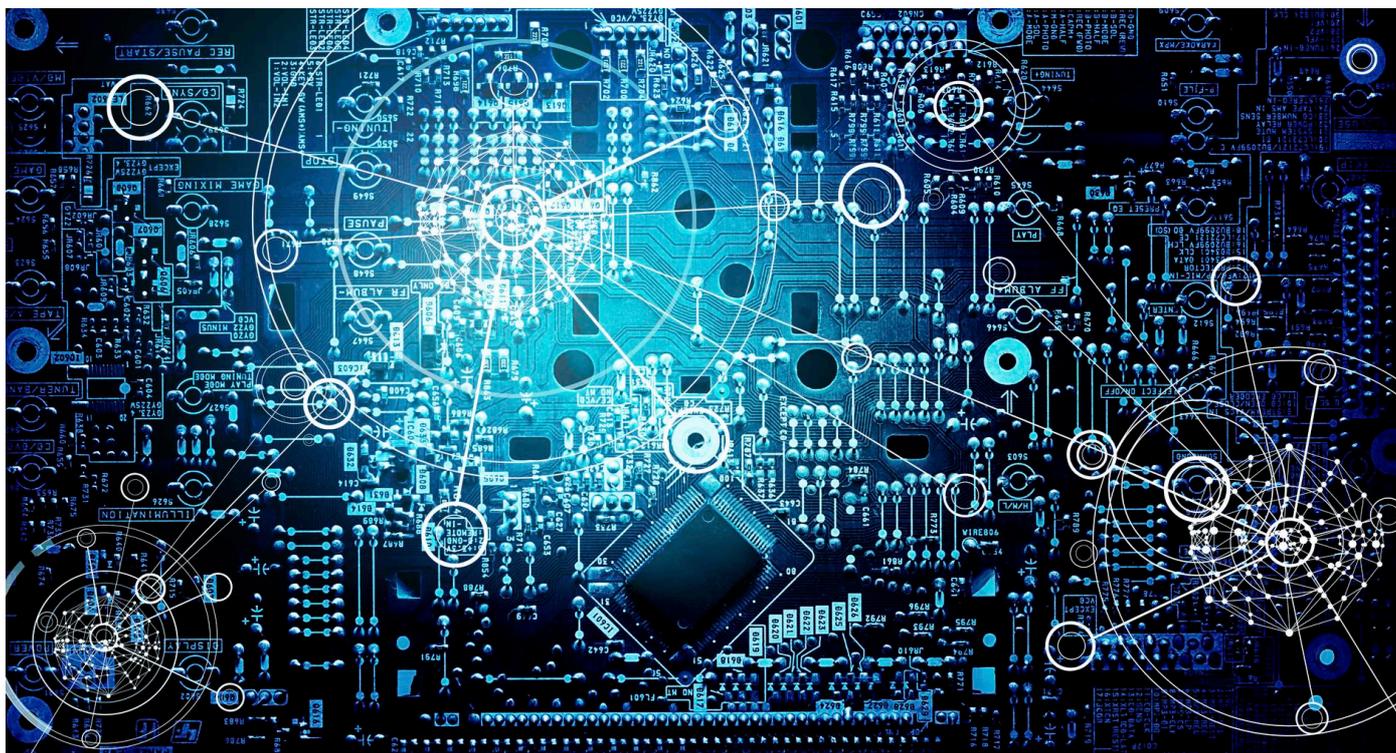




METHODOLOGY FOR THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION JAPAN UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2018

March 2018



About THE:

Times Higher Education (THE, part of TES Global Limited) is the data provider underpinning university excellence in every continent across the world. As the company behind the world's most influential university ranking, and with almost five decades of experience as a source of analysis and insight on higher education, we have unparalleled expertise on the trends underpinning university performance globally. Our data and benchmarking tools are used by many of the world's most prestigious universities to help them achieve their strategic goals.

THE Japan University Rankings:

The annual Times Higher Education (THE) Japan University Rankings, started in 2017, aims to provide the definitive list of the best universities in Japan, evaluated across four key pillars of Resources, Engagement, Outcomes and Environment. Times Higher Education's data is trusted by governments and universities and is a vital resource for students, helping them choose where to study. Benesse Corporation is a publisher of educational materials in Japan, and has strong relationships throughout the Japanese education community.

