



Times Higher Education
Impact Rankings

Impact Rankings 2025 Results Masterclass

Q&A Summary

Q&A

Q: How do you determine how much a specific metric say, a numeric metric like “the proportion of students in agriculture” contribute perhaps to 23,7% of an Indicator within that SDG?

A: Indicator 2.4.1 is worth 19.2% of the score in SDG 2. Our methodology is grounded in the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and tailored to reflect the unique role and capabilities of higher education institutions. When developing the methodology, we consulted with universities and third-party experts to ensure it is both meaningful and achievable.

Each year, we review feedback from participating universities to refine and improve our approach. We welcome any suggestions to help us better measure how specific metrics—such as the proportion of students in agriculture—reflect a university’s contribution to SDGs.

Q: Can you tell us what prompts you use when Chat GPT is being used

A: While each metric and indicator covers a distinct topic—requiring tailored prompts—the core structure remains consistent. Each prompt includes the indicator question along with the relevant description from the methodology.

Q: For the SDG report, should universities publish progress on the work the university has done in the previous year or the year for which you submit the rest of the evidence for the metrics?

A: For the 17.3 reporting indicators, we do not require a document summarising the university’s data submissions to THE for other SDGs. Instead, we expect a report detailing the university’s progress on each specific SDG during the relevant academic year.

Q: does attending a delegate from the university a conference is counted as outreach? or needs a different contribution from the university?

A: Actions undertaken by individuals do not qualify as actions taken by the university as a body

Q&A

Q: Does the university's size or the years of existence have any impact in the ratings?

A: University size or university age do not have an impact on metric scores. Having said that we request university population, students data as we look for proportions in different indicators/metrics.

Q: Don't you think that some metrics require universities to have a lot of needless duplication in policies etc? eg, in the UK our equality policy is in line with the UK Equality Act, covering all protected characteristics. So why do we need separate policies to cover gender, trans rights, minorities etc in order to score ""specific""?

A: Each country has their own policies and they do not exactly university's commitment on those metrics. Thus, we request a data where universities show their own commitments and actions. Also, our SDG5 indicators are designed based United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and in each country different practices are being held against each underrepresented group. Thus, our indicator questions and requirements need to be explicit for each of those groups.

Q: 1) Are we able to submit pages from social media e.g. Instagram posts - as this is mostly the main source of evidence from student outreach or community based collaborative activities that support some SDGs. 2) Regarding performances to support SDG 11 - How to best demonstrate this? Can we just submit a list of performances with dates or do we need supporting evidence for each performance e.g. webpage or news article. 3) Can we submit a pdf extract of a online news source if we can not submit link for the exact page.

A: 1)Yes, we can accept social media posts as evidence. However, we do recommend that it is set as open (does not need a login to access it), and it shows clearly that it is from the university as a body.

2) You need to provide supporting evidence for each indicator.

3) Yes, standalone documents including pdfs can be submitted as an evidence.

Q&A

Q: Hello, can you please clarify what you mean by "piece of evidence" when it comes to proving that we have indeed done something?

A: This may depend on indicator question but it is usually a university's sustainability plan/report/policy documents, webpages on specific actions/events/programmes/projects done by a university.

Q: You mentioned "strong evidence". How do you determine the strength?

A: It is an evidence that directly responds to the questions or has a specific section relevant to indicator questions while providing detailed information to understand university's commitment/action towards the indicator question.

Q: How can universities submit only one piece of evidence for indicators that require, for example "local, national, global" impact, without crafting documents specifically for the ranking?

A: In indicators that ask universities to select an option, we understand that a piece of evidence may not be enough to showcase university's actions against all the options. Thus, if a university provides an evidence that is providing detailed information for one those options is enough to be considered specific.

Q: how do you determine how much a specific metric say a numeric metric like ""the proportion of students in agriculture"" contribute perhaps to 23,7% of the Indicator

A: Indicator 2.4.1 is worth 19.2% of the score in

SDG 2. Our methodology is grounded in the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and tailored to reflect the unique role and capabilities of higher education institutions. When developing the methodology, we consulted with universities and third-party experts to ensure it is both meaningful and achievable. Each year, we review feedback from participating universities to refine and improve our approach. We welcome any suggestions to help us better measure how specific metrics—such as the proportion of students in agriculture—reflect a university's contribution to SDGs.

Q&A

Q: How do you identify those edge cases?

A: Our evidence validation consists of couple of stages and one of the quality assurance checks we made is if there is a disagreement between human validation and initial AI validation - in addition to other QA checks- we run another human validation stage on those evidence to decide the final scoring.

Q: How does THE verify the accuracy of institutional data submissions?

A: We run validation checks on submitted data. If it is a numeric data, we run statistical tests and if any of the provided data points flagged, we reach out to universities to provide explanation/evidence to confirm their flagged data point or amend the figure to correct one. For the qualitative data, we run LLM checks based on our methodology and we have a team of 40+ human validator to assess the validity of the provided evidence data

Q: I find that providing qualitative evidence can often be quite complex and even ""tricky"" especially when trying to prove the impact of programs in ways that are both clear and convincing. I have two questions to clarify: 1) Is evidence from third-party platforms, such as news websites, media coverage, or independent reports that mention the university considered acceptable? 2) From your experience, what are the most common mistakes universities make when submitting qualitative evidence? Especially those that cause evidence to be marked as irrelevant or not valid?

A: 1) Yes, a third-party evidence is acceptable as long as it is relevant to the indicator question and an university's involvement/action/commitment is clear in the evidence. 2) Scoring is based on how clearly and explicitly the evidence answers the question. When reviewing submissions, we look for direct alignment with the key terms used and details provided in the indicator.

We assess only the content visible in the evidence provided—without navigating external links or needing to interpret surrounding commentary.

Q&A

Q: If URLs are preferred for evidence. How do dates and the reference year of data as part of the methodology fit. Typically University webpages would contain the latest information as opposed to dated materials.

A: We understand that it may be hard to keep the old webpages; thus, if the webpage shows an action completed after the requested academic year but before the data collection period, it is still considered within the timeline.

Q: Is it considered better for the proportion of first-generation students starting a degree under SDG 4 to increase or decrease over time

A: Year on year change in the proportion does not affect university score in this metric. We take only the provided data for the year and this indicator is normalised so it is also other submitted data for the same field from other universities decide university's score.

Q: Is it possible to exclude some questions that are not relevant in the (national) university System?

i.e. if housing is not organised by the university, but by external agencies/organisations in Germany. Thank you!

A: There may be a few indicators that is more applicable to some countries compared others. This is because we designed the questionnaire based on UN SDGs and how globally they can be addressed by universities.

Q: On average, how many SDGs do universities submit information on? Has the average number declined since 2019?

A: The average number of submitted SDGs per university has significantly changed over the years. It has changed between 8.5 and 8.9 SDGs over the years.

Q: Our institution is not classified as a university, but we are authorized to offer undergraduate degrees. Are we still eligible to submit data for the Impact Rankings

A: The Sustainability Impact Ratings are open to any university that teaches at either undergraduate or postgraduate level (ISCED 6, 7 and 8). You can reach out to us at impact@timeshighereducation for further questions

Q&A

Q: My Question is on how you score indicators. As far as I know evidence data differs. Some of the evidence data may fall under more than one SDG aspect. Please give examples on generic, specific and public evidences. For example I am running a Jean Monnet Module and courses are recorded. They are under distance education centre's servers and students can reach them with their campus login info. I have a YouTube channel for dissemination. Is this YouTube channel enough to demonstrate public quality education (life long learning measure and/or educational sources, public events, education outreach activities...). What must we demonstrate and how?

A: Scoring is based on how clearly and explicitly the evidence answers the question. When reviewing submissions, we look for direct alignment with the key terms used and details provided in the indicator. For example, if an indicator specifically asks about "women," and your evidence only refers to "sex" or "gender" in general, it may be marked as generic and receive partial credit.

We assess only the content visible in the evidence provided—without navigating external links or needing to interpret surrounding commentary.

Q: SDG 17 requires the submission of reports on each SDG that demonstrate tracking progress. How is "progress" measured for these reports? Is it measured, for example, against the UNSDG targets? or the SDG indicators that THE provides? or something else?

A: UNSDG targets or our indicators can give an idea about what needs to be improved to tackle that SDG; however, submitted report shouldn't be a summary of university data provided in other SDGs for Sustainability Impact Ratings. We look for a report that shows what has the university done to address that particular SDG and how its progress evolved.

Q: The average of 2 years is used only for the general ranking or for each SDG's ranking also? so the 18 rankings?

A: It is only used in overall ranking table. SDG table scores are solely based on this year's submitted data.

Q&A

Q: So if the methodology only includes 3 SDGs + 17, Do you recommend we enter data for all SDGs or concentrate on three SDGs plus SDG 17?

A: This depends on the university and its current activities around the SDGs. Our methodology can guide universities in which areas they are strong. Also, you can have a look at the <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/datapoints/sdg-quiz> where quiz results may suggest you SDGs that you are probably strong. Kindly note that SDG quiz has not affect on any score you may get for Sustainability Impact Ratings.

Q: Thank You for the presentation, i want to ask you, when we add the evidence link, can we use indirect evidence such as our SDG's website or we must only provide the direct link to the document or the news?

A: Scoring is based on how clearly and explicitly the evidence answers the question. When reviewing submissions, we look for direct alignment with the key terms used and details provided in the indicator. For example, if an indicator specifically asks about “women,” and your evidence only refers to “sex” or “gender” in general, it may be marked as generic and receive partial credit.

We assess only the content visible in the evidence provided—without navigating external links or needing to interpret surrounding commentary.

