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

**QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025**

**Switzerland Among World’s Premier Higher Education Systems in Latest Subject Rankings**

*Driven by an exceptional reputation among international employers and outstanding performances in high-impact fields—especially across the Natural Science, Dentistry and Hospitality education—Swiss higher education continues to compete at the very highest level of the global academic landscape.*

***London, Wednesday 12 March 2025:*** Global higher education experts QS Quacquarelli Symonds have today released the 15th 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 broad faculty areas (Arts & Humanities, Engineering & Technology, Life Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences).

**QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025: Executive Summary – Switzerland**

**Switzerland** is the seventh most-represented Continental European country in terms of total subject entries, with 234. Of these, 13% (31) climb the rankings, 44% (102) drop, 34% (79) remain stable in their ranks or bands and 22 are new. Additionally, Switzerland has 32 entries in the Broad Faculty tables. Of these, 56% (18) climb, 25% (8) drop, 13% (4) remain stable and two are new.

* Overall decline: more entries drop that rise
* World’s fourth highest number of top 10 ranked subject entries, with 29, and the third most #1 entries
* Home to the world’s best study destination for Geophysics, Geology, Hospitality and Earth & Marine Sciences
* ETH Zurich is one of the world’s most elite institutions, with the fourth highest number of #1 ranked entries
* Boasts an excellent reputation among international employers
* Dominates in *Hospitality*, with all the world’s three best entries for the subject and eight of the top 10, including the world leader, EHL Hospitality Business School
* Shines for *Dentistry*, with the Universities of Zurich and Bern among the top 10 in this subject

**QS Senior Vice President Ben Sowter** said: “Switzerland maintains its position as a global leader in higher education, driven by its strong focus on research excellence and international collaboration. Recent years have seen Swiss universities deepening partnerships across Europe and Asia, particularly in response to shifting geopolitical dynamics and the country’s [complex relationship with the EU's Horizon Europe programme](https://www.bing.com/search?q=Switzerland%27s%20complex%20relationship%20with%20Horizon&qs=n&form=QBRE&sp=-1&lq=0&pq=switzerland%27s%20complex%20relationship%20with%20horizon&sc=12-47&sk=&cvid=99CDAB1737A448F4B7AC3A3DDA94B528&ghsh=0&ghacc=0&ghpl=).”

**Sowter** added: “With a growing emphasis on sustainability, innovation, and digital transformation, institutions [like ETH Zurich and EPFL](https://www.miragenews.com/epfl-eth-zurich-strengthen-ai-collaboration-in-1330047/) are not only attracting top global talent but also spearheading cutting-edge research in areas such as AI, renewable energy, and life sciences. However, financial challenges have [driven tuition fee hikes](https://etias.com/articles/swiss-elite-universities-set-to-triple-fees-for-foreign-students) and as global competition intensifies, Switzerland should look to reinforce its academic output and industry integration to ensures it remains at the forefront of producing impactful research and skilled graduates ready for the workplace of the future.”

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| **Top Countries/Territories by No. Top 10 (Subjects)**  |
| **Country / Territory** | **Total Entries** | **Total Institutions** | **Up** | **Same** | **Down** | **New** | **% Swing** | **Top 1** | **Top 3** | **Top 10** | **Top 20** | **Top 50** | **Top 100** |
| United States of America | 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 |
| Singapore | 102 | 6 | 57 | 19 | 22 | 4 | 34% |  | 5 | **33** | 54 | 75 | 87 |
| **Switzerland** | **234** | **27** | **31** | **79** | **102** | **22** | **-30%** | **4** | **7** | **29** | **42** | **59** | **97** |
| China (Mainland) | 1230 | 124 | 735 | 107 | 30 | 358 | 57% |  | 4 | **19** | 75 | 217 | 408 |

Switzerland is home to the world’s **fourth highest number of top 10 ranked subject entries**, with 29, and the **third most #1 entries**. However, it is home to a fraction of the subjects entries of its closest competitors for these positions, the UK and the US, signalling its **exceptional higher education system and concentration of academic excellence**.

