THE World University Rankings 2024 Masterclasses
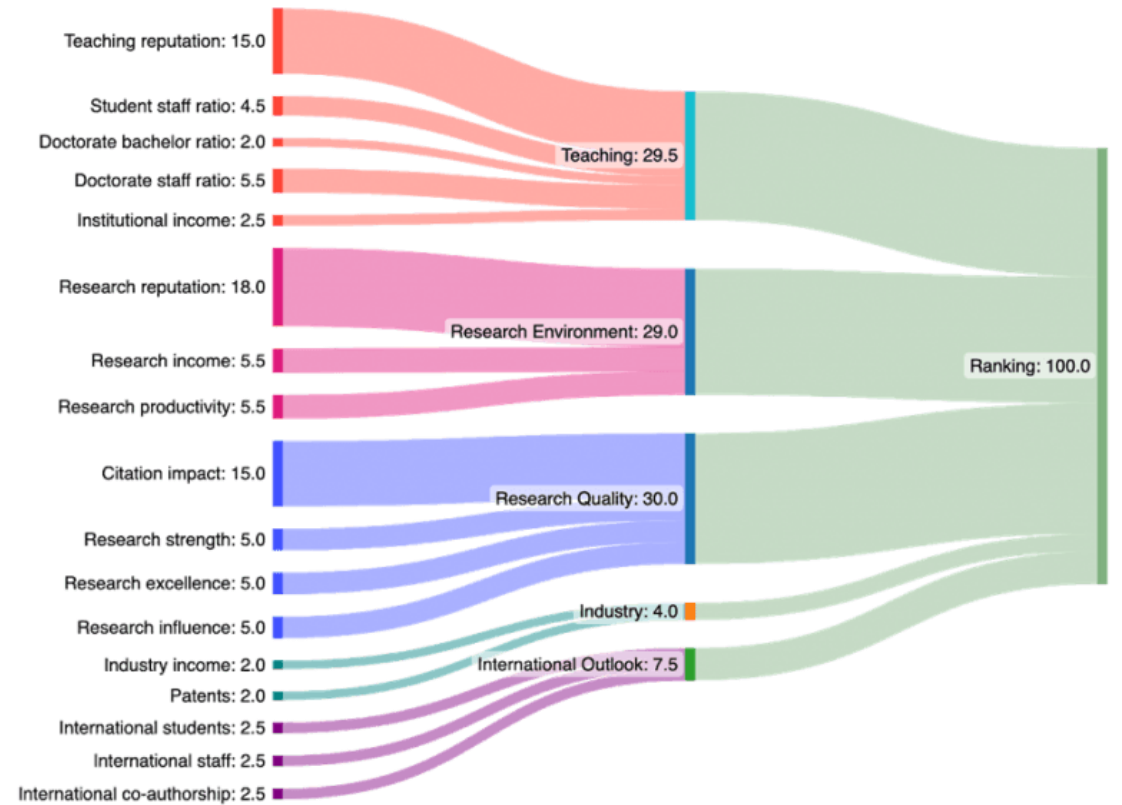
Q&A Summary

APAC, Japan & Mainland China

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.

Sankey diagram showing the WUR methodology indicators and their weightings:

- Teaching reputation: 15.0
- Student staff ratio: 4.5
- Doctorate bachelor ratio: 2.0
- Doctorate staff ratio: 5.5
- Institutional income: 2.5
- → Teaching: 29.5
- Research reputation: 18.0
- Research income: 5.5
- Research productivity: 5.5
- → Research Environment: 29.0
- Citation impact: 15.0
- Research strength: 5.0
- Research excellence: 5.0
- Research influence: 5.0
- → Research Quality: 30.0
- Industry income: 2.0
- Patents: 2.0
- → Industry: 4.0
- International students: 2.5
- International staff: 2.5
- International co-authorship: 2.5
- → International Outlook: 7.5
- → Ranking: 100.0

Q&A – Academic Reputation Survey

Q: What are the key questions that drive the teaching reputation and research reputation surveys for academics?
A: Two main questions are asked: "Please choose up to 15 institutions in the world that you regard as producing the best research within your subject area." The same question is asked for teaching.