Q: We had submitted link on the website but it was google drive link and anyone access. Is it okay? We had debut in 2025 Ranking so having confusion.

A: Drive links or documents in cloud storage are considered as not public.

Q: What to expect for the results of rating next year?

A: We will continue to deploy our tried and trusted impact methodology to provide clear numerical scores for each university in each metric in each individual SDG they enter – and for their overall performance - and indeed we’ll continue to present the ratings for now in the form of a ranked list on our website as we do currently.

So our gold standard framework remains in tact.

But recognition of this framework as a rating system and network allows us to work with the community to consider moving to presenting the congested numerical score data in banded groups, not individually ranked places, or based on percentiles or performance classifications.

Q&A

Q: What will be the specific criteria and thresholds used to define each rating level?

A: We are not going to make any methodological change in terms of calculating SDG scores or overall score. Thus, presentation of results will not be different next year, there will be ranking positions similar to this year. However, we have started collecting feedback from universities about their ideas how the results should be presented in the future editions.

Q: Where can I learn to know what evidence you take for valid?

A: Indicator level scores are available on our Datapoints for those universities who have access to SDG Dashboard <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/datapoints/>

Q: Will the ranking remain relevant keeping in mind that probably a lot of universities (also these important ones) will withdraw from the ranking?

A: We are not going to make any methodological change in terms of calculating SDG scores or overall score. Thus, presentation of results will not be different next year, there will be ranking positions similar to this year. However, we have started collecting feedback from universities about their ideas how the results should be presented in the future editions.

Q: Would evidence published on our university's official website be regarded as less credible or carry less weight compared to evidence disseminated through external sources, such as online news media?

A: As long provided evidence shows a clear link with university, third party urls are considered relevant.

Q: Are there any plans to connect the WUR and the Impact Rating? E.g., QS integrates its sustainability ranking with 5%

A: No, we do not have these plans.

Q&A

Q: May we choose 4 out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to rank, or is it mandatory to include all 17 SDGs in the ranking process?

A: Participation in the overall ranking requires universities to submit data to at least four SDGs one of which must be SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals. If a university submits data, but doesn't fulfil the requirement to be part of the overall ranking they will still be ranked in the SDGs for which they have provided data.

Q: Apart from Elsevier portal for scholarly work, do you collect from Google scholar too?

A: All research metrics were measured against a document search of the Scopus dataset. This narrowed the documents that we have evaluated to those directly related to the SDG.

This search process has been supplemented with documents identified using machine learning techniques in order to create a richer and fuller dataset.

This keyword search terms for each SDG, and an overview of the approach can be accessed from the following link:

<https://elsevier.digitalcommonsdata.com/datasets/y2zyy9vwzy/1>

On top of this corpus we build out specific metrics detailed in each SDG section.

Q: Are there any major changes in indicators?

A: No. While we intend to work with network members to review the methodology and evolve the ratings framework over time, and while we reserve the right to make methodological modifications based on feedback, in the short term we will continue to use the tried and trusted Impact Rankings methodology for the new ratings – using the same wide range of indicators to produce scores in the same way. Moving to describing this as a “rating” helps demonstrate its difference from traditional rankings and helps us evolve how we present the numerical score data over time.

Q: Do universities get automatically less score for a policy, which was used in the years before?

A: No, we do not expect universities to make a new policy each year.

Q&A

Q: Could the fact that the documents had been examined by an artificial intelligence have had an impact on documents published in a language other than English?

A: The AI system we use, powered by a large language model (LLM), identifies relevant evidence by analysing the overall context of the content, rather than relying on specific keywords. It evaluates whether concepts related to the indicators are covered. Even if a website contains a variety of information, the AI can recognize individual pieces of content as representative examples, as long as they include the necessary elements to demonstrate engagement. For instance, a discussion of student housing would only be relevant to the 'affordable housing' indicator if it explicitly addresses affordability and student housing, mirroring how human validators make judgments.

Q: Do we know, on average, in how many SDGs do universities participate — at least those ranked in the top 300 or 400?

A: The minimum requirement for universities to participate is the submission of at least 1 SDG. To be ranked overall, universities must submit data for at least 3 SDGs plus SDG 17. According to our data, there is a trend of universities submitting around 10 SDGs.

Q: Does "rating" means that the score for an indicator will be assessed solely on the basis of a single maximum value, and not on the basis of the scores for the other units? thanks

A: The structure of the rating will stay the same for 2026 as the ranking in 2025.

Q: Does submitting evidence in French not discriminate in the analysis of submissions from French-speaking universities?

A: Evidence submitted by universities can be in any language

Q: 1. Will participation in THE Impact rankings be possible only by subscription and with payment?

A: yes, to be ranked in Impact sustainability ratings you need to be a member of the Sustainability Impact Network.

Q&A

Q: 1. What are the key elements required in a piece of evidence to demonstrate alignment with a specific SDG?

2. What types of documentation are considered valid and sufficient as evidence for SDG-related impact?

A: The preferred format is a web address to a public website: public data is strong evidence of performance. Use the evidence field provided to enter the most relevant URL for your evidence. Always think of the BEST piece of evidence. Where evidence is not available as a URL, you will be able to upload documents. Acceptable file types include .doc, .pdf, excel, .gif, .jpeg, .png. We do not accept .rar, .txt or .zip

Evidence types could include (but are not limited to):

- Policy documents
- Reports
- Publicity material
- Guides
- Timetables

It should not include:

- Video
- Audio files

Q: Please could you confirm if methodology stay the same for next year. If not, when will methodology will be published ?

A: Methodology will be mainly stay same. It will be published in September, all registered Data Providers will be notified.

Q&A

Q: 2. If a team dedicated to analyzing the SDGs at a university and want to gather information on (SDG1: Papers co-authored with low or lower-middle income countries, SDG3/4: paper views, SDG3: Clinical citations, SDG5: Proportion of female authors, SDG9: patents citing research) where can they acquire this information? As its not on Scival

A: Please contact Elsevier, we are receiving data for the research metric from them directly.

Q: Are the rating submissions requirements the same as the rankings?

A: Yes, we do not change the way how the rankings work or the methodology for this cycle.

Q: As only 1 evidence is accepted, does this mean many universities will gain the same score? Or do you give score on quality of activity as well?

A: Scoring for the SDGs is based on three main pillars: bibliometric data, quantitative data, and evidence-based data. In cases where universities achieve identical scores for the SDGs, the weight of the other metrics still applies.

Q: Basically seems human will validate the data for the double check btw.

Has hybrid validation been implemented for the 2026 rankings, or does it remain under consideration?

A: LLM has been further testing and refining, currently building LLM integration into ranking process for Impact 2026
Continued development of the LLM products, welcome all feedback

Q: By not paying to submit data collection in September, I want to know if our university won't be ranked and will be out of the table ranking or will it be ranked by collecting data from other sources?

A: To be ranked in Impact sustainability ratings you need to be a member of the Sustainability Impact Network.

Q&A

Q: can we know the detail of indicator research of each SDG? I mean the list of the research

A: all research metrics were measured against a document search of the Scopus dataset. This narrowed the documents that we have evaluated to those directly related to the SDG. This search process has been supplemented with documents identified using machine learning techniques in order to create a richer and fuller dataset. We will continue this approach for 2025. This keyword search terms for each SDG, and an overview of the approach can be accessed from the following link:
<https://elsevier.digitalcommonsdata.com/datasets/y2zyy9vwzy/1>

Q: can we submit two URL of evidences?

A: As we are using LLM (AI) in our validation for this edition of the Impact Rankings, please note that if you provide a URL, the content on the link should be clearly located. If multiple links or a list of links are given, or you need to click around, this may not be validated. We only accept 1 piece of evidence per indicator.

Q: for this 2026 impact rankings which year of data should we submit for Evidence and continuous matrices

A: A university “year” may be a calendar year or may be seasonal.
Some institutions’ academic years are different from their financial years.
You may use the most appropriate annual cycle that best fits your data, but ends in 2024.

Q: If I have done 20 programs per year that satisfy 1 indicator, should I just select one of these programs and use it as evidence for this indicators?

A: Use the evidence field provided to enter the most relevant URL for your evidence. Always think of the BEST piece of evidence.

Q: Is it possible that the events mentioned are from the last two years - 20224 and 2025?

A: This year we request data from the academic year 2024.

Q&A

Q: May I know how our research publications are evaluated and assigned to each specific SDG?

A: All research metrics were measured against a document search of the Scopus dataset. This narrowed the documents that we have evaluated to those directly related to the SDG.

This search process has been supplemented with documents identified using machine learning techniques in order to create a richer and fuller dataset.

This keyword search terms for each SDG, and an overview of the approach can be accessed from the following link:

<https://elsevier.digitalcommonsdata.com/datasets/y2zyy9vwzy/1>

On top of this corpus we build out specific metrics detailed in each SDG section.

Q: Another question: We are in the digital era, our universities also use social media. Do you accept social media evidences such as X, Instagram, LinkedIn... OR all the evidences must be linked to university domain web pages?

A: Yes, we can accept social media posts as evidence. However, we do recommend that it is set as open (does not need a login to access it), and it shows clearly that it is from the university as a body.

Q: can we have more information on why evidence are deemed not relevant?

A: zero concepts found when validating Impact evidence will be marked as not relevant

Q: can you explain about the first generation students in SDG4?

A: This is the FTE (Full Time Equivalent) number of students starting a degree at the university in 2023 who are first generation students.

A first-generation student is one who reports they are the first person in their immediate family to attend university at any level (note - the individual may have studied at another university previously).

This is a subset of the total number of students starting a degree.