These rankings have been prepared by THE, together with Benesse Corporation and are published by Benesse Corporation in Japan and by THE across the world.

Independent assurance by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP:

To help demonstrate the integrity of the Rankings, our application of the specific procedures (i) - (viii) has been subject to independent assurance by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP UK ("PwC"). Their independent assurance opinion on our application of specific procedures (i) – (viii) is set out on the final page of this document. The procedures (i) – (viii) that have been independently assured by PwC are set out in the table on page 12.

Summary of the Rankings methodology:

The THE Japan University Rankings score universities across four key pillars that we believe are important when applying to universities. These are:

- **Resources:** does the university have the right resources?
- **Engagement:** does the university engage its students?
- **Outcomes:** does the university produce good results?
- **Environment:** does the university have a supportive environment?

THE have used 13 carefully calibrated performance metrics, listed below, to provide comprehensive and balanced comparisons. The methodology makes use of data sourced by THE, Benesse Corporation and Elsevier as described in section 1. Core university data submitted by the universities is validated by THE. Each of the metrics are normalised and weighted according to our methodology to generate the final Rankings.

The 13 performance metrics are grouped into the four pillars:

- **Resources**
 - Finance per student
 - Faculty per student
 - Mock university entrance exam score
 - Research output per member of staff
 - Research grants per member of staff
- **Engagement**
 - Global talent development
 - Student ability development
- **Outcomes**
 - Employer reputation
 - Academic reputation
- **Environment**
 - Proportion of international students
 - Proportion of international staff
 - International exchange programmes
 - Courses in a foreign language

Important links:

JUR 2018 Final Rankings:

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/rankings/japan-university/2018>

JUR 2018 Methodology:

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/methodology-japan-university-rankings-2018>

Directors' statement:

*This document (the "Methodology") sets out our end-to-end process for generating the THE Japan University Rankings 2018 (the "Rankings"). As directors and management of Times Higher Education, we state that we have followed our Methodology and correctly applied the specific procedures denoted by (i) - (viii) (highlighted in **bold underlined italics** throughout this document and summarised on page 12.*

Signed: 

Print: TREWA BALKTI

Role: MANAGING DIRECTOR

Date: 26/3/18

For and on behalf of TES Global Limited.

1) Data collection

- a) Benesse Corporation
- b) Elsevier
- c) THE

1a) Benesse Corporation*i. Mock exam results*

Benesse Corporation has carried out mock exams and collected test scores for over 5.5 million high school students and approximately 90% of high schools in Japan for the last 60 years.

The score used in the Rankings is the mock exam result at which 60% of the applicants with that particular score would be offered admission to the university. The score was created to help high school students to determine which universities would be likely to admit them based on their mock exam results. The overall score for a university is based on scores created at the subject/major level. The mock exams cover all academic subjects in high school.

The mock exam data used for the 2018 Japan University Rankings is from 2016.

ii. High school survey

Nikkei Research, conducted on behalf of Benesse Corporation, prepared a survey that targeted high school career advisors in Japan over two years between October and December 2016 (for year 1) and October and December 2017 (for year 2). 5479 high schools were surveyed with a response rate of 44.1%. There are two questions in the survey for the career advisors from each high school to nominate up to 15 universities for their capability to i) develop students' abilities and ii) focus on global talent development.

iii. Employer reputation survey

The employer reputation survey was prepared by Nikkei Human Resources and ran from April 2015 to March 2017. All 4,701 public companies (including those listed in JASDAC and other exchanges) were targeted with a 18% response rate. Companies were asked to share the top ten universities they have hired people from, and what they thought of students coming from each university based on 12 questions across four areas.

iv. Accreditation data

University accreditation comes from public lists developed by the *Japan Institution for Higher Education Evaluation*, the *National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education*, and the *Japan University Accreditation Association* (all three certified by the Japanese ministry of education). All universities must receive accreditation from one of three associations every 7 years.

1b) Elsevier*i. Bibliometric data*

The bibliometric indicator used for the Rankings is calculated as the total scholarly output (articles, reviews, conference papers, books and book chapters) between 2012 and 2016, divided by number of staff. Total scholarly output is calculated by Elsevier.