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| **Swiss Top 5 Ranked Entries (Subjects)** |
| **2025 Rank** | **2024 Rank** | **Institution** | **Subject** |
| 1 | 1 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | Geophysics |
| 1 | 1 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | Geology |
| 1 | 1 | EHL Hospitality Business School | Hospitality & Leisure Management |
| 1 | 1 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | Earth & Marine Sciences |
| 2 | 5 | Les Roches Global Hospitality Education | Hospitality & Leisure Management |
| 2 | 5 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | Engineering - Civil & Structural |
| 3 | 2 | SHMS - Swiss Hotel Management School | Hospitality & Leisure Management |
| 4 | 4 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | Architecture / Built Environment |
| 5 | 3 | Cesar Ritz Colleges | Hospitality & Leisure Management |
| 5 | 6 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | Engineering - Chemical |

**ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology** is one of the world’s most elite institutions, based on its number of top ranked subject entries. It places first in three subjects, giving it the world’s **fourth highest number of #1 ranked entries**.

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| **Top Universities by no. of #1 Entries (Subjects)** |
| **Institution** | **Country** | **Total Entries** | **No. Top 1** |
| Harvard University | United States of America | 40 | 15 |
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) | United States of America | 37 | 11 |
| University of Cambridge | United Kingdom | 45 | 4 |
| ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | Switzerland | 29 | 3 |
| University of Oxford | United Kingdom | 43 | 3 |

**Switzerland in Focus**

* Switzerland has seen overall decline in four of QS’ five indicators. However, it’s ***Employer Reputation* continues to climb**, with an overall improvement of 29% in this indicator, reflecting the work-readiness of its graduates. This metric represents a strength for Swiss higher education with four entries coming first.

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| **Swiss Universities in First for Employer Reputation** |
| **2025 Overall Rank** | **Institution** | **Indicator Score** | **Indicator Rank** | **Subject** |
| 1 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 100 | 1 | Geophysics |
| 1 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 100 | 1 | Geology |
| 1 | EHL Hospitality Business School | 100 | 1 | Hospitality & Leisure Management |
| 40 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 100 | 1 | Pharmacy & Pharmacology |

* Switzerland **dominates the *Hospitality* subject table**, with 13 universities ranked, including **all of the world’s three best entries** for the subject and eight of the top 10.

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| **Swiss Universities in World's Top 10 for Hospitality** |
| **2025 Rank** | **2024 Rank** | **Institution** |
| 1 | 1 | EHL Hospitality Business School |
| 2 | 5 | Les Roches Global Hospitality Education |
| 3 | 2 | SHMS - Swiss Hotel Management School |
| 5 | 3 | Cesar Ritz Colleges |
| 6 | 8 | Glion Institute of Higher Education |
| 7 | 6 | Hotel Institute Montreux - HIM |
| 8 | 7 | Culinary Arts Academy Switzerland |

* *Dentistry* represents another strength for Swiss universities. The **University of Zurich** and the **University of Bern** both rank among the world’s top 10 for this subject, placing eighth and ninth respectively.
* Two Swiss entries top their subject tables for H-Index, which measures research quality. **University of Bern** comes first in this indicator for *Dentistry* (9th overall) while **Vetsuisse Faculty Bern and Zurich** place first in *Veterinary Science* (7th overall).

**University Focus**

* **EPFL** climbs from 11th to 10th for *Civil Engineering* in this edition, driven by a significant rise in *Employer Reputation*.
* **University of St.Gallen (HSG)** breaks into the top 20 for *Marketing*, placing 18th following improvements in all of QS’ metrics, most prominently in *Employer Reputation*.
* **University of Zurich** is home to Switzerland’s most improved subject entry, with *Chemistry*, which climbs from the 151-200 band to 122nd due to significant improvement in *International Research Collaboration* and moderate gains in reputational indicators.

**Broad Faculty Areas**

In the five Broad Faculties, Swiss universities achieve four top 20 entries, with *Engineering and Technology* emerging as a particular strength.

