Abstract. This article is dedicated to the analysis of creation and development of research universities. Author studies their socio-economic functions, as well as impact of research universities upon competitiveness of universities in the global market of educational services. There is also an evaluation of the Ukrainian institutional environment in terms of its supportiveness for research universities and their financial autonomy in this article. In conclusions, author proposes strategic priorities for development of Ukrainian educational system to make it more competitive on the global market.

Keywords: research university, world class university, competitiveness of university, financial autonomy of university, priorities for development of research university.