1c) THE*i. Institutional data*

A named representative from each institution submits and authorised their institutional data for use in the Rankings, via THE's designated online portal, with confirmations that they have:

- *Provided true and accurate information for their institution for 2016; and*

- *Understood and complied with the THE terms and conditions* → <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/terms-and-conditions>;

All institutions report 2016 data (defined as the appropriate annual cycle for the client that ends within the calendar year 2016).

Times Higher Education will not self-submit data for an institution without positive confirmation from the named representative of the institution.

ii. *Academic reputation survey*

An annual survey was sent to a sample of academics randomly selected by Elsevier asking them to nominate the top 15 universities for teaching and research globally. They were asked to nominate 6 additional universities in their country (for teaching and research) who they had not previously nominated in the global section. Only the teaching votes coming from academics who are affiliated with Japanese universities were considered for the metric calculation in these Rankings.

The teaching scores for a university were the number of mentions they received for the 2016 and 2017 surveys in the world and country teaching sections from Japanese respondents only. Where a university received no votes, they were allocated a zero score.

1d) Japan Statistical Yearbook 2018

Regional price parities data in Japan was provided from <http://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/nenkan/67nenkan/1431-20.htm>

2) Processing and exclusions

- a) Data validation
- b) Inclusion criteria
- c) Data processing and mapping

2a) Data validation

Prior to submission of data within the portal, the draft data undergoes automatic validation checks reviewed by the named representative ⁽ⁱ⁾.

2b) Inclusion criteria

Universities meeting key inclusion criteria are included in the rankings ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾:

Universities that:

1. Have their data submitted by a university representative through THE Portal.

AND

2. Have non-zero / non-null values for the following data points:
 - a. Institutional income
 - b. Number of students
 - c. Number of academic staff
 - d. Number of courses
 - e. At least one exchange field (may have a zero value, not null)

AND

3. Be accredited (see data sources section for the definition of accreditation).

AND

4. Not have any outstanding issues resulting from THE's manual validation on submitted Portal data. **THE management reviews and approves all institution submissions data for appropriateness and accuracy, based on prior year values and gaps within datasets ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾.**

A total of 339 met the criteria defined above i.e. had sufficient validated data to be included in the Rankings.

2c) Data processing and mapping

All datasets provided by Benesse Corporation, including the employer survey, high school survey, mock exam results and THE reputation survey, are accurately mapped using the unique five-digit university identifier. **The datasets used in the rankings have been accurately mapped by university name and ID. ^(iv).**

Regional price parities data in Japan obtained from the Japan Statistical Yearbook 2018 are mapped to university data by the Japanese prefecture that each main campus of the university resides in. The university address is obtained from data provided and validated by Benesse Corporation.

3) Scoring and ranking

- a) Calculation of metrics
- b) Weightings of metrics to final scores

3a) Calculation of metrics

Moving from a series of specific data points to metrics, and finally to a total score for a university, requires us to match values that represent fundamentally different data. To do this we use a standardisation approach for each indicator, and then combine the indicators in the proportions indicated below.

The standardisation approach we use is based on the distribution of data within a particular indicator, where we calculate a cumulative probability function, and evaluate where a particular university's indicator sits within that function. A cumulative probability score of X in essence tells us that a university with random values for that indicator would fall below that score X per cent of the time.

For all indicators except research grants per member of staff and research outputs per member of staff, we calculate the cumulative probability function using a version of Z-scoring.

The individual metric indicators are accurately calculated and normalised ^(v):

1. Resources

- a. **Finance per student:**
This metric is calculated as institution income (include all forms of income, such as general university funds, grant income, research income, contract income, teaching income, donations, investments and commercialization) divided by full-time equivalent (FTE) number of students in all years and of all programmes that lead to a degree, certificate, university's credit or other qualification, as adjusted regional price parity at the prefecture level. This metric uses a logarithmic scale to incorporate outliers prior to normalisation.
- b. **Faculty per student:**
The student-to-faculty ratio is defined as total FTE number of staff employed in an academic post divided by FTE number of students in all years and of all programmes that lead to a degree, certificate, university's credit or other qualification.
- c. **Mock exam entrance level score:**
The Benesse Corporation mock exam score represents a good proxy for entry exams. This metric requires no calculation before normalisation as it is extracted directly from Benesse Corporation mock exam results data.
- d. **Research output per member of staff:**
This metric captures the number of papers per member of staff and is a measure of research presence. It is calculated as the total scholarly output between 2012 and 2016 (from Elsevier) divided by number of academic staff. This metric uses a logarithmic scale to incorporate outliers prior to scaling.
- e. **Research grants per member of staff:**
This metric captures the research presence which is calculated as the number of research grants divided by number of academic staff. This metric uses a logarithmic scale to incorporate outliers prior to scaling.

