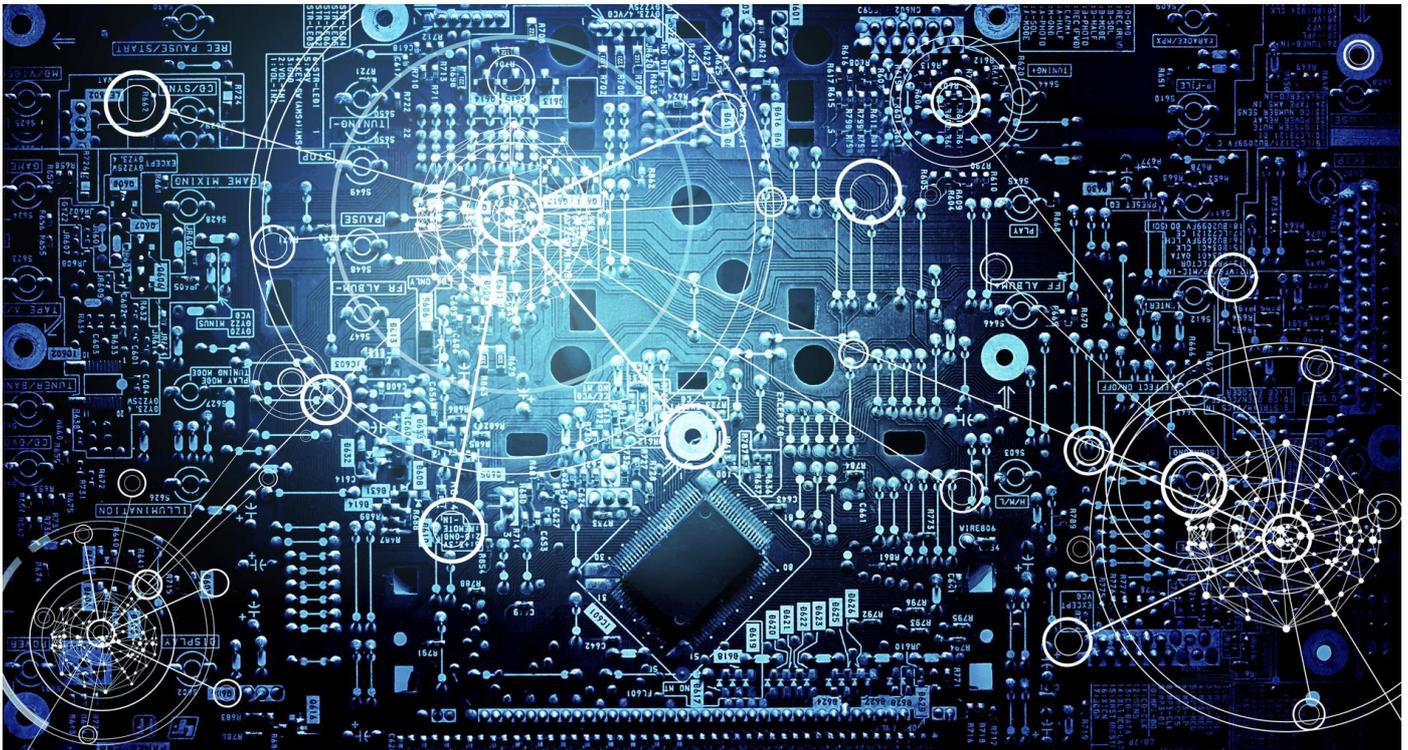




## METHODOLOGY FOR THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION JAPAN UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2020

March 2020



## Times Higher Education Japan University Rankings:

Times Higher Education 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 annual Times Higher Education (THE) Japan University Rankings, started in 2017, is a ranking that aims to provide the definitive list of universities in Japan that show the strongest teaching performance, evaluated across four key pillars of Resources, Engagement, Outcomes and Environment. THE’s Teaching Rankings differ from the research-focused THE World University Ranking in that they aim at evaluating an institution’s teaching quality primarily, including the level of learning engagement they provide their students, the human learning environment students find themselves in, the resources institutions have to deliver high-quality teaching, and the measured outcomes graduates can expect from their degree. Times Higher Education’s data is trusted by governments and universities and is a vital resource for students, helping them choose where to study. These rankings have been prepared by THE, and are published by THE across the world. They are also published in Japan by Benesse Corporation, who is a publisher of educational materials in Japan and has strong relationships throughout the Japanese education community.