Q: How THE collect a respondents for reputation survey? and how to make sure that survey run fairly and properly?
A: We only select academics who have actively published in the last few years and have at least one citation in an academic paper. We don't have a nomination system where voters can invite others to take part. The academics are selected from our in-house academic contact database, which has 3.4m verified academic contacts. We send several reminders across the 3-month period during which the survey is being run. When constructing the rankings, we weight the votes to reflect the distribution of scholars across the world. To do this we use publicly available data from UNESCO. These weightings are applied in the final analysis such that votes received from areas with low response rates are not unfairly penalised.

Q&A – Academic Reputation Survey

Q: How do you determine participants in the reputation survey?
A: We only select academics who have actively published in the last few years and have at least one citation in an academic paper.

Q: How long the responses in the surveys are used in the rankings, for example, for one, two or three years?
A: For the World University Rankings, we use two years' worth of survey data. For the World University Rankings 2024, we used the data from the survey running from November 2022 to January 2023, as well as the data from the survey running from November 2021. The 2023 data is combined with the results of the 2022 survey, giving over 900,000 votes to universities, with votes coming from more than 68,000 cited academics.

Q: As a follow-up, will THE consider publishing the affiliations and countries of the respondents for the survey in the interests of transparency?
A: There are some data privacy concerns around this. We have worked with our Data Protection Officer to ensure that all personal data is compliant with GDPR. We have conducted a Data Privacy Impact Assessment, and our legal basis for processing is based upon Legitimate Interest; we have successfully conducted a Legitimate Interest Assessment (LIA). Our privacy notice includes information to reflect this. We have a regular process that removes all contacts that have made a GDPR delete requests from the academic contact database; however very few GDPR requests are as a result of our survey invites.

Q&A – Academic Reputation Survey

Q: It would be better if the voters are not allowed to vote for their own university, because if you are good, it will come out in the survey.

A: Self-voting is allowed as it may be legitimate. However, to prevent any undue influence, this year we introduced a self-voting cap. This reduces the self-vote share to 10% of the total votes for any given university. Self-votes are still allowed and are included, but are weighted down in much the same way as we apply country and subject weightings. The majority of ranked institutions are unaffected by this adjustment.

Q: Do the teaching reputation and research reputation metrics count only the very year's survey result or are they the result of two years (2022 & 2023) combined?

A: For the World University Rankings, we use two years' worth of survey data. For the World University Rankings 2024, we used the data from the survey running from November 2022 to January 2023, as well as the data from the survey running from November 2021. The 2023 data is combined with the results of the 2022 survey, giving over 900,000 votes to universities, with votes coming from more than 68,000 cited academics

Q&A – Bibliometrics

Q: How do you make up with open access papers citation and that of closed access ones?
A: Our bibliometric partner indexes both closed access and open access academic publications

Q: Do self-citations count?
A: Yes, we include self-citations.

Q: As we're trying to understand our inputs counted towards Research Quality - more specifically Citations contribute to half of the Research Quality input – would the data on Elsevier SciVal be the closest to accurate source of reference for us to check in?
A: Elsevier's SciVal THE Ranking module presents the underlying patents and citations data on the bibliometrics indicators used in the rankings. THE DataPoints presents through the THE WUR Dashboard Overview a breakdown of scores and values on the data points for the 3 data sources used by THE in the rankings: portal data, academic reputation data and bibliometrics.

Q: Why do you depend specifically only on Scopus as source of bibliometric for the ranking? Would other bibliometric sources differ, if used?
A: We look at publications in journals indexed in the Scopus database as our bibliometrics partner is Elsevier. Results may differ slightly as the journal coverage may be slightly different between Web of Science and Scopus.

Q&A – Bibliometrics

Q: Some journals are listed across different subject categories in Elsevier. Are publications in these cross-disciplinal journals "counted" multiple times, as well? Wouldn't the FWCI of the publication vary depending on the specific discipline referenced?
A: Articles in general science journals such as Nature and Science, that only have Scopus ASJC code '1000'= 'General', do indeed get reclassified at the article level. They get assigned new ASJC codes, i.e. other than '1000', by looking at a combination of the most frequently occuring ASJCs assigned to journals of each of the references in the article (insofar they are indexed in Scopus), as well as those of the citing articles in Scopus. These article-assigned ASJC codes are then used for the FWCI calculation.

Q: Does THE also consider cases of publication retractions in your metric?
A: Retracted articles (marked 'tb' in Scopus are not considered). Only five types of publications are considered: articles (ar), conference papers (cp), books (bk), book chapters (ch), reviews (re).

