



**World  
University  
Rankings 2024**



# **THE World University Rankings 2024 Masterclasses**

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**Q&A Summary**

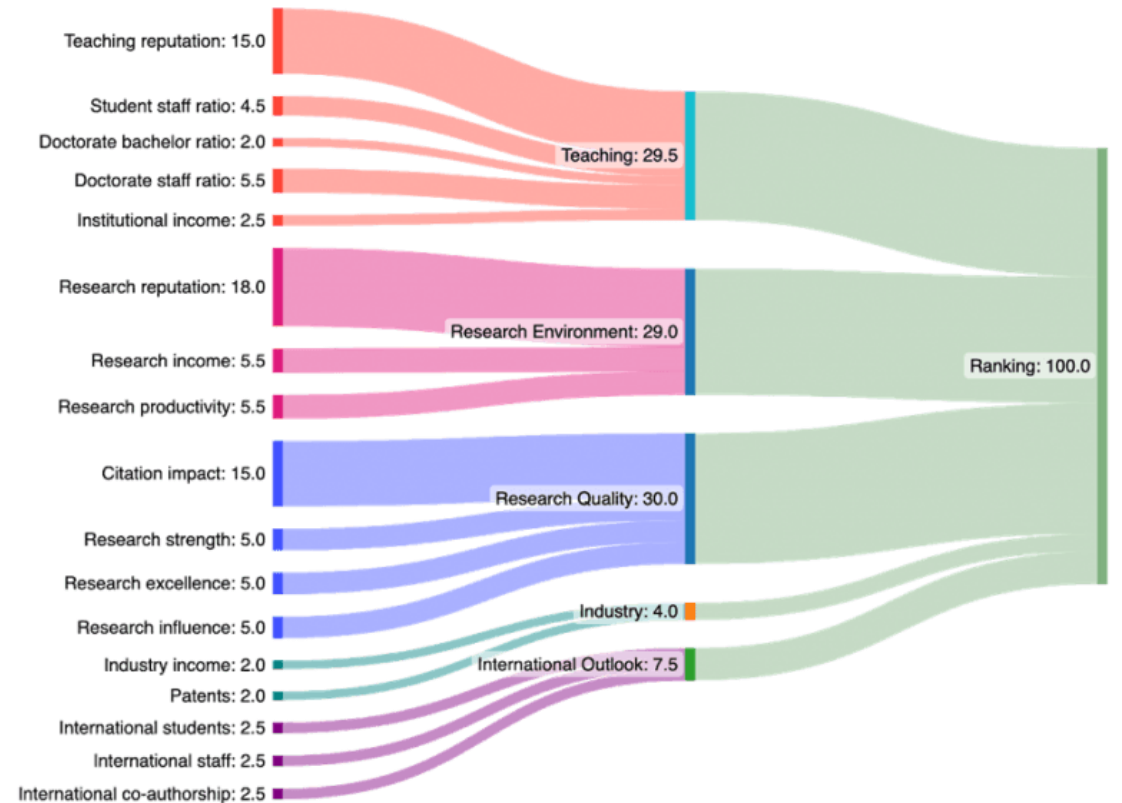
**North America & LatAm**

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

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**Q: Why don't we incorporate years since the university become research intensive or the university age into the formula? The methods are very towards older universities which keep younger universities way down.**

A: We have a separate ranking - the Young University Rankings - that focuses on younger universities. It would not be straightforward to normalise on aspects of university performance such as age and wealth, although it would be interesting.

**Q: How is 'teaching reputation' is measured?**

A: This indicator is based on the Academic Reputation Survey question: "Please choose up to 15 institutions in the world that you regard as producing the best research within your subject area". This metric is the total number of votes obtained from the reputation survey from the last two years. Each year is calculated as the number of global teaching votes from respondents of the reputation survey, weighted by subject and country to be representative of the distribution of academics globally. Only non-zero values will be standardised using a logarithmic function, and universities that received no votes are scored a zero for this metric.

# Q&A – Methodology & World Academic Reputation Survey

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**Q: What is the source of the contacts who receive the reputation survey? THE has said in the past they use an "internal list", so could you please let the audience know the source(s) of your "internal list"? It would help bring some transparency to the WUR and reduce criticisms.**

A: 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: Will there be changes to the methodology in next year's ranking, particularly in data submitted by institutions?**

A: There should not be any major amendments, but any changes in data definitions will be highlighted in the THE World University Rankings User Guide and Portal, in due time.

**Q: Is high number of students always favourable? How does it affect overall ranking?**

A: Not necessarily. The number of students is only used in one metric: Student to staff ratio.

# Q&A – Methodology & World Academic Reputation Survey

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**Q: In the box plots and metric trends, why do you still include a line/bar for citation impact even though "citation impact" is no longer an indicator with any weight.**

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: Originally, Times Higher Education chose to remove the citation metric entirely, replacing it with the three new research metrics, valued at 10% each. Can you please discuss the decision to keep the Citations metric at 15%?**

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# Q&A – Methodology & World Academic Reputation Survey

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**Q: How may you avoid the effect of very high FWCI in its influence to the position of the institutions?**

A: The Research quality pillar accounts for 30% of the ranking. Universities with high scores in the metrics in this pillar will naturally do well in the ranking as it helps their overall score. Our citations metric can be affected by very high FWCI, although the results are normalised. Our research strength metric utilises FWCI at the 75th percentile, so is unaffected by a few papers with very high FWCI. Research Excellence similarly won't be unduly affected by this either.