To help demonstrate the integrity of the Rankings, we have asked PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP UK (“PwC”) to undertake independent limited assurance over our application of the specific procedures (i) - (xiii). Their independent limited assurance opinion on our application of specific procedures (i) – (xiii) is set out on page 17 of this document.

The methodology is divided into four sections which are outlined below and discussed in detail in the remainder of the document:

- 1) **Data collection and sources**
- 2) **Criteria for exclusion, inclusion, and data processing**
- 3) **Calculation, scoring and ranking**
- 4) **Publication and reporting**

Details of the methodology applied within each section are set out in red boxes. The specific procedures within the methodology subject to assurance are marked with the symbol “Ω” and highlighted in bold.

### Important links:

JUR 2020 Final Rankings:  
<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/rankings/japan-university/2020>

JUR 2020 Methodology:  
<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/methodology-japan-university-rankings-2020>

### Directors’ Statement

*This document (the “Methodology”) sets out our end-to-end process for generating the THE Japan University Rankings 2020 (the “Rankings”). As directors and management of Times Higher Education, we state that we have followed our Methodology clearly and accurately to the best of our knowledge, and correctly applied the specific procedures denoted by (i) - (xiii) as marked with the symbol “Ω” in the report.*

DocuSigned by:  
Signed:   
97A53982EBD74C7...

Trevor Barratt  
Print: .....

Role: CEO  
.....

Date: 3/19/2020  
.....

For and on behalf of THE World Universities Insights Limited

## Summary of the Rankings methodology

The THE Japan University Rankings is a teaching ranking that scores universities across four key pillars that we believe are important when applying to universities as an undergraduate or postgraduate student. 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 uses 16 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 reviewed by THE. Each of the metrics are normalised and weighted according to our methodology to generate the final Rankings.

The 16 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**
  - Student engagement
  - Student recommendation
  - Interaction with teachers and faculty
  - 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

**Since the 2019 rankings, there have been no changes to the method of calculating the performance metrics and scoring the universities.**

## 1) Data collection and sources

### Benesse Corporation

#### *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 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 2020 Japan University Rankings is from 2019.

#### *High school survey*

Benesse Corporation prepared a survey that targeted high school career advisors in Japan over two years between October and December 2018 (for year 1) and September and October 2019 (for year 2). 2181 high schools were surveyed. 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.

#### *Employer reputation survey*

The employer reputation survey was prepared by Nikkei Human Resources and ran from 18th February to 22nd March 2019. All 4,750 public companies (including those listed in JASDAC and other exchanges) were targeted and 815 responses were received. 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.

#### *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). Only universities that have been accredited with one of the three associations are eligible to participate in the Rankings.

#### *Student perceptions survey*

THE worked with Benesse Corporation to survey the perceptions of currently enrolled students about their university, across any subject and level of study. The survey ran between July and October 2019. The survey is distributed to universities by Benesse or self-administered by individual institutions under THE guidelines.

In 2019 we analysed the student perception survey and decided to rebalance responses according to the gender split of each institution's student population. This decision has been applied for all subsequent years including this year.

To perform this, we have reweighted the average scores for each university according to the average score by gender and the actual gender balance. In doing this we have not included in the rebalancing any responses that have no identified gender or where gender was stated as other – these are reincorporated without weighting.

***All responses from the student perceptions survey were gender-weighted according to the gender split of each institution's student population. Ω***

## Elsevier

### *Bibliometric data*

The research output per member of academic staff metric used for the Rankings is calculated as the total scholarly output (articles, reviews, conference papers, books and book chapters) between 2014 and 2018, divided by number of staff. Total scholarly output is calculated by Elsevier.

### *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 in the 2019 and 2018 surveys in the world and country teaching sections from respondents associated with a Japanese institution. Where a university received no votes, they were allocated a zero score.