Q: Are we limited to publishing only to Scopus? So that university publications can be counted in the rankings?
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: I was wondering if the value of new metrics would be available in SciVal.
A: The THE Ranking module in SciVal has been accessible since mid-October 2023, and presents underlying data for the following metrics: Citation Impact, Research Strength, Research Excellence, Research Influence, and Patents.

Q&A - Citation Impact

Q: In WUR3.0, Citation Impact metric remained. Does still the tweaks (Kilo-author papers, Count normalization) remain?
A: The adjustments to the Citation Impact metric remain (kilo-authored paper fractional counting, country normalisation). However, they are not used in the new Research Quality metrics.

Q&A – Data

Q: Is there a Germany vs the World metrics comparison?

A: Please see Slide 31 of the Europe Masterclass at https://www.timeshighereducation.com/sites/default/files/wur_2024_mc_europe.pdf

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Q&A – Data Points

Q: For the purpose of a doctoral research project that I am exploring, I am keen to know if it is possible to access the raw dataset or metric-wise datasets. Thanks
A: If you are interested in the underlying data, please go to https://www.timeshighereducation.com/our-solutions/data-and-insights/world-university-rankings-dashboard

Q: Where may I find subscription fee and related details?
A: If you are interested in the underlying data, please go to https://www.timeshighereducation.com/our-solutions/data-and-insights/world-university-rankings-dashboard

Q: How can we analyse whether new methodology is in our favour or not?
A: Through your WUR Dashboard Overview you can see how your institution is performing in the new metrics. More data and insights are available a https://www.timeshighereducation.com/our-solutions/data-and-insights/world-university-rankings-dashboard.

Q: Does THE provide summarized feedback for submissions and results of any ranking given to the university submitting?
A: On DataPoints you can have access to your WUR Dashboard Overview, which provides a summary of your ranking performance through your metric scores and values.

Q&A – Data Points

Q: How do you define research staff? Do you count casual staffs or full/part time employments only?
A: Research staff is defined as the full-time equivalent number of staff employed to do research only. (This is mutually exclusive to academic staff). These are usually contracted for a specific research project and not permanently attached to the institution. This will include researchers, research fellows and postdoctoral researchers.

Q&A – Definitions

Q: How do you define research staff? Do you count casual staffs or full/part time employments only?
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Q&A – Eligibility criteria

Q: How if the university has 1000 publication over the years, but NOT more than 150 publications per year? is the University still eligible to participate to THE WUR?
A: A university needs to have at least 1,000 publications in the past five years, AND at least 150 publications in each of these years.

Q: I would like to ask if my University solely mandated to train teachers is a best fit and will duly settle in a too rank per your metrics.
A: If your institution is uniquely providing

Q&A – Financial data

Q: Do you have any methodology to consider resources and funding in relation to results, impact, etc.?
A: Three of our World University Rankings indicators are based on financial data and assesses how well funded the university is in several aspects: institutional income, research income and research income from industry and commerce.

Q: How do you normalised the income currency?
A: Financial income data from institutions has a varying purchasing power depending on the economy of the country in which it is spent, so we apply a purchasing power parity index to try to control for this fact, and to allow for easy cross-country comparisons. We use the World Bank Purchase Power Parity (PPP) dataset [http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/PA.NUS.PPP], which is used to convert the local currency to common-PPP-scaled USD. Where data for a country doesn't exist in the World Bank database, a dataset from the IMF https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WEO/weo-database/2022/April or UN data is used http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?d=WDI&f=Indicator_Code%3APA.NUS.PPP.

Q&A – FWCI

Q: Concerning on FWCI, how many years for same type, same year..etc calculated? 3 or 5 years?
A: We always look at the latest 5-year period for the bibliometrics. For the World University Rankings 2024 published in September 2023, we looked at the 2018-2022 period. For the next WUR 2025 (to be published in October 2024), we will look at the 2019-2023 period. To calculate the Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI), we always look at the same type of publication, in the same year and in the same discipline. So for instance, we will look at a journal article published in 2020 in artificial intelligence and see how it compares to all the journal articles published in 2020 in artificial intelligence.

Q: Please explain FWCI little more
A: FWCI is designed to reflect the quality of the total academic output from a university. To do this it uses a measure of the average number of citations that a publication from a university receives. In a nutshell (and to simplify things as there are a number of normalisations happening) a FWCI of 1 means that the output performs just as expected against the global average. More than 1 means that the output is more cited than expected according to the global average; for example, 1.48 means 48% more cited than expected.

