Thunderbird at ASU ranked No. 1 in the world for international trade, 5 years in a row

QS global ranking places Thunderbird ahead of INSEAD, Cambridge and Oxford

By Nicole Almond Anderson, ASU News
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For the fifth consecutive year, Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University has been recognized as the world leader in international trade by Quacquarelli Symonds, the prestigious global authority on higher education rankings.

The 2027 QS International Trade Rankings for MBA and master's programs once again position Thunderbird as the No. 1 school in the world. The school ranks ahead of the University of Miami, the University of Michigan — Ann Arbor (Ross) and Columbia University in the U.S., as well as INSEAD (France), the University of Cambridge and the University of Oxford internationally.

"To be recognized as the world's No. 1 institution for international trade for a fifth consecutive year is an extraordinary honor that our faculty, students and alumni should take great pride in," said Charla Griffy-Brown, director general and dean of Thunderbird. "Their scholarship, ambition and impact challenge us to keep redefining international trade education."

"From our undergraduate programs to our master's curriculum, Thunderbird brings global commerce, emerging technology and leadership together. We prepare students from around the world to open markets, navigate disruption and create opportunity across borders," Griffy-Brown said.

Thunderbird was the only school to earn a perfect overall score of 100, placing first among nearly 110 universities and business schools worldwide offering graduate programs in international trade. It was one of only three institutions in the world to surpass 90 points, and finished well ahead of the next highest-ranked school, Durham University in the United Kingdom, which received a score of 92.7.

Thunderbird also remains the only institution from the United States, and the Americas, to rank among the global top 10, with the University of Miami appearing next at No. 13. The school held this distinction in both 2026 and 2025, following its recognition in 2024 as one of only five U.S. institutions to place in the top 10.

Thunderbird's world-class faculty are central to this recognition, earning the school a No. 6 global ranking in the "Faculty Industry Experience and Engagement" category. This distinction reflects their active engagement with leading academic and industry organizationsIncluding the Academy of International Business, African Continental Free Trade Area–Industrial Development Council, Business Association for Latin American Studies, Council on Foreign Relations, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development–Train for Trade, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the World Economic Forum..

Locally, faculty and students are engaged with the Arizona District Export Council, the Diplomatic Corps of Arizona, the Phoenix Council on Foreign Relations and other key regional organizations.

Thunderbird faculty are also regularly featured and cited in leading international outlets, contributing scholarship and policy insights that shape global discourse. Their work has informed the strategies of prominent global institutions and has been referenced[2] at the highest levels of policymaking.

Developed in collaboration with the Hinrich Foundation, schools are evaluated across several key performance indicators, including trade program content, graduate outcomes, industry engagement, innovative teaching, reputation and research.

The QS rankings specifically highlight Thunderbird’s flagship Master of Global Management program as the premier graduate program in international trade.

“Thunderbird stands out for the breadth and depth of its trade-related curriculum and for program attributes that employers tell us are critical in preparing graduates for successful leadership careers in global trade,” said Alex Boome, program director at the Hinrich Foundation. “The Hinrich Foundation is proud to support that preparation by awarding three scholarships each year to outstanding incoming students in Thunderbird’s MGM program.”

Each of these three Global Trade Leader scholarships, announced in May of this year, provides $25,000 from the Hinrich Foundation, complemented by $18,000 from the Thunderbird Alumni Scholarship, with additional merit-based awards available. The scholarships are open to incoming applicants from all countries who have relevant work experience and a strong interest in a global trade career.

As part of the QS World University Rankings, the International Trade Rankings help prospective students identify degree programs that prepare them to excel in global trade, while offering universities a benchmark for strengthening the quality and impact of trade education worldwide.

“Equally impressive is what our students achieve as they emerge ready to take their place on the global stage,” Griffy-Brown said. “They graduate with more than business skills and acumen. They bring the global perspective, technological fluency and practical experience to navigate complexity, work across cultures and turn uncertainty into opportunity. In a global environment unlike any we have seen before, our graduates are career-ready, prepared to thrive and equipped to shape what comes next.”

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[1] Including the Academy of International Business, African Continental Free Trade Area–Industrial Development Council, Business Association for Latin American Studies, Council on Foreign Relations, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development–Train for Trade, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the World Economic Forum.

[2] Influential bodies such as the Academy of Management, CFA Institute, Decision Sciences Institute, INFORMS, United States International Trade Commission, the National Intelligence Council, the United States Senate and the Departments of State and Defense have drawn upon this research.

Main image



Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University, located in downtown Phoenix, was the only school to earn a perfect overall score of 100, placing first among nearly 110 universities and business schools worldwide offering graduate programs in international trade. Photo courtesy of Thunderbird School of Global Management