***All votes received by an institution in the data from the academic reputation survey were counted to produce an overall score for each university.***  $\Omega^{ii}$

## Institutional data – self-submitted on the THE Portal

***THE have verified that a named representative from each institution submitted and authorised their institutional data for use in the Rankings***  $\Omega^{iii}$ , via THE's designated online portal, with confirmations that they have:

- Provided true and accurate information for their institution for 2018; and
- Understood and complied with the THE terms and conditions → <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/terms-and-conditions>;

In global terms, the most complete data available for all institutions has been found to be from two years ago, therefore all institutions report 2018 data (defined as the appropriate annual cycle for the client that ends within the calendar year 2018).

***THE have implemented automated controls to ensure that the data submitted to the portal was complete and accurate. The automated controls included:***

- ***ensuring mandatory fields (institutional income, number of staff, students and courses) were filled in***
- ***sub groups were smaller than the main group e.g. number of international students is less than the total number of students***  $\Omega^{iv}$

***THE did not submit data for an institution without positive confirmation from the named representative of the institution.***  $\Omega^v$

## Japan Statistical Yearbook 2020

Regional price parities 2018 data (for prefectures) in Japan was provided from Table 20.7, all items less imputed rent, at link <http://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/nenkan/69nenkan/1431-20.html>

## 2) Criteria for exclusion, inclusion, and data processing

### Exclusion and inclusion criteria

***Universities that met the five key inclusion criteria were included in the rankings:  $\Omega^{vi}$***

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.

***Management reviewed and approved all institution submissions data for appropriateness and accuracy, based on prior year values and gaps within datasets. For institutions that did not have any prior year values in the datasets, the portal data was reviewed and approved based on industry knowledge of what is within a reasonable range.  $\Omega^{vii}$***

AND

5. Have at least 50 eligible and valid responses from the student perceptions survey.

Data collected through either stream of the student perceptions survey (Benesse distributed or self-distributed by institutions) individually or the sum thereof must reach 50 eligible and valid responses for the university to be included in the Ranking.

A total of 278 met the five criteria in 2020 defined above i.e. had sufficient validated data to be included in the Rankings.

### Data processing and mapping

Regional price parities data in Japan obtained from the Japan Statistical Yearbook 2020 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.

***Finance data was converted correctly using regional price parity.  $\Omega^{viii}$***

All datasets provided by Benesse Corporation and Elsevier, including the employer survey, high school survey, mock exam results, academic reputation survey, and bibliometric data are accurately mapped using the unique five-digit university identifier.

***The datasets used in the rankings were accurately mapped by university name and ID. Institution-level bibliometric (Scopus and/or SciVal) and reputation survey data obtained from Elsevier was mapped to THE institution data via THE's institution ID. <sup>ix</sup>***

### 3) Calculation, scoring and ranking

#### Calculation of metrics

**The 16 pre-weighted indicators were calculated for each university**  $\Omega^x$  with the below definitions:

##### 1. Resources

- 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 credit or other qualification, as adjusted for regional price parity at the prefecture level. This metric uses a logarithmic scale to incorporate outliers prior to normalisation.
- 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.
- Mock exam entrance level score:
  - The Benesse Corporation mock exam score represents a proxy for entry exams. This metric requires no calculation before normalisation as it is extracted directly from Benesse Corporation mock exam results data.
- 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 2014 and 2018 (from Elsevier) divided by number of academic staff. This metric uses a logarithmic scale to incorporate outliers prior to scaling.
- 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

- **Student engagement:**
  - This metric is generated from the average scores per university (gender-weighted) from four questions on the student survey from 2019 and 2018:
    - To what extent does the teaching at your university or college support CRITICAL THINKING?
    - To what extent did the classes you took in your college or university so far CHALLENGE YOU?
    - To what extent does the teaching at your university or college support REFLECTION UPON, OR MAKING CONNECTIONS AMONG, things you have learned?
    - To what extent does the teaching at your university or college support APPLYING YOUR LEARNING to the real world?
- **Student recommendations:**
  - This metric is generated from the average score per university (gender-weighted) from the following question on the student survey from 2019 and 2018:
    - If a friend or family member were considering going to university, based on your experience, how likely or unlikely are you to RECOMMEND your college or university to them?
- **Interaction with teachers and faculty:**
  - This metric is generated from the average score per university (gender-weighted) from two questions on the student survey from 2019 and 2018:
    - To what extent do you have the opportunity to INTERACT WITH THE FACULTY and teachers at your college or university as part of your learning experience?
    - To what extent does your college or university provide opportunities for COLLABORATIVE LEARNING?
- **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.
- **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

### 3. Outcomes

- 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. This metric is the mean score across the last two years.
- 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-zero values will be standardised, and universities that received no votes are scored a zero for this metric.

