NIS
NAKORNPAYAP
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

SCHOOL PROFILE

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Welcome to Nakornpayap International School (NIS)!

Since 1993, NIS has proudly offered a Western-style education and is recognized as the oldest secular international school in Chiang Mai. Fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), NIS meets rigorous international standards. This accreditation affirms the integrity of our academic programs and transcripts, ensuring that our graduates are well-positioned to pursue higher education at leading universities around the world.

NIS is a dynamic and inclusive learning community built on the values of global citizenship, respect, and responsibility. We are committed to providing a safe, supportive, and intellectually engaging environment that empowers students to become critical thinkers, effective collaborators, confident learners, and kind citizens. Our curriculum follows the American Common Core State Standards and other educational frameworks, and includes a wide range of Advanced Placement (AP) courses that challenge students to support them in reaching their academic and personal goals.

Exceptional educators are at the core of what makes NIS special. Our faculty is dedicated to guiding students through meaningful learning experiences that prepare them to navigate a complex and rapidly changing world. Supported by a strong partnership with families and the broader community, NIS fosters a culture of high expectations, innovation, and collaboration.

By choosing NIS, you are joining a school that values academic excellence, holistic development, and a global perspective. We look forward to welcoming your child into our vibrant and caring community.

Warm regards,

Mr. Benjamin Devere White (Mr. Ben)
Principal



NAKORNPAYAP
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Nakornpayap International School (NIS) is a privately owned, college-preparatory international school serving students from Kindergarten through Grade 12. Located in Chiang Mai, Thailand, NIS has earned the trust of families for over 33 years by providing a high-quality, internationally accredited education.

The school follows a U.S.-based curriculum, aligned with Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics, and integrates a range of internationally recognized frameworks in other subject areas. At the high school level, students have access to an extensive selection of Advanced Placement (AP) courses, taught on campus by certified instructors. NIS is also an official SAT testing center, further supporting students on their path to higher education.

All instruction is delivered in English, with equal emphasis placed on academic achievement and personal growth. Our student body reflects a rich diversity of backgrounds, with a strong representation from across Asia—including Thai, Korean, Chinese, and Japanese nationalities—fostering a globally minded and inclusive learning environment.



NAKORNPAYAP
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

NIS is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), a globally respected accrediting body recognized for upholding rigorous standards of academic quality and institutional integrity. NIS has maintained continuous WASC accreditation since 2001, affirming our long-standing commitment to excellence in teaching, learning, and school operations.

In addition, NIS is accredited by Thailand's Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA) and is fully licensed by the Thai Ministry of Education, ensuring compliance with both international and national educational standards.

NIS is not only the recipient of accreditation, but also a contributor to the process. Several members of our faculty serve on WASC Visiting Committees, helping to evaluate and accredit other international schools across the region. This professional involvement reflects the high level of trust and expertise within our staff and underscores our commitment to ongoing school improvement, educational leadership, and best practices in international education.

ADMINISTRATION & OWNERSHIP

NIS is governed by an 8-member school Governing Board. Governing Board members are responsible for approving the strategic direction of the school. This task is delegated to the Administration Team who are supported by the Governing Board.

GOVERNING BOARD


Mr. Paween Yimprasert
Licensee


Ms. Sarida Songatikamas
Chief Operation Officer


Dr. Pisarn Soydhurum
Board Chairman


Ms. Aree Phongchaichok
Board Honorary Advisor


Ms. Narvinder Ahuja
Director


Mr. Benjamin Devere White
Principal


Ms. Oil Muangsaen
School Manager


Mr. Mark Hefner
Teacher Representative


Mr. Tim Dunham
Parent Representative

ADMINISTRATION TEAM


Ms. Narvinder Ahuja
Director


Mr. Ben Devere White
Principal


Mr. Chris Cronin
Assistant Principal


Ms. Oil Muangsaen
School Manager


Mr. Kevin Bradley
Head of Middle School


Mr. Paul Kleinschmidt
Head of Student Affairs

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE, COUNSELING, & ACADEMIC COORDINATION


Mr. Pattanapol Suthaporn
Socio-Emotional Counselor


Mr. Kris Banks
Head of K-5


Ms. Erin Smith
Lower ES Section Leader


Ms. Jordan Weight
Upper ES Section Leader


Ms. Fai Callaway
ES Student Affairs


Mr. Mark Hefner
MS Student Affairs


Ms. Alyssa Degala
College Counselor


Ms. Patrick Puingsaeng
Applications Coordinator


Mr. Thom Maneechote
Registrar & Exam Coordinator
(PSAT, SAT, AP)



PHILOSOPHY

NIS provides a multicultural learning environment where students have the opportunity to receive a globally recognized and well-rounded education. Our goal is to nurture students who are knowledgeable, confident, collaborative, creative, and engaged—young people prepared to contribute meaningfully and responsibly to both their local communities and the wider world.