Q&A

Q: Can you explain how the scoring works based on the SDGs? I read in the methodology that we need to submit at least 4 SDGs, including SDG 17 as mandatory, how is the final score calculated from those?

A: To be eligible for the overall ranking a university has to supply data for SDG 17 and any three other SDGs. Where a university has supplied data for more than three other SDGs we will use the three in which the university has performed most strongly. Because we ask different questions in each SDG, the range of scores may vary. For example, in SDG 4 the highest score may be 89.2 and the lowest 15.1, whereas in SDG 8 the highest score may be 76.3 and the lowest may be 7.2. In order to generate the overall ranking, we scale these scores so the range for all SDGs is 0 – 100. It is these scaled scores that we use to produce the overall ranking. This impacts the decision on which SDGs a university has performed most strongly in: we will use the three where the scaled score for that university is highest.

This may not be the three in which:

- The university is ranked highest
- The university has scored highest in unscaled scores

Calculating the Overall Ranking score

When we calculate the total score in a given year, we assign the following proportions:

- SDG 17: 22%
- Top three SDGs: each 26%

The score for the overall ranking is an average of the last two year's total scores.

Q: could you confirm if we will be receiving certificates for SDGs

A: We do not issue certificates for all participants of Impact Rankings 2025.

Q: Can you give some example of activity related to refugees? As this is very sensitive issue, including immigration status that we cannot accept their enrolment. What is your definition of "refugee"?

A: We follow the UN definition of "refugee". <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/refugees>

Q&A

Q: Does data for scholars in Google scholar platform counts?

A: All research metrics were measured against a document search of the Scopus dataset. This narrowed the documents that we have evaluated to those directly related to the SDG.

This search process has been supplemented with documents identified using machine learning techniques in order to create a richer and fuller dataset.

This keyword search terms for each SDG, and an overview of the approach can be accessed from the following link:

<https://elsevier.digitalcommonsdata.com/datasets/y2zyy9vwzy/1>

On top of this corpus we build out specific metrics detailed in each SDG section.

Q: Est ce que le fait de soumettre des preuves en français ne discrimine pas les universités francophones?

A: Evidence submitted by universities can be in any language

Q: First time to submit, What coverage year of data/documents for submission this 2026

A: A university “year” may be a calendar year or may be seasonal.

Some institutions’ academic years are different from their financial years.

You may use the most appropriate annual cycle that best fits your data, but ends in 2024.

Q: For institution joining the sustainability impact network for the 2026 exercise, how do you obtain its previous metrics?

A: University's receive their metric score based on data submitted for the collection. Their SDG score is solely on the submitted data for the year. We use last year's score only to calculate overall score. If a university participate for the first time, we do not take an average of two scores but use only the most current score.

Q&A

Q: for an evidence, if we submit a report and wrote "the relevant evidence is on page 6-7", is this fine ?

A: Notes left in the comment boxes have never been used for scoring; they are only used to help locate relevant information in the submitted evidence. The AI will not consider these notes, as our model is capable of analysing all text on the submitted page. It will evaluate all information and automatically identify the relevant parts, if present. Even if a website contains a variety of information, the AI can still recognize individual pieces of content as representative examples. Kindly note that the text on the page itself is what AI will analyse. No links will be clicked, so for instance if your webpage displays "Diversity policy" as an icon to click, and the diversity policy is actually on another page, we will not be able to access the content. In a case like this please provide the direct link to the policy page. If AI finds the evidence relevant, it will be passed to human validators. Human validator will be able to use the comments left by the university to find the relevant as in previous cycles.

Q: For numeric questions that only require filling in data fields, is it still necessary to provide supporting evidence?

A: for numeric data, please enter quantitative data only. If it is flagged in our validation checks, we may reach out to you to provide explanation/evidence to confirm your numeric data.

Q: for THE Impact Ratings 2026, is it still allow one evidence for each question?

A: Yes. We only accept 1 piece of evidence per indicator.

Q: For the reporting aspect of SDG17: Should a university cover the THE framework (Research, Teaching, Stewardship, Outreach) or is progress against any aspect enough? Clarity on assessment here would be much appreciated.

A: almost all the indicators within each SDG are broken down according our framework (Research, Teaching, Stewardship, Outreach). You can find more details in our methodology.

Q&A

Q: Hello, I have a question. For the submission of SDG 17, it is required to submit sustainability report of each SDGs as evidence. How do you (AI) determine the report (evidence) is specific or generic? Are there any elements we have to include in the reports?

A: We are working on SDG17 and it is still work on progress. It is not currently run through AI

Q: Hello, my name is Ira Darmawanti from Surabaya State University Indonesia (Unesa). I would like to ask you, just want to reconfirm that the impact ranking will be measured through all SDGs of a university Or a university may emphasize which SDGs can be selected? as I read (if I am not mistaken) there are three best SDGs.

A: Participation in the overall ranking requires universities to submit data to at least four SDGs one of which must be SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals. If a university submits data, but doesn't fulfil the requirement to be part of the overall ranking they will still be ranked in the SDGs for which they have provided data.

The scores for each SDG are based on a series of metrics. Each metric is themed and may be composed of individual indicators. The maximum score for each metric is given in the relevant section, both as an exact percentage within that SDG and as an approximate percentage if that SDG was to be used for the overall ranking for that university.

Q: Good day. Is there a period coverage when the university will submit for high impact ranking? Like past 3 years data?

A: A university "year" may be a calendar year or may be seasonal.

Some institutions' academic years are different from their financial years.

You may use the most appropriate annual cycle that best fits your data, but ends in 2024.

Q&A

Q: Hi, I'm curious about the scoring for 3.1.2 - Clinical citations (worth 10% of score for SDG 3). We scored zero for this and the worldwide median was also zero. This is not keeping with our other research scores for SDG 3 which were 59.1 for paper views and 80.3 for publications. Are you able to explain this variation please and the reason behind the worldwide median being zero? Thanks

A: This should be fixed now. If you still encounter the same issue, please reach out to our colleagues at datapointsupport@timeshighereducation.com

Q: How can I find out what information is available on Elsevier? I ask because of the research data we need to submit

A: all research metrics were measured against a document search of the Scopus dataset. This narrowed the documents that we have evaluated to those directly related to the SDG.

This search process has been supplemented with documents identified using machine learning techniques in order to create a richer and fuller dataset.

This keyword search terms for each SDG, and an overview of the approach can be accessed from the following link:

<https://elsevier.digitalcommonsdata.com/datasets/y2zyy9vwzy/1>

On top of this corpus we build out specific metrics detailed in each SDG section.

Q: How does THE ensure consistency and objectivity among reviewers during the validation and scoring process across all participating institutions?

A: We provide comprehensive training and support to all our evidence validators to ensure the objectivity across team.

Q: How many evidences per indicator are considered a good number? For example, if the indicator is about outreach programs offered to community.

A: Use the evidence field provided to enter the most relevant URL for your evidence. Always think of the BEST piece of evidence. We will only accept 1 piece of evidence per indicator where it's required.

Q&A

Q: How do you ensure that the careful wording that you are looking for is equally found in an evidence that is in a language other than English?

A: The AI system we use, powered by a large language model (LLM), identifies relevant evidence by analysing the overall context of the content, rather than relying on specific keywords. It evaluates whether concepts related to the indicators are covered. Even if a website contains a variety of information, the AI can recognize individual pieces of content as representative examples, as long as they include the necessary elements to demonstrate engagement. For instance, a discussion of student housing would only be relevant to the 'affordable housing' indicator if it explicitly addresses affordability and student housing, mirroring how human validators make judgments.

Q: 1. Does the LLM also gauge the reach of a social media post (reactions, shares, views)?

A: If it can reach the text, it will analyse it. However, images and videos will not be analysed by our model. If the social media website blocks our model's access to the content, it will be directly passed to human validators.

Q: Will using STARS rating still be a viable option for SDG17? Will the AI be able to read it?

A: We are working on SDG17 and it is still work in progress. It is not currently run through AI.

Q: Is there a human control after AI validation of evidence "not relevant"?

A: If the AI finds zero concepts when we validate Impact evidence, it will be marked as not relevant and won't be passed to the human assessors. A small percentage of those not relevant cases will be sent to our expert QA team for review to help determine the accuracy of the AI (we do the same for human validators too).

Q&A

Q: Can you explain more about your decision to charge for future submissions? Does this mean more access to results in sub-metrics?

A: You can find out more on our blog post <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings-news/sustainability-impact-ratings-new-framework-and-network-universities>. As part of the network and participating in the new ratings, you will get access to metric level scores only.

Q: How much will it cost for universities to participate in the THE Impact 2026 ranking?

A: We have carefully set a modest and inclusive range of membership fees based on national income levels:

High-income and upper-middle-income countries: £3,500 per year

Lower-middle-income countries: £1,000 per year

Low-income countries: Free of charge

These categories are determined according to the latest World Bank classifications.

To register, simply follow the registration process. When you locate your university in the list, the applicable fee will be displayed at the top of the page.

Q. My university already subscribes to THE's DataPoints product, SDG ID. Will we still have to pay for network membership and inclusion in the ratings?

A: No. All current subscribers to THE's SDG ID data product will have their network membership, and participation in the ratings, included in the cost of their data subscription.

Q. If my institution chooses to subscribe to THE's DataPoints product, SDG ID, will the cost include membership of the network and entry into the next annual edition of the ratings?

A: Yes. All new subscribers to the SDG ID subscription data product will have their network membership and inclusion into the ratings included.

Q&A

Q: I also read that 1 piece of evidence is required. Can you please expand on that? Is it like a word document with links?

A: Use the evidence field provided to enter the most relevant URL for your evidence. Always think of the BEST piece of evidence.

