

MENA in the 2027 QS World University Rankings

What the latest results reveal about the region's changing university landscape

The 2027 QS World University Rankings show a MENA higher education landscape that is continuing to evolve. While some universities made significant gains, others lost ground, creating a more competitive regional picture.

A snapshot of MENA region's ranking performance

116



universities ranked across the MENA region

40



universities improved their position

31



universities remained stable

48



universities dropped in the rankings

03



new entrants joined the rankings

09

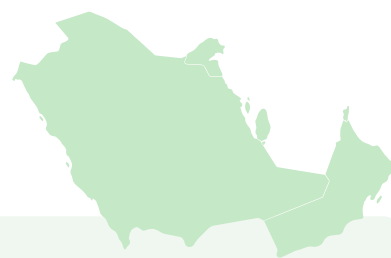


Universities not represented this year

More than a third of MENA's ranked universities improved their position, while a similar number moved down. This signals a region where competitive momentum is anything but uniform.

Gulf countries continue to set pace

The Gulf countries with the strongest representation in the rankings (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, and Kuwait) continue to shape much of the region's competitive pace.



40+

ranked universities across the Gulf

Home to 4 of MENA's highest-ranked universities

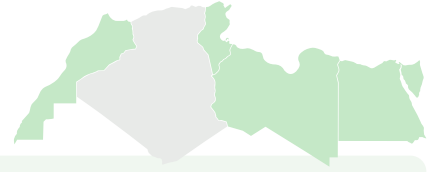
- KFUPM #63
- Qatar University #109
- King Saud University #107
- Khalifa University #147

Home to region's top-performing universities

- King Faisal University +81,
- American University in Dubai +58,
- Prince Sultan University +47

North Africa: Notable gains and emerging shifts

Across the North Africa, the countries represented in this analysis (**Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and Libya**) performance was mixed. Egypt accounts for a significant share of ranked universities, while individual universities recorded notable gains.



20+

ranked universities across the region

18

institutions from Egypt in the QS World University Rankings 2027

Université de Tunis El Manar gained the most ground

Several established institutions **lost ground**

01

new entrant joined the rankings

The Levant: Steady progress across universities

Across the Levant (particularly, **Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine**), the strongest movements came from universities in Lebanon, while Jordan also saw multiple universities improve their positions.



10+

ranked universities across the Levant

Saint Joseph University of Beirut recorded the region's largest ranking improvement

Lebanese American University gained **58 places.**

Jordanian universities improved in ranking

02

institutions were not represented in the rankings

Beyond individual movers, the results point to a broader question: what capabilities are increasingly shaping institutional competitiveness?

What's driving ranking performance

- Internationalization
- Talent attraction
- Long-term policy alignment
- Research collaboration
- Data-driven strategy
- Research investment

What the rankings reveal about MENA

The ranking movements are more than changes in position. They reflect a broader shift in how Universities are building capacity, demonstrating research strength and strengthening their position internationally.

The conversation is shifting from:

Resources → Results

Investment → Impact

Visibility → Influence

For Universities, the question is no longer simply where they rank, but what they need to strengthen for sustained progress.

CACTUS works with institutional leadership and research offices to strengthen the research impact, international reputation, and digital presence that underpin long-term ranking performance.

Contact us at partnership@cactusglobal.com to find out more.



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