2. Engagement

- a. **Global talent development:**
This metric is generated from the raw scores per university from the following question on the high school survey:
"Please choose universities in Japan that focuses on global talent development and fill in the university codes up to 15 (in any order)."
This metric is the mean score across two years and uses a logarithmic scale to incorporate outliers prior to

normalisation. Only non-zero values will be standardised. Universities that received no votes will score zero.

b. Student ability development:

This metric is generated from the raw scores per university from the following question on the high school survey:

“Please choose universities in Japan that develop students’ abilities and fill in the university codes up to 15 (in any order)”

This metric is the mean score across two years uses a logarithmic scale to incorporate outliers prior to normalisation. Only non-zero values will be standardised. Universities that received no votes are scored zero.

3. *Outcomes*

a. Employer reputation:

This metric is accounting for the average score (across a series of questions regarding the quality of the graduates a company has hired from them) given to a university by employers, and the amount of votes received by a university.

b. Academic reputation:

This metric is the number of votes obtained from the Elsevier reputation survey from the last two years, and is calculated as the number of global teaching votes from Japanese respondents of the reputation survey and number of country teaching votes from Japanese respondents to the reputation survey. Only non-0 values will be standardised, and universities that received no votes are scored a zero for this metric.

4. *Environment*

a. Proportion of international students:

This metric is the percentage of students of international or overseas origin divided by the number of students. Only non-zero values will be standardised, and universities that received no votes are scored a zero for this metric.

b. Proportion of international staff:

This metric is calculated as the number of academic staff of international or overseas origin divided by the number of academic staff. Only non-zero values will be standardised, and universities that received no votes are scored a zero for this metric.

c. International exchange programmes

This metric is calculated as a weighted score of the number of students on an international exchange programme with exchanges over 1 month being weighted higher. Only non-zero values will be standardised, and universities whose students did not go on any exchange programme scored a zero for this metric.

d. Courses in a foreign language

This metric is calculated as the number of foreign courses taught by an institution divided by the total number of courses taught at a university, with a foreign course being defined as not being taught in Japanese. Only non-zero values will be standardised, and universities that received no votes are scored a zero for this metric.

3b) Weightings of metrics to final scores

The above 13 performance metrics representing the four pillars are weighted according to THE's assessment of relative importance.

Once the final population of universities and indicators has been prepared, the total scores for each university are correctly generated by weighting the metrics ^(vi) according to the following percentage breakdowns:

Pillar	Metric	% weighting
1. Resources	a. Finance per student	8%
	b. Faculty per student	8%
	c. Mock exam entrance level score	6%
	d. Research output per member of staff	7%
	e. Research grants per member of staff	5%
2.Engagement	a. Global talent development	13%
	b. Student ability development	13%
3. Outcomes	a. Employer reputation	10%
	b. Academic reputation	10%
4. Environment	a. Proportion of international students	5%
	b. Proportion of international staff	5%
	c. International exchange programmes	5%
	d. Courses in a foreign language	5%

4) Reporting and sign off

- a) Final rankings preparation
- b) Editorial team review
- c) Reporting

4a) Final rankings preparation

The universities ranked 1 – 150 overall are published in the final Rankings in the THE magazine and on the THE website. On the website only, the pillar scores for the universities ranked 1 – 150 for each individual pillar are also listed. Pillar scores are only displayed if they are scored in the top 150 for that pillar, and overall scores/ranks are only displayed if the university is in the top 150 of all universities overall.

For the universities ranked 1 – 100 overall, an individual rank position is listed. The next 50 universities are assigned to bands of 10 (e.g. 101 – 110) and universities in each band are sorted alphabetically. Subsequent to these, a banding of 151+ is assigned to all universities that are not in the top 150 overall. There are a total of 258 universities listed on the website. The independent assurance opinion from PwC covers the overall rankings for 1 – 150 only. It does not include individual pillar scores.

4b) Review and sign off

The Rankings results are reviewed and signed off by THE's editorial team (vii).

