

US lags behind as Canada excels in *Times Higher Education* University Impact Rankings 2025

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- **United States'** Arizona State University (Tempe) and **Canada's** Queen's University are joint sixth overall and joint first in Northern America
- **Canada's** University of Alberta also makes global top 10 in overall ranking, and is joint first for SDG 9
- **Canada's** Queen's University is number one globally for SDG 2
- **United States'** Arizona State University (Tempe) is number one for SDG 14
- 76 universities ranked from Northern America
- Seven **Canadian** universities in global top 50
- Only one **United States** university in overall top 50, down from three last year
- Western Sydney University in **Australia** is number one overall for fourth consecutive year
- Record 2,526 universities ranked globally from 130 countries
- Universities ranked across 18 tables: one overall ranking and 17 tables representing each SDG
- The only global performance tables that assess universities against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals

Top 10 universities in Northern America in the overall ranking for the Impact Rankings 2025

Institution	Country/territory	Rank 2025
Arizona State University (Tempe)	United States	=6
Queen's University	Canada	=6
University of Alberta	Canada	8
McMaster University	Canada	=14
University of Victoria	Canada	=14
Western University	Canada	=14
Simon Fraser University	Canada	35
York University	Canada	38
Université Laval	Canada	52
Université de Montréal	Canada	55

= joint

If you reproduce any part of these ranking tables or charts, please attribute it to "Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2025", and link to the full list on our website:

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/impactrankings> (link live from 19.01 Washington, DC, United States, 17 June 2025). A full list of the Northern American universities in the overall ranking is at the bottom of this press release.

Universities in **Canada** are among those leading in the global race towards sustainability, while their neighbours in the **United States** lag behind, the *Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2025* have revealed.

Three North American universities feature in the global top 10 of the overall ranking, with the **United States'** Arizona State University (Tempe) and **Canada's** Queen's University in joint sixth place and **Canada's** University of Alberta in eighth.

Canada has seven universities in the top 50 of the overall ranking – the second highest in the world after **Australia** – while a **Canadian** university is number one globally for two individual SDGs: the University of Alberta is joint first for SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), and Queen's University is first for SDG 2 (zero hunger).

However, the **United States'** performance is waning. Arizona State University (Tempe) is the only institution in the nation to feature in the global top 50 or to top an individual SDG ranking (it is number one for SDG 14 (life below water)). It already has a small number of universities ranked given the size of its higher education system. Last year, three **United States** universities featured in the overall top 50.

The decline occurs as Asia makes great leaps forward in sustainability; the continent now tops 10 SDGs globally, up from five last year, and for the first time over 50 per cent of the universities ranked are in Asia.

Earlier this year the **United States** formally rejected the SDGs, aligning this decision with broader policy shifts under the Trump administration, which has criticised the inclusion of climate and gender-related policies in the SDG framework. The country has also withdrawn from international sustainability and climate initiatives, including the Paris Agreement. Under these circumstances, it is likely that US institutions' participation and performance in the Impact Rankings will continue to decline.

Across the 18 rankings, which are released this week at the Global Sustainable Development Congress in Istanbul, there are 76 universities ranked from Northern America: 52 in the **United States** and 24 in **Canada**.

Western Sydney University in **Australia** takes first place in the overall ranking for the fourth consecutive year, Manchester University in the **United Kingdom** retains second place and Kyungpook National University in **South Korea** is third overall and number one in Asia.

The University Impact Rankings are the only global performance tables that assess universities against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Universities are ranked across 18 tables: one overall ranking and 17 tables representing each individual SDG.

This year a record 2,526 universities from 130 countries/territories are ranked.

This year's rankings are released 10 years after the creation of the SDGs and amid scepticism that the goals will be met by the target year of 2030. However, the data show that universities are highly focused on delivering on the sustainability agenda and demonstrating public impact.

Phil Baty, *THE*'s chief global affairs officer, said: “The *THE* Impact Rankings are the world’s only rankings to explore universities’ contribution to each and every one of the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals, across the full range of their activities: teaching, research, outreach and stewardship. And this comprehensive analysis clearly shows that universities worldwide are stepping up to help the world take on its most pressing grand challenges, from the climate crisis to delivering economic growth to supporting peace and justice across the world. This huge piece of research highlights the real-world impact that universities make, and their contribution to the public good.

“While Canada’s universities are showing clear global leadership in driving forward the sustainability agenda, US’ universities’ general lack of direct engagement with the SDGs – with a few notable exceptions – is disappointing. The US has some of the world’s strongest research universities, and I’d hope they can turn their greatest minds more overtly towards tackling the world’s most pressing and urgent challenges.”

Top university in Northern America for each SDG in the Impact Rankings 2025

SDG	Title	Institution	Country/territory	Rank
SDG 1	No Poverty	McMaster University	Canada	18
SDG 2	Zero Hunger	Queen’s University	Canada	1
SDG 3	Good Health and Well-being	McMaster University	Canada	4
SDG 4	Quality Education	Arizona State University (Tempe)	United States	93
SDG 5	Gender Equality	Towson University	United States	22
SDG 6	Clean Water and Sanitation	McMaster University	Canada	8
SDG 7	Affordable and Clean Energy	University of Waterloo	Canada	29
SDG 8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	Western University	Canada	=11
SDG 9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	University of Alberta	Canada	=1
SDG 10	Reduced Inequalities	McMaster University	Canada	=29
SDG 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	University of Victoria	Canada	2
SDG 12	Responsible Consumption and Production	Université Laval	Canada	24
SDG 13	Climate Action	University of Victoria	Canada	5
SDG 14	Life Below Water	Arizona State University (Tempe)	United States	1

SDG 15	Life on Land	Queen's University	Canada	6
SDG 16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	Queen's University	Canada	2
SDG 17	Partnerships for the Goals	McMaster University	Canada	=59

= joint

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Representation

United States leads Northern America for representation, with 52 universities ranked across all 18 tables, making it the 18th most-represented nation globally. **Canada** has 24 universities ranked.

