

“More and focused research branding, defining of specific research fields to be granted additional funding and hiring of additional staff has contributed to improve research quality,” he says. “We believe that these efforts to promote and disseminate research have led to an improvement in rankings.”

The Space Colony Research Center brings together the university’s expertise in satellite components, functional materials, energy creation and sensors into a single base for researching and developing technology essential to long-term human habitation within closed environments in space and elsewhere.

There has also been praise recently for TUS’ work on complex disasters and research into wearable devices using biofuel cells.

TUS is one of the oldest private universities in Japan and now among the largest, with almost 19,000 students. It is staging a recovery in the



rankings after a protracted decline.

Ten years ago, it was well inside the top 300 in the QS world rankings, compared with a position outside the top 750 this year.

Sophia University is the only other Japanese university in the Asian top 200 to have improved its position.

That said, 15 of the country’s institutions joined the expanded ranking this year.

The highest-placed of them is the University of Electro-Communications, a non-profit public higher-education institution located in the city of Chofu, near Tokyo, which is in Asia’s top 40 for the number of papers produced by each faculty member.

Citations needed

Overall, Japan has fallen further behind China in all the research and reputational measures. It averages 4.2 citations per paper –