At NIS, we believe that learning extends beyond the classroom. Through a rich program of extracurricular activities and competitive sports, students are encouraged to explore their interests, cultivate leadership skills, and build confidence. This holistic approach supports the development of well-balanced individuals who are equipped to thrive in an ever-changing global landscape.

Education at NIS is grounded in a commitment to academic excellence, personal growth, and global citizenship.
We provide a safe, positive, and intellectually stimulating environment that empowers students to become critical thinkers, creative problem solvers, and empathetic learners—prepared not only for higher education, but also for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

With a rigorous international curriculum, modern facilities, and a track record of exceptional student outcomes,
NIS is proud to be recognized as one of Chiang Mai's leading international schools.

VISION

EDUCATION THROUGH DIVERSITY

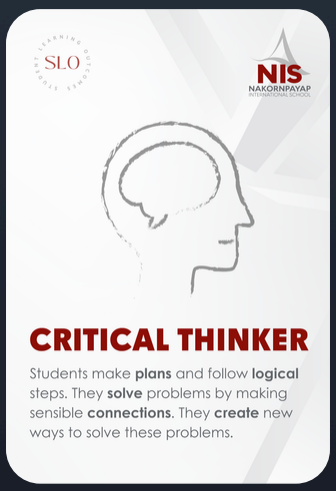
Promote passionate, life-long learners who strive for academic excellence through a well-balanced and relevant curriculum.

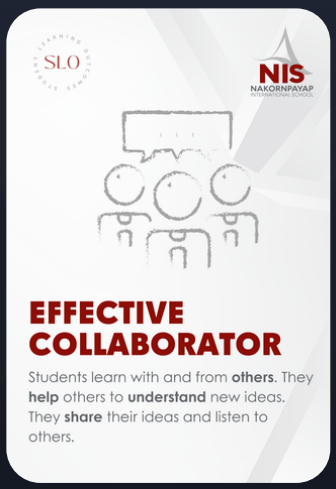
MISSION

NIS will embrace diverse cultures and effectively collaborate with all stakeholders and the local community. NIS will respect the importance of inclusive relationships, built from mutual support, while nurturing engaged, confident, and empathetic students. Our goal is to develop critical thinkers, who are active and caring members of the global community.

NAKORNPAYAP INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOS)









At NIS, our mission is to develop well-rounded individuals who are prepared to thrive academically, socially, and ethically in a global society. To guide this mission, we have defined four core Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) that reflect the essential skills and values we cultivate in every student. These outcomes serve as a framework for teaching and learning across all grade levels, ensuring our students grow into capable, responsible, and compassionate members of the world community.

- **Critical Thinker:** Students make plans and follow logical steps. They solve problems by making sensible connections. They create new ways to solve these problems.
- **Effective Collaborator:** Students learn with and from others. They help others to understand new ideas. They share their ideas and listen to others.
- **Confident Learner:** Students support and promote their own goals. They set academic and personal goals and believe in their ability to learn.
- **Kind Citizen:** Students show curiosity and openness towards other cultures. They use digital tools safely and responsibly. They are empathetic towards others in their community.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The Grove (ECC)

Our ECC program delivers high-quality education for Early Learners (ages 3–4), Pre-Schoolers (ages 4–5), and Kindergarten students (ages 5–6). Guided by the Finnish HEI curriculum, instruction provides holistic, play-based learning through cooperative activities, hands-on exploration, and meaningful interactions. Experiences including art, music, STEM, forest class, science, swimming, project work, and live performances foster cognitive, motor, social, and emotional development while encouraging outdoor learning and curiosity.

Elementary School (Grades 1–5)

The Elementary program emphasizes foundational learning in the core subject areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Complementary classes include Physical Education, Art, Music, Computer Science further supplement the learning experience, Thai Language & Culture, and Chinese Language. Additionally, students participate in various after-school academies, sports programs, and school events that enhance their educational experience in the elementary school.

