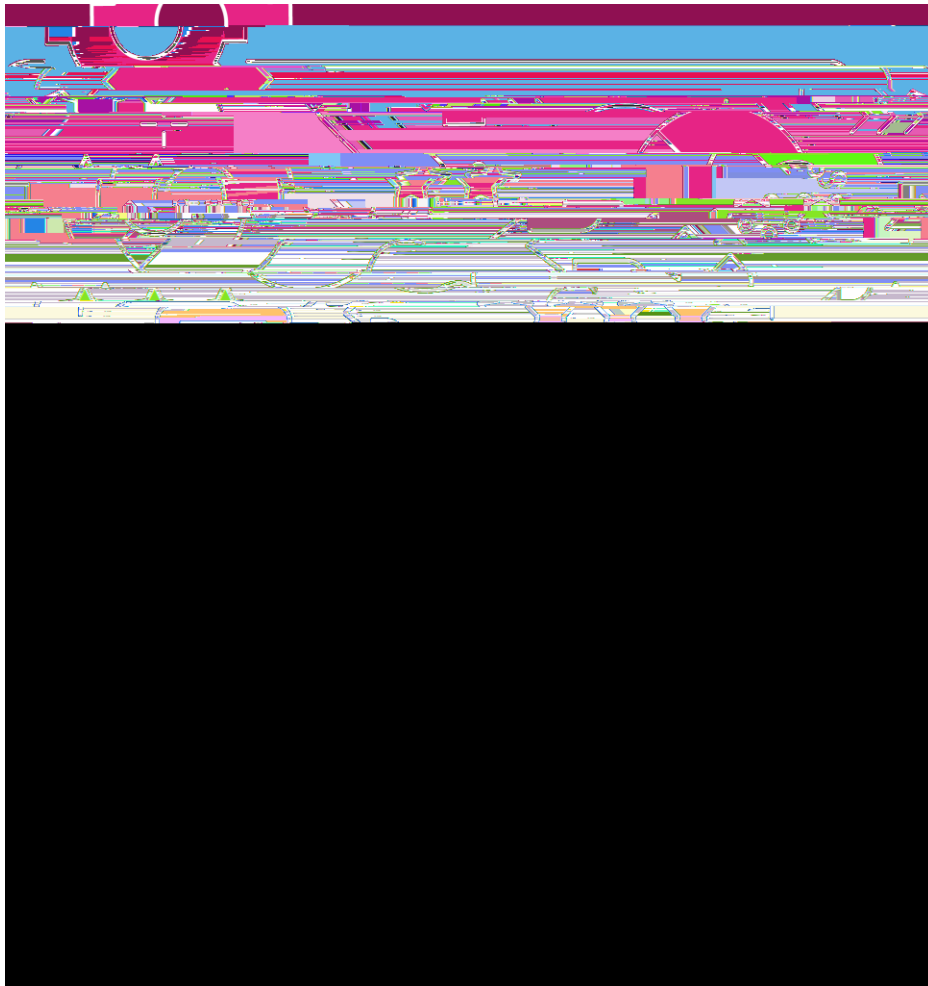# METHODOLOGY FOR THE *TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION* WORLD REPUTATION RANKINGS 2025

February 2025

Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings

is the data provider underpinning university excellence in every continent across the world. As the company behind the world's most influential university ranking, and with over five decades of experience as a source of analysis and insight on higher education, we have unparalleled expertise on the trends underpinning university performance globally. Our data and benchmarking tools are used by many of the world's most prestigious universities to help them achieve their strategic goals.

The newly relaunched

2) Calculation, scoring and ranking

Calculation of metrics

There are 3 categories or "pillars", formed from 6 underlying indicators.

The pre-weighted indicators are calculated for each university.

Vote counts
This metric is deduced from the total number of votes obtained from the 2024 Global Academic Reputation Survey. Vote counts are weighted at the country and subject level so that results are representative of the distribution of academics globally. Further adjustments may be applied (according to pre-defined criteria) to account for high levels of self-voting and/or respondent concentration. Vote counts are passed into an exponential scoring function to convert the number of votes to a score between 0 and 100.

Pairwise comparison
In the survey respondents are presented with a list of 5 institutions informed from their publication history. Invitees then order the list which creates a 'mini ranking' that acts as an input for a pairwise comparison hierarchy. As more data is gathered for this question, the algorithm used can further refine the values obtained for each university to assess relative performance. The resultant parameters obtained are passed into a normal scoring function which converts values to a score between 0 and 100.

Voter diversity
Country and subject data on respondents is obtained in the survey. This is used to evaluate the voter diversity for each institution, with universities that have greater diversity in their respondent mix scoring higher, and universities with narrower respondent bases receiving lower scores. A concept called entropy is used, which examines how heterogenous a dataset is. When looking at an institution's respondent mix, each country-subject combination is considered a unique category. The more of these that exist for a particular university, the higher the entropy. In addition, the more even the spread of relative weights, the greater the entropy. In other words, if the dataset is concentrated in one area that would reduce the score achieved. Entropy levels are passed into a normal scoring function which converts values to a score between 0 and 100.

Self-voting and voter concentration

In 2023 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.

While employing a self-voting cap will address intra-university voting, it would not deal with arranged voting relationships between institutions. This year we have implemented an additional measure where we look at vote concentration to help deal with any potential cases of this issue.

When we look at the number of different institutions that vote for a particular university, we see that generally universities have a broad range of respondents. However, should any institutions be part of a closed ring, this would be reflected in a much narrower spread of voters. This is represented by a high number of votes-per-respondent-institution (VPRI) for a given university.

When this happens, we can set a maximum threshold value for VPRI and adjust vote weights accordingly, in much the same way we dilute votes for the self-voting adjustment above. This treatment is applied fairly across the entire survey dataset, and our analysis shows that this affects only a very small number of universities.

Weightings of indicators to final scores and rankings

The 6 performance indicators underlying the three pillars are weighted according to   's assessment of relative importance.

Pillar	Indicator	% weighting
Vote count	Research vote count	30
	Teaching vote count	30
Pairwise comparison	Research pairwise comparison	10
	Teaching pairwise comparison	10
Voter diversity	Research voter diversity	10
	Teaching voter diversity	10

3) Publication and reporting

Final ranking preparation

All institutions that