

Survey Says Not All Top Universities in Moscow

By [Yelena Vinogradova](#)

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The best university in the country remains Moscow State University, or MGU, but it's not necessary to come to the capital to get one of the country's best classical educations: Universities in Tomsk and Novosibirsk ranked in the top five of the latest published rating.

The national university rating project was conducted jointly by Interfax and radio station Ekho Moskvyy, and grew out of a 2009 order from the Federal Education Agency to create an independent evaluation system for the country's institutions of higher education.

Every year, 90 percent of high school graduates go on to college or university — meaning that about 2 million families a year wonder how best to select a place for higher education, said Alexei Venediktov, chief editor of Ekho Moskvyy.

The strongest university in the country is unquestionably MGU, so its rating result is listed as 100, and the other 107 universities that are largely focused on classical education — though 28

have the status of "national research university" — were ranked in terms of a percentage of MGU's result.

The "brand" value of universities was ignored until recently. But now employers look more frequently not just for a specialist with a diploma, but one who has finished a particular institution. Companies that understand the different "brands" and are willing to pay more for graduates of the better schools have increased from 15 percent in 2005 to 35 percent now. According to City Hall, only 5 percent of graduates from Moscow's lesser known institutes find jobs related to their chosen field of education.

The main driver to getting a degree is better salary options. Those with a higher degree can count on 60 percent better pay than those without. With 1.5 million graduates entering the job market every year and competing for work, the significance of the university brand is growing.

Regional educational institutions are much better at generating and managing intellectual property than federal ones. For example, Siberian Federal University in Krasnoyarsk registered 95 patents in 2010, while MGU registered only four for the same period. The regions are also much more active in creating small innovation enterprises, or MIPs, where students and professors work to create and commercialize innovative ideas. Tomsk State University has nine MIPs whose charter capital includes patents valued from 35,000 to 408,000 rubles (\$1,250 to \$14,600).

The commercialization wave is expected to continue as federal and regional authorities encourage educational institutions to engage in entrepreneurial activities.

The methodology used for the rating system is based on the one used by the magazine Times Higher Education — which last year put MGU as the highest-ranked Russian participant on its list, coming in at 237 in the World University Ranking. Experts say the poor showing was due in part to the lack of internationally published scientific research, which in turn is due to the sad state of scientific research in the country and poor knowledge of foreign languages.

Top Universities for Classical Education

Rank	Name	City	Rating
1	Moscow State University (MGU)	Moscow	100
2-3	National Research Institute MFTI	Moscow	79
2-3	St. Petersburg State University	St. Petersburg	79
4	Russian University of Peoples' Friendship	Moscow	71
5-6	Novosibirsk National Research Institute	Novosibirsk	67
5-6	Tomsk National Research Institute	Tomsk	67
7	National Nuclear Research Institute MIFI	Moscow	66
8	Bauman National Research-Technical University	Moscow	65
9-11	St. Petersburg National Research and Polytechnic University	St. Petersburg	63
9-11	Siberian Federal University	Krasnoyarsk	63
9-11	Southern Federal University	Rostov-on-Don	63
12	Kazan National Research and Technological University	Kazan	61
13	Tomsk National Research and Technological University	Tomsk	59
14	Ural Federal University	Yekaterinburg	58
15	Saratov National Research University Named for Chernishevsky	Saratov	58

Top 10 Universities by Brand Recognition

Rank	Name	City	Rating
1	Moscow State University (MGU)	Moscow	100
2	St. Petersburg State University	St. Petersburg	72
3	National Research Institute MFTI	Moscow	65
4	National Nuclear Research Institute MIFI	Moscow	50
5	National Research Institute Higher School of Economics	Moscow	48
6	St. Petersburg National Research and Polytechnic University	St. Petersburg	45
7-8	Tomsk National Research University	Tomsk	44
7-8	Southern Federal University	Rostov-on-Don	44
9	Kazan Federal University	Kazan	42
10	Novosibirsk National Research University	Novosibirsk	40

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