



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

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

Q&A Æ 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

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, and those employed on long-term contracts.

those employed on long-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 are not 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 Æ 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: 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 ex ampleex

Q&A Æ 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 Æ 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?

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Q&A Æ 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: 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.

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

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>

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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 **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.



Other THE Rankings

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

(SDGs).

To participate in **Impact Rankings**, please email us:
Impact@timeshighereducation.com