The evidence reviewer can only read the text immediately visible within the page or contained in collapsible subsections; it will not read dynamic hidden subsections or links that redirect to other web pages.

The text on the page itself is what we will analyse. No links will be clicked, so for instance if your webpage displays “Diversity policy” as an icon to click, and the diversity policy is actually on another page, we will not be able to access the content. In a case like this please provide the direct link to the policy page.

Also, when text is structured in sections that require opening/expanding, we cannot guarantee that this will be accessed (it depends how the html content has been formatted).

As a rule we advise as simple a page structure as possible, without reliance on any user (inter)action. Also note that images or scanned text content will not be analysed – only text.

Q. My institution is a subscriber to THE’s DataPoints products – but not to the Impact and SDG ID modules. Will I still have to pay for the Sustainability Impact Network?

A: Yes. The network is for those committed to evidencing their commitment and contribution specifically to the sustainability agenda, through the Sustainability Impact Ratings, so a subscription fee is required to be part of this community.

Q: In the case where a university did not participate in the previous year, do you still average the score?

A: If a university has not participated in previous year then their overall score will be calculated using their current annual score only

Q&A

Q: If the THE Impact Rankings are transitioning to the THE Sustainability Rating, would participating universities be required to pay a separate participation fee? Additionally, if a university is already subscribed to the SDG Tracker through THE DataPoints, does that subscription exempt the institution from any additional participation fees?

A: Times Higher Education is transforming its successful Impact Rankings into the Sustainability Impact Ratings, underpinned by a new membership-based network – the Sustainability Impact Network – to better support universities' contributions to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The paid subscription to the network unlocks the data submission support and the evaluation, assessment and benchmarking services required to be included in the ratings, so network membership is required for all universities that want to enter the ratings.

for related details, please refer to <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings-news/sustainability-impact-ratings-new-framework-and-network-universities>

Q. Are THE's data products included in the Sustainability Impact Network subscription fee (for example SDG ID and SDG AI)?

A: No. While network members will receive access to their full performance data, across all SDGs entered, and will receive some international benchmarking data, full access to the full data products are separate to the network benefits and can be purchased as add-ons to network membership. There will be cost efficiencies for network members that also subscribe to data products.

Q: In the 2026 methodology, when you say 2024, can we consider our Academic Year September 2024 to July 2025 for the Data

A: A university "year" may be a calendar year or may be seasonal.

Some institutions' academic years are different from their financial years.

You may use the most appropriate annual cycle that best fits your data, but ends in 2024.

Q&A

Q: in the slides there is a mention of 18 rankings and one overall ranking. Is the overall ranking calculated by aggregating all the rankings of the SDGs or the top 3+SDG17 are aggregated to calculate the overall score?

A: Participation in the overall ranking requires universities to submit data to at least four SDGs one of which must be SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals. If a university submits data, but doesn't fulfil the requirement to be part of the overall ranking they will still be ranked in the SDGs for which they have provided data.

An annual score is generated from the score for SDG 17 (worth up to 22% of the overall score), plus the three strongest of the other SDGs for which they provided data (each worth up to 26% of the overall score).

Q: Instead of overall score have a rank even though in rating evaluation, is individual SDGs also have ranking?

A: Providing data for a single SDG will ensure you have a place in the ranking for that SDG.

Q: Is it possible to add links to comments?

A: Notes left in the comment boxes have never been used for scoring; they are only used to help locate relevant information in the submitted evidence. The AI will not consider these notes, as our model is capable of analysing all text on the submitted page. It will evaluate all information and automatically identify the relevant parts, if present. Even if a website contains a variety of information, the AI can still recognize individual pieces of content as representative examples. Kindly note that the text on the page itself is what AI will analyse. No links will be clicked, so for instance if your webpage displays "Diversity policy" as an icon to click, and the diversity policy is actually on another page, we will not be able to access the content. In a case like this please provide the direct link to the policy page.

If AI finds the evidence relevant, it will be passed to human validators. Human validator will be able to use the comments left by the university to find the relevant information as in previous cycles.

Q&A

Q: Is it possible for institutions to review their scores for individual indicators to understand where points have been lost?

A: In Datapoints (<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/datapoints/>) , universities who have access to SDG Dashboard can see indicator level scores as well.

Q: is there anything in the road map to reduce the burden of submission?

A: We will be running the network webinars to help universities understand methodology and data collection portal.

Q: Is there a methodology version 2026 or is it the same with 2025?

A: The methodology will be published in September 2025. While we intend to work with network members to review the methodology and evolve the ratings framework over time, and while we reserve the right to make methodological modifications based on feedback, in the short term we will continue to use the tried and trusted Impact Rankings methodology for the new ratings – using the same wide range of indicators to produce scores in the same way. Moving to describing this as a “rating” helps demonstrate its difference from traditional rankings and helps us evolve how we present the numerical score data over time.

Q: is there any move for universities to review and contest the evaluation before the rankings are finalized?

A: The data team will be able to provide technical support and general guidance during the submission period to support their annual submission, but we do not provide feedback on the submission during the data collection period.

After the Sustainability Impact Ratings are released for the Membership Year, we will grant universities access to our proprietary performance analytics which include:

- your rating performance compared to the global benchmark for each SDG rating; and breakdown of your metric level scores for each individual SDG rating submitted to.
- a detailed breakdown of your metric level scores for each individual SDG rating for which data has been submitted by you.

Q: Just to be clear, ONE piece of evidence is enough per indicator?

A: Use the evidence field provided to enter the most relevant URL for your evidence. Always think of the BEST piece of evidence

Q&A

Q: May I know

1. After the changes of THE Impact Rankings to THE Impact Ratings, will the university still be ranked based on the overall score?

2. The ratings will be based on the star meaning 1 star to 5 stars?

A: The ratings will stay the same for 2026, however, we will be discussing the future shape of it with our network members.

Q: Our report is a pdf link on a page, so we have always sent the pdf to avoid having to click onto the document, would you prefer the URL or the pdf?

A: Please provide the direct link to the best piece of evidence you have that clearly demonstrates information relevant to the indicator.

Q: Please can you repeat the data collection dates and the methodology release date

A: Data collection period:

Portal opens 15th September 2025

Portal closes 10th November 2025

Methodology will be published in September, all registered Data Providers will be notified.

Q: The rating methodology will be similar to the ranking methodology?

A: Yes, for the 2026, we do not plan any changes to the methodology

Q: What is deceptive evidence?

A: The evidence created with intent to mislead evidence validators.

Q: When do you expect to release the new methodology?

A: The methodology will be published in September 2025

Q&A

Q: Was the hybrid validation method used this year? If the tool rejected the evidence, was it then reviewed and validated by human validators?

A: The Impact Rankings 2025 mark a transitional phase as we move from human-led validation to AI-supported validation processes. During this period, some differences may be observed between this year's scores and those from previous years, or within individual submissions. These reflect the implementation of AI scoring, which is subject to quality assurance through randomized spot checks by trained reviewers.

While we continue to share the methodology for the Impact Rankings prior to their release, we retain the responsibility to determine the most appropriate methods for processing data and validating submitted evidence. This approach enables us to deliver the rankings on schedule while upholding their integrity and reliability.

Q: What is bibliometric data

A: all research metrics were measured against a document search of the Scopus dataset. This narrowed the documents that we have evaluated to those directly related to the SDG.

This search process has been supplemented with documents identified using machine learning techniques in order to create a richer and fuller dataset.

This keyword search terms for each SDG, and an overview of the approach can be accessed from the following link:

<https://elsevier.digitalcommonsdata.com/datasets/y2zyy9vwzy/1>

On top of this corpus we build out specific metrics detailed in each SDG section.

Q: What makes an evidence specific or generic?

A: Scoring is based on how clearly and explicitly the evidence answers the question. When reviewing submissions, we look for direct alignment with the key terms used and details provided in the indicator. For example, if an indicator specifically asks about “women,” and your evidence only refers to “sex” or “gender” in general, it may be marked as generic and receive partial credit.

We assess only the content visible in the evidence provided—without navigating external links or needing to interpret surrounding commentary. As of this year, our human validators are instructed not to click on links, to maintain consistency with the AI's review method in align with the methodology (see page 11) Please ensure your documents or URLs lead directly to the precise, relevant section of the evidence. Page references are acceptable for long documents.

Q&A

Q: When a question scores with further sub-categories such as local, regional, national and global. To score maximum points is it best to submit the link to the global evidence, or submit a link to a page containing evidence for each of the 4 levels?

A: In regards to all picklist questions with several options (such as local, regional, national)-- it is not necessary to provide evidence that relates to each picklist option you selected. What we ask is that you submit the best piece of evidence that reflects how your university fulfils the question at hand. In other words, even if you click local, regional, and national, but you only submit evidence that relates to national, this is acceptable.

Q: When is evidence specific vs generic?

A: Scoring is based on how clearly and explicitly the evidence answers the question. When reviewing submissions, we look for direct alignment with the key terms used and details provided in the indicator. For example, if an indicator specifically asks about “women,” and your evidence only refers to “sex” or “gender” in general, it may be marked as generic and receive partial credit.

We assess only the content visible in the evidence provided—without navigating external links or needing to interpret surrounding commentary. As of this year, our human validators are instructed not to click on links, to maintain consistency with the AI’s review method in align with the methodology (see page 11) Please ensure your documents or URLs lead directly to the precise, relevant section of the evidence. Page references are acceptable for long documents.

Q: When will you have the masterclasses to provide guidance on the data submission this year?

A: We will provide exclusive webinars (at the beginning of the September we will run data submission workshops for all network members).

Once registered and signed up for the portal, all those submitting data will have access to our data team to answer any technical questions and provide general support for their submission.

