



# **THE World University Rankings 2024 Masterclasses**

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**Q&A Summary**

**Africa**

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

## Q&A Bibliometrics

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**Q: Are pre-print publications included?**

A: Pre-print publications are not considered.

**Q: Colleagues have been asking if THE considers citations from ACADEMIA?**

A: We exclusively look at journals indexed in the Scopus database for our bibliometrics data.

**Q: Do you accept any publication or only from peer review from faculty members of the participating university?**

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: when you speak about university's publication what are you referring to, is it their journal or individual faculty's publication?**

A: We refer to the university's publications (no the journals). We specifically refer to 5 types of publications that we consider for the rankings: journal articles, article reviews, conference proceedings, books and book chapters.

**Q: Wish system do you or can you use to justify the citation of papers for a university? Specially when there is a co-publication of two or more authors from different universities?**

A: If an author is dual-affiliated (or has more than one affiliation), the publication will count once towards each institution. The order of the institutional affiliations does not matter. Each publication is attributed to all the institutions affiliated to each author. The paper will count for 1 for each affiliation/institution (we look at the affiliation, not the author). The only specific case would be for papers with more than 1,000 authors, for which we do kilo-authored fractional counting (only for the Citation Impact metric).

## Q&A Definitions

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**Q: How do I include diplomas in the data. By diplomas I mean that which leads to a degree after one or two years studying a specific field. Thanks**

A: Please refer to the THE WUR User Guide, which directs to the ISCED guide. Usually ISCED 5 programs are excluded, but ISCED 6, 7 and 8 programs need to be included.

## Q&A Other

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**Q: Is the sample size of students based on the students population or based a size set by THE ?**

A: We don't use student insights in the World University Rankings. In the Sub Saharan African Rankings we do use a student survey, for which a minimum of 50 respondents must be received.



## Q&A Methodology

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**Q: Does the research criteria apply to all kinds of THE ranking?**

A: The research criteria (having published at least 1,000 papers for the past five years) only applies to the THE World University Rankings, which is a research-focused ranking. Our Teaching rankings, such as the Japan University Rankings or the Sub-Saharan Rankings, which are more focused on the quality of the learning environment and less on research, do not need to have the publication criteria. The THE Impact Rankings also do not need to have the publication threshold as a criterion.

**Q: Looks like for countries already participating in THE ranking before now, data were not requested from them to compute the 2024 ranking?**

A: We do request universities to actively submit data every year. We only rank universities based on recent data consistent with what was submitted by other universities.

**Q: Please do you extract all the required information from Scopus?**

A: Elsevier's Scopus database only represents slightly over a third of our underlying data for the World University Rankings (all bibliometrics: publications, citations, patents, etc.). Our two other data sources are the Global Academic Reputation Survey (almost 1 million votes from over 68,000 respondents) and Portal data (over 400,000 data values from 2,673 universities).

# Q&A Methodology

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**Q: We want to participate in 2024 ranking. If I understand well, the methodology considers just the publications, citations and number of staff?**

A: The World University Rankings includes 18 carefully calibrated performance indicators that measure an institution's performance across five areas: teaching, research environment, research quality, industry, and international outlook. The data collected comes from three data sources: Elsevier's Scopus database (bibliometrics), the Academic Reputation Survey (votes from academics) and Portal data (staff, students, income, degrees).

**Q:**





# Q&A Normalisation

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**Q: I am unclear on how the normalization works**

A: Normalisation can mean different things on different types of data (survey data). There is country normalisation, subject normalisation, etc. Please review our methodology for more information: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/world-university-rankings-2024-methodology>

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**Q: I'm from a new institution in Malawi. Do you make any distinction between face-to-face courses and programs and online courses and programs in the rankings?**

A:

## Q&A Participation rules

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**Q: And is there are any charges you make for an institution to participate or is it completely free?**

A: Participation to our rankings is entirely free.

**Q: If a university doesn't qualify for this year's ranking, can they apply again?**

A: Absolutely, especially for universities that are at the cusp when it comes to the publication threshold, they may meet the criteria the year after.

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Q:

## Q&A Rankings

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**Q: In some countries, rankings are also regulated by national regulators. Do you work with regulators from such countries?**

A: We don't currently have formal relationships with national rankings agencies, although we do have informal conversations with many of them. It is possible, and it may be because the university has not met one or more of our other eligibility criteria.

## Q&A Reference year

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**Q: Which year's data are you collecting in 2024?**

A: For the World University Rankings 2024 published in September 2023, the data submitted by the institutions in the Portal referred to the year ending in 2021 (in most cases the academic year 2021/2022).





## Q&A Reporter status

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**Q: How do you determine the so-called reporter universities ?**

A: Reporter universities are those universities who have submitted data but didn't meet the eligibility criteria. More information on the reporters can be found at: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/why-we-are-including-reporter->





# 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.

# Other THE Rankings

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The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings  
are the only global performance tables that  
assess universities against