The Rankings are formally signed off by TES Global Limited management prior to being published in print and online.

The Rankings are listed together with the Rankings methodology on the Times Higher Education website at:

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/japan-university-rankings-2018-methodology>

4c) Reporting

The Rankings for 1 – 150 overall are accurately reported on the THE website (viii).

Specific procedures for the Japan University Rankings 2018 subject to independent assurance by PwC

Procedure number	Methodology section	Procedure description
i	Processing and exclusions	Prior to submission of data within the portal, the draft data undergoes validation checks reviewed by the named representative.
ii	Processing and exclusions	Universities meeting key inclusion criteria are included in the rankings.
iii	Processing and exclusions	THE management reviews and approves all institution submissions data for appropriateness and accuracy, based on prior year values and gaps within datasets.
iv	Processing and exclusions	The datasets used in the rankings have been accurately mapped by university name and ID.
v	Scoring and ranking	The individual metric indicators are accurately calculated and normalised.
vi	Scoring and ranking	The total scores for each university are correctly generated by weighting the metrics.
vii	Scoring and ranking	The Rankings results are reviewed and signed off by THE's editorial team.
viii	Scoring and ranking	The Rankings for 1 – 150 overall are accurately reported on the THE website

Appendix 1. THE Japan University Rankings 2018 universities ranked 1 – 150

Below is the listing of universities ranked 1 – 150 in the Japan University Rankings and subject to independent assurance by PwC LLP (note ranks only – not overall scores)

Rank	Name	Overall score
1	Kyoto University	87.7
1	The University of Tokyo	87.7
3	Tohoku University	86.3
4	Tokyo Institute of Technology	85.6
5	Kyushu University	85
6	Hokkaido University	83.4
7	Nagoya University	82.6
8	Osaka University	81.1
9	University of Tsukuba	80.8
10	Keio University	77.7
11	Waseda University	77.5
12	Akita International University	76.1
13	Hiroshima University	75.7
14	Hitotsubashi University	75.2
15	Sophia University	73.1
16	International Christian University	71.4
17	Tokyo University of Foreign Studies	71
18	Kobe University	70.7
19	Chiba University	70.5
20	Kanazawa University	69.8
21	Nagaoka University of Technology	68.5
21	Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU)	68.5
23	Ritsumeikan University	68.1
24	Kyushu Institute of Technology (Kyutech)	66.3
25	Okavama University	66.1
25	Yokohama National University	66.1
27	Rikkyo University	65.8
28	Doshisha University	65.5
29	Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology	64.8
30	Tokyo University of Science	64.6
31	Kwansei Gakuin University	64.1
32	Ochanomizu University	63.8
33	Kanda University of International Studies	63.5
34	The University of Aizu	63.1
35	Meiji University	62.9
36	Kumamoto University	62.8
36	Tokyo Metropolitan University	62.8
38	Toyohashi University of Technology (TUT)	62.6
39	Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU)	62.2
39	Yamaguchi University	62.2
41	Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology	61.9
42	Kyoto Institute of Technology	61.8
43	Nagasaki University	61.1
43	Osaka City University	61.1
45	Kansai University	61
46	Yokohama City University	60.7
47	Yamagata University	60.5
48	Shibaura Institute of Technology Tokyo	60.4
49	Kindai University	60.3
50	Aoyama Gakuin University	59.8
51	Chuo University	59.7
51	Niigata University	59.7
53	Hosei University	59.3
54	Shinshu University	59.1
55	The University of Electro-Communications	58.7
55	Tsuda College	58.7
57	University of Fukui	58.6
58	Akita University	58.1
59	Nagoya Institute of Technology	57.9
60	Nanzan University	57.7
61	Gakushuin University	57
62	Fukuoka Women's University	56.6
63	Saga University	56.4
64	Gunma University	56.2
65	Osaka Prefecture University	56.1
66	Toyo University	55.9
67	Utsunomiya University	55.5
68	Kagoshima University	55.4
68	Toyota Technological Institute	55.4
70	Saitama University	55.3
71	Ibaraki University	54.9
72	Shizuoka University	54.8
73	Iwate University	54.4