Q: where can I reach the data submission guideline? I would like to see all area that you ask to submit data

A: The methodology will be published in September 2025. In the meantime, you can refer to the methodology for the Impact Rankings 2025, available here: <https://the-ranking.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/IMPACT/IMPACT2025/THE.ImpactRankings.METHODOLOGY.2025.pdf>

Q&A

Q: Why do you want to call it "Rating" if it is still ranked lists? In which way will the "Rating" be different from current results lists?

A: Recognition of this framework as a rating system and network allows us to work with the community to consider moving to presenting the congested numerical score data in banded groups, not individually ranked places, or based on percentiles or performance classifications

Q: Why is some scored ranged, not a definite number? e.g. score 56.3-61.8

A: Unfortunately, we do not publish exact rankings for institutions placed in ranking bands, and the universities in each band are displayed alphabetically on our website. Hence, the score is ranged.

Q: Why do you calculate the overall score by averaging the scores of the last two years?

A: This decision was made in 2023 <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/changes-stability-thes-2023-impact-rankings>

Changes for stability in THE's 2023 Impact Rankings

As we move towards the release of the Impact Rankings 2023 on 1 June, it is important to outline the changes that we have made for this release and to revisit the reasons behind them.. One of the challenges of the Impact Rankings has always been that they are designed to encourage universities to do more in terms of sustainability.

www.timeshighereducation.com

Overall in general created this way:

A university's total score in a given year is calculated by combining its score in SDG 17 with its best three results on the remaining 16 SDGs. SDG 17 accounts for 22 per cent of the total score, while the other SDGs each carry a weighting of 26 per cent. This means that different universities are scored based on a different set of SDGs, depending on their focus. The score for the overall ranking is an average of the last two years' total scores.

Q&A

Q: Why is the same piece of evidence classified as specific one year and then as generic the following year?

A: The Impact Rankings 2025 mark a transitional phase as we move from human-led validation to AI-supported validation processes. During this period, some differences may be observed between this year's scores and those from previous years, or within individual submissions. These reflect the implementation of AI scoring, which is subject to quality assurance through randomized spot checks by trained reviewers.

While we continue to share the methodology for the Impact Rankings prior to their release, we retain the responsibility to determine the most appropriate methods for processing data and validating submitted evidence. This approach enables us to deliver the rankings on schedule while upholding their integrity and reliability.

Q: Will there be changes in the data submission process and/or the assessment methodology for next year, with the name change?

A: Data collection period:

Portal opens 15th September 2025

Portal closes 10th November 2025

Methodology will be published in September, all registered Data Providers will be notified. To participate in the rankings, membership fees must be paid by 10th November 2025. We will continue to deploy our tried and trusted impact methodology to provide clear numerical scores for each university in each metric in each individual SDG they enter – and for their overall performance - and indeed we'll continue to present the ratings for now in the form of a ranked list on our website as we do currently. So our gold standard framework remains intact.

But recognition of this framework as a rating system and network allows us to work with the community to consider moving to presenting the congested numerical score data in banded groups, not individually ranked places, or based on percentiles or performance classifications.

Q&A

Q: Will there be webinars / masterclasses for guidance on the data submission process for this year around the time when the portal opens for data collection?

A: We will provide exclusive webinars (at the beginning of the September we will run data submission workshops for all network members). Once registered and signed up for the portal, all those submitting data will have access to our data team to answer any technical questions and provide general support for their submission.

Q: Would you (organizer) please provide e-certificate of participation? It will be much appreciated!

A: We will not provide certificates for Impact Rankings 2025.

Q: regarding the best practice, could you please repeat why those were considered as best practice? the way they provide information, narration or in which format or what exactly? thank you.

A: Scoring is based on how clearly and explicitly the evidence answers the question. When reviewing submissions, we look for direct alignment with the key terms used and details provided in the indicator.

We assess only the content visible in the evidence provided—without navigating external links or needing to interpret surrounding commentary.

Q: How can we review the research-related scores for each SDG we submitted in the Impact Rankings? If we believe there may be an issue and would like to request a review or clarification of those scores, what steps should we follow?

A: Please reach out to impact@timeshighereducation.com

Q&A

Q: How can THE Data team can help our institution to check all the evidence during data submission process.

A: The data team will be able to provide technical support and general guidance during the submission period to support their annual submission, but we do not provide feedback on the submission during the data collection period.

After the Sustainability Impact Ratings are released for the Membership Year, we will grant universities access to our proprietary performance analytics which include:

- your rating performance compared to the global benchmark for each SDG rating; and breakdown of your metric level scores for each individual SDG rating submitted to.
- a detailed breakdown of your metric level scores for each individual SDG rating for which data has been submitted by you.

Q: How the research data is picked under a particular SDG

A: All research metrics were measured against a document search of the Scopus dataset. This narrowed the documents that we have evaluated to those directly related to the SDG.

This search process has been supplemented with documents identified using machine learning techniques in order to create a richer and fuller dataset.

This keyword search terms for each SDG, and an overview of the approach can be accessed from the following link:

<https://elsevier.digitalcommonsdata.com/datasets/y2zzy9vwzy/1>

On top of this corpus we build out specific metrics detailed in each SDG section.

In total a maximum score in these indicators is worth 27% of the score for each SDG (equivalent to approximately 7% of the overall score).

Q: How can we review the research-related scores for each SDG we submitted in the Impact Rankings? If we believe there may be an issue and would like to request a review or clarification of those scores, what steps should we follow?

A: Your metric scores are available on our Datapoints <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/datapoints/>. If you think there is an issue, please contact with Elsevier as they are the bibliometric data provider for Sustainability Impact Ratings

Q&A

Q: Your question asks: “Has your institution provided expert advice to government at the local, regional, or national level?” However, since only one piece of evidence (e.g., a single URL) can be submitted, could you please clarify how that one piece of evidence can sufficiently support or demonstrate activity across all three levels?

A: In indicators that ask universities to select an option, we understand that a piece of evidence may not be enough to showcase university's actions against all the options. Thus, if a university provides an evidence that is providing detailed information for one those options is enough to be considered specific.

Q: We submitted data for 5 SDGs and scored between top 400-800 universities. However, according to overall results we ranked 1201-1500. Does it mean we should submit on all SDGs?

A: The score from each SDG is scaled so that the highest score in each SDG in the overall calculation is 100 and the lowest score is 0. This is to adjust for minor differences in the scoring range in each SDG and to ensure that universities are treated equitably, whichever SDGs they have provided data for. It is these scaled scores that we use to determine which SDGs a university has performed most strongly in; they may not be the SDGs in which the university is ranked highest or has scored highest based on unscaled scores.

Q: Can we make changes to a piece of evidence after it has been submitted during the data submission period?

A: We do not allow universities to change evidence or add/remove SDGs after the portal closes on 10th November. However, if you submitted your data and noticed any issues before the deadline, please reach out to our team. We can unsubmit your data to allow for corrections.

Q: Has any progress been made on either inviting community colleges to participate in this, or generating a version of this for community colleges?

A: Currently, we do not have a plan to invite community colleges. Sustainability Impact Ratings are open to institutions teaching at ISCED 6, 7 or 8 level.

Q&A

Q: What are the most important factors that impact the ranking? and how research and citations are measured?

A: When we calculate the total score in a given year, we assign the following proportions:

- SDG 17: 22%
- Top three SDGs: each 26%

All research metrics were measured against a document search of the Scopus dataset. This narrowed the documents that we have evaluated to those directly related to the SDG.

This search process has been supplemented with documents identified using machine learning techniques in order to create a richer and fuller dataset.

This keyword search terms for each SDG, and an overview of the approach can be accessed from the following link:

<https://elsevier.digitalcommonsdata.com/datasets/y2zyy9vwzy/1>

On top of this corpus we build out specific metrics detailed in each SDG section.

In total a maximum score in these indicators is worth 27% of the score for each SDG (equivalent to approximately 7% of the overall score).

Q: Can you explain about the first generation students starting a degree? how to calculate?

A: This is the FTE (Full Time Equivalent) number of students starting a degree at the university in 2023 who are first generation students. A first-generation student is one who reports they are the first person in their immediate family to attend university at any level (note - the individual may have studied at another university previously).

Q: Is the U.N. aware of THE's work with the SDGs?

A: Yes, they are. Our methodology starts with an introduction written by Education Officer, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Q&A

Q: Who is the audience for the rankings? For peer visibility? Government/Global Governance organizations? Do you know how are users using the ranking information.

A: How the Impact Rankings support decision-making:

For students and academics

- Identify the top universities in specific areas of sustainable development
- Understand the focus areas of each institution

For universities

- Benchmark sustainability performance against global standards
- Highlight strengths to attract international students and partnerships

Q: Do you have any US community colleges (2year Associate degree programs) participating?

A: Sustainability Impact Ratings are open to institutions teaching at ISCED 6, 7 or 8 level.

Q: Since scores are averaged over two years, are new participants forced into scoring poorly in their first year, or can they submit data to fill that gap?

A: An annual score is generated from the score for SDG 17 (worth up to 22% of the overall score), plus the three strongest of the other SDGs for which they provided data (each worth up to 26% of the overall score).

The overall score is then calculated as the average of the annual scores of two years. If a university has not participated in previous year then their overall score will be calculated using their last annual score only.

Q&A

Q: Hello, this is a huge job you're doing, congratulations! About the evidence: how is it possible that for the same question and the same evidence, one year all the points are given, and the next year, it is not the same result (for example, less points are given)?