### 4. Environment

- 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 with no international students are scored a zero for this metric.
- Proportion of international staff:
  - This metric is calculated as the number of FTE academic staff of international or overseas origin divided by the FTE number of staff employed in an academic post. Only non-zero values will be standardised, and universities with no international staff are scored a zero for this metric.
- 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.
- 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 with no foreign-language courses are scored a zero for this metric.

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. A Z-score is a measure of how many standard deviations below or above the population mean a raw score is, using Z-scoring we can combine the results of each metric even though they are from different distributions.

## Weightings of metrics to final scores and rankings

The above 16 performance metrics representing the four pillars are weighted according to THE's assessment of relative importance.

***Once the final population of universities and indicators were prepared, the scores for each university were generated by weighting the metrics and the Final Rankings were calculated  $\Omega^i$  according to the following percentage breakdowns:***

Pillar	Metric	% weighting
1. Resources	Finance per student	8%
	Faculty per student	8%
	Mock exam entrance level score	6%
	Research output per member of staff	7%
	Research grants per member of staff	5%
2.Engagement	Student engagement	6%
	Student recommendations	6%
	Interaction with teachers and faculty	6%
	Global talent development	6%
	Student ability development	6%
3. Outcomes	Employer reputation	8%
	Academic reputation	8%
4. Environment	Proportion of international students	5%
	Proportion of international staff	5%
	International exchange programmes	5%
	Courses in a foreign language	5%

## 4) Publication and reporting

### Final rankings preparation

The universities ranked 1 – 200 overall are published in the final Rankings on the THE website. On the website only, the pillar scores for the universities ranked 1 – 200 for each individual pillar are also listed. Pillar scores are only displayed if they are scored in the top 200 for that pillar, and overall scores/ranks are only displayed if the university is in the top 200 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 278 universities ranked.

### Review and sign off

The Rankings are formally signed off by THE World Universities Insights Limited management prior to being published in print and online.

***The Rankings results were reviewed and signed off by THE's Chief Data Officer.  $\Omega^{xii}$***

### Reporting

***The Rankings were accurately reported on the THE website.  $\Omega^{xiii}$***

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

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/methodology-japan-university-rankings-2020>

**Specific procedures subject to independent assurance by PwC**

<b>Procedure number</b>	<b>Methodology section</b>	<b>Procedure description</b>
(i)	Data collection and sources	All responses from the student perceptions survey were gender-weighted according to the gender split of each institution's student population.
(ii)	Data collection and sources	All votes received by an institution in the data from the academic reputation survey were counted to produce an overall score for each university.
(iii)	Data collection and sources	THE have verified that a named representative from each institution submitted and authorised their institutional data for use in the Rankings.
(iv)	Data collection and sources	THE have implemented automated controls to ensure that the data submitted to the portal was complete and accurate. The automated controls included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ensuring mandatory fields (institutional income, number of staff, students and courses) were filled in</li> <li>- sub groups were smaller than the main group e.g. number of international students is less than the total number of students</li> </ul>
(v)	Data collection and sources	THE did not submit data for an institution without positive confirmation from the named representative of the institution.
(vi)	Criteria for exclusion, inclusion and data processing	Universities that met the five key inclusion criteria were included in the rankings.
(vii)	Criteria for exclusion, inclusion and data processing	Management reviewed and approved all institution submissions data for appropriateness and accuracy, based on prior year values and gaps within datasets. For institutions that did not have any prior year values in the datasets, the portal data was reviewed and approved based on industry knowledge of what is within a reasonable range.
(viii)	Criteria for exclusion, inclusion and data processing	Finance data was converted correctly using regional price parity.
(ix)	Criteria for exclusion, inclusion and data processing	The datasets used in the rankings were accurately mapped by university name and ID. Institution-level bibliometric (Scopus and/or SciVal) and reputation survey data obtained from Elsevier was mapped to THE institution data via THE's institution ID.
(x)	Calculation, scoring and ranking	The 16 pre-weighted indicators were calculated for each university.
(xi)	Calculation, scoring and ranking	Once the final population of universities and indicators were prepared, the scores for each university were generated by weighting the metrics and the Final Rankings were calculated.
(xii)	Publication and reporting	The Rankings results were reviewed and signed off by THE's Chief Data Officer.
(xiii)	Publication and reporting	The Rankings were accurately reported on the THE website.