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| **Broad Faculty Areas: Swiss Universities in Top 20**  |
| **2025 Rank** | **2024 Rank** | **Institution** | **Subject** |
| 5 | 6 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | Engineering & Technology |
| 6 | 8 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | Natural Sciences |
| 10 | 10 | EPFL | Engineering & Technology |
| 11 | 11 | EPFL | Natural Sciences |

**Top Performers**

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

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| **Top Entries (Narrow Subjects and Broad Faculties)** |
| **Subject / Faculty Area** | **2025 count** | **2024 count** | **Top Ranked X University** | **Top Rank** |
| Accounting & Finance | 6 | 5 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 47 |
| Agriculture & Forestry | 1 | 1 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 7 |
| Anatomy & Physiology | 5 | 5 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology; University of Basel; University of Geneva | 51-100 |
| Anthropology | 3 | 2 | University of Bern; University of Geneva; University of Zurich | 101-170 |
| Archaeology | 4 | 4 | University of Basel, University of Bern | 151-200 |
| Architecture / Built Environment | 2 | 2 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 4 |
| Art & Design | 2 | 3 | Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) | =46 |
| Arts & Humanities | 6 | 6 | University of Zurich | =102 |
| Biological Sciences | 7 | 7 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 13 |
| Business & Management Studies | 8 | 8 | University of St.Gallen (HSG) | 48 |
| Chemistry | 8 | 8 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 9 |
| Classics & Ancient History | 5 | 5 | University of Geneva | =25 |
| Communication & Media Studies | 4 | 2 | University of Zurich | 32 |
| Computer Science & Information Systems | 9 | 9 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 10 |
| Data Science and Artificial Intelligence | 2 | 2 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 8 |
| Dentistry | 4 | 4 | University of Zurich | 8 |
| Development Studies | 2 | 0 | University of Geneva; University of Zurich | 101-150 |
| Earth & Marine Sciences | 5 | 5 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 1 |
| Economics & Econometrics | 9 | 8 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | =29 |
| Education | 5 | 4 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | =46 |
| Engineering - Chemical | 3 | 3 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 5 |
| Engineering - Civil & Structural | 2 | 2 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 2 |
| Engineering - Electrical & Electronic | 2 | 2 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | =8 |
| Engineering - Mechanical, Aeronautical & Manufacturing | 2 | 3 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 6 |
| Engineering & Technology | 4 | 3 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 5 |
| English Language & Literature | 5 | 5 | University of Zurich | 101-150 |
| Environmental Sciences | 7 | 7 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 8 |
| Geography | 4 | 4 | University of Zurich | 51-100 |
| Geology | 5 | 5 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 1 |
| Geophysics | 6 | 6 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 1 |
| History | 5 | 5 | University of Geneva | 51-100 |
| History | 5 | 5 | University of Zurich | 51-100 |
| Hospitality & Leisure Management | 13 | 12 | EHL Hospitality Business School | 1 |
| Law | 6 | 6 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology; University of Geneva; University of Zurich | 101-150 |
| Life Sciences & Medicine | 7 | 7 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | =51 |
| Linguistics | 5 | 4 | University of Zurich | =55 |
| Marketing | 1 | 1 | University of St.Gallen (HSG) | =18 |
| Materials Science | 4 | 2 | EPFL | 10 |
| Mathematics | 5 | 5 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 8 |
| Medicine | 9 | 7 | University of Zurich | 66 |
| Modern Languages | 5 | 5 | University of Zurich | 82 |
| Natural Sciences | 7 | 7 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 6 |
| Nursing | 3 | 3 | University of Basel; University of Lausanne; University of Zurich | 101-150 |
| Performing Arts | 4 | 3 | Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) | 42 |
| Pharmacy & Pharmacology | 6 | 6 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 40 |
| Philosophy | 3 | 5 | University of Geneva, University of Zurich | 51-100 |
| Physics & Astronomy | 7 | 7 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 8 |
| Politics & International Studies | 6 | 6 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | =28 |
| Psychology | 6 | 6 | University of Zurich | 40 |
| Social Policy & Administration | 3 | 2 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology; University of Zurich | 51-100 |
| Social Sciences & Management | 8 | 7 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 50 |
| Sociology | 4 | 3 | University of Lausanne, University of Zurich | 101-150 |
| Sports-related Subjects | 3 | 2 | University of Lausanne | 51-100 |
| Statistics & Operational Research | 5 | 4 | ETH Zurich - Swiss Federal Institute of Technology | 6 |
| Theology, Divinity & Religious Studies | 3 | 2 | University of Zurich | 51-100 |
| Veterinary Science | 1 | 1 | Vetsuisse Faculty Bern and Zurich | 7 |

**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.
* 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**

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