A: The Impact Rankings 2025 mark a transitional phase as we move from human-led validation to AI-supported validation processes. During this period, some differences may be observed between this year's scores and those from previous years, or within individual submissions. These reflect the implementation of AI scoring, which is subject to quality assurance through randomized spot checks by trained reviewers.

While we continue to share the methodology for the Impact Rankings prior to their release, we retain the responsibility to determine the most appropriate methods for processing data and validating submitted evidence. This approach enables us to deliver the rankings on schedule while upholding their integrity and reliability.

Q: Was I correct in hearing that aligning with SD17, reporting on SDGs, is a minimum requirement for getting a rating?

A: Participation in the overall ranking requires universities to submit data to at least four SDGs one of which must be SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals. If a university submits data, but doesn't fulfil the requirement to be part of the overall ranking they will still be ranked in the SDGs for which they have provided data.

Q: As you are now using AI to assess evidence, will universities be able to submit more than one piece of evidence in future?

A: Yes we are using AI for the evidence assessment. At the moment we don't have plans to accept more than 1 piece of evidence, but we can review this.

Q: 2. What happens when LLM "rejects" a piece of evidence?

A: Evidence deemed as not relevant by AI will be spot-checked during QA (Quality Assurance) for confirmation.

If deemed relevant, it will be passed to human validators to assess whether it is specific, generic, or not relevant. Evidence reviewed by human validators will also undergo QA to ensure objective and accurate scoring.

The collaboration between AI and human validators ensures consistency in our rankings.

Q&A

Q: Will the AI tool have a limitation on ability to read a certain amount of characters or word count?

A: There is a maximum size we can parse and run through LLMs, if this is exceeded the evidence validation this would be passed to a human assessor. The notes provided by the university in the Impact data submission would need to state where in the document the relevant info could be found, otherwise the document is just too long to read.

We do look to modify our web parsing scripts in order more web pages are readable, but there are always limitations to what can be parsed programmatically.

Q: You mentioned that using AI will also make submission easier for universities. Will universities get access to this AI evaluation tool so we can check beforehand if the AI gets the point we are trying to make with our evidence?

A: We are currently exploring how to implement AI in the portal to support universities on their submissions. However, this won't be in play for 2026.

Q: Could you please remind us how IA work in analysing evidences ? How IA 'read'" document - if publics or not, with tabs or not, when the evidence pass to a human validator. Do you remark any significant differences between human and AI analysis?

A: The LLM engine we use is analysing the content of the text and assessing its relevancy to the question we are asking – it does not require specific keywords or terminology being used, but we do ask that certain topics/concepts be covered for the evidence to be relevant (same process as human validation: for instance evidence about providing housing to students that does not discuss affordability will not be fully relevant to the “affordable housing for students” indicator). The evidence reviewer can only read the text immediately visible within the page or contained in collapsible subsections; it will not read dynamic hidden subsections or links that redirect to other web pages. The text on the page itself is what we will analyse. The LLM Reviewer was used alongside our team of trained validators and provide a “pre-assessment”. Evidence validation has been generally done in two, sometimes three steps in our rankings, with an initial validation and several rounds of QA. All evidence pre-assessed as “relevant” was sent to human validators to determine the Generic/Specific scoring. Evidence pre-assessed as “not relevant” was also spot checked in the QA for confirmation. Human validators have scored an evidence public or not public. We are improving our evaluation with AI for future editions.

Q&A

Q: Information was given last year that the LLM will provide direct feedback per question - this has not happened this year - will this be implemented soon?

A: At the moment this is internal for validation. We are currently exploring the use of AI to help universities with their submissions, however we do not have a plan for this yet.

Q: When comparing the results of a year without LLMs to those obtained using LLMs, what impacts were observed on the schools' rankings

A: We say more consistency and accuracy in scoring.

Q: How come evidence that was submitted and validated by the AI tool was not accepted?

A: The AI system we use, powered by a large language model (LLM), identifies relevant evidence by analysing the overall context of the content, rather than relying on specific keywords. It evaluates whether concepts related to the indicators are covered. Even if a website contains a variety of information, the AI can recognize individual pieces of content as representative examples, as long as they include the necessary elements to demonstrate engagement. For instance, a discussion of student housing would only be relevant to the 'affordable housing' indicator if it explicitly addresses affordability and student housing, mirroring how human validators make judgments.

Q: I have a question regarding the use of AI in preparing our Impact Ranking submission. Is there a risk that using AI tools for writing or structuring parts of the report could lead to disqualification or negatively impact our evaluation?

A: We score based on relevance towards the question and expect to see actual proof within the evidence that answers the questions (not just a statement), if the evidence does this, it shouldn't be an issue.

Q: What is LLM?

A: A Large Language Model is a type of artificial intelligence (AI) trained on vast amounts of text data to understand, generate, and respond to human language.

Q&A

Q: The examples seem to me very well written pages but they also seem specifically written for being evaluated in a ranking. Normally policy documents - that maybe must be written, using national praxis - cannot be so specific.

Furthermore, machine learning algorithms behind LLM will give better results for documents with specific words and phrases so... I see a strong risk that it will "mandatory" to write specific webpages and documents to achieve well in this ranking...

A: The large language model (LLM) engine we use is analysing the content of the text and assessing its relevancy to the question we are asking – it does not require specific keywords or terminology, but we do ask that certain topics/concepts be covered for the evidence to be relevant (same process as human validation: for instance evidence about providing housing to students that does not discuss affordability will not be fully relevant to the “affordable housing for students” indicator).

Q: so back to the AI choosing a report, will you allow submission of a report in a PDF, and then prove that it is published?

A: Yes, it is acceptable. If it is not machine readable file/URL, it will be directly passed to human validators. Such evidence will not be automatically rejected.

Q: Will AI LLM models also analyse graphical content on URLs?

A: Depending on HTML structure, our current model cannot access it and it will be passed to human validators for review.

Q: So if AI is sent to a page that contains a validation report on a page of a variety of reports, will it choose or look for the correct report?

A: The AI system we use, powered by a large language model (LLM), identifies relevant evidence by analysing the overall context of the content, rather than relying on specific keywords. It evaluates whether concepts related to the indicators are covered. Even if a website contains a variety of information, the AI can recognize individual pieces of content as representative examples, as long as they include the necessary elements to demonstrate engagement. For instance, a discussion of student housing would only be relevant to the 'affordable housing' indicator if it explicitly addresses affordability and student housing, mirroring how human validators make judgments.

Q&A

Q: Could you provide an overview of your use of artificial intelligence in the evaluation of submitted evidence? Has it proven effective so far? Did you have to revise many of the AI-generated assessments? And what kind of quality control measures are in place?

A: On average, LLM is far more consistent (+80%) and accurate (+3%) than validators

- The process is scalable
- Saves time and money

AI will first evaluate the relevancy of evidence. Evidence deemed as not relevant by AI will be spot-checked during QA (Quality Assurance) for confirmation.

If deemed relevant, it will be passed to human validators to assess whether it is specific, generic, or not relevant. Evidence reviewed by human validators will also undergo QA to ensure objective and accurate scoring.

The collaboration between AI and human validators ensures consistency in our rankings.

Q: How does AI consider timelines? If we submit evergreen evidence (on-going practice) will this be considered equally?

A: Our model will not check if the evidence falls within the requested time frame. Its job is to assess if the content is relevant or not. If it is deemed as relevant, it is then sent to the human validators who will be assessing evidence to decide if it is specific/generic/not relevant. Human validators will also check if the evidence is within the requested period.

Q: Will there be any discounts available for early-bird subscriptions?

A: No, however you will receive benefits starting in September such as the first edition of the newsletter and exclusive access to the webinars if you register now.

Q: Is the network charge based on the country location of the university even if the university is not a university of that country?

A: Yes, that is correct. If you need us to review the country, please email us at impact@timeshighereducation.com

Q&A

Q: Until what date can a university register to submit data at September

A: To participate in the ratings, membership fees should be paid by 10th November 2025, before the data collection ends. You will need to register first though if you want access to the collection that opens on the 15th of September.

Q: Will there be a contract? If yes, when will we receive it?

A: Please find the T&C here: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/content/additional-terms-sustainability-impact-network-membership-terms-and-conditions>

Q: can I reconfirm is the registration free for the upcoming webinars?

A: We will provide exclusive webinars (at the beginning of the September we will run data submission workshops for all network members). Once registered and signed up for the portal, all those submitting data will have access to our data team to answer any technical questions and provide general support for their submission.

Q: is it possible to participate only in the ranking and not in the network

A: No. The paid subscription to the network unlocks the data submission support and the evaluation, assessment and benchmarking services required to be included in the ratings, so network membership is required for all universities that want to enter the ratings. Times Higher Education is transforming its successful Impact Rankings into the Sustainability Impact Ratings, underpinned by a new membership-based network – the Sustainability Impact Network – to better support universities' contributions to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Q: What is the deadline to register for the Sustainability Impact Network?

A: Registration for the Sustainability Impact Ratings open in July 2025. To participate in the ratings, membership fees should be paid by 10th November 2025, before the data collection ends. You will need to register first though if you want access to the collection that opens on the 15th of September.

Q&A

Q: Is it compulsory to join Network (and pay the fee) in order to take part in the Ratings?

A: Yes. The paid subscription to the network unlocks the data submission support and the evaluation, assessment and benchmarking services required to be included in the ratings, so network membership is required for all universities that want to enter the ratings. Times Higher Education is transforming its successful Impact Rankings into the Sustainability Impact Ratings, underpinned by a new membership-based network – the Sustainability Impact Network – to better support universities' contributions to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Q: Just to clarify, is it mandatory to be in the Sustainability Impact Network to participate in the rating?