**Appendix 1. THE Japan University Rankings 2020 universities ranked 1 – 200**

Below is the listing of universities ranked 1 – 200 in the Japan University Rankings (exact rank for top 100 and banding allocation for 101 to 200)

Rank	Name	Overall score
1	Tohoku University	83.0
2	Kyoto University	81.5
3	The University of Tokyo	81.2
3	Tokyo Institute of Technology	81.2
5	Kyushu University	79.7
6	Hokkaido University	79.6
7	Nagoya University	79.5
8	Osaka University	78.9
9	University of Tsukuba	77.7
10	Akita International University	77.2
11	International Christian University	74.3
12	Hiroshima University	72.6
13	Waseda University	71.5
14	Keio University	70.2
15	Kobe University	69.5
16	Hitotsubashi University	67.4
17	Nagaoka University of Technology	67.1
18	Kanazawa University	66.9
18	Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology	66.9
20	Sophia University	66.5
21	Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU)	66.2
21	Tokyo University of Foreign Studies	66.2
23	Chiba University	65.9
24	The University of Aizu	65.0
25	Ochanomizu University	64.8
26	Kyoto Institute of Technology	64.3
27	Kumamoto University	64.2
28	Okayama University	63.9
29	Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology	63.6
29	Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU)	63.6
31	Yokohama National University	63.2
32	Toyohashi University of Technology (TUT)	63.1
33	Ritsumeikan University	62.3
34	Toyota Technological Institute	61.9
35	Shibaura Institute of Technology Tokyo	61.3
36	Kanda University of International Studies	61.2
36	Yokohama City University	61.2
38	Kyushu Institute of Technology (Kyutech)	61.1
39	Tokyo University of Science	60.7
40	Fukuoka Women's University	60.3
41	The University of Electro-Communications	60.2
42	Tokyo Metropolitan University	59.7
43	Nagasaki University	59.3
44	Tsuda University	58.9
45	Doshisha University	58.8
45	Kwansei Gakuin University	58.8
47	Akita University	58.6
47	Rikkyo University	58.6
49	Gakushuin University	58.4
49	Osaka City University	58.4
51	Kobe City University of Foreign Studies	58.0
52	Shinshu University	57.8
53	Meiji University	57.4
53	Niigata University	57.4
55	Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine	57.0
56	Nagoya Institute of Technology	56.8
57	Osaka Prefecture University	56.5
58	University of Fukui	56.3
59	Tottori University	55.9
60	Chuo University	55.5
61	Ehime University	55.4
62	Kansai Gaidai University	55.2
62	St Luke's International University	55.2
64	Toyo University	55.0
65	Nanzan University	54.9
65	Yamagata University	54.9
65	Yamaguchi University	54.9
68	Hosei University	54.8
69	Tokushima University	54.6
70	Future University Hakodate	54.5
70	Utsunomiya University	54.5
72	Aoyama Gakuin University	54.2
72	Kansai University	54.2
72	Kochi University of Technology	54.2
75	Gifu University	54.0

