GEURS 2027: employers prioritise putting AI to work as global university ranking expands

US universities regain ground. British institutions record major gains. Brazil, India and China broaden their representation as the ranking expands to 300 institutions.

Employers want graduates who can put AI to work, the Global Employability University Ranking and Survey (GEURS) 2027 reveals.

Produced by Emerging Group and published with Times Higher Education, GEURS combines a worldwide employer survey with a ranking of universities and schools for graduate employability. This year marks its 16th edition.

For this edition, responses were collected from 15,665 managers across 40 countries.

AI implementation and integration leads the 17 AI skills surveyed, selected by 30.7% of employers. AI strategy follows at 28.8% and internal AI training at 28.6%.

This year's ranking expands from 250 to 300 institutions across 46 countries and territories. One-third of its 54 additions and returns come from Brazil, India, China and South Africa.

National University of Singapore, ETH Zurich and the University of Tokyo stand alongside US and UK leaders

MIT and Stanford retain first and second place. Oxford rises to third. The National University of Singapore holds eighth, ETH Zurich advances to ninth, and Tokyo enters the Top 10 in tenth.

The next ten positions include Peking University, eleventh; the Technical University of Munich, twelfth; Spain's IE University, seventeenth; and Tsinghua University, eighteenth.

The Top 20 comprises nine US institutions, seven European institutions and four Asian institutions.

North America: US institutions regain ground across the table

The United States has 55 ranked institutions and five of the first seven places. Princeton climbs seven places to seventh, Columbia rises four to fourteenth, and Yale gains six to sixteenth.

US representation in the Top 100 nevertheless falls from 25 to 23. Canada places six institutions in the Top 100, with Waterloo climbing 27 places to 95th. Toronto remains the national leader at 22nd.

Europe: British gains stand out within the largest regional contingent

Europe accounts for 112 institutions and 40 of the Top 100, more than any other region. The fifteen UK institutions ranked in both editions gain an average of 7.8 places. Warwick climbs 29 places to 101st, Edinburgh rises 28 to 114th, and UCL gains 24 to reach 74th.

Germany has 21 institutions, the second-largest national contingent, although twelve of its nineteen previously ranked institutions lose places. France places twelve in the Top 100, second only to the US, led by HEC Paris at 27th and École Polytechnique at 28th.

Asia: China gains depth as India's representation expands

Asia places 22 institutions in the Top 100, led by NUS at eighth. China has seventeen ranked institutions, including fourteen in the Top 250, compared with twelve in 2026. Shanghai Jiao Tong gains eight places to 42nd, while Zhejiang rises ten to 57th.

Japan's Osaka records the ranking's largest climb, up 30 places to 120th. India reaches thirteen institutions in the expanded table, including six additions or returns. However, six of its seven previously ranked institutions lose places. IIT Delhi remains the national leader at 36th.

Latin America: Brazil triples its representation, Mexico retains the lead

Brazil triples its presence from three to nine institutions, becoming Latin America's largest national contingent. Five additions sit in the new 251–300 band; São Paulo State University enters at 245th.

Mexico's Tec de Monterrey remains the regional leader at 68th, ahead of São Paulo at 89th. UNAM gains eight places to 115th. Chile has five institutions, including Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, up eight places to enter the Top 200 at 198th.

Middle East and North Africa: Egypt returns with three institutions as Saudi representation grows

Egypt returns with three institutions. Saudi Arabia doubles its representation to four, with King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals entering at 240th.

Across the region, including Türkiye and Israel, 23 institutions are ranked. The Technion leads at 107th, followed by the American University of Beirut at 158th. Qatar University and KAUST lead in the Gulf, at 160th and 161st respectively. Qatar University gains four places.

Oceania: Australia's Top 100 institutions all advance

All six Australian universities in the Top 100 improve their positions. Melbourne gains six places to reach 32nd. UNSW Sydney records the largest Australian rise, up fourteen places to 72nd.

New Zealand's Auckland ranks 93rd. Together, Australia and New Zealand place seven of their eleven ranked institutions in the Top 100.

