Recently, [Quacquarelli Symonds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quacquarelli_Symonds) has announced the world’s top universities in 2019, with 18 universities in China among the world’s top 50. Nowadays, more and more people put high value on university rankings and even regard them as significant references for their applications. Colleges and universities also care a lot about their rankings. They take every effort in order to improve their rankings for the sake of their reputations. Personally, although many of them are objective, university rankings still have some bad effects on universities.

University rankings are rankings made by authorities where colleges and universities will be ranked on the basis of various combinations of various factors. Sometimes they measure the academic abilities of specific departments instead of the whole university. Those factors can be the scale of the university, research excellence, admissions, historical reputations, graduate employment and so on. One of the most influential university rankings are QS World University Rankings which is mentioned above. It measures the academic abilities of universities mainly by focusing on academic peer review, citations of faculty and faculty student ratio. This ranking system is objective relatively because it contains more material about specific subjects. In China, national university rankings also exist. But the methods they use are sometimes lack of objectivity and equality.

Authoritative as university rankings may be, it still has some negative influences on universities. First, it diverts universities’ attention from what they are supposed to do. In order to improve the ranking and maintaining the reputation, university may focus only on the quantity, not the quality of the academic essays they publish. Professors will care less about their teaching for students, and the faculty will neglect the real social responsibilities of a university. Some universities even improve their rankings by paying money to the ranking program. Those bribery actions not only destroy the reputation of universities, but also encourage bribery, which will do great harm to the quality of their academic research.

What’s more, those less objective rankings will give rise to unequal competitions among universities. For those well-famous universities which appear top in the list, it is easy to attract talents and academic resources. Thus their academic abilities will rise up and the positive cycle will continue. However, for less famous universities, resources are limited. They struggle to improve their academic abilities, but can hardly do anything. If things go on this way, they will not survive in this competitive society.

In conclusion, university rankings may be of help for our school applications, it is generally disadvantageous for the growth of universities. As a result, universities should only consider their rankings after clarifying their academic and social responsibilities, and our citizens need to rational towards those rankings as well.