74	Meiji Gakuin University	54.3
75	Kansai Gaidai University	54.1
75	Tottori University	54.1
77	University of Miyazaki	53.5
77	Nagoya City University	53.5
79	Ehime University	53.4
79	University of Toyama	53.4
81	The University of Kitakyushu	53.2
82	Nihon University	53.1
83	Kobe City University of Foreign Studies	52.8
84	Kochi University of Technology	52.4
84	Seikei University	52.4
86	Akita Prefectural University	52.3
86	Dokkyo University	52.3
88	Musashi University	52.2
88	Ryukoku University	52.2
88	University of Shizuoka	52.2
91	Kagawa University	51.9
92	Kyoto University of Foreign Studies	51.8
93	Kanazawa Institute of Technology (KIT)	51.7
94	Konan University	51.6
94	Tokyo University of Agriculture	51.6
96	Kyoto Sangyo University	51.2
97	Gifu University	50.9
98	Tokyo Woman's Christian University	50.6
99	University of the Ryukyus	50.2
100	Aichi Prefectural University	50.1
100	Nagoya University of Foreign Studies	50.1
101-110	Fukuoka University	48.6-49.9
101-110	Future University Hakodate	48.6-49.9
101-110	University of Hyogo	48.6-49.9
101-110	Juntendo University	48.6-49.9
101-110	Kochi University	48.6-49.9
101-110	Otaru University of Commerce	48.6-49.9
101-110	Seinan Gakuin University	48.6-49.9
101-110	Tokai University	48.6-49.9
101-110	Tokushima University	48.6-49.9
111-120	Fukushima University	45.4-48.2
111-120	Kanagawa University	45.4-48.2
111-120	Kitasato University	45.4-48.2
111-120	Meijo University	45.4-48.2
111-120	Mie University	45.4-48.2
111-120	Muroran Institute of Technology	45.4-48.2
111-120	Nagoya University of Commerce & Business	45.4-48.2
111-120	Oita University	45.4-48.2
111-120	Shimane University	45.4-48.2
111-120	Toyama Prefectural University	45.4-48.2
121-130	Aichi University	44.6-45.3
121-130	Fukuoka Institute of Technology	44.6-45.3
121-130	J. F. Oberlin University	44.6-45.3
121-130	Reitaku University	44.6-45.3
121-130	Senshu University	44.6-45.3
121-130	Soka University	44.6-45.3
121-130	Tamagawa University	44.6-45.3
121-130	Tohoku Gakuin University	44.6-45.3
121-130	Tokyo Denki University	44.6-45.3
121-130	University of Yamanashi	44.6-45.3
131-140	Chiba Institute of Technology	42.6-44.5
131-140	Chukyo University	42.6-44.5
131-140	Doshisha Women's College of Liberal Arts	42.6-44.5
131-140	Fukui Prefectural University	42.6-44.5
131-140	Kogakuin University	42.6-44.5
131-140	Miyazaki International College	42.6-44.5
131-140	University of Nagasaki	42.6-44.5
131-140	University of Niigata Prefecture	42.6-44.5
131-140	Showa University	42.6-44.5
131-140	Showa Women's University	42.6-44.5
141-150	Fukushima Medical University	41.5-42.5
141-150	Hamamatsu University School of Medicine	41.5-42.5
141-150	Hiroshima City University	41.5-42.5
141-150	International University of Health and Welfare	41.5-42.5
141-150	Japan Women's University	41.5-42.5
141-150	Komazawa University	41.5-42.5
141-150	Prefectural University of Hiroshima	41.5-42.5
141-150	Sapporo Medical University	41.5-42.5
141-150	Shiga University	41.5-42.5
141-150	Shiga University of Medical Science	41.5-42.5
141-150	Toho University	41.5-42.5



Independent assurance report to the directors of TES Global Limited the Times Higher Education Japan University Rankings 2018

This report is produced in accordance with the terms of our contract dated 27 November 2017 for the purpose of reporting to the directors of TES Global Limited on our independent limited assurance engagement over the specific procedures (i) – (viii) in production and reporting of the universities ranked 1 – 150 for the THE Japan University Rankings 2018 (the “Rankings”), outlined on page 12 of the methodology.

Our conclusion

Based on the results of our work, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the specific procedures (i) – (viii) outlined by TES Global Limited management are not fairly stated in all material respects.

This conclusion is to be read in the context of what we say below.