Middle School (Grades 6–8)

Our Middle School curriculum is designed to prepare students for the rigors of high school. Core courses include English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, enriched by classes in Computer Science & Digital Literacy, Art, Music, Physical Education, and Thai Language & Culture. Students also begin studying a world language, choosing from Spanish, Japanese, or Chinese from Grade 6. Together, these offerings build a strong academic foundation for success in our college-preparatory High School.

High School (Grades 9–12)

The High School operates on a three-day rotating schedule (A-B-C days), with six 50-minute periods each day. This college-preparatory program features a growing range of Advanced Placement (AP) courses taught by certified faculty. Graduation requirements and elective offerings are aligned with California State standards and the University of California admissions criteria, ensuring students meet global university entrance requirements. Upon completion, students receive an NIS High School Diploma that prepares them for higher education worldwide.

After School Activities Program (ASA)

NIS offers an All-Inclusive After School Activities Program designed to enrich student life and nurture a wide range of interests across all grade levels. Open to all students and provided free of charge, the program encourages participation while supporting creativity, leadership, and personal well-being. Operating each week on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 3:00 to 3:50 PM, the ASA program provides meaningful opportunities for students to explore new skills, pursue passions, and grow beyond the academic classroom.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT DATA

NAKORNPAYAP INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

MAP 'Measure of Academic Progress' Data:
NIS uses the NWEA Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessments to monitor and support student growth throughout the academic year. These internationally recognized, adaptive assessments provide valuable insight into individual student progress in Reading, Language Usage, Mathematics, and Science. Students are assessed in the following subject areas:

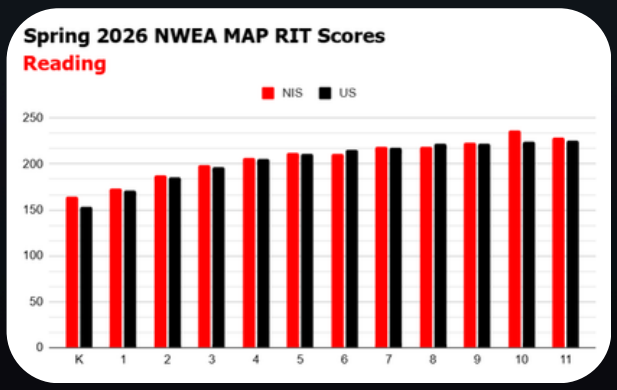
- Kindergarten to Grade 2: Reading and Mathematics
- Grades 3–8: Reading, Mathematics, Language Usage, and Science
- Grades 9–11: Reading, Mathematics, and Language Usage

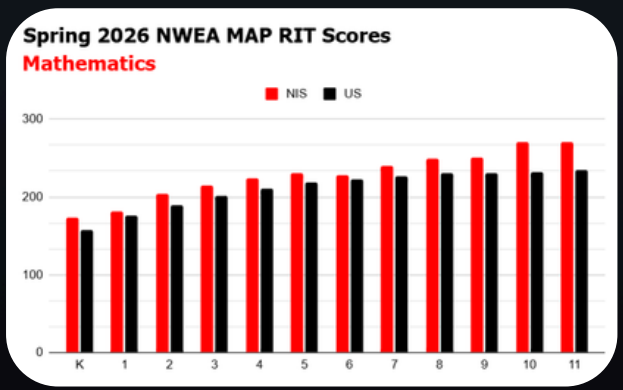
MAP assessments are administered multiple times throughout the school year, allowing teachers, students, and parents to track academic growth over time. Because MAP assessments adapt to each student's performance level, they provide highly reliable data that helps identify individual strengths, areas for growth, and readiness for future learning.

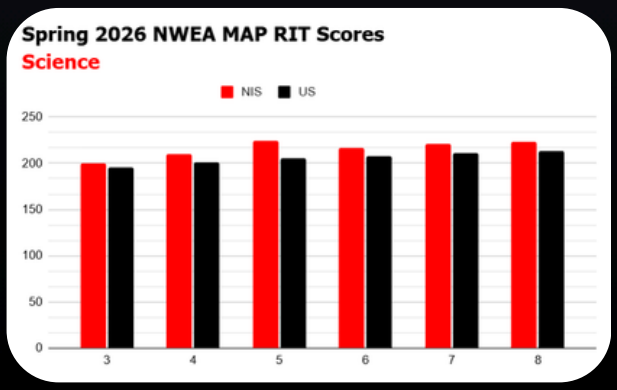
Teachers use MAP data to differentiate instruction, develop targeted interventions, and provide appropriate enrichment opportunities. At the school level, assessment results inform curriculum review, program evaluation, and strategic planning, ensuring that instructional practices remain responsive to student needs and aligned with international standards.

