

## Media Release

### Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Monday, 15 August 2016

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## International rankings success a dividend of the pursuit for excellence

The University of Tasmania has risen further in a highly regarded international ranking scheme, positioned in the top 300 for the first time.

Compiled annually by the Centre for World-Class Universities at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) ranks the top research universities of a global field of about 24,000.

Prior to 2010, the University of Tasmania had placed consistently at around 400 but has steadily climbed the ARWU list over the past six years to place at 294 this year. Another influential scheme, The Times Higher Education World University Rankings, places the University of Tasmania at 286.

University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said the sustained rise in international rankings was reflective of the institution's focus on globally impactful research.

"As the only university in Tasmania, we have a unique relationship with our community and it is a relationship that comes with responsibilities," Professor Rathjen said.

"Our intent is to be world-class in all respects so that our students receive a world-class qualification, so that our state attracts the best and brightest, and so that our community grows on a foundation of meaningful and globally impactful research.

"This thrust for excellence has driven our academic reprofiling program, which has seen us recruit outstanding scholars from around the world, and our focus on key research themes that tackle deeply complex and pressing challenges."

Professor Rathjen said it was pleasing to see the University's hard work and strengths reflected in the rise in rankings over the past several years, particularly while the institution has balanced its research focus with an ambitious project to reshape tertiary education in Tasmania.

“Rankings may rise and fall from year to year but the University of Tasmania’s focus on research and teaching excellence, on providing the innovation and human capital crucial to our state’s future, will not waver,” Professor Rathjen said.

There are a number of rankings released by organisations throughout the world and the ARWU is widely considered to be one of the most influential. The ARWU rankings are created using a range of indicators including the number of alumni winning major prizes, the number of academic citations and the number of articles in respected journals.

**Information released by:**

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