marine Sciences   | 1   | 1   |
| Harvard University   | USA   | Economics & Econometrics   | 1   | 1   |
| UCL Institute of Education | University College London   | UK   | Education   | 1   | 1   |
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)   | USA   | Engineering - Chemical   | 1   | 1   |
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)   | USA   | Engineering - Civil & Structural   | 1   | 1   |
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)   | USA   | Engineering - Electrical & Electronic   | 1   | 1   |
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)   | USA   | Engineering - Mechanical, Aeronautical & Manufacturing   | 1   | 1   |
| Colorado School of Mines   | USA     | Engineering - Mineral & Mining   | 1   | 1   |
| University of Cambridge   | UK   | English Language & Literature   | =1   | 2   |
| University of Oxford   | UK   | English Language & Literature   | =1   | 1   |
| Harvard University   | USA     | Environmental Sciences   | 1   | 1   |
| University of Oxford   | UK   | Geography   | 1   | 1   |
| ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology   | Switzerland   | Geology   | 1   | 1   |
| ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology   | Switzerland   | Geophysics   | 1   | 1   |
| Harvard University   | USA     | History   | 1   | 1   |
| Royal College of Art   | UK   | History of Art   | 1   | 1   |
| EHL Hospitality Business School   | Switzerland   | Hospitality & Leisure Management   | 1   | 1   |
| Harvard University   | USA   | Law   | 1   | 1   |
| The University of Sheffield   | UK   | Library & Information Management   | 1   | 1   |
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)   | USA     | Linguistics   | 1   | 1   |
| University of Cambridge   | UK   | Marketing   | =1   | 3   |
| University of Pennsylvania   | USA     | Marketing   | =1   | 1   |
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)   | USA     | Materials Science   | 1   | 1   |
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)   | USA     | Mathematics   | 1   | 1   |
| Harvard University   | USA     | Medicine   | 1   | 1   |
| University of Cambridge   | UK   | Modern Languages   | 1   | 1   |
| Royal College of Music   | UK   | Music   | 1   | 1   |
| King's College London   | UK   | Nursing   | 1   | 2   |
| Royal College of Music   | UK   | Performing Arts   | 1   | 1   |
| University of Texas at Austin   | USA   | Petroleum Engineering   | 1   | 1   |
| Harvard University   | USA   | Pharmacy & Pharmacology   | 1   | 1   |
| New York University (NYU)   | USA   | Philosophy   | 1   | 1   |
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)   | USA   | Physics & Astronomy   | 1   | 1   |
| Harvard University   | USA   | Politics & International Studies   | 1   | 1   |
| Harvard University   | USA   | Psychology   | 1   | 1   |
| Harvard University   | USA   | Social Policy & Administration   | 1   | 1   |
| Harvard University   | USA   | Sociology   | 1   | 1   |
| Loughborough University   | UK   | Sports-related Subjects   | 1   | 1   |
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)   | USA   | Statistics & Operational Research   | 1   | 1   |
| University of Notre Dame   | USA   | Theology, Divinity & Religious Studies   | 1   | 3   |
| Royal Veterinary College, University of London   | UK   | Veterinary Science   | 1   | 1   |

**Methodology**

QS use five key metrics to compile the subject rankings. The precise weighting of each metric varies by subject to reflect differing publication cultures across disciplines. For example, research performance, based on the analysis of the bibliometric database Scopus/Elsevier, is deemed to be a stronger indicator of institutional strength in *Medicine,*where the discipline is highly reliant on dissemination of research, than it is in *Performing Arts*, where the discipline is more vocational in nature.

Detailed methodological information can be found at [https://www.TopUniversities.com/subject-rankings/methodology](https://www.topuniversities.com/subject-rankings/methodology).

The full rankings will be available on[**www.topuniversities.com**](https://www.topuniversities.com/) **at 11:00 AM CEST on 12th March**, and can be found at <https://www.topuniversities.com/subject-rankings/>

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**Notes for Editors**

**QS Quacquarelli Symonds**

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

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