



**World  
University  
Rankings 2024**



# **THE World University Rankings 2024 Masterclasses**

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**Q&A Summary**

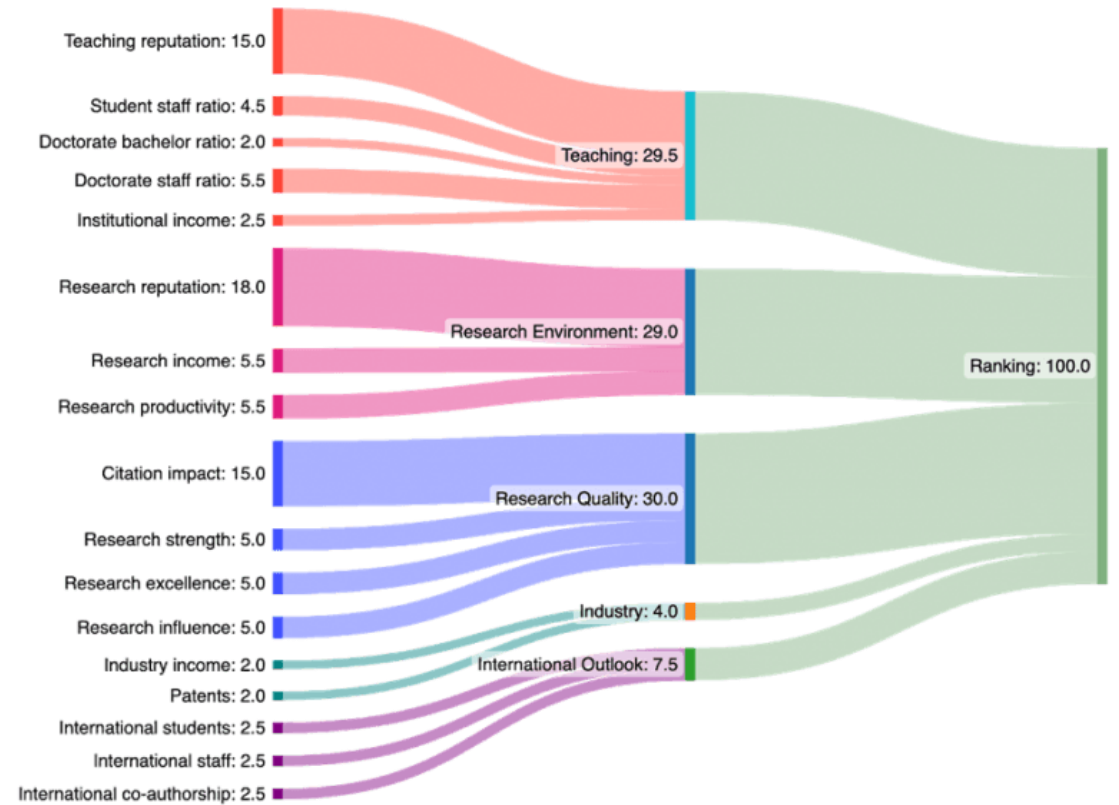
**Africa**

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2024 include 1,904 universities across 108 countries and regions.

The table is based on our new WUR methodology, which includes 18 carefully calibrated performance indicators that measure an institution's performance across five areas: teaching, research environment, research quality, industry, and international outlook.

This year's ranking analysed more than 134 million citations across 16.5 million research publications and included survey responses from 68,402 scholars globally. Overall, we collected 411,789 datapoints from more than 2,673 institutions that submitted data.

Trusted worldwide by students, teachers, governments and industry experts, the 2024 league table reveals how the global higher education landscape is shifting.



# Q&A – Bibliometrics

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**Q: Are pre-print publications included?**

A: Pre-print publications are not considered.

**Q: Colleagues have been asking if THE considers citations from ACADEMIA?**

A: We exclusively look at journals indexed in the Scopus database for our bibliometrics data.

**Q: Do you accept any publication or only from peer review from faculty members of the participating university?**

A: We only look at journals indexed by Scopus. The full list is available at <https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scopus/how-scopus-works/content>.

**Q: when you speak about university's publication what are you referring to, is it their journal or individual faculty's publication?**

A: We refer to the university's publications (no the journals). We specifically refer to 5 types of publications that we consider for the rankings: journal articles, article reviews, conference proceedings, books and book chapters.

**Q: Wish system do you or can you use to justify the citation of papers for a university? Specially when there is a co-publication of two or more authors from different universities?**

A: If an author is dual-affiliated (or has more than one affiliation), the publication will count once towards each institution. The order of the institutional affiliations does not matter. Each publication is attributed to all the institutions affiliated to each author. The paper will count for 1 for each affiliation/institution (we look at the affiliation, not the author). The only specific case would be for papers with more than 1,000 authors, for which we do kilo-authored fractional counting (only for the Citation Impact metric).

# Q&A – Definitions

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**Q: How do I include diplomas in the data. By diplomas I mean that which leads to a degree after one or two years studying a specific field. Thanks**

A: Please refer to the THE WUR User Guide, which directs to the ISCED guide. Usually ISCED 5 programs are excluded, but ISCED 6, 7 and 8 programs need to be included.