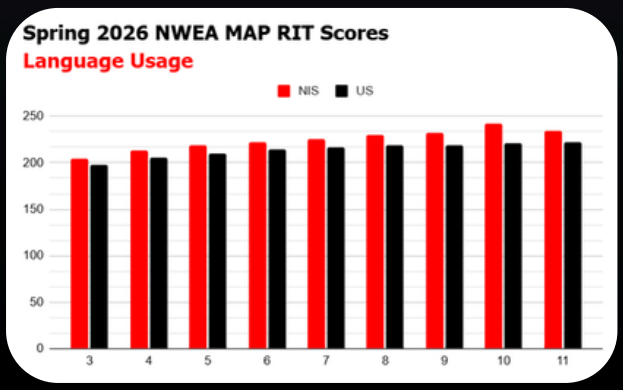
MAP results also serve as an important communication tool for parents, providing clear and objective evidence of student progress from year to year. Students are encouraged to reflect on their performance, set personal growth goals, and take ownership of their learning journey. This emphasis on growth helps foster a culture of continuous improvement and supports the development of confident, self-directed learners.

Our results consistently demonstrate that NIS students perform above international averages across all tested content areas and grade levels. The most recent school-wide assessment data was collected in Spring 2026 and is presented on the following pages.









ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

NIS offers a robust Advanced Placement (AP) program to support academic excellence and college readiness. Administered by the College Board, AP courses and exams are internationally recognized and provide students the opportunity to earn university credit or course exemptions based on exam performance. Exams are held annually in May, with results released in July.

For the 2026–2027 academic year, NIS offers 20 AP courses across a wide range of subject areas:

- **Capstone:** AP Seminar, AP Research
- **English:** AP English Language & Composition
- **Social Sciences:** AP Microeconomics, AP Business with Personal Finance, AP Psychology, AP Comparative Government
- **Mathematics:** AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics
- **Sciences:** AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics 1, AP Physics 2, AP Physics C
- **Computer Science:** AP Computer Science A, AP Computer Science Principles
- **Arts:** AP Drawing
- **World Languages:** AP Chinese, AP Japanese

The AP program at NIS allows students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school, strengthening their academic transcripts and enhancing university applications.



FIVE-YEAR AP SCORES SUMMARY

Advanced Placement (AP) results at NIS have demonstrated consistent growth and academic excellence over the past five years. Following the challenges associated with the global pandemic, student performance has improved steadily each year as the school continued to strengthen its academic programs and expand opportunities for advanced study. This sustained progress is reflected in a series of year-over-year gains, with AP pass rates increasing from 71.05% in 2022–2023 to 81.97% in 2023–2024, and 86.36% in 2024–2025. The most recent results from 2025–2026 represent the highest AP pass rate in school history, with an outstanding pass rate of 94.19%.

In addition to achieving a record pass rate, NIS students completed a greater number and broader range of AP examinations than ever before, demonstrating both the continued expansion of the school's AP program and students' willingness to engage in rigorous college-level coursework across multiple disciplines.

These exceptional results are a testament to the resilience and determination of our students, the expertise and dedication of our faculty, and the strong partnership between the school and our families. As NIS continues to expand academic opportunities and strengthen instructional practices, we remain committed to preparing students for success in university and beyond.