Sub-Saharan Africa: representation remains concentrated in South Africa

All three ranked institutions are South African. Cape Town leads at 235th, followed by Stellenbosch at 247th. Witwatersrand returns at 263rd.

Sandrine Belloc, Managing Director and Co-Founder of Emerging Group, said:

"Employability is about how well graduates can use what they have learned as the demands of work change. Employers' AI priorities make that concrete: implementing the technology, shaping its use and helping colleagues work with it.

“Expanding GEURS to 300 institutions gives greater visibility to universities and schools recognised by employers across different education systems. It shows the breadth of institutions contributing to graduate employability worldwide.”

- View the full table on THE's website https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/best-universities/best-universities-graduate-jobs-global-university-employability-ranking
- View the full table on Emerging's website here

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About Emerging Group

Founded in 2009, Emerging is an HR consultancy dedicated to bridging the gap between higher education and the corporate world. Its work helps universities and schools understand employer expectations and strengthen graduate employability.

Since launching GEURS in 2010, Emerging has provided universities, employers and graduates with insights into evolving workforce needs.

For more information, visit our website: www.emerging.fr

About GEURS

Now in its 16th edition, the Global Employability University Ranking and Survey combines international employer insights with an annual ranking of universities and schools for graduate employability.

Produced by Emerging Group and published with Times Higher Education, GEURS 2027 expands from 250 to 300 institutions across 46 countries and territories.

https://www.emerging.fr/geurs

Methodology

The online survey was conducted from 17 August to 7 September 2026, in 11 languages, among 15,665 verified employer respondents across 40 countries. All respondents had at least five years of professional experience and had worked with or recruited at least five young graduates over the previous two years. The final panel passed both eligibility screening and quality control.

Respondents cast a total of 170,457 votes. Each respondent could cast up to 10 votes to assess the employability performance of institutions drawn from a list of 1,200 institutions worldwide.

Full methodology: communications@emerging.fr

Reading the 2027 results

The 2027 table includes 32 first-time entries and 22 returning institutions. Of these 54 additions and returns, eighteen come from Brazil, India, China and South Africa: six, six, five and one respectively.

Changes in representation should be read in the context of the expansion from 250 to 300 places. Rank movements refer to institutions appearing in both editions.

Top 100 and Top 250 figures are subsets of the Top 300. The Top 250 provides a consistent ranking threshold for comparison with the previous edition.

AI percentages refer to responses within the list of AI skills surveyed.

Countries and territories represented in GEURS 2027

Country or territory	Top 300	Top 100	Top 250
United States	55	23	53
Germany	21	7	19
France	19	12	18
China	17	6	14
United Kingdom	17	7	16
Canada	14	6	13
India	13	3	7
Australia	10	6	9
Brazil	9	1	4
Japan	9	3	9
Spain	8	2	7
South Korea	7	3	7
Switzerland	7	3	7
Netherlands	6	2	6
Sweden	6	3	6
Türkiye	6	0	3
Chile	5	0	2
Hong Kong	5	3	5
Italy	5	2	5
United Arab Emirates	5	0	4
Denmark	4	1	4
Saudi Arabia	4	0	3
Austria	3	0	2
Belgium	3	1	2
Egypt	3	0	0
Mexico	3	1	3
Norway	3	0	2
Poland	3	0	0
South Africa	3	0	2
Taiwan	3	2	3
Argentina	2	0	1
Czechia	2	0	1
Finland	2	0	2
Indonesia	2	0	0
Ireland	2	0	2

Country or territory	Top 300	Top 100	Top 250
Israel	2	0	1
Malaysia	2	0	1
Singapore	2	2	2
Colombia	1	0	1
Estonia	1	0	0
Lebanon	1	0	1
Morocco	1	0	1
New Zealand	1	1	1
Peru	1	0	0
Qatar	1	0	1
Thailand	1	0	0
Total	300	100	250

Top 100 and Top 250 figures are subsets of the Top 300. The Top 250 provides a consistent ranking threshold for comparison with the previous edition.