



**World
University
Rankings 2024**



THE World University Rankings 2024 Masterclasses

Q&A Summary

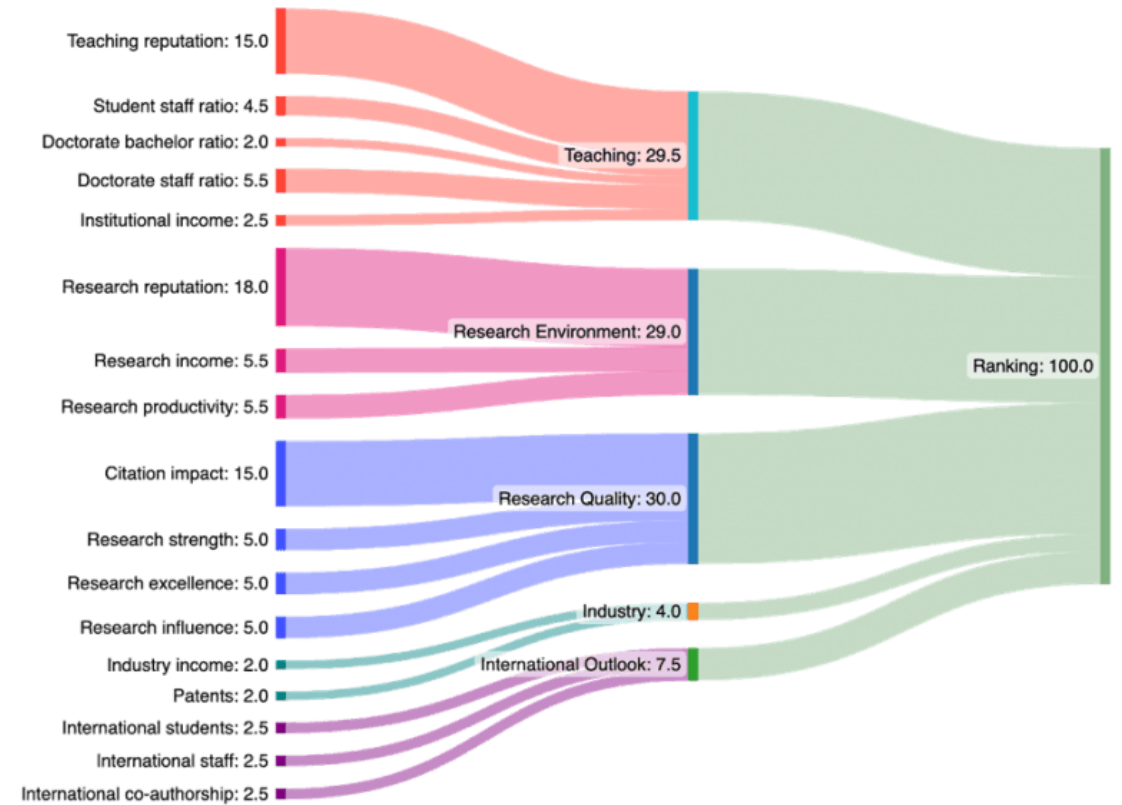
MENA

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 – Methodology & World Academic Reputation Survey

Q: Any plans to use prestigious awards (e.g., Nobel Prize) as a variable/indicator in your rankings?

A: We don't have any plans to use prestigious prizes. We feel such measures tend to favour universities already ranked very highly, and those with huge sums to invest to attract such talent with a view to improving rankings short term.

Q: What are the scales being used to evaluate teaching and research reputations?

A: The teaching reputation score and the research reputation score for a university are the number of mentions they received for the 2022 and 2023 surveys in the global teaching and research sections. Where a university received no votes, they were allocated a zero score. Total reputation score for each university was calculated based on the aggregate of individual respondent data obtained. Where disciplines or countries were over- or under-represented, THE's data team weighted the responses to fully reflect the global distribution of scholars.

Q: Could you please tell me more who can take these surveys and is there a nomination from our side to the academia?

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

Q&A – Methodology & World Academic Reputation Survey

Q: We would like to ask how these reputation surveys are conducted. How can universities contribute to the system to work 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. The academics are selected from our in-house academic contact database, which has 3.4m verified academic contacts. We don't have a nomination system where voters or institutions can nominate others to take part as we are very keen to ensure that survey responses are only completed by active, cited academics. We will at some point look at the merits of asking universities to supply information on their cited academics.

However, universities can encourage their academics to take part in the survey. Academics will receive their invitations from surveys@timeshighereducationemail.com. We would greatly appreciate your help in reminding them to check their inboxes (and spam folders) for this invitation. The invitations will be spread across a 3-month period. In order to ensure that all your invited staff receive the survey invitation, we highly recommend you inform your IT department to whitelist our email address surveys@timeshighereducationemail.com and IP 129.41.76.108.

Q&A – Bibliometrics

Q: For the publication count, do you consider all or only PI, Co-PI authored?

A: We consider all authors, regardless of their status. And we include self-citations.

Q: What about the papers with kilo authors, more than 100 or 500 authors?