## Q&A – Other

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**Q: Is the sample size of students based on the students population or based a size set by THE ?**

A: We don't use student insights in the World University Rankings. In the Sub Saharan African Rankings we do use a student survey, for which a minimum of 50 respondents must be received.

## Q&A – Eligibility criteria

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**Q: Is it possible for a university to have more than 150 publications per year and above 2000 publications in 5 years and yet not been ranked. What could be responsible for this?**

A: It is possible, and it may be because the university has not met one or more of our other eligibility criteria.

**Q: Please can one have the requirements for a University to join the ranking by 2024?**

A: Eligibility criteria can be found at <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/world-university-rankings-2024-methodology>. Please email [profilerankings@timeshighereducation.com](mailto:profilerankings@timeshighereducation.com) for more information.

**Q: Please can we have a comprehensive list of the criteria sent to our emails? Thank you.**

A: The methodology is available at <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/world-university-rankings-2024-methodology>. Please email [rankings@timeshighereducation.com](mailto:rankings@timeshighereducation.com) for any specific questions.

**Q: What could be responsible for a university with more than the threshold minimum publication not to be ranked?**

A: A university can be excluded for not meeting the publication threshold but also for being too focused on a single subject, for not teaching at the undergraduate level, or for not having provided sufficient data.

## Q&A – Methodology

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**Q: Does the research criteria apply to all kinds of THE ranking?**

A: The research criteria (having published at least 1,000 papers for the past five years) only applies to the THE World University Rankings, which is a research-focused ranking. Our Teaching rankings, such as the Japan University Rankings or the Sub-Saharan Rankings, which are more focused on the quality of the learning environment and less on research, do not need to have the publication criteria. The THE Impact Rankings also do not need to have the publication threshold as a criterion.

**Q: Looks like for countries already participating in THE ranking before now, data were not requested from them to compute the 2024 ranking?**

A: We do request universities to actively submit data every year. We only rank universities based on recent data consistent with what was submitted by other universities.

**Q: Please do you extract all the required information from Scopus?**

A: Elsevier's Scopus database only represents slightly over a third of our underlying data for the World University Rankings (all bibliometrics: publications, citations, patents, etc.). Our two other data sources are the Global Academic Reputation Survey (almost 1 million votes from over 68,000 respondents) and Portal data (over 400,000 data values from 2,673 universities).

# Q&A – Methodology

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**Q: We want to participate in 2024 ranking. If I understand well, the methodology considers just the publications, citations and number of staff?**

A: The World University Rankings includes 18 carefully calibrated performance indicators that measure an institution's performance across five areas: teaching, research environment, research quality, industry, and international outlook. The data collected comes from three data sources: Elsevier's Scopus database (bibliometrics), the Academic Reputation Survey (votes from academics) and Portal data (staff, students, income, degrees).

**Q: What would be the importance and meaning of many international academic staff for a University as part of the ranking process? when you speak about university's publication what are you referring to, is it their journal or individual faculty's publication?**

A: We consider that diverse learning environments are positive, and the proportion of international academic staff measures the attractiveness of the university on world stage as a place to work.



## Q&A – Methodology

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**Q: How do you determine the so-called reporter universities ?**

A: Reporter universities are those universities who have submitted data but didn't meet the eligibility criteria. More information on the reporters can be found at: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/why-we-are-including-reporter-institutions-our-world-university-rankings>

**Q: I also want to ask about how you validate the information supplied by the University.**

A: Once universities have submitted data we check their submissions against their previous submissions, similar universities, statistical extremes, external sources such as government datasets, public data, and other sources. If we find inconsistencies or need further evidence, we may contact them for explanation.

**Q: I am from a School of Architecture, we have only one subject : Architecture, we do not have more than 500 publications. Can we participate to the THE ranking?**

A: Currently the inclusion in the Subject Rankings is conditional to the inclusion in the World University Rankings. Our current methodology is set up in such a way that an institution first needs to be ranked in the World University Rankings (meeting the 1,000 publication threshold overall for the last five years) and then and only then, we can assess the institution for inclusion in our 11 Subject Rankings. Additionally, Architecture is not part of our current 11 broad subject areas, as it is mapped under Arts and Humanities.

# Q&A – Normalisation

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**Q: I am unclear on how the normalization works**

A: Normalisation can mean different things on different types of data (survey data). There is country normalisation, subject normalisation, etc. Please review our methodology for more information: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/world-university-rankings-2024-methodology>

## Q&A – Online

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**Q: I'm from a new institution in Malawi. Do you make any distinction between face-to-face courses and programs and online courses and programs in the rankings?**

A: We have previously suggested that online students can be reported, as long as the staff "teaching" these students are also reported, and that the online activities are leading to some kind of institutional award / they are taking a credit bearing course. They also need to be reported in full-time equivalent.

# Q&A – Participation rules

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**Q: And is there are any charges you make for an institution to participate or is it completely free?**

A: Participation to our rankings is entirely free.

**Q: If a university doesn't qualify for this year's ranking, can they apply again?**

A: Absolutely, especially for universities that are at the cusp when it comes to the publication threshold, they may meet the criteria the year after.