**Q: Originally, Times Higher Education chose to remove the citation metric entirely, replacing it with the three new research metrics, valued at 10% each. Can you please discuss the decision to keep the Citations metric at 15%?**

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## Q&A – International & Study Abroad

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**Q: Will the adjustment you described that you will make to % of papers with international co-authorship be a help generally speaking to a large country like the U.S. where there is so much intra-country collaboration?**

A: The calculation has changed this year: large countries have been disadvantaged compared to small countries in our international metrics, in that it is “easier” for staff and students in small countries to work or study abroad. This has led us to change our normalisation approach for the three measures in 2023, henceforth taking into consideration the population of a country when evaluating these metrics. The adjustment is part of the new changes brought by the WUR 3.0 methodology.

**Q: In a recent masterclass for Impact, there was a mention that the Impact overall score methodology could be changed depending on the regions institutions are located in. Is this something in the plans for WUR where North American institutions would have a different methodology compared to other worldwide institutions?**

A: No more changes should be brought around this. We are happy with the country normalisation adjustments (around the country population) implemented for the International Outlook metrics.

# Q&A – International & Study Abroad

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**Q: What factors that make more Asian universities ranking rose up significantly for the last decade?**

A: Asia overtook Europe as the most represented continent in 2020. This year Asia extends lead with 737 universities, 73 more than Europe at 664. Asian universities on average have been improving in all metrics including citation impact and reputation.

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A: No more changes should be brought around this. We are happy with the country normalisation adjustments (around the country population) implemented for the International Outlook metrics.

**Q: Will THE be adding % studying abroad as a future metric?**

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.

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## Q&A – International & Study Abroad

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**Q: A "Study Abroad" metric/score was included in the extract for International Outlook. However, this metric wasn't shown in the SanKey in the earlier slide. Is this a metric that made it into the methodology or one that is under consideration?**

A: The Studying Abroad metric – assessing the provision of international learning opportunities for domestic students – complements the International Outlook pillar, but is currently given a weight of 0% (hence why it does not show in the Sankey diagram). The zero weight is a temporary provision due to the impact of Covid-19 on international travel.

**Q: How do you mitigate the impacts of Covid on the outgoing exchange data point?**

A: The Covid-19 impact on the outbound exchange students has prevented us for now from using this metric in the ranking calculation. 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 – Patents

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**Q: Can you please elaborate more on patents and how it is measured and scored? As it seems that you can have a low value but a high score for this variable.**

A: This metric recognises the extent to which universities are supporting their national economies through technology transfer. It measures the count of patents citing an entity's published research. This measure is subject weighted to avoid penalising universities producing research in fields low in patents. We also normalise this by the sum of academic and research staff.

**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

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**Q: What steps do you take during calculations to normalize the data so that large universities and small universities can be compared fairly?**

A: Most of our metrics are scaled by the size, usually using staff as the denominator.

**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: For the computer science field, conference papers are the measure over journal papers. How do you account for this?**

A: The use of FWCI allows us to go to a more granular level and to look more closely into the performance of conference papers in Computer Science.

# Q&A – Eligibility & Data Submission

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**Q: Are you collecting rankings for just universities or can a specific program submit information to you?**

A: We rank universities, not programs or faculties/departments.

**Q: When will the call for submission be out?**

A: The Data Collection Portal will be open for the World University Rankings data collection between January and March 2024. We will start sending heads-up to universities in November/December.

**Q: If we have submitted to THE WUR in the past, do we still need to send an email this year to say we want to take part?**

A: We will invite all universities who submitted data last year, and more. It is always a good idea to register your interest with us again though, especially if you have had a recent change of data provider.

# Q&A – Data Submission

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**Q: Are all universities ranked, recognised by the country competent authority? How do you ensure that all universities are recognized in their countries?**

A: THE's rankings are data-led, including metrics on reputation as determined by international peers. Inclusion in the rankings is based on the proviso that a university is deemed to be in good standing by its relevant local regulatory body for higher education. Complaints about the conduct of universities should be addressed to the relevant regulatory body. Should the status of specific universities change THE will of course act in an appropriate manner.

**Q: Could you please elaborate on the 150 publications? For instance, if we have that number of publications for three years and the fourth year we have 145 and then the fifth year we have 150 publications. How would you assess that?**

A: A university should have published at least 150 papers in each and every year. If a university published over 150 papers in four of the relevant years, and only 145 papers in one of the years, it will be excluded.

# Q&A – Eligibility & Other Rankings

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**Q: How closely are the WUR and Impact rankings intertwined? Our institution has no intention of participating in the Impact rankings. Is that going to eventually change how we are ranking in the WUR?**

A: There are no plans to include any information from the Impact rankings in our World University Ranking.

**Q: How many institutions participated in both the 2023 Impact Rankings and the 2024 WUR?**

A: For Impact 2023, we had a total of 1705 universities from 115 countries and regions. For WUR, we had 2,673 universities submitting data to us, from 127 countries and regions. 1,904 of these universities were eligible to be ranked (from 108 countries and regions).

**Q: Are you going to do something to avoid outliers?**

A: Please note that the WUR 3.0 methodology will be rolled out to the Latin America University Rankings methodology for next year's Latin America University Rankings. The addition of the three new bibliometrics measures will help counterbalance possible outliers in the Citation Impact metric.

# Q&A – Eligibility & Other Rankings

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**Q: When are you going to implement new changes in the methodology for the regional rankings? ie. LATAM ranking?**

A: The WUR 3.0 methodology was implemented for the first time for the World University Rankings 2024, published in September 2023. It is then rolled out to all the rankings with partial or full basis on WUR: the Subject Rankings 2024 published in October 2023, the Arab University Rankings 2024 to be published in November 2023, the Young University Rankings (possibly April 2024), the Asia University Rankings (possibly May 2024) and the Latin America University Rankings (later in 2024).

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# 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](#).