A: The paid subscription to the network unlocks the data submission support and the evaluation, assessment and benchmarking services required to be included in the ratings, so network membership is required for all universities that want to enter the ratings.

Q: It is compulsory to pay the fees to participate in THE Impact ranking 2026?

A: The paid subscription to the network unlocks the data submission support and the evaluation, assessment and benchmarking services required to be included in the ratings, so network membership is required for all universities that want to enter the ratings. Times Higher Education is transforming its successful Impact Rankings into the Sustainability Impact Ratings, underpinned by a new membership-based network – the Sustainability Impact Network – to better support universities' contributions to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Q: Is the required membership applicable already to the next cycle?

A: Yes. The paid subscription to the network unlocks the data submission support and the evaluation, assessment and benchmarking services required to be included in the ratings, so network membership is required for all universities that want to enter the ratings.

Q&A

Q: can we submit although we don't register or become part of the sustainability network?

A: No. The paid subscription to the network unlocks the data submission support and the evaluation, assessment and benchmarking services required to be included in the ratings, so network membership is required for all universities that want to enter the ratings.

Q: Can you please confirm that we need to join the new Sustainability Impact Network and pay fees to be able to submit for the THE-IR Ratings/Rankings this year?

A: The paid subscription to the network unlocks the data submission support and the evaluation, assessment and benchmarking services required to be included in the ratings, so network membership is required for all universities that want to enter the ratings.

Q: what are the fee differences between the Sustainability Impact Network and those of us who have subscribed to SDG DataPoints?

A: All current subscribers to THE's SDG ID data product will have their network membership, and participation in the ratings, included in the cost of their data subscription.

Q: Is the data point included in the subscription?

A: All current subscribers to THE's SDG ID data product will have their network membership, and participation in the ratings, included in the cost of their data subscription.

Q: Our university have already subscribed to the SDG Impact Dashboard. Do we have to subscribe again to the Sustainability Impact Network? If yes, are we free of charge or do we get a discount? Thanks.

A: If your institution has an SDG Impact Dashboard subscription, membership of the network and ratings is included with your existing subscription, and you will not be required to pay an additional fee. You will still be required to complete this [form](#) to register your institution for the Sustainability Impact Ratings.

Q&A

Q: We just paid for the dashboard, so do we have to pay more for the network on top of that?

A: If your institution has an SDG Impact Dashboard subscription, membership of the network and ratings is included with your existing subscription, and you will not be required to pay an additional fee. You will still be required to complete this form to register your institution for the Sustainability Impact Ratings.

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/sustainability-impact-ratings-network-signup>

Q: Doesn't the pay-to-participate model compromise the credibility?

A: The transition from a “ranking” to a “rating” framework is to clearly acknowledge that the Sustainability Impact Rating is not like a traditional ranking. Firstly, it is not an exhaustive list of all eligible universities. There are understood to be more than 30,000 universities in the world – and all are eligible for the Impact Ratings. The Impact exercise has always been voluntary, based only on those 2,500 or so self-selecting universities who have been willing to collate and submit data and put themselves forward for rigorous assessment. Impact has never been and will never be a definitive ranking of all universities. So the credibility of the assessment outcomes and scores are not dependent on the number of participants. The fee to be paid is in part to recognise and support the very significant expert input – including data processing, evidence evaluation and analysis of the THE's expert team – required to produce the ratings as well as to provide additional value-add benefits for participating universities, including certified results and marketing assets, and community network benefits.

This transition to a “ratings” framework, with a membership fee, simply locks-in and enhances the current benefits of the voluntary participation, and provides a more supportive and outcomes-focussed network of participants.

Q: As you will now, participation in THE Impact requires considerable resource for individual universities. As you are now moving to a costed participation model what actions are you going to take to make participation easier for universities?

A: We will be working with universities that are part of the network to ensure ease of data submission, we are also exploring AI to be used in the portal as well as a potential way of supporting institutions further. However, this won't be in play for 2026 edition.

Q&A

Q: Great to see the new approach and while understandable, do you think the introduction of a subscription fee to participate this year will reduce the number of institutions taking part, particularly given the current financial challenges in the sector and wide cost reductions being implemented?

A: We hope and expect that the majority of universities see the clear benefits of participation in the ratings, and understand the great value brought by THE's expert team in terms of data processing and evidence evaluation, and the benefits of a strong global profile on THE's website, as well as the wider benefits of Network membership, namely the monthly newsletters and engagement and sharing opportunities. However, we do not expect all of the 2,500 existing participants to take part in the new ratings and network, and we accept that there may well be some significant attrition which we do not believe will effect the overall quality and credibility of the outcomes.

Q: do we have to start paying from this year?

A: Registration for the Sustainability Impact Ratings open in July 2025. To participate in the ratings, membership fees should be paid by 10th November 2025, before the data collection ends. You will need to register first though if you want access to the collection that opens on the 15th of September.

Q: Does my institute need to complete payment before being allowed to submit data?

A: To participate in the ratings, membership fees should be paid by 10th November 2025, before the data collection ends. You will need to register first though if you want access to the collection that opens on the 15th of September.

Q: For universities that subscribe to the network, will there be a limited number of individuals at the member university who can access the enhanced data, or would it be accessible to all staff at the member uni?

A: You can contact impact@timeshighereducation.com for more information. As access will depend on the system/service. We can give more access to our newsletter, however for the data collection portal, it should be only those that will be submitting data. You can email us if you want to set up embargoed contacts to receive results.

Q&A

Q: Do you foresee a drop in the number of universities participating this year with the new costs associated with the ratings?

A: We hope and expect that the majority of universities see the clear benefits of participation in the ratings, and understand the great value brought by THE's expert team in terms of data processing and evidence evaluation, and the benefits of a strong global profile on THE's website, as well as the wider benefits of Network membership, namely the monthly newsletters and engagement and sharing opportunities. However, we do not expect all of the 2,500 existing participants to take part in the new ratings and network, and we accept that there may well be some significant attrition which we do not believe will effect the overall quality and credibility of the outcomes.

Q: Are you going to charge Ukrainian universities facing the heinous Russian aggression?

A: You can contact impact@timeshighereducation.com for more information.

Q: Have you considered that many universities will withdraw from the ranking? Mostly those from low-income countries will remain.

A: We hope and expect that the majority of universities see the clear benefits of participation in the ratings, and understand the great value brought by THE's expert team in terms of data processing and evidence evaluation, and the benefits of a strong global profile on THE's website, as well as the wider benefits of Network membership, namely the monthly newsletters and engagement and sharing opportunities. However, we do not expect all of the 2,500 existing participants to take part in the new ratings and network, and we accept that there may well be some significant attrition which we do not believe will effect the overall quality and credibility of the outcomes.

Q: For the payment, will there be a distinction between private and public Universities?

A: No, it will be the same.

Q: What is the difference to the DataPoints SDG Dashboard?

A: You can contact our regional directors or data@timeshighereducation.com for more information on Datapoints products.

Q&A

Q: Will there be a cost for the other rankings e.g WUR and Sub Saharan ?

A: The World University Rankings and Interdisciplinary Science Rankings will continue to be offered free of charge. Please note that the Sub-Saharan Africa Rankings have been discontinued.

Q: What is difference between “Impact Ranking” and Impact Rating

A: The term Impact Rating reflects a shift from traditional rankings to a more collaborative and responsible approach to evaluating universities’ contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Unlike conventional rankings, the Impact Ratings are based on a self-selecting group of universities that voluntarily participate and commit to sustainability efforts.

This transition acknowledges the limitations and statistical variability of rankings, aiming instead for a certified and stable evaluation system. While we continue to use our established methodology to provide numerical scores for each university's SDG performance, we present these results in a ranked format on our website for now. However, by adopting a rating framework and building a membership network, we can work closely with participants to refine the system—potentially moving towards presenting results in performance bands or classifications rather than fixed numerical ranks.

Q: Can you run us through Payment/How to Join/Deadlines for the Sustainability Impact Network/Ratings?

A: To participate in the rankings, membership fees must be paid by 10th November 2025.

We encourage you to register now to unlock exclusive content and access dedicated support as a member of the network. Once the university has signed the terms and conditions and requested an invoice, you will be able to submit the data. The invoice does not have to be paid in full for you to submit their data.

However, you will not be able to start entering data via the data collection portal until you have signed the contract, i.e. accepted the Sustainability Impact Network and Ratings terms and conditions and committed to pay the invoice.

Q&A

Q: Please can communication be sent regarding the payment for ratings.

A: All registered university with contacts will receive related updates including payment details. If you have not participated in the Impact before, please send us the following details for two kinds of people: a Data Provider (responsible for submitting data) and an Approver (usually a more senior individual, such as a head of department, responsible for signing off the data):

Title:

First Name:

Last Name:

Job title:

Your email address affiliated with the university:

Department:

Telephone number:

Once this is done, they will receive communication around the ratings. We will give them access to the THE Data Collection Portal, where they will be entering the data.

Q: For the next data collection in September, we will need to pay or this edition will be free and payment will only be needed in edition 2027?

A: Registration for the Sustainability Impact Ratings open in July 2025. To participate in the ratings, membership fees should be paid by 10th November 2025, before the data collection ends. You will need to register first though if you want access to the collection that opens on the 15th of September.

Q&A

Q: Our University is not found in the choices, how can we proceed with the registration?

A: We are working to add more universities to the list of participants and will contact you in the following weeks.

If you have not participated in the Impact Rankings before, please send us the following details for two kinds of people: a Data Provider (responsible for submitting data) and an Approver (usually a more senior individual, such as a head of department, responsible for signing off the data):

Title:

First Name:

Last Name:

Job title:

Your own university/institutional email address:

Department:

Telephone number:

Once this is done, they will receive communication around the rankings. We will give them access to the THE Data Collection Portal, where they will be entering the data.

