How the leading performers weigh up on population, research and the cost of living. Data analysis by Bo Wu. Infographic by Tanner Maxwell, Simon Baker and Benjamin Plackett.

**CHINESE SUCCESS**
Beijing and Shanghai have made considerable progress since 2015, gaining on and overtaking some of the United States' top science cities.

**Leading institutional partnership by bilateral collaboration score, 2021**

**1. BEIJING**
Population: 21.9 million  
GDP per capita: $27,253  
Average scientist salary: $34,830  
Number of institutions in NI top 500: 23  
Institute of Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences  
Peking University  
Proportion of China's Share, 2021: 16,753.86  
Collaboration score: 120  
Beijing  
Rest of China

**2. NEW YORK**
Population: 20.1 million  
GDP per capita: $81,902  
Average scientist salary: $70,770  
Number of institutions in NI top 500: 14  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center  
The Rockefeller University  
Proportion of the United States' Share, 2021: 19,857.35  
Collaboration score: 120  
New York  
Rest of United States

**3. SHANGHAI**
Population: 24.9 million  
GDP per capita: $25,700  
Average scientist salary: $36,550  
Number of institutions in NI top 500: 12  
Fudan University  
Shanghai Jiao Tong University  
Proportion of China's Share, 2021: 16,753.86  
Collaboration score: 120  
Shanghai  
Rest of China

**4. BOSTON**
Population: 4.9 million  
GDP per capita: $86,953  
Average scientist salary: $83,830  
Number of institutions in NI top 500: 7  
Harvard University  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Proportion of the United States' Share, 2021: 19,857.35  
Collaboration score: 120  
Boston  
Rest of United States

**5. SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA**
Population: 6.7 million  
GDP per capita: $112,271  
Average scientist salary: $94,170  
Number of institutions in NI top 500: 6  
University of California, Berkeley  
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory  
Proportion of the United States' Share, 2021: 19,857.35  
Collaboration score: 120  
San Francisco Bay Area  
Rest of United States

Because large network organizations, such as the Chinese Academy of Sciences, span multiple cities, we have counted their constituent bodies instead when calculating the number of institutions in the top 500 of the Index. All population statistics date from 2020. GDP per capita figures in Chinese cities date from 2021 and in US cities date from 2019. All currency data expressed in US dollars.