Q&A – Gender equality

Q: Is THE thinking of coming up with a ranking specific for gender-specific Universities. Like an all-women University established in some countries is based on the Requirement of addressing the socio-cultural constraints, and such Universities have specific challenges not applicable to the co-ed universities. If the Efforts of these Universities are reflected in a separate category it can be motivating for the Universities and provide guidance to the prospective students who are looking for a women university in a country or globally.

A: We do assess gender equality in one of the SDGs ranked in the Impact Rankings:
https://www.timeshighereducation.com/rankings/impact/2023/gender-equality

Q&A – Impact Ranking

Q: If I excel in four Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), will the performance in the remaining SDGs also impact my overall final result?
A: No. We pick the 3 best performing SDGs plus SDG 17 in the calculation of the overall score. The score in other SDGs do not affect the overall score

Q: What about community service in metrics?
A: The Impact Rankings assesses community services in several of its metrics. Please see the link to the methodology for SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities (https://www.timeshighereducation.com/impact-rankings-2023-sustainable-cities-and-communities-sdg-11-methodology).

Q: Given the significance of the THE analysis, have you given any thought to incorporating measures of equity and diversity?
A: We see the THE Rankings portfolio as complementary tools to encompass. The Impact Rankings offers several measures around equity and diversity.

Q&A – Interdisciplinary

Q: How does interdisciplinary collaboration in the research landscape contribute to THE ranking? How is this measured?

A: Currently WUR does not explicitly measure interdisciplinary collaboration. However, we know that Interdisciplinary research often has a wider potential audience and can attract more citation. This can potentially lead to higher reputation. Going ahead we will launch a new Interdisciplinary Science Ranking specifically to measure this area

Q&A – International

Q: Does having international branches for universities, or approved international programs that are taught in other universities; raise the international weighted score?

A: Not necessarily, as the 'international' element when calculating international staff and students at the overseas campus, needs to be considered based on the nationality of the overseas campus, and not of the main university.

Q&A – International Outlook

Q: This year, there's normalization by population for Intl Outlook criteria to allow because it is presumably "easier" for staff and students in small countries to work or study abroad. But there can be very big disparities between country populations, which can lead to be large differences in the correction factor even after log(population). Will there be further corrections to this? One issue is that big countries can attract many international students and staff, such as top universities in USA. In contrast, it might be easier for people to leave small countries to get opportunities elsewhere, but harder to attract international students and faculty. Small countries have to work harder to attract

A: The decision to apply a log(population) adjustment factor was made after modelling different options and examining the results. However, we continue to have an open dialogue with the HE community and are keen to hear any suggestion that can further improve it

Q&A – Language bias

Q: How are the non-English language teaching and research being evaluated and represented in the ranking? What resources were being collected on that perspective?

A: Our Academic Reputation Survey is translated in 12 languages and we email academics around the globe. The Portal data that universities submit themselves is independent from any language challenge. For the Bibliometrics aspect, Scopus accepts local content, but they need English abstracts and titles to make the search engine work.

Q&A – Methodology

Q: Would it be technically fair to do comparison THE WUR with QS ranking?
A: There are some key differences between THE and QS WUR. We believe citations is too simplistic a measure which is why we utilise FWCI and calculate 4 metrics to represent different aspects of citations. Also, our reputation survey is bigger and independent of universities undue influence. We have a presentation available on our differences.

Q: How are you helping the UG students in particular whose demands and expectations may not be same as those for the PG students since your ranking is very comprehensive?
A: We do include metrics around the Learning environment, teaching reputation, how well teaching is funded, student to staff ratio which is a proxy for teaching commitment. Our doctorates awarded metrics also assess whether the university progresses its students to the higher degree (according to the Humboldtian ideal of research-influenced teaching). Additionally, our research quality and international outlook measures are also interesting for any students, and reflective of the quality and attractivity of the university.

Q: Is the ranking more in favour of research intensive universities than small liberal art ones?
A: The World University Rankings are a research-focused ranking. Several metrics assess research quality so a substantial amount of research output is preferable for a more relevant evaluation - this is why we have our 1,000 publication threshold criteria in place.

