

CLIMBING UP THE RANKINGS

China overtakes the UK

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[China dominates the ranking of universities in the world's emerging economies](#). Not only are seven of the 10 best emerging-market universities in China, but 81 of its institutions feature in the Times Higher Education's (THE) list for 2020. That's more than any other country. With 56 universities in the ranking, India is the second-most-represented country out of the 47 that appear in the list.

But this is only part of the story.

Tsinghua University recently became the first Chinese institution to enter the top 20 of the [Times Higher Education World University Rankings](#). Fudan University and Zhejiang University also broke into the top 100, taking the number of Chinese institutions in that bracket to six – compared with only three 10 years earlier.

In a single generation, China's university system has been transformed into one whose most prominent members are producing world-class research and moving into the upper echelons of global rankings.

China recently overtook the UK on an annual list of nations with [the most highly cited scholars](#), published by Clarivate Analytics, putting it second behind the US. And China's involvement in what Clarivate deems cutting-edge areas of science is now similar in scale to that of the US, particularly in physical science.

These achievements are the result of 20 years of reform, implemented via highly centralised government control. Top universities have been pushed to adopt corporate management styles ruthlessly focused on meeting key performance indicators such as research citation volumes and ranking positions. In return, they have been enrolled in a series of lucrative excellence initiatives that have seen their budgets mushroom.