Scope of our work

We have performed a limited assurance engagement over the procedures set out in the table on page 12 (“THE’s procedures”) within the THE Japan University Rankings 2018 methodology (the ‘Methodology’), which outlines THE’s production and reporting of the 2018 Japan University Rankings.

Our work has been performed in accordance with the agreement between us dated 27 November 2017.

Professional standards applied and level of assurance

We performed our limited assurance engagement over THE’s procedures in accordance with International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised) *Assurance Engagements other than Audits and Reviews of Historical Financial Information* issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Our independence and quality control

We complied with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) Code of Ethics, which includes independence and other requirements founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behaviour.

We apply International Standard on Quality Control (UK) 1 and accordingly maintain a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and s regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Inherent limitations

Our assurance procedures are limited to assessing the application of specific procedures (i) – (viii) and are subject to the following inherent limitations:

- Reliance has been placed on data obtained from third parties. These data sets include:
 - University data including income provided by Benesse Corporation;
 - Mock Exam result data provided by Benesse Corporation;
 - Accreditation data provided by Benesse Corporation;
 - High school survey data provided by Nikkei Research (part of Nikkei Inc.);
 - Employer reputation survey provided by Nikkei Human Resources (part of Nikkei Inc.);
 - Regional price parities data obtained from Japan Statistics Bureau;
 - Bibliometric data for universities provided by Elsevier (part of RELX Group); and
 - Academic reputational survey response data provided by Elsevier (part of RELX Group).
- Our responsibility is to assess the directors’ statement that management has followed specific procedures (i) – (viii) within the Methodology, not to comment on the appropriateness of the methodology itself nor of the resulting rankings.

Work performed

Our limited assurance procedures primarily comprised:

- making enquiries of THE's management;
- examining the Methodology and specific procedures (i) – (viii) and assessing any key assumptions and limitations
- obtaining an understanding of the third party surveys and data
- assessing adherence to specific procedures for:
 - automatic validation of submitted Portal data (procedure i) via functional testing with a test Portal account;
 - inclusion criteria for institutions (ii) via a re-performance of THE's data model;
 - validation of Porta data for appropriateness and accuracy by THE (iii) via testing a sample of 20 institutions;
 - mapping of institutions between datasets by university name and ID (iv) through testing a sample of 20 institutions;
 - calculation, normalisation and weighting of individual metric indicators into total scores (v - vi) via a re-performance of THE's data model;
 - review and sign off of Rankings by THE's editorial team (vii);
- confirming accurate reporting of universities in the Final Rankings on the Times Higher Education website (viii). The universities ranked 1 – 150 have been reproduced in appendix 1 of the Methodology.

A limited assurance engagement is substantially less in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement under ISAE 3000 and involves less detailed testing.

Directors' responsibilities

The directors of TES Global Limited are responsible for:

- establishing an appropriate Methodology and specific procedures for producing the Rankings and reporting the results on THE's website;
- designing, implementing and monitoring policies, activities, processes and controls to comply with the procedures;
- their Methodology, including the application of the procedures set out on page 12;
- supporting the Directors' Statement with sufficient evidence, including documentation; and
- the maintenance and integrity of THE's website.

Our responsibilities

We are responsible for:

- planning and performing the engagement to obtain evidence to support our assurance conclusion;
- forming an independent conclusion, based on the procedures we have performed and the evidence we have obtained, on the Directors' Statement over their application of the procedures on page 12; and
- reporting our conclusions to the directors of TES Global Limited.

We believe that the evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our conclusion.

Intended users and purpose

This report is prepared for, and only for, the directors of TES Global Limited, and solely for the purpose of reporting to them on their statement that they have fairly stated the specific procedures (i) – (viii) of the Methodology and no other purpose. We do not, in giving our opinion, accept or assume responsibility (legal or otherwise) or accept liability for, or in connection with, any other purpose for which our report including the opinion may be used, or to any other person to whom our report is shown or into whose hands it may come, and no other persons shall be entitled to rely on our opinion.

We permit the disclosure of our report, in full only and in the company of the Methodology, to enable the directors to demonstrate that they have discharged their governance responsibilities by commissioning an independent assurance report over procedures (i) – (viii) of the Methodology, without assuming or accepting any responsibility or liability to any third parties on our part. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the directors of TES Global Limited for our work or this report save where terms are expressly agreed and with our prior consent in writing.



PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants
London, UK
26 March 2018