



**World
University
Rankings 2024**



THE World University Rankings 2024 Masterclasses

Q&A Summary

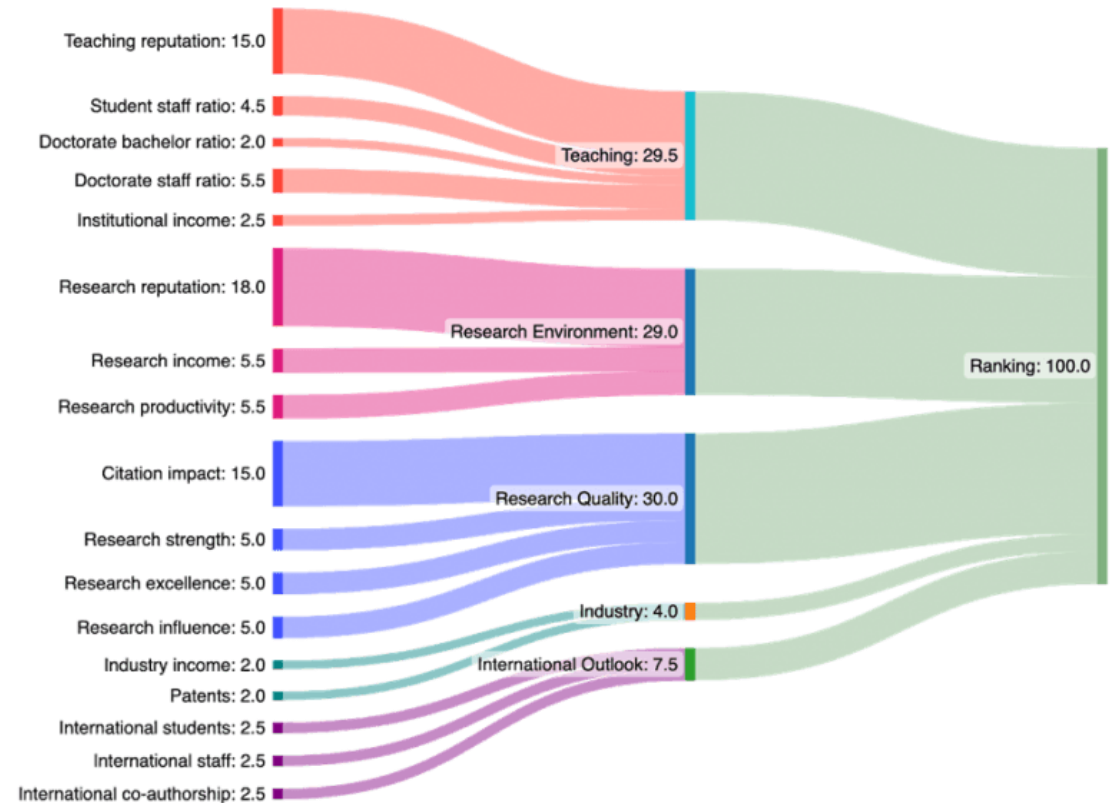
Europe

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 – Academic Reputation Surveys

Q: Does universities have to do something to increase their reputation? Who sends the surveys and to whom?

A: THE is responsible for sending the survey. Invitees are cited academics based at universities and research institutions across the world. They are published scholars whose papers have received citations in academic journals. These academics come from our in-house academic contact database, which has 3.4m verified academic contacts. We run regular verification of these contacts; we won't send to an email that hasn't been verified in the last 6 months. The academics information was gathered from publicly available academic papers.

Q: How is the sample of the survey for teaching reputation and research reputation chosen? Do you ask researchers from each university which is participating in the WUR?

A: Not necessarily. We only select academics who have actively published in the last few years and have at least one citation in an academic paper. The academics are selected from our in-house academic contact database, which has 3.4m verified academic contacts. If your staff are selected to take part in the survey then they have been chosen based on a proven record of research publication and will be representing peers from both their discipline and country. Please urge them to take the opportunity to provide their expert input and help us develop a uniquely rich perspective on global higher education.

Q&A – Academic Reputation Surveys

Q: Why do you allocate such a big weight on reputation? How can a small university be considered in a small number of universities indicated by survey responders? A lot of universities take 0 by default in reputation indicators. I would suggest to increase the number of institutions a responder can indicate in reputation surveys and decrease the weights in reputation KPIs. Also, an important aspect is alumni success in labor market which should be considered in a way.

A: We have allocated roughly similar weights to the three data sources that underpin the rankings: Reputation Survey, Portal data, and Bibliometrics. We believe the opinions of scholars around the world matter and give us valuable information on the best universities around the world. However, we also recognise that the reputation data presents a relatively low number of universities with a high number of votes, and a high number of universities with a low number of votes. We have been working on trying to balance this out by introducing new questions about ranking a set number of institutions.

Q&A – Bibliometrics

Q: Good morning! When the detailed bibliometric data for THE World University rankings 2024 is expected at SciVal?

A: The THE Ranking module in SciVal has been accessible since mid-October 2023.

Q: Is it the same, for THE, if the articles are published in q1 ou q4 journals?

A: We do not consider quartiles and top journals, etc. Most of our bibliometrics indicators are based on Field-Weighted Citation Impact, which we consider a very robust measure.

Q&A – DataPoints

Q: Do we have to be subscribers on SciVal to use your system?