A: Kilo-authored papers means papers with at least 1,000 papers. There is a fractional counting applied only for papers over 1,000 authors, in the Citation Impact metric. Other Research Quality metrics do not necessitate to have this adjustment implemented.

Q: What type of publications that could be considered in the criteria of the methodology?

A: We only consider five types of publications: books, book chapters, conference proceedings, article reviews and journal articles. Pre-prints, retracted papers and publications in suspended journals, are not included.

Q&A – Methodology & World Academic Reputation Survey

Q: How do you calculate the research influence of papers written in languages other than English?

A: The title and abstract of a paper need to be available in English as per our partner Elsevier. We are in discussion with them about utilising other languages.

Q: Is the industry criterion about the income of patents sold to industry or more about research collaboration / joint projects? Does it include real estate income for universities?

A: Industry income (shortening for 'research income from industry and commerce') is a subset of 'research income'. Research income is defined as the income received by the university to fund research projects (regardless of the source – can come from governments, charities, private companies). Industry income is a subset of that, as we only consider the research income coming from private companies.

Q: Why do you collect information about university income? How is it used in the indicators?

A: We collect income data at the overall level and subject level directly from the institutions themselves. It is used in three different metrics: institutional income (scaled by the number of academic staff), which measures how well the university is funded; research income (scaled by academic staff), which measures how well research is funded; and industry income, which indicates the success of technology transfer mission.

Q&A – Methodology & World Academic Reputation Survey

Q: From the scores we can infer that some institutions only submitted number of undergrad students but not students at master s or phd programs (for no of FTE students). Is it appropriate? Another confusion about Professors and lecturers working at associate degree programs. They also do research, as we exclude students from associate degrees, should we exclude academics working at those programs?

A: A university not teaching at the undergraduate level will be excluded from the rankings as it is one of the requirements. However, it is fine to not have any Masters or PhD programs.

Q: Are the part-time lecturers included as a number of staff?

A: Part-time staff are included, in full-time equivalent. Instructions on how to calculate full-time equivalent are available in the User Guide.

Q: How do you assure the quality of the data provided by the universities?

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&A – Methodology & World Academic Reputation Survey

Q: We could also observe that only assistants, associate, and full professors are included in number of academics FTE, but not instructors, is it also possible? In methodology we could see contrary statements to this situation.

A: As a guidance, we say that an academic staff member is considered 'long-term' if they have been at the university for around 6 months. This should include permanent staff and staff employed on a long-term contract basis. “Academic staff” pertains to permanent staff and those employed on long-term contracts.

We realise that for all data collected, institutions’ interpretations of our requirements will vary to a degree. The distinction of “permanent staff and those employed on long-term contracts” is there to deter the reporting of temporary, short-term employees. We are aiming for a number that represents the overall, stable size of your academic staff. As a guide, we can indicate that an academic staff member is considered ‘long-term’ if they have been at the university for around 6 months. However, please note this for us is a guidance only. We are looking here for staff who have ‘long-term relationship with the university’. What should not be included are all kinds of atypicals, very casual staff or visiting professors. Non-tenure track professors – such as regular adjunct professors or sessionals – can be included in the academic staff body.

We are looking for a number that represents the overall, stable size of your academic staff, and if they are a distinctive and stable part of the academic staff body, they should be included.

Q&A – Methodology & World Academic Reputation Survey

Q: Could you please provide insights into the slight rationale behind the Times Higher Education's emphasis on research metrics over teaching metrics in university rankings? How do you justify the relative weighting of these factors, and what considerations are taken into account when determining their importance in evaluating 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. We do offer other rankings which look at different missions and aspects of higher education: the learning environment for our Teaching rankings, or Impact in our Impact Rankings.

Q: Any plans to include satellite campuses or start a new ranking for satellite or branch campuses, such as NYU Abu Dhabi and Georgetown University in Qatar?

A: These campuses/universities can technically take part independently in the rankings, as long as they are not included in the parent university's perimeter (to avoid data duplication).

Q&A – Methodology & World Academic Reputation Survey

Q: The focus as I see from this brief is about Citations, research and Patents. In the MENA region R&D budget are really marginal in Educational Budgets across universities (generally speaking) so how you could reflect that? Did you put more weighting for example on Teaching quality or students experience? And if yes, how these been tested?

A: The metrics and the weights are designed to reflect the global education system, and have been discussed and agreed with in multiple forums and with our advisory board.

Q: Can you tell us why is it that 61% of arab universities in the top 800 dropped in rank this year? Did it also happen in other regions or just us? And why?

A: It is very difficult to correctly adjust for all of the differing national conditions. However the changes we have made to the International measures will have the effect of decreasing the impact of situations like this.

Q: Are you calculating Research Influence yourself or is this a measure of Elsevier?

A: Elsevier provides us with the raw data and THE processes and calculates the Research Influence metric.

Q&A – International & Study Abroad

Q: Some countries such as UAE do have 75% expatriate population. That means that most of their "international students" are the offspring of those expatriates, and not actual students that have decided to come to the UAE to study abroad. How is the ranking accounting for that?

