

Example 1: Thailand's performance in QS Subject Rankings

What should Thailand be promoting? Picking what appears to be a top ranking to promote is an example of misuse of rankings for policy or administrative decisions. A ranking is just a number and a score is data, but neither are information unless they are used to inform administrative and policy decisions that are part of an institution's strategic directions.

Example 1: Thailand's performance in QS Subject Rankings

An article in Asia News Now exemplifies what might be good about the QS subject rankings and what is bad about the rankings overall.

THAI UNIVERSITY SUBJECT RANKINGS in QS

| Area | SUBJECT RANK | # of Unis | UNIVERSITY | WORLD RANK | ASIA / PAC RANK |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Arts & Humanities | Performing Arts | 115 | Mahidol University | 47 | 7 |
| Life Sciences | Agriculture & Forestry | 410 | Kasetsart University | 53 | 8 / 109 |
| Social Science | Social Policy & Administration | 122 | Chulalongkorn University | 51-100 | 15 - 28 |

Is it better to rank number 112 in the world out of over 600 universities and be in the top 16% in medicine in the world and the top 10% in Asia or rank 47 out of 115 universities in the world in performing arts?

The article highlights Thailand's Mahidol University's ranking in the top 50 in performing arts.

Performing arts only uses the Academic and Employer surveys for rankings. Only top 50 have an overall rank but they all have reputation scores

PERFORMING ARTS RANKINGS QS 2022 (115 Institutions)

| WORLD RANK | Institution | Country | Overall Score | Academic Reputation | Employer Reputation |
|------------|---|---------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | <u>Royal College of Music</u> | UK | 95 | 95.9 | 91.3 |
| 2 | <u>Universität für Musik und darstellende</u> | AT | 94.9 | 97.7 | 83.7 |
| 3 | The Julliard School | US | 93.8 | 100 | 69.2 |
| 10 | Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts | | | | |
| 19 | UCSI University | MY | 79.1 | 74.4 | 98.1 |
| 36 | The Central Academy of Drama | CN | 78.2 | 58.5 | 93.8 |
| 47 | Mahidol University | TH | 71,8 | 66 | 93.8 |

Three other Asian universities rank above Mahidol, National University of Singapore, Korea National University of the Arts, and Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Mahidol is in the **top 41%** of institutions and

does not have an overall score. Mahidol's strength is in medicine. Kasetsart is number 53 in Agriculture and Forestry, or **top 13%** and in the **top 7%** for academic reputation out of 410 universities.

Should Thailand be promoting Performing Arts?

Snoop 1130 (23 April 2022). Thai universities rank high in QS world rankings list. *Asia News Now*

<https://aseannow.com/topic/1257573-thai-universities-rank-high-in-qs-world-university-rankings-list/>

QS subject rankings 2022: <https://www.topuniversities.com/subject-rankings/2022>

For more detail and hype see "US Universities lead in 28 of 51 subjects ranked by QS". *University World News*

<https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20220415152142330#:~:text=Overall%2C%20US%20institutions%20lead%20in,the%20world's%20best%20university%20departments> posted

April 16, 2022.

See Table 4 for all QS number one rankings.