

Universities score high marks in social sciences

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An international university ranking has given five of Hong Kong's universities high spots in social sciences.

QS World University Rankings released its top universities for six social science subjects—statistics and operational research; sociology; politics and international studies; law; economics and econometrics; and accounting and finance—today.

Five Hong Kong universities were ranked in the top 200 in economics and accounting/finance – two subjects identified as preferred by employers around the world, according to the poll.

The highest spot in the six subjects went to Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, which came 30th for accounting/finance and 42nd in economics. The University of Hong Kong came 43rd in economics and 41st for accounting/finance. The other local universities in the top 200 for both subjects were Chinese University, City University and Polytechnic University.

Chinese University had the highest ranking among the five for sociology, where it was 30th. HKU topped

the charts among the five in politics (27th), statistics (26th), law (31st).

This was the first worldwide ranking of universities by individual subjects. Rankings for 26 subjects were based on academic reputation, employer reputation and paper citations. Some 5,007 companies with over 100 employees took part in the research by identifying universities they thought produced the best graduates for both overall and for specific disciplines.

The six social sciences subjects were the last batch to be released.

Of the 26 subjects, HKU had the highest individual-subject ranking in geography and area studies and electrical engineering (20th) – of local universities. It also ranked 21st for English language and literature.

“We did a subject-by-subject ranking because we’ve been asked for more detailed information, apart from the general ‘humanities’ and ‘sciences’ kind of ranking,” said a poll spokeswoman.

“This ranking is mainly here to help students and parents pick universities and majors. To be able to know rankings for specific subjects for different universities will help them in the process of choosing what school to go to.”