The country representation figures for the overall ranking only are included in the below table.

Northern American countries/regions represented in the overall ranking for Impact Rankings 2025

Country/territory	Top ranked university overall	Rank of top institution	Number of universities ranked in overall ranking
United States	46	Arizona State University (Tempe)	=6
Canada	24	Queen's University	=6

Note: the figures in the above table relate to the number of institutions ranked in the overall ranking only, not across all 18 tables.

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Notes to editors

1. For more information, or to arrange an interview, please email media@timeshighereducation.com
2. The Impact Rankings are inherently dynamic: they are growing rapidly each year as many more universities seek to demonstrate their commitment to delivering the SDGs by joining our database; and they allow institutions to demonstrate rapid improvement year-on-year, by introducing clear new policies, for example, or by providing clearer and more open evidence of their progress. Therefore, we expect and welcome regular change in the ranked

order of institutions (and we discourage year-on-year comparisons) as universities continue to drive this urgent agenda.

3. *THE* is the trusted global data partner for higher education. Drawing on five decades of expertise in the sector, millions of individual data points and with more unique institutions participating in our flagship university rankings than any other, we offer deeper and richer insight into university performance than anyone else. From powerful data-driven insights and strategic consultancy support to agenda-setting events, student recruitment and hiring solutions, our products and services enable everyone in higher education to make smarter, more informed decisions. For more information, visit [Times Higher Education](#) or find us on Twitter/X: [@timeshighered](#) [@THEworldunirank](#)

4. Impact Rankings 2025: a full list of Northern American institutions in the overall ranking

Institution	Country/territory	Rank
Arizona State University (Tempe)	United States	=6
Queen's University	Canada	=6
University of Alberta	Canada	8
McMaster University	Canada	=14
University of Victoria	Canada	=14
Western University	Canada	=14
Simon Fraser University	Canada	35
York University	Canada	38
Université Laval	Canada	52
Université de Montréal	Canada	55
Michigan State University	United States	=61
Penn State (Main campus)	United States	=64
Florida International University	United States	=71
Dalhousie University	Canada	=88
Lakehead University	Canada	=90
Toronto Metropolitan University	Canada	101–200
University of Minnesota	United States	101–200
University of Saskatchewan	Canada	101–200
University of Waterloo	Canada	101–200
Carleton University	Canada	201–300
Iowa State University	United States	201–300
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	United States	201–300
Memorial University of Newfoundland	Canada	201–300
New Jersey Institute of Technology	United States	201–300
North Carolina State University	United States	201–300
Oklahoma State University	United States	201–300
Purdue University West Lafayette	United States	201–300
University of Maryland, Baltimore County	United States	201–300
University of Ottawa	Canada	201–300
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	United States	201–300
Wilfrid Laurier University	Canada	201–300
The University of Tennessee-Knoxville	United States	301–400

University of Maryland, College Park	United States	301–400
University of South Florida	United States	301–400
University of Texas at Arlington	United States	301–400
American University	United States	401–600
Brock University	Canada	401–600
California State University, Sacramento	United States	401–600
Colorado State University, Fort Collins	United States	401–600
Lehigh University	United States	401–600
SUNY University at Albany	United States	401–600
The University of Tulsa	United States	401–600
Towson University	United States	401–600
University at Buffalo	United States	401–600
University of Georgia (USA)	United States	401–600
University of Manitoba	Canada	401–600
University of New Brunswick UNB	Canada	401–600
University of Pittsburgh-Pittsburgh campus	United States	401–600
Indiana University Bloomington	United States	601–800
Old Dominion University	United States	601–800
Rowan University	United States	601–800
Trent University	Canada	601–800
University of North Carolina at Charlotte	United States	601–800
University of Regina	Canada	601–800
University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC)	Canada	801–1,000
Westcliff University	United States	801–1,000
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	United States	801–1,000
Auburn University	United States	1,001–1,500
Indiana University Indianapolis	United States	1,001–1,500
Lynn University	United States	1,001–1,500
Millersville University	United States	1,001–1,500
Suffolk University	United States	1,001–1,500
University of Alaska Fairbanks	United States	1,001–1,500
University of California, Riverside	United States	1,001–1,500
Xavier University	United States	1,001–1,500
Florida Atlantic University	United States	1,501+
International American University	United States	1,501+
Stardom University	United States	1,501+
The Continents States University	United States	1,501+
University of High Ambition	United States	1,501+

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5. Information about the methodology

The *Times Higher Education* Impact Rankings are the only global performance tables that assess universities against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We use carefully calibrated indicators to provide comprehensive and balanced comparisons across four broad areas: **research, stewardship, outreach and teaching**.

There are 17 UN SDGs, and we are evaluating university performance on all of them.

Universities can submit data on as many of these SDGs as they are able. Each SDG has a series of metrics that are used to evaluate the performance of the university in that SDG.

Any university that provides data on SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals) and at least three other SDGs is included in the overall ranking.

As well as the overall ranking, we also publish the results of each individual SDG in 17 separate tables.

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. This means that different universities are scored based on a different set of SDGs, depending on their focus.

[Read the full methodology](#)