

Australian university rankings

The eight leading Australian research universities that formed the lobby group, Group of Eight (Go8), in 1994, are all listed within the Shanghai and Times Higher Rankings 2006, while of the seven research-intensive universities that formed the Innovative Research Universities Australia (IRU Australia) in 2003, a group of mostly younger universities founded between 1960 and 1975, six are placed among the Top 500 Shanghai universities and only one among the Top 200 Times Higher universities.

The much higher ranks of the Go8 institutions, which argue for prioritisation of research funding and increased funding for the largest and most popular campuses in Australia, confirm their status as the leading Australian research universities. In the Shanghai Ranking 2006, only Macquarie University of the IRU Australia universities is ranked in the same tier (201-300) as the lowest ranked Go8 institutions Monash University (Melbourne) and University of Adelaide. The generally strong representation of Australian universities in the world university league tables points to an emerging knowledge hub in Asia-Pacific that

attracts a particularly high number of international students and faculty and achieves high scores for reputation within the wider region (see previous pages).

Melbourne and Sydney host three universities in each of the Shanghai and Times Higher rankings and thus belong to the 15 metropolitan areas with the most world-class universities. Sydney's universities are on average placed higher in both rankings than those located in Melbourne but the highest ranked Australian university is the Australian National University in Canberra followed by the University of Melbourne and the University of Sydney (see Table 7). In the past five years, seven of the listed Australian universities climbed up the ranks in the Shanghai Ranking, seven stayed where they were in 2004, while only the Australian National University lost a few ranks and two universities had dropped out of the Top 500 by 2008. This is an entirely positive balance that identifies Australian higher education as an integral part of the dynamic Asia-Pacific region.

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Table 7: Australian universities in the Shanghai Rankings 2004, 2006 and 2008

Institution	Group	Ranking position		
		2004	2006	2008
Australian National University, Canberra	Go8	53	54	59
University of Melbourne	Go8	82	78	73
University of Sydney	Go8	101-152	102-150	97
University of Queensland, Rockhampton	Go8	101-152	102-150	101-151
University of Western Australia, Perth	Go8	153-201	102-150	101-151
University of New South Wales, Sydney	Go8	153-201	151-200	152-200
Macquarie University, Sydney	IRU Australia	302-403	201-300	201-302
Monash University, Melbourne	Go8	202-301	201-300	201-302
University of Adelaide	Go8	202-301	201-300	201-302
University of Newcastle	IRU Australia	302-403	301-400	303-401
Flinders University, Adelaide	IRU Australia	404-502	401-500	303-401
James Cook University, Townsville	IRU Australia	-	401-500	303-401
University of Tasmania, Hobart	-	302-403	401-500	303-401
University of Wollongong	-	-	-	303-401
La Trobe University, Melbourne	IRU Australia	404-502	301-400	402-503
Murdoch University, Perth	IRU Australia	404-502	401-500	-
University of New England, Armidale	-	-	401-500	-

Source: Academic Ranking of World Universities, Shanghai JiaoTong University, www.arwu.org, accessed on 6 January, 2009

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dynamic Asia-Pacific region.

