UKZN on global top 1 000 universities list

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THE Centre for World University Rankings based in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, has released this year’s rankings of the top universities from around the world, and Wits University, in at number 114, leads the five South African universities featured in the top 1 000 list.

UKZN, which ranked 459th, was fourth among SA’s universities.

Among the important findings, said UKZN’s vice-chancellor and principal, Professor Malegapuru Makgoba, were that UKZN’s Alumni Employment rank was 142. This is measured by the number of a university’s alumni who, relative to the university’s size, hold chief executive positions at the world’s top companies.

In the Quality of Faculty indicator; measured by the number of academics who have won major international awards, prizes and medals, UKZN was ranked 210th.

In citations (measured by the number of highly cited research papers), the university was ranked 310th, while its Quality of Education rank was 355.

Harvard University nabbed the global top spot, followed by Stanford University, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) came in at number three.

Of the 1 000 universities ranked, 229 are in the US, 84 in China, 74 in Japan and 64 in the UK.

Ten of the universities featured are in Africa. The other South African universities on the list were the University of Cape Town (267), Stellenbosch University (311) and the University of Pretoria (608).

Wits University vice-chancellor and principal Professor Adam Habib said the institution was mindful that ranking systems used different methodologies so their results should be approached with “a level of measured circumspection”.

In the 2013/14 ranking by QS (Quacquarelli Symonds), a British company specialising in higher education released in September last year, the University of Cape Town (UCT) led the pack among SA universities.

The QS ranking had three SA universities in the top 400 universities, with UCT in at number 145, Wits at number 313 and Stellenbosch University at number 387.

The QS rankings considered more than 3 000 universities and, ultimately, 800 universities were ranked.

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