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75	Kindai University	54.0
75	Soka University	54.0
78	Gunma University	53.8
79	University of Toyama	53.3
80	Saga University	53.2
81	Kagoshima University	53.0
81	Shimane University	53.0
83	Saitama University	52.9
84	Shizuoka University	52.8
85	Akita Prefectural University	52.6
86	The University of Kitakyushu	52.4
87	University of Shizuoka	52.3
88	Ibaraki University	51.9
89	Kochi University	51.8
90	Nagoya University of Foreign Studies	51.7
91	Iwate University	51.6
91	Nagoya City University	51.6
93	Juntendo University	51.2
94	Mie University	51.1
95	Aichi Prefectural University	50.7
95	J. F. Oberlin University	50.7
97	Musashi University	50.5
98	Kagawa University	50.4
99	Sapporo Medical University	50.0
100	Ryukoku University	49.8
100	Showa Women's University	49.8
101-110	Dokkyo University	48.9-49.7
101-110	Hamamatsu University School of Medicine	48.9-49.7
101-110	Kanazawa Institute of Technology (KIT)	48.9-49.7
101-110	Kitasato University	48.9-49.7
101-110	Kyoto University of Foreign Studies	48.9-49.7
101-110	Kyoto Sangyo University	48.9-49.7
101-110	University of Niigata Prefecture	48.9-49.7
101-110	Seinan Gakuin University	48.9-49.7
101-110	Shiga University of Medical Science	48.9-49.7
101-110	Tokyo University of Agriculture	48.9-49.7
111-120	University of Hyogo	47.8-48.8
111-120	Kitami Institute of Technology	47.8-48.8
111-120	Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine	47.8-48.8
111-120	Meiji Gakuin University	47.8-48.8
111-120	University of Miyazaki	47.8-48.8
111-120	Nagoya University of Commerce & Business	47.8-48.8
111-120	Nara Women's University	47.8-48.8
111-120	University of the Ryukyus	47.8-48.8
111-120	Seikei University	47.8-48.8
121-130	Fukuoka Institute of Technology	46.8-47.6
121-130	Fukushima Medical University	46.8-47.6
121-130	Hyogo College of Medicine	46.8-47.6
121-130	Japan Women's University	46.8-47.6
121-130	Jikei University School of Medicine	46.8-47.6
121-130	Kogakuin University	46.8-47.6
121-130	Konan University	46.8-47.6
121-130	Nara Medical University	46.8-47.6
121-130	Nihon University	46.8-47.6
121-130	Toyama Prefectural University	46.8-47.6
121-130	University of Yamanashi	46.8-47.6
131-140	Aichi Medical University	46.2-46.7
131-140	Doshisha Women's College of Liberal Arts	46.2-46.7
131-140	Fukushima University	46.2-46.7
131-140	Kyushu Sangyo University	46.2-46.7
131-140	Muroran Institute of Technology	46.2-46.7
131-140	Nippon Medical School	46.2-46.7
131-140	Osaka Medical College	46.2-46.7
131-140	Teikyo University	46.2-46.7
131-140	Tokyo International University	46.2-46.7
131-140	Tokyo Woman's Christian University	46.2-46.7
141-150	Chiba Institute of Technology	45.0-45.9
141-150	Chukyo University	45.0-45.9
141-150	Fukuoka University	45.0-45.9
141-150	Meijo University	45.0-45.9
141-150	Otaru University of Commerce	45.0-45.9
141-150	Shiga University	45.0-45.9
141-150	Tamagawa University	45.0-45.9
141-150	Tokai University	45.0-45.9
141-150	Tokyo City University	45.0-45.9
151-200	Aichi University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Asia University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Chubu University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Fujita Health University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Fukui Prefectural University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Gunma Prefectural Women's University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Hiroshima Institute of Technology	38.3-44.8
151-200	Hokuriku University	38.3-44.8

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151-200	Hoshi University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Ibaraki Prefectural University of Health Sciences	38.3-44.8
151-200	International University of Health and Welfare	38.3-44.8
151-200	Ishikawa Prefectural University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Iwate Prefectural University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Kanagawa University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Kansai Medical University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Kobe College	38.3-44.8
151-200	Komazawa University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Kurume University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Kyoai Gakuen University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Kyoto Pharmaceutical University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Kyoto Prefectural University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Meikai University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Miyazaki International College	38.3-44.8
151-200	Mukogawa Women's University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Musashino University	38.3-44.8
151-200	National University Corporation of Tsukuba University of Technology (NTUT)	38.3-44.8
151-200	Nippon Veterinary and Life Science University	38.3-44.8
151-200	University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan	38.3-44.8
151-200	Oita University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Okayama University of Science	38.3-44.8
151-200	Osaka University of Economics and Law	38.3-44.8
151-200	Osaka Jogakuin University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Osaka Institute of Technology	38.3-44.8
151-200	Prefectural University of Hiroshima	38.3-44.8
151-200	Prefectural University of Kumamoto	38.3-44.8
151-200	Reitaku University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Seijo University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Senshu University	38.3-44.8
151-200	The University of Shiga Prefecture	38.3-44.8
151-200	Showa University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Sojo University	38.3-44.8
151-200	St Marianna University School of Medicine	38.3-44.8
151-200	Takushoku University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Tama University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Toho University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Tohoku Gakuin University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Tokyo Denki University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Tokyo University of Technology	38.3-44.8
151-200	Tsuru University	38.3-44.8
151-200	Yamaguchi Prefectural University	38.3-44.8