Q: We have datapoints, so the billing for this will be through that mechanism, as always has been?

A: For related details may refer to <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings-news/sustainability-impact-ratings-new-framework-and-network-universities>

Q&A

Q. My institution is a subscriber to THE's DataPoints products – but not to the Impact and SDG ID modules. Will I still have to pay for the Sustainability Impact Network?

Yes. The network is for those committed to evidencing their commitment and contribution specifically to the sustainability agenda, through the Sustainability Impact Ratings, so a subscription fee is required to be part of this community.

Q: We have filled out the form to register for network. How can we make payment? When will we receive the invoice? Can we pay in instalments?

A: Thank you for the registration to the Sustainability Impact network.

Our finance team will be in touch with you the following days.

Q: So there is no more THE Impact Ranking but instead it will be Sustainability Impact Rating and it is a paid participation. Is this correct?

A: Times Higher Education is transforming its successful Impact Rankings into the Sustainability Impact Ratings, underpinned by a new membership-based network – the Sustainability Impact Network – to better support universities' contributions to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The paid subscription to the network unlocks the data submission support and the evaluation, assessment and benchmarking services required to be included in the ratings, so network membership is required for all universities that want to enter the ratings.

Q: my university is a member of THE, should or should not we pay for the Rating fee?

A: If your institution has an SDG Impact Dashboard subscription, membership of the network and ratings is included with your existing subscription, and you will not be required to pay an additional fee. You will still be required to complete this form to register your institution for the Sustainability Impact Ratings.

Q&A

Q: Can we participate in the 2026 impact rankings/ratings although we do not register in the sustainability network?

A: No. The paid subscription to the network unlocks the data submission support and the evaluation, assessment and benchmarking services required to be included in the ratings, so network membership is required for all universities that want to enter the ratings.

Q: If we don't subscribe to impact rating, can we still join the impact ranking 2026?

A: No. The paid subscription to the network unlocks the data submission support and the evaluation, assessment and benchmarking services required to be included in the ratings, so network membership is required for all universities that want to enter the ratings. Times Higher Education is transforming its successful Impact Rankings into the Sustainability Impact Ratings, underpinned by a new membership-based network – the Sustainability Impact Network – to better support universities' contributions to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Q: Is the new rating system to replace the ranking, or in addition to it?

A: Times Higher Education is transforming its successful Impact Rankings into the Sustainability Impact Ratings, underpinned by a new membership-based network – the Sustainability Impact Network – to better support universities' contributions to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Q: If you do not subscribe to the Sustainability Impact Network, can you still submit for the Sustainability Ratings and be ranked?

A: No. The paid subscription to the network unlocks the data submission support and the evaluation, assessment and benchmarking services required to be included in the ratings, so network membership is required for all universities that want to enter the ratings.

Q: Our university is a DataPoints subscriber so we automatically have membership for the next Ratings. What would happen if we did not submit data? Would we be included in the ranking list or be unranked?

A: If you do not submit data, you will not be ranked.

Q&A

Q: As a partner and subscriber to the SDG Impact Dashboard, we received a message stating that membership in the next edition of the Impact Sustainability Ratings is included for us: do we still need to register to the network, or is the registration already dealt with by your team?

A: If your institution has an SDG Impact Dashboard subscription, membership of the network and ratings is included with your existing subscription, and you will not be required to pay an additional fee. You will still be required to complete this form to register your institution for the Sustainability Impact Ratings.

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/sustainability-impact-ratings-network-signup>

Q: Does the subscription include consultant visits or individualized training for institutions?

A: We will provide exclusive webinars (at the beginning of the September we will run data submission workshops for all network members). Once registered and signed up for the portal, all those submitting data will have access to our data team to answer any technical questions and provide general support for their submission.

All participant get the access to our proprietary performance analytics, specifically, the university's rating performance compared to the global benchmark for each SDG rating; and a breakdown of your metric level scores for each individual SDG rating submitted to. This will be released annual, directly relating to the annual release of the ratings.

A monthly newsletter providing news and insights, sharing case studies and highlighting institutional opportunities across the full range of sustainable development goals.

Exclusive webinar sessions providing data insights, best practice case studies and opportunities to connect with peers to share insights and build relationships and partnerships. (the schedule will be shared additionally).

The data team will be able to provide technical support and general guidance during the submission period to support their annual submission, but we do not provide feedback on the submission during the data collection period.

After the Sustainability Impact Ratings are released for the Membership Year, we will grant universities access to our proprietary performance analytics which include: - your rating performance compared to the global benchmark for each SDG rating; and breakdown of your metric level scores for each individual SDG rating submitted to. - a detailed breakdown of your metric level scores for each individual SDG rating for which data has been submitted by you

Q&A

Q: Does a subscription to the Sustainability Impact Network include access to the Datapoints, or is it a different subscription?

A: It includes access to DataPoints product SDG ID module

Q: Our university have already subscribed to the SDG Impact Dashboard. Do we have to subscribe to the Network again to participate?

A: If your institution has an SDG Impact Dashboard subscription, membership of the network and ratings is included with your existing subscription, and you will not be required to pay an additional fee. You will still be required to complete this form to register your institution for the Sustainability Impact Ratings.

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/sustainability-impact-ratings-network-signup>

Q: Hi, what is the different between the datapoint that we subscribed and the data insight of the Impact Network?

A: All current subscribers to THE's SDG ID data product will have their network membership, and participation in the ratings, included in the cost of their data subscription.

Q: under the subscription approach, do we see all the data that we currently have to pay to see in data points?

A: For related details may refer to <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings-news/sustainability-impact-ratings-new-framework-and-network-universities>

Q: If you don't subscribe to Datapoints does that mean you are not in the network??

A: Yes. The paid subscription to the network unlocks the data submission support and the evaluation, assessment and benchmarking services required to be included in the ratings, so network membership is required for all universities that want to enter the ratings.

Q&A

Q. Are THE's data products included in the Sustainability Impact Network subscription fee (for example SDG ID and SDG AI)?

A: No. While network members will receive access to their full performance data, across all SDGs entered, and will receive some international benchmarking data, full access to the full data products are separate to the network benefits and can be purchased as add-ons to network membership. There will be cost efficiencies for network members that also subscribe to data products.

Q: If we have to pay in order to participate in the SDG rankings, will we at least get information on how our own submitted evidence was evaluated (accepted or refused)?

A: No. All participant get the access to our proprietary performance analytics, specifically, the university's rating performance compared to the global benchmark for each SDG rating; and a breakdown of your metric level scores for each individual SDG rating submitted to. This will be released annual, directly relating to the annual release of the ratings.

A monthly newsletter providing news and insights, sharing case studies and highlighting institutional opportunities across the full range of sustainable development goals.

Exclusive webinar sessions providing data insights, best practice case studies and opportunities to connect with peers to share insights and build relationships and partnerships. (the schedule will be shared additionally).

Q: I understand that participation in the THE Impact Rankings requires joining the network through a paid subscription. Does this requirement also apply to universities that are already subscribed to THE DataPoints platform?

A: If your institution has an SDG Impact Dashboard subscription, membership of the network and ratings is included with your existing subscription, and you will not be required to pay an additional fee. You will still be required to complete this form to register your institution for the Sustainability Impact Ratings.

Q&A

Q: What will be the rating system - badges, points, grades?

A: The Sustainability Impact Ratings will continue to provide a published numerical score for each institution in each of the SDG categories entered – and an overall score will be provided in an overall published rating as with the Impact Rankings, based on a combination of universities' strongest three SDGs and their submission to SDG17.

Q: Will the results be publicly available?

A: Yes, the results will be publicly available.

Q: If you subscribe to the new Sustainability Impact Network, will we also get access to the SDG Impact Dashboard in THE DataPoints?

A: If your institution has an SDG Impact Dashboard subscription, membership of the network and ratings is included with your existing subscription, and you will not be required to pay an additional fee. You will still be required to complete this [form](#) to register your institution for the Sustainability Impact Ratings.

Q&A

Q: How will universities be rated for the ratings? Will there be Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards or will there be some other rating classification?

A: We will continue to deploy our tried and trusted impact methodology to provide clear numerical scores for each university in each metric in each individual SDG they enter – and for their overall performance - and indeed we'll continue to present the ratings for now in the form of a ranked list on our website as we do currently.

So our gold standard framework remains in tact.

But recognition of this framework as a rating system and network allows us to work with the community to consider moving to presenting the congested numerical score data in banded groups, not individually ranked places, or based on percentiles or performance classifications.

Q: What is the rationale for bands when ranks were calculated?

A: We will continue to deploy our tried and trusted impact methodology to provide clear numerical scores for each university in each metric in each individual SDG they enter – and for their overall performance - and indeed we'll continue to present the ratings for now in the form of a ranked list on our website as we do currently.

So our gold standard framework remains in tact.

But recognition of this framework as a rating system and network allows us to work with the community to consider moving to presenting the congested numerical score data in banded groups, not individually ranked places, or based on percentiles or performance classifications.

Q: Does joining the SDG Impact Network include the dashboard subscription? What is the pricing of the dashboard subscription?

A: For related details may refer to <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings-news/sustainability-impact-ratings-new-framework-and-network-universities>

Q. Are THE's data products included in the Sustainability Impact Network subscription fee (for example SDG ID and SDG AI)?

A: No. While network members will receive access to their full performance data, across all SDGs entered, and will receive some international benchmarking data, full access to the full data products are separate to the network benefits and can be purchased as add-ons to network membership. There will be cost efficiencies for network members that also subscribe to data products.