## Q&A – Perimeter

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**Q: We have three campuses in Sub-Saharan Africa, i.e. Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Can we jointly submit data to participate in the WUR?**

A: It is technically possible to take part as the full entity, or as a single campus. However, if a single campus participates in the ranking, then the full entity cannot take part, and vice versa. This is to avoid data duplication.

## Q&A – Rankings

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**Q: In some countries, rankings are also regulated by national regulators. Do you work with regulators from such countries?**

A: We don't currently have formal relationships with national rankings agencies, although we do have informal conversations with many of them. It is possible, and it may be because the university has not met one or more of our other eligibility criteria.

## Q&A – Reference year

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**Q: Which year's data are you collecting in 2024?**

A: For the World University Rankings 2024 published in September 2023, the data submitted by the institutions in the Portal referred to the year ending in 2021 (in most cases the academic year 2021/2022).

## Q&A – Regional query

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**Q: Does the performance of the participating university is affected by the overall performance of the country?**

A: In general no. The only metric that is affected by the country level performance is citation impact, where we adjust down the university performance in countries with high average performance, and vice versa

**Q: May I ask whether the African Rating Mechanisms of AAU have been factored into your process of ranking?**

A: The African Quality Rating Mechanism has some overlaps with the THE World University Rankings (e.g. Research output, Financial resources etc) but also has many unique elements (e.g. management, curricula, responsible citizenship etc) that are not directly relevant to the benchmarking of research intensive universities in a global context. We look forward to our continued engagement with universities in Africa to make sure that our rankings are relevant and useful to them



## Q&A – Reporter status

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**Q: How do you determine the so-called reporter universities ?**

A: Reporter universities are those universities who have submitted data but didn't meet the eligibility criteria. More information on the reporters can be found at: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/why-we-are-including-reporter-institutions-our-world-university-rankings>

**Q: If a university is placed on reporter status, how can it view the details of her deficiencies in publication?**

A: Please email [rankings@timeshighereducation.com](mailto:rankings@timeshighereducation.com) and we can investigate further.

# Q&A – Subjects

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**Q: Do the subject categories come from Scopus?**

A: The 11 Subject areas have been devised by THE. However, for some metrics, especially around FWCI, we also use the 334 All Science Journal Classification by Scopus.

**Q: I am from a School of Architecture, we have only one subject : Architecture, we do not have more than 500 publications. Can we participate to the THE ranking?**

A: Currently the inclusion in the Subject Rankings is conditional to the inclusion in the World University Rankings. Our current methodology is set up in such a way that an institution first needs to be ranked in the World University Rankings (meeting the 1,000 publication threshold overall for the last five years) and then and only then, we can assess the institution for inclusion in our 11 Subject Rankings. Additionally, Architecture is not part of our current 11 broad subject areas, as it is mapped under Arts and Humanities.

# Q&A – Validation

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**Q: I also want to ask about how you validate the information supplied by the University.**

A: Once universities have submitted data we check their submissions against their previous submissions, similar universities, statistical extremes, external sources such as government datasets, public data, and other sources. If we find inconsistencies or need further evidence, we may contact them for explanation.

**Q: What measures do you take to curtail unethical submission e.g. intentional inaccurate data submissions, etc.?**

A: Once universities have submitted data we check their submissions against their previous submissions, similar universities, statistical extremes, external sources such as government datasets, public data, and other sources. If we find inconsistencies or need further evidence, we may contact them for explanation.

# Contact us

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To participate in next year's **World University Rankings**, please email us: [profilerankings@timeshighereducation.com](mailto:profilerankings@timeshighereducation.com) or fill a form via: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/content/world-university-rankings-2025-participation> and we will get in touch.

Should you have any further question, or want to know more about **THE's data product** for data-supported decision making, please contact us via [data@timeshighereducation.com](mailto:data@timeshighereducation.com).

If you want to know more about **THE's consultancy service** for strategic planning, please contact [consultancy@timeshighereducation.com](mailto:consultancy@timeshighereducation.com)

# Other THE Rankings



Times Higher Education  
**Impact Rankings**

The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings are the only global performance tables that assess universities against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To participate in next year's **Impact Rankings**, please email us: [Impact@timeshighereducation.com](mailto:Impact@timeshighereducation.com) or [fill a form](#) and we will get in touch.

**Interdisciplinary Science  
Rankings**  
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 **SCHMIDT  
SCIENCE FELLOWS**

Responding to the view that the world's pressing problems can be solved only with insights from a range of scholarly fields, THE and Schmidt Science Fellows said a ranking would seek to improve scientific excellence and collaboration among universities, aiming to provide institutions with benchmarking data and rewarding campuses that incentivise cross-disciplinary work.

Participate in the ranking [here](#).



A new global online learning ranking will be launched by Times Higher Education (THE) in 2024 which will benchmark the successes and challenges of online learning for the very first time.

A key part of the ranking will be the student survey where universities' current students are asked for their assessment of various teaching and engagement measures through an online form.

The data collection portal for the Online Learning Rankings will be open from April to June 2024 and the ranking will come out in December 2024.

To participate in the ranking and find out more [here](#).