Q&A – Methodology

Q: Is it a continuous assessment process every year or once in three or five years?
A: We assess and review the rankings methodology on a continual basis, especially through our quarterly meetings with the THE WUR Advisory Board. However, main methodology changes should not happen too often, in order to allow continuity and year on year comparison.

Q: What are the harmful effect of WUR on the overall development of universities which focus on quantitative criteria and looking for numbers?
A: We believe the THE World University Rankings are a useful tool, amongst other available tools, to assess universities' performance and quality. At such a global scale (we rank 1,904 universities from 108 countries and regions)

Q: On what basis do you rank these universities and how does one university rise to the rank?
A: Please see our detailed methodology at https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/world-university-rankings-2024-methodology

Q: Why is the minimum requirement for publication is 1000? as it might be difficult for small size universities.
A: The World University Rankings are a research-focused ranking. Several metrics assess research quality so a substantial amount of research output is preferable for a more relevant evaluation - this is why we have our 1,000 publication threshold criteria in place.

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Q&A - Patents

Q: May I confirm on Patents definition? is it the total number of publications that are cited by patents or the count of patents citing an institution's published research? I found this confusing in your methodology file at page 5 and 13.
A: The patents metric measures the number of patents citing your university's research publications, not the number of publications citing your patents.

Q&A – Participation rules

Q: Can a university be ranked without actively participating in the ranking?
A: In order to rank a university, we currently request a university to actively take part in our ranking data collection by providing and signing off data to us. The only current exception is for the UK universities, for which we get data directly from HESA (Higher Education Statistics Agency). We may be exploring different data acquisition processes and participation rules in the future, with always the view of keeping the rankings most relevant and representative.

Q: Is there have any other methods or procedures for Engineering University or same?
A: The eligibility criteria are the same for all universities. Currently, an institution needs to meet the World University Rankings eligibility criteria in order to rank in the Subject Rankings.

Q: Any measure on the impact of the University on the national economies?
A: The extent to which universities are supporting their national economies through technology transfer is an area that deserves greater recognition. We have introduced the new Patents metric. It directly measures research output, specifically how much an institution's research is cited by patents.

Q: Can we provide information about department instead of university data.
A: Our rankings assess the quality of an institution, not a department.

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Q&A – Regional query

Q: Trying to understand the big drop for many Australian Universities - the reason that keeps coming up in the conversations is due to THE changing the data source used to calculate the weighting for teaching and research reputation votes based on country of origin, which reduced the weight of Australian votes. Can you please explain if this is true and provide links to resources for our further understanding?

A: THE uses the UNESCO database to deciding the country weighting and ensure that the survey results are globally representative. In previous years UNESCO did not provide the relevant data for Australia. Therefore, THE did not apply an adjustment for reputation votes coming from Australia. This year Australia was included in the UNESCO data. We applied the weighting calculation and votes from Australia are down-weighted as a result. The raw data from UNESCO can be access here - http://data.uis.unesco.org/

Q: Hello Duncan, do you have an analysis of the impact of the change of methodology for the Australian universities? I noticed that some of our top universities dropped and some of the smaller, regional-based universities benefited.?

A: Overall there was very little movement for Australian universities, but as you have identified where changes occurred they typically were slightly negative for the top Australian universities. In part this reflects some of the external changes taking place in Australia: the challenges around funding, for example. It is certainly the case that in an ever more competitive part of the ranking, Australian universities are struggling to keep up with universities from other countries.

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Q&A – Regional query

Q: Why the South Asian Universities could not rank the higher position? What are the lacking of those universities you think?
A: The metrics that carry most weights in WUR are teaching and research reputation, and the ones in research quality. Reputation often takes many years to build and many universities in South Asia are much younger than their global peers. However, we have also seen young universities in East Asia rising rapidly in the rankings so it is possible for young universities to achieve global recognition. The main factors that seem to drive their success are their collaboration networks, research quality and their ability to bring their message to the global audience

Q: Do you have specific data on Indonesia? What are the biggest challenges for Indonesia universities?
A: 24 Indonesian universities were ranked this year, up from 18 last year. The Industry pillar score has been declining in the past 5 years compared to the world average. Other pillars are stable or timidly increasing. Indonesia performs well in the income metrics and in reputation, however, it lags in several metrics, especially in the Research Quality category.