AP RESULTS SUMMARY 2026

204 EXAMS AND COUNTING!

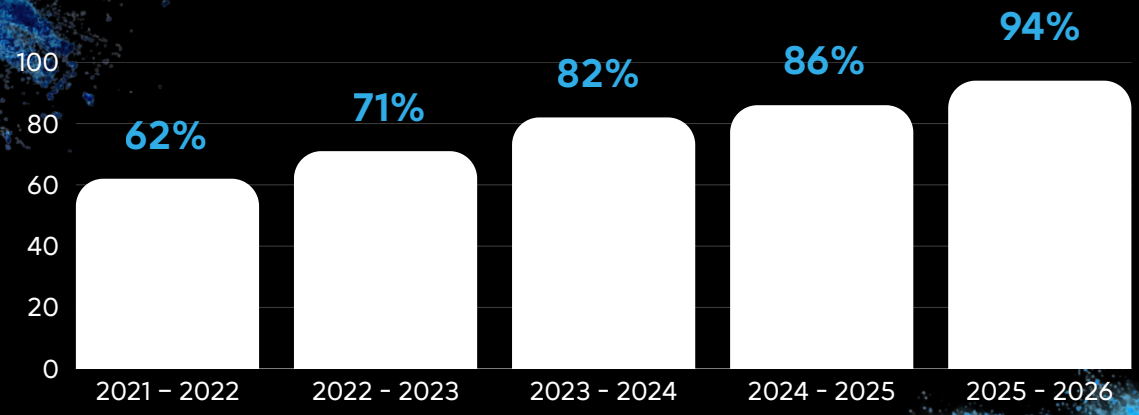
86
TOTAL AP STUDENTS

81
AP STUDENTS WITH SCORE 3+

94.19%
PASS RATE FOR THE 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR

63 SCORED 4 ON THEIR AP EXAM

70 SCORED 5 ON THEIR AP EXAM



MULTI-YEAR TRAJECTORY OF AP PASS RATES



SAT - SCHOLASTIC APTITUDE TEST

The SAT is a standardized college entrance examination widely used by universities in the United States and recognized by higher education institutions around the world. Designed to assess students' readiness for university-level study, the SAT provides a common measure through which admissions officers can evaluate applicants from diverse educational systems and backgrounds.

NIS is proud to serve as an officially approved SAT Testing Center, reflecting our commitment to academic excellence and university readiness. As a designated testing site, NIS students benefit from priority access to SAT testing dates hosted on campus, reducing the challenges often associated with securing examination seats at external testing locations.

Hosting the SAT on campus also provides students with the opportunity to complete this important assessment in a familiar and supportive environment. Testing in a setting where students feel comfortable can help reduce unnecessary stress and allow them to focus on demonstrating their academic abilities to the best of their potential.
SAT results provide valuable information for students, families, and universities, while also serving as an important benchmark for the school. Alongside classroom assessments, Advanced Placement (AP) examinations, and NWEA MAP data, SAT performance contributes to NIS's ongoing evaluation of program effectiveness and college readiness.

