



# DU drops 30 places in QS World University Rankings

## Ranks first in Bangladesh, followed by BUET and NSU

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Dhaka University (DU), the oldest and most prestigious university in Bangladesh, has slipped 30 places in the latest edition of the QS World University Rankings.

According to the QS World University Rankings 2026, published by UK-based higher education analytics firm Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) on Thursday, DU now stands at 584th globally—down



from 554th in last year's ranking.

Despite the decline, DU remains the top-ranked university in Bangladesh for the second consecutive year within the global top 600. This year, 15 Bangladeshi universities have been included among the world's top 1,500 institutions in the QS rankings.

The Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) retained its national second place, maintaining its previous global position in

the 761–770 bracket. North South University (NSU) ranked third among Bangladeshi institutions but fell from the 901–950 bracket last year to the 951–1000 range in the latest rankings.

An in-depth analysis of DU's performance shows that the university received an overall score of 28.70. In the 'research and discovery' indicators, DU scored 30.50 for academic reputation but only 6.90 in research citations per faculty. In terms of 'learning experience', DU scored 10.50 in the faculty-student ratio category.

The university performed relatively well in the employment category, scoring 97 in employment outcomes and 51.30 in employer reputation. However, DU scored poorly in internationalisation indicators—just 2.20 for the international faculty ratio and 1.40 for the international student ratio. It also failed to register any score in categories like international fees, scholarships, English proficiency tests, and academic preparedness tests.

DU scored 57.80 in the international research

network indicator and 54.20 in sustainability—both of which are relatively strong. Still, analysts point out that the absence of international students and faculty, coupled with low performance in research impact and global engagement, are key reasons for DU's declining global rank.

Other Bangladeshi universities also appear lower in the rankings. Daffodil International University was placed in the 1001–1200 band, while BRAC University, Islamic University of Technology, Jahangirnagar University, and Rajshahi University were ranked within the 1201–1400 range. American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (CUET), East West University, Independent University Bangladesh (IUB), Khulna University, Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET), and Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology (RUET) all appeared in the 1400+ category.

Globally, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) continues its reign at

the top for the 13th consecutive year, followed by Imperial College London, the University of Oxford, Harvard University, and the University of Cambridge.

The QS rankings evaluate universities based on nine key indicators, including academic reputation, faculty-student ratio, research output, international diversity, employment outcomes, and sustainability efforts.

Experts warn that without significant reforms in research quality, global partnerships, and internationalisation strategies, leading institutions like DU may continue to slide in future rankings.