A: It is very difficult to correctly adjust for all of the differing national conditions. However the changes we have made to the International measures will have the effect of decreasing the impact of situations like this.

Q: How does study abroad metric is compared to existing metrics of internationalisation?

A: All three of the existing Internationalisation metrics attempt to measure how attractive the university is on the world stage as a place to learn (international students), a place to work (international staff) and to research (international co-authorship). Studying abroad is more an outbound measure, as it assesses the possibility and accessibility for a student at the university to live an overseas experience.

Q&A – Patents

Q: I feel that industry metrics need new qualitative metrics to be introduced in the world ranking because of the patent offices in MENA region are not well represented in the data. Do you agree?

A: Patents are sourced from the World Intellectual Property Organisation, the European Patent Office, and the patent offices of the US, the UK and Japan. However, we are looking into expanding the number of Patent organisations we are looking at, to 107 Patent offices across the world.

Q: Which country patents are eligible for indexing?

A: Patents are sourced from the World Intellectual Property Organisation, the European Patent Office, and the patent offices of the US, the UK and Japan. However, we are looking into expanding the number of Patent organisations we are looking at, to 107 Patent offices across the world.

Q&A – Normalisation & Subjects

Q: How is the normalisation for Research Excellence and Patents metrics performed?

A: We normalise by subject, year, and staff.

Q: The ranking seems to be in favor of large universities as it is the total volume that matters.

A: If you are talking about research publications, the use of FWCI and, more broadly, the fact that we scale most metrics by the number of staff, prevents us from advantaging any larger institutions.

Q: I am unable to find 'Social Sciences' and by 'Arts and Humanities' when I filter by subject (using the link you have shared with us). Any idea how to get the global ranking for both?

A: Please go to the Subject Rankings landing page: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/by-subject>

Q&A – Normalisation & Subjects

Q: Thank you for explaining the FWCI. Is the reason for low outcomes in Social sciences, Law and Arts and Humanities due to publishing in languages other than English?

A: 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.

Accordingly, the weight given to “citations: research influence” is halved from 15% in the overall rankings to just 7.5% for the arts and humanities. More weight is given to other research indicators, including the Academic Reputation Survey. For social sciences and law, where there is also less faith in the strength of citations alone as an indicator of research excellence, the measure’s weighting is reduced to 12.4%. It is also reduced for education, engineering and computer science to 13.7%. It is also worth noting that for the Bibliometrics aspect, Scopus accepts local content, but they need English abstracts and titles to make the search engine work.

Q&A – Eligibility & Data Submission

Q: How small university establishments (by number of students) can acquire the possibility of ranking. Does any weighting or other exist in the methodology?

A: Our eligibility criteria are around the number of published papers, the necessity to teach at the undergraduate level, and the breadth of subjects. The criteria does not include the size of the institutions (in terms of student numbers). Most of the metrics which necessitate it, are scaled by the number of academic staff (to avoid advantaging the bigger universities).

Q: Please I want to ask about eligibility criteria. It says a university should publish 150 paper in Scopus per year. That is clear but for the last point in the presentation "must not be a subject specialist", our university is specialised in informatics so most of the publications (90%) are in computer science and engineering. So how does it work in this case, how we can participate? Our university is a special case because we don't have other fields of research.

A: Please note it is very rare that a university does not meet this criterion. And this is because there is much interdisciplinarity occurring, which results in most universities having a wider range of subjects than they think.

Q&A – Eligibility & Data Submission

Q: What are the main requirements for a university to be listed in the ranking?

A: Our eligibility criteria are around the number of published papers, the necessity to teach at the undergraduate level, and the breadth of subjects.

Q: Please I want to ask about eligibility criteria. It says a university should publish 150 paper in Scopus per year. That is clear but for the last point in the presentation "must not be a subject specialist", our university is specialised in informatics so most of the publications (90%) are in computer science and engineering. So how does it work in this case, how we can participate? Our university is a special case because we don't have other fields of research.

A: Please note it is very rare that a university does not meet this criterion. And this is because there is much interdisciplinarity occurring, which results in most universities having a wider range of subjects than they think.

Q: When is the last date to submit the data?

A: The Impact Rankings data collection is open from 18 September to 10 November. The World University Rankings is open from 8 January to 30 March.

Q&A –Other Rankings

Q: So they are just 2,600 universities included in the ranking out of an estimated 40,000 plus universities all over the world?

A: We had 2,673 universities submitting data to the World University Rankings, with a total of 1,904 ranked universities. It is worth noting that not all the higher education institutions would be fit for purpose as they may not produce research.

Q: What about gender proportions among the faculty and senior administrators. Are these under consideration?

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>. We currently collect female staff and female students data in the World University Rankings data collection, but do not use them in our metrics. We also invite you to have a look at our gender equality report available at <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/digital-editions/gender-equality-how-global-universities-are-performing-part-2>

Q: To participate in the Impact Rankings, is it a must that we should apply to all the of the UN 17 SDG's?

A: The participation starts from one SDG of your choice. However, if you would like to be in the Overall Impact Rankings you need to submit data for any three SDG plus the mandatory SDG 17.

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**

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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](#).