CLASS OF 2026
UNIVERSITY OFFERS

131 ACCEPTANCES

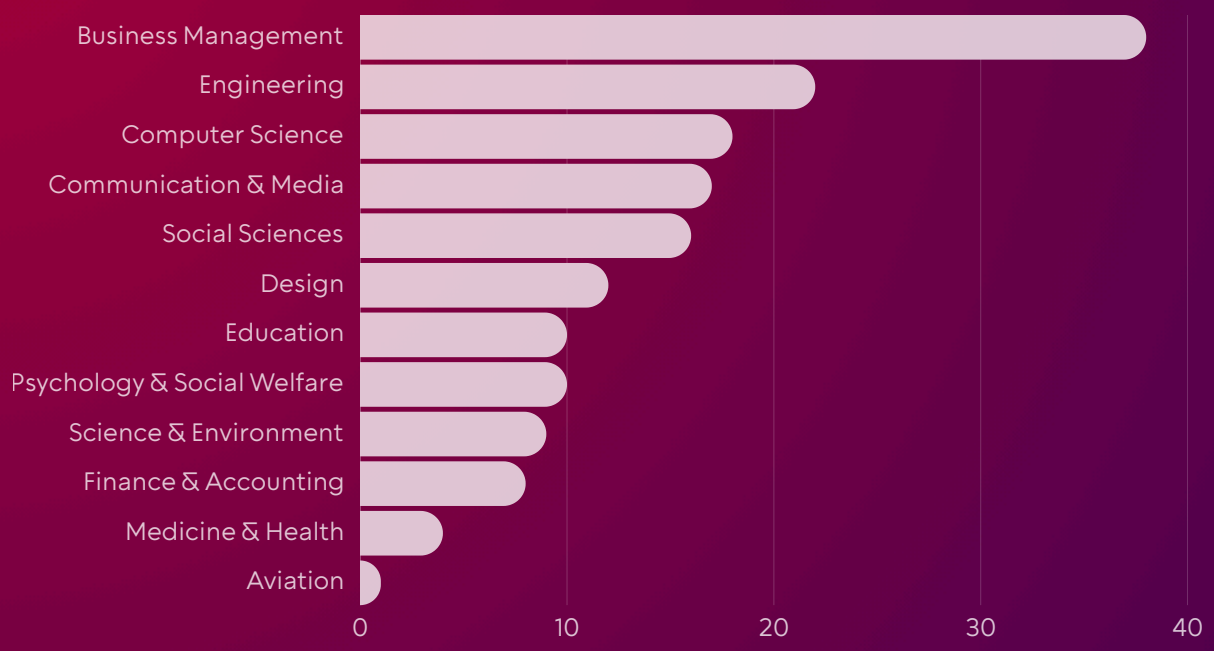
70+ UNIVERSITIES

16 COUNTRIES

46 GRADUATES

$3 MILLION OF SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

SELECTED MAJORS



OVERVIEW

Based on QS World University Rankings 2026

NAKORNPAYAP INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

AUSTRALIA

QS Top 50: 4
- UNSW Sydney (#20)
- The University of Sydney (#25)
- Monash University (#36)
- The University of Queensland (#42)

QS Top 100: 2
- The University of Western Australia (#77)
- The University of Adelaide (#82)

Other Universities
- RMIT University
- Curtin University
- Deakin University
- Queensland University of Technology (QUT)
- La Trobe University
- Swinburne University of Technology
- University of Canberra
- Edith Cowan University

CZECH

- Brno University of Technology

HONG KONG

- Lingnan University

KOREA

QS Top 100: 1
- Yonsei University (#50)

QS Top 200: 2
- Sungkyunkwan University (#123)
- Hanyang University (#159)

QS Top 500: 2
- Ewha Womans University (~#500)
- Chung-Ang University (~#500)

Other University
- SUNY Korea

CANADA

QS Top 50: 3
- University of Toronto (#29)
- McGill University (#31)
- University of British Columbia (#40)

Other Universities
- McMaster University
- University of Alberta
- University of Calgary
- Western University
- University of Manitoba
- University of Lethbridge

CHINA

QS Top 100: 1
- The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen (#36)

Other Universities
- Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University
- Beijing Foreign Studies University
- Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics

FRANCE

- École Ducasse

JAPAN

QS Top 200: 1
- Waseda University (#181)

QS Top 500: 1
- Temple University (~#650-700 globally)

Other Universities
- Hosei University
- Kyoto University of Advanced Science
- Sophia University

DISCOVER. EXPLORE. ACHIEVE.

OVERVIEW

Based on QS World University Rankings 2026

NAKORNPAYAP INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

MALAYSIA

QS Top 250: 1
- Taylor's University (#253)

QS Top 600: 2
- Sunway University (~#550)
- SEGi University (~#600)

Other Universities
- International Medical University
- Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia

NETHERLANDS

QS Top 200: 1
- University of Groningen (#147)

NEW ZEALAND

QS Top 100: 1
- University of Auckland (#65)

QS Top 300: 2
- University of Canterbury (#261)
- Massey University (#230)

Other Universities
- University of Waikato
- Auckland University of Technology

SINGAPORE

- Laselle College of the Arts
- SP Jain

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

- Sorbonne University

THAILAND

QS Top 250: 2
- Chulalongkorn University (#212)
- Mahidol University (#368)

QS Top 600: 2
- Chiang Mai University (#526)
- Thammasat University (#596)

Other Universities
- Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology
- King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang
- King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi
- Kasetsart University
- Bangkok University

UNITED KINGDOM

QS Top 100: 2
- University of Manchester (#35)
- University of Leeds (#82)

QS Top 200: 1
- Durham University (#89)

QS Top 500: 4
- University of East Anglia (~#330)
- University of Kent (~#380)
- Nottingham Trent University (~#600)
- University of Hertfordshire (~#800)

Other Universities
- Leeds Beckett University
- University of Huddersfield
- Edge Hill University
- University for the Creative Arts
- University of Salford
- University of the Arts London

UNITED STATES

QS Top 100: 1
- University of California, San Diego (#66)

QS Top 300: 2
- The University of Arizona (#293)

Other Universities
- Berklee College of Music
- University of California, Irvine
- North Carolina State University
- University of Colorado Boulder
- Colorado State University

กระทรวงศึกษาธิการ Ministry of Education · WASC Accrediting Commission for Schools · AP CollegeBoard Advanced Placement Program · nwea believe in what's possible · toddle · ONESOA · ISAT

NIS
NAKORNPAYAP
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

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