Q: I wish to find out if your recommendations from your metrics are grasped by some African Universities.
A: We have produced a specific Masterclass for African universities. Please see
https://www.timeshighereducation.com/sites/default/files/wur_2024_mc_africa.pdf

Q: Does THE have different policies for universities participating from developing countries?
A: The submission rules are the same for all universities.

Q&A - Regional query

Q: 119 Japanese universities made it into the ranking, ranking second in terms of number of rankings by country. On the other hand, 80% are below 1001. Why are there so many Japanese universities ranked in the rankings (119 universities)?
A: Japan is a populous country with a strong higher education system, and many universities are producing research, therefore meeting the THE World University Rankings criteria.

Q: If there would be one thing in Japanese Universities that you could change for improving the overall level, what would it be?
A: There is no simple answer to this, it would merit deep analysis in conjunction with the Japanese Ministry of Education to make recommendations to align with their strategy

Q: What is the main reason the avarage of the student staff ratio in Japan was much higer than the global average?
A: One of the possible reasons is that Japan has a large proportion of medical schools, where the student to staff ratio is traditionally better.

Q: Also, in Research Strength metric (75-percentile FWCI), do the tweaks remain? In Research Excellence metric (Top10%), are kilo-author papers excluded?
A: The introduction of the new metrics have allowed us to discard the adjustments that we had needed to add to the Citation Impact indicator. Therefore, we can confirm that the coutry normalisation or the kilo-authored paper fractional counting is not used in any of the new Research Quality metrics.

Q&A – Regions

Q: Where does the Central Asian Data fit in regional groupings?

A: Central Asia is usually included within the 'Asia' region. Please see our Asia University Rankings 2023:
https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2023/regional-ranking

Q&A – Reporter status

Q: This is the second year my university has submitted data for rankings. Is it possible to get a report on why we were not ranked despite submitting data?

A: Please email rankings@timeshighereducation.com so we can assist you regarding the reasons why you did not rank, and possible performance analysis.

Q&A – Research influence

Q: Research quality the parameter you have introduced is more ambiguous compares Composite score of Stanford.
A: There are a variety of different bibliometric measures that can be chosen to explore university performance. We think our new Research Influence metric is mathematically robust, and provides significant new insights into overall university performance. In contrast the Stanford Composite approach is complex and challenging to explain, and has been designed to identify the performance of individual scientists rather than universities.

Q: Your concept of Research quality /Research Influence appears to be more complex and more ambiguous compared to what has been already evolved by Stanford affiliates.
A: There are a variety of different bibliometric measures that can be chosen to explore university performance. We think our new Research Influence metric is mathematically robust, and provides significant new insights into overall university performance. In contrast the Stanford Composite approach is complex and challenging to explain, and has been designed to identify the performance of individual scientists rather than universities.

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Q&A – Research influence

Q: Could you explain how to measure research influence?
A: Research influence helps us understand when research is recognised in turn by the most influential research in the world – a broader look at excellence. The idea behind the metric is that the value of citations is not equal: a citation from an important paper is more significant than a citation from an unimportant one. We use an iterative method to measure the importance of a paper by not only counting the number of citations but also taking into account the importance of the citing papers. We also consider the subject of the research, as different disciplines have different citation patterns.

Q: Concerning Research quality, I feel it is more appropriate to use Composite citation score used in the Stanford Ranking of Word Top 100,000 scientists
A: There are a variety of different bibliometric measures that can be chosen to explore university performance. We think our new Resrearch Influence metric is mathematically robust, and provides significant new insights into overall university performance. In contrast the Stanford Composite approach is complex and challenging to explain, and has been designed to identify the performance of individual scientists rather than universities.

Q&A – Research influence

Q: A question regarding eligible papers that will count towards the research metric - are all papers screened and included for eligibility including those in subjects that do not meet the publication threshold for individual subjects?
A: All publications that match our requirements are considered. This means that for the overall World University Rankings, we consider all publications from any subjects. Even if you end up not meeting the publication threshold for a given subject - we do not remove the papers from this subject when calculating the bibliometrics indicators for the overall World University Rankings.

Q&A –Research strength

Q: How has the research strength impacted the score?
A: Research strength accounts for 5% of the overall score used to calculate the rank

Q: Can you please give an exact calculation of Research Excellence and Research Influence metrics? As far as I understand, both metrics are eventually divded by the number of academic and research staff. Is this correct?
A: Both metrics are scaled by the square root of the sum of academic staff and research staff.