## **Independent limited assurance report to the directors of THE World Universities Insights Limited for the Times Higher Education Japan University Rankings 2020**

The directors of THE World Universities Insights Limited (“THE”) engaged us to perform limited assurance over the application of specific procedures (i) – (xiii) in production and reporting of the top 100 universities by rank, and banding allocation below the top 100 for the THE Japan University Rankings 2020 (the “Rankings”).

### ***Our conclusion***

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Based on the procedures we have performed and the evidence we have obtained, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that THE World Universities Insights Limited management has not correctly applied, in all material respects, the specific procedures (i) – (xiii) outlined in their report.

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

### ***Scope of our work***

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We have performed a limited assurance engagement over the procedures (i) – (xiii) as marked with the symbol “Ω” set out in the report (“THE’s procedures”) within the THE Japan University Rankings 2020 methodology (the ‘Methodology’), which outlines THE’s production and reporting of the Rankings.

Our work has been performed in accordance with the agreement between us dated 11 December 2019.

### ***Professional standards applied and level of assurance***

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We performed a limited assurance engagement over application of THE’s procedures in accordance with International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised) *Assurance Engagements other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. The procedures performed in a limited assurance engagement vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for, a reasonable assurance engagement. Consequently, the level of assurance obtained in a limited assurance engagement is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had a reasonable assurance engagement been performed.

### ***Our independence and quality control***

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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 also apply International Standard on Quality Control (UK) 1 and accordingly maintain a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements. Our work was carried out by an independent team with experience in assurance.

### ***Inherent limitations***

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The subject matter incorporates datasets obtained from third party sources which are outside the control of THE World Universities Insights Limited and have been incorporated by management at face value. These data sets include:

- Mock Exam result data provided by Benesse Corporation;
- High school survey data provided by Benesse Corporation;
- Employer reputation survey provided by Nikkei Human Resources (part of Nikkei Inc.);
- Regional price parity 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 form our limited assurance conclusion as to whether anything has come to our attention to indicate that THE World Universities Insights Limited management has not correctly applied, in all material respects,

the specific procedures (i) – (xiii) outlined in their report. We do not express any view on the fairness or appropriateness of the resulting rankings.

### **Work performed**

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Our limited assurance procedures primarily comprised:

- Examining the Methodology and THE's procedures in order to obtain an understanding and assessing any key assumptions and limitations.
- Obtaining an understanding of the third-party surveys and data.
- Assessment of management's application of THE's procedures for:
  - Data collection and sources;
  - Criteria for exclusion, inclusion, and data processing;
  - Calculation, scoring and ranking; and
  - Publication and reporting.
- Testing accurate reporting of institutions in the THE Japan University Rankings 2020 report. (The top 200 Universities have been reproduced in Appendix 1).
- Enquiries of relevant management.

### **Directors' responsibilities**

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The directors of THE World Universities Insights Limited are responsible for:

- establishing an appropriate Methodology including 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 Methodology;
- their Methodology, including the application of the procedures set out in this Methodology;
- supporting the Directors' Statement with sufficient evidence, including documentation; and
- the maintenance and integrity of THE's website.

### **Our responsibilities**

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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 management's application of THE's procedures as described in the report; and
- reporting our conclusion to the directors of THE World Universities Insights Limited.

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

### **Intended users and purpose**

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This report is produced in accordance with the terms of our agreement dated 11 December 2019 and is intended solely for the use and benefit of the Board of Directors of THE World Universities Insights Limited, and solely for the purpose of reporting to them on the application of THE's procedures within the Methodology in preparation and publication of the Rankings and no other purpose. We do not, in giving our conclusion, accept or assume responsibility (legal or otherwise) or accept liability for, or in connection with, any other purpose for which our report including the conclusion 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 conclusion.

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) – (xiii) 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 THE World Universities Insights 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**  
**19 March 2020**