A: If you are talking about DataPoints, any ranked university can get credentials to have access to their detailed WUR performance.

Q: I have asked several times to have access to the detailed results for THE and THE Impact, without answers, what should I do? (Ecole Centrale de Lyon, France). I was offered a data analysis tool, but we are not interested in that, we only want the raw results.

A: Please email rankings@timeshighereducation.com and we can assist you getting access to the THE DataPoints platform where you can see your performance details.

Q: What are the conditions for benefiting from the consultancy services?

A: Please email consultancy@timeshighereducation.com to find out more.

Q: Yesterday I inspected in DataPoints number of participating universities and in 2019-2022 there are different numbers than number of universities in your presentation. How is that possible?

A: This may have been a technical issue at the time. We confirm the number of ranked institutions for the last years are as follows: 1,258 in 2019; 1,397 in 2020; 1,526 in 2021; 1,662 in 2022;

A: 1,799 in 2023; and 1,904 in 2024.

Q&A – Impact Rankings

Q: Hello, thank you for the extensive information. If possible, can you please provide a detailed timeline for the impact report?

A: The Impact Data Collection Portal is open from 18 October to 10 November, and the Impact Rankings results will be published in June.

Q: What's about the 17 SDG blcs?

A: Please see our latest Impact Rankings based on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals at <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/impactrankings>

Q&A – Interdisciplinary

Q: When will be available some information on next round of interdisciplinary science data collection?

A: We will email you in November/December regarding the Interdisciplinary Ranking data collection.

Q&A – International

Q: Could you tell us more about country normalisation? Is it used for the other metrics using citations?

A: The country normalisation is only used in the Citation impact indicator. Other bibliometrics measures do not require this adjustment.

Q&A – Methodology

Q: is it possible to recalculate all the results without reputation (just for internal purposes I how to do it?

A: The World University Rankings do include the reputation metrics that constitute 33% of the total weightings. Running a simulation without the reputation metrics would imply removing these and increasing the weights of all the other metrics - we currently do not do that.

Q&A – Patents

Q: Also, still for Patents, when you say "normalised by Staff", are you referring to the "Academic Staff" or "Research Staff", or both (the sum of the two)?

A: We are referring to the square root of the sum of academic staff and research staff.

Q: For patents, do you count the number of citations self-citations included?

A: The patents metric measures the number of patents citing your university's research publications, not the number of publications citing your patents. But it would be possible for an author of a patent to cite its own publication.

Q&A – Patents

Q: Regarding the newly introduced patent metric, could you please provide clarification on the nature of the citations? Specifically, I am interested in whether the citations refer to authors who cite their own patents within their own publications or whether they refer to external authors, not affiliated with our university, who cite our patents in their research?

A: The patents metric measures the number of patents citing your university's research publications, not the number of publications citing your patents. But it would be possible for an author of a patent to cite its own publication.

Q&A – Regional query

Q: Is there also a research done of countries' representation in rankings controlled by their population?

E.G. countries with few habitants and high rankings?

A: Some small countries famously achieve high performance in the rankings - Netherlands, Singapore, Switzerland, etc.

Q&A – Research influence

Q: Does it mean that University X is better ranked than University Y? For the Research Influence metric of course.

A: Please review our slides at <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/content/thes-world-university-rankings-2024-masterclass>

Q&A – Research strength

Q: Hello, In the 'Research Strength' indicator, while you sort the publications of a university by their FWCI, do you start from 0, rank them from lowest to highest, and then refer directly to the FWCI value at the 75th percentile or do you exclude the top 25% and only consider the general FWCI at the 75th percentile?

A: Yes, that is essentially what it is. The 75th percentile is essentially the 'median of the top half of all datapoints'.

Q&A – Specific query

Q: Our university was ranked last time in 2020. It fulfills normally the admission criteria. What could be the reason for not being ranked?

A: Please email rankings@timeshighereducation.com for us to clarify and investigate.

Q&A – Studying Abroad

Q: Will "studying abroad" be given weight in WUR2025? Or will this indicator remain unweighted?

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: When will the WUR Subjects Rankings be released to better understand the scenario?

A: The Subject Rankings were published on 26 October. Please visit
<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/by-subject>

Q&A – Submission query

Q: About next survey, platform will be open from january the 8th to ... ? think you tol it already but missed it/ Sorry for that and for my English. And thanks in advance.

A: The WUR Data Collection Portal will be open from 8 January to 30 March.

Q: Could you repeat the exact dates to apply to these rankings please ?

A: The WUR Data Collection Portal will be open from 8 January to 30 March.

Q&A – WUR 3.0 change (citation impact)

Q: In a January 2023 webinar with Duncan Ross, you presented the 3.0 methodology changes like this: Citations (30 %) was to be replaced by Research quality (30 %), which was supposed to be made up by research strength (10 %), research excellence (10 %) and research influence (10 %). However, in the actual 3.0 methodology used, citations are still used with a 15 % weighting, and the three new metrics at 5 %. What made you change your methodology from the one proposed in January 2023?

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: It was announced that "citation impact" (30%) would be replaced by 3 new metrics of 10% each. In the final version of the WUR3.0, citation impact still counts for 15%. Why has the announced change not been implemented? Will this adjustment 15/5/5/5 continue to apply or will citation impact still be deleted in the future?

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.

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
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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](#).