Q: Will these methodology changes in THE WUR 3.0 extend to the upcoming Subject Rankings and Asia University Rankings?
A: Absolutely, and the recently published Subject Rankings are already based on the new methodology. Our World University Rankings derivative rankings, are also based on the WUR 3.0 methodology. The weightings will be determined shortly.

Q&A – Specific query

Q: I would like to ask what could be the possible reason for my institute to be ranked among 801-1000 in the released 2024 rankings from 601-800.

A: Please email rankings@timeshighereducation.com so we can assist you regarding your institution's performance analysis.

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Q&A – Student to staff rato

Q: Thanks as always for a great session. Australian scores have always been very low for the student-staff ratio, due in part to the nature and culture of unis in Australia. Given the changing nature of higher education and online expansion, does this metric need reviewing?

A: We are currently exploring a separate ranking that will explore the provision of online degrees.

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Q&A – Studying Abroad

Q: Do you count short term inbound mobility of international students and international cultural exchange programmes at the host university as an contributing factor towards internationalization points?
A: For the students (and therefore international students, which is a subset of the students), we include visiting/exchange students who are studying for programmes that result in credits at your institution (ie, incoming students). So short term inbound mobility or international exchange programmes can only be counted if it results in credits at your institution.

Q: Will raise the weight for study abroad indicator next year?
A: We are currently looking, with the support of the THE WUR Advisory Board, at how and when to incorporate the Studying Abroad metric, and at what weighting.

Q&A – Subjects

Q: How does THE decide on which subjects get ranked (Slide 50)?
A: Our 11 subject areas have been devised with two main conditions in mind: they need to be representative across most universities and distinctive enough, and need to be 'big' enough to be supported by meaningful and relevant data. We have had 11 subject areas since 2018, as consistency is important to allow meaningful year on year comparison.

Q: Can we include two schools in one subject?
A: Please refer to the Subject Mappings available in the THE Data Collection Portal to map your disciplines/faculties to our THE 11 Subjects. In some cases, this may mean that two of your schools/faculties will be incorporated into one THE subject.

Q: Our department is Real Estate and it is no among the list of department provided. Can department of real estate included in the list instead of listing our department under business and economics department?
A: The Real Estate discipline is currently assigned under the 'Business and Economics' subject area. There are many reasons why we continue to have our 11 broad subject areas; first, we are trying to keep a continuity for better year on year comparison (adding new subjects would mean breaking down previous subjects into smaller subjects). Second, we do need to have subjects that are big and robust enough in terms of data, to sustain such a detailed assessment and in order to give meaningful results. We would need to collect data around staff, students, income and degrees, across all universities. That takes us to the third point: ideally it needs to be a discipline that many universities across the world offer, if it's too niche a subject, the population of universities offering the subject will be small, and a ranking would not be very relevant.

Q&A – Subjects

Q: If we get into Arts and Humanities for ranking....what would be the requirement for publication if there are only exhibitions ?
A: For the Arts and Humanities ranking, the publication threshold is only set to 250 papers in this discipline. Within the subject rankings, the overall methodology is carefully recalibrated by subject, with the weightings changed to best suit the individual fields. In particular, those given to the research indicators have been altered to fit more closely the research culture in each subject, reflecting different publication habits: in arts and humanities, for instance, where the range of outputs extends well beyond peer-reviewed journals, we give less weight to paper citations.

Q: If Real Estate could be in the subject list, it would be great. Thanks?
A: The Real Estate discipline is currently assigned under the 'Business and Economics' subject area. There are many reasons why we continue to have our 11 broad subject areas; first, we are trying to keep a continuity for better year on year comparison (adding new subjects would mean breaking down previous subjects into smaller subjects). Second, we do need to have subjects that are big and robust enough in terms of data, to sustain such a detailed assessment and in order to give meaningful results. We would need to collect data around staff, students, income and degrees, across all universities. That takes us to the third point: ideally it needs to be a discipline that many universities across the world offer, if it's too niche a subject, the population of universities offering the subject will be small, and a ranking would not be very relevant.

Q&A – Submission query

Q: Where error has been made on the final submission, can we send for a retract and then we re-submitted?
A: There are rules around our Corrections policy. See https://www.timeshighereducation.com/times-higher-education-world-university-rankings-corrections-policy. For any appeals for corrections, please email rankings@timeshighereducation.com and we will review your claim.

Q: Do you provide services for HEIs that would like to participate in THE WUR and THE Impact Rankings? Many thanks.
A: Please email profilerankings@timeshighereducation.com (for the World University Rankings) and impact@timeshighereducation.com (for Impact), and our team will provide you guidance on how to submit data to these rankings

Q: If we want to take a part at THE ranking section then is it enough to send an email via profileranking@timeshighereducation.com? Is there any specific subject that must be written?
A: Please email profilerankings@timeshighereducation.com (for the World University Rankings) and impact@timeshighereducation.com (for Impact), and our team will provide you guidance on how to submit data to these rankings.

Q&A – Teaching

Q: Recently, I spoke on the transformational potential of (continual) assessment, where mutual feedback between student, instructor and institution must be conducted, literally, for each class of each course, using a sampling method. It worked for us. Regulatory compliance seems to be the central anxiety among institutions, and as it occupies much of the time, space and mind space among educators, can we ever get out of cookie-cutter products? I'd like to understand whether and how the methodology of university rankings, presumably a numerically daunting exercise, might measure the quality of student learning, beyond the number of research publications and self-reported claims.

A: Teaching quality is notoriously difficult to measure, especially across countries and cultures. Student satisfaction surveys are very costly to run at a global scale, and cultural differences in answering questions are difficult to normalise. Our Teaching pillar, which assesses the Learning environment, includes different indicators - student to staff ratio is a proxy for teaching commitment, institutional income looks at how well teaching is funded overall, the doctorates awarded metrics looks at how good the university is at producing the next generation of researchers, and supposes that research-influenced teaching is a must, teaching reputation finally assesses the quality of graduates from the university.

Q&A – Validation

Q: How THE is dealing with issues of validity and credibility of data?
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: There is strong need to verify the data submitted by Institutions since it carries weightage of 29%.
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.

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Q&A - WUR 3.0 change (citation impact)

Q: In last year's Oct Masterclass, it was mentioned that the old average FWCI would be completely replaced by the 3 new citation metrics. What is the reason that average FWCI has been retained at a large 15% weight and are there plans to phase it out completely in future rankings (eg. THE 2025)? thanks

A: THE listens carefully to feedback from universities and our Advisory Board. Retaining Citation Impact at a lower weighting (halved) provides critical continuity, as the indicator has been in use since 2009 and reduces year-on-year volatility, a major concern for universities. As the ranking will be published in September this notification gives institutions time to prepare for the publication of the ranking.

Q: The initial methodology announced at end of 2023 for Research Quality was Research Strength, Research Excellence and Research Influence weighted at 10% each. Why was there a sudden change to retain the previous Citation Impact at 15% and adjustment of the new 3 metrics at 5% each?

A: THE listens carefully to feedback from universities and our Advisory Board. Retaining Citation Impact at a lower weighting (halved) provides critical continuity, as the indicator has been in use since 2009 and reduces year-on-year volatility, a major concern for universities. As the ranking will be published in September this notification gives institutions time to prepare for the publication of the ranking.

Q&A - WUR 3.0 change (citation impact)

Q: Do you expect to see the mean FWCI (Citation Impact) being phased out in time?
A: We will keep this under constant review, with reference to our Advisory Board, but we do not envisage at this point any significant change in the next two to three years.

Q: In the seminar on the revised research quality metrics, FWCI was supposed to be removed and replaced by the new research quality metrics. Why is still included among the current metrics?
A: THE listens carefully to feedback from universities and our Advisory Board. Retaining Citation Impact at a lower weighting (halved) provides critical continuity, as the indicator has been in use since 2009 and reduces year-on-year volatility, a major concern for universities. As the ranking will be published in September this notification gives institutions time to prepare for the publication of the ranking.

Q&A - WUR derivatives

Q: Will we expect different methodology and weightings for THE Asia University Rankings 2024 and THE Young University Rankings 2024?

A: Our World University Rankings derivative rankings, are also based on the WUR 3.0 methodology. The weightings will be determined shortly.

Contact us

To participate in next year's **World University Rankings**, please email us: 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.

If you want to know more about **THE's consultancy service** for strategic planning, please contact 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 or fill a form and we will get in touch.

Interdisciplinary Science Rankings Powered by THE — In association with 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.

THE Online Learning Rankings 2024

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.

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