Quick guide to 7 major ranking reports

Quick guide to 7 major ranking reports

This quick reference table provides a look into 7 major and influential ranking reports. Use the information to quickly compare and identify what each of the 7 reports focuses on, and what contributes to their methodologies.

Report: Shanghai Rankings
Focus: Global
Scope: 2000+ institutions are ranked annually, top 1000 are published
Timing: Annually (August)

Report: World University Rankings
Focus: Global
Scope: 1,500+ institutions
Timing: Annually (September)

Report: World University Rankings
Focus: Global
Scope: 1,000 institutions
Timing: Annually (Spring)

Report: Best University Rankings
Focus: Global
Scope: 1,500 institutions across more than 80 countries
Timing: Annually (October)

Report: Impact Rankings
Focus: United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Scope: 1240 institutions (changes annually)
Timing: April

Report: WUR by Subject
Focus: Individual subject areas (48)
Scope: 1,000 institutions
Timing: Annually (Spring)

Report: CWTS Leiden Rankings
Focus: Research-intensive universities
Scope: 1,225 institutions (changes annually)
Timing: Annually (June)

Ranking organization:
Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU)

Ranking report:
Shanghai Rankings/ARWU

Report focus:
Global

Stated goal:
Provide a starting point for identifying national strengths and weaknesses as well as facilitating reform and setting new initiatives

Scope:
2000+ institutions are ranked annually, top 1000 are published in the report

How to be ranked:
Every university that has any Nobel Laureates, Fields Medalists, Highly Cited Researchers, or papers published in Nature or Science, and universities with a significant number of papers indexed by Science Citation Index-Expanded (SCIE) and Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) are also included

Bibliometrics data sources:
Clarivate Highly Cited Researchers list, Science Citation Index-Expanded and Social Science Citation Index

Timing:
Annually (August)

Source:http://www.shanghairanking.com/methodology/arwu/2020
Website accessed on: 7 July 2021

ACADEMIC RANKING OF WORLD UNIVERSITIES SINCE 2003

The highest scoring institution is assigned a score of 100, and other institutions are calculated as a percentage of the top score. An institution's rank reflects the number of institutions that sit above it.

- **10% Quality of Education**: Alumni of an institution winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals
- **20% Quality of Faculty**: Staff of an institution winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals
- **20% Quality of Faculty**: Highly Cited Researchers
- **20% Research Output**: Papers published in *Nature* and *Science**
- **20% Research Output**: Papers indexed in Science Citation Index-Expanded and Social Science Citation Index
- **10% Per Capita Performance**: Per capita academic performance of an institution

* For institutions specialized in humanities and social sciences such as London School of Economics, publishing in Nature & Science is not considered, and this weight is reallocated to other indicators.

10% Per Capita Performance

10% Quality of Education

20% Research Output
(Citation indexes)

20% Quality of Faculty
(Nobel Prizes & Field Medals)

20% Research Output
(*Nature and Science*)

20% Quality of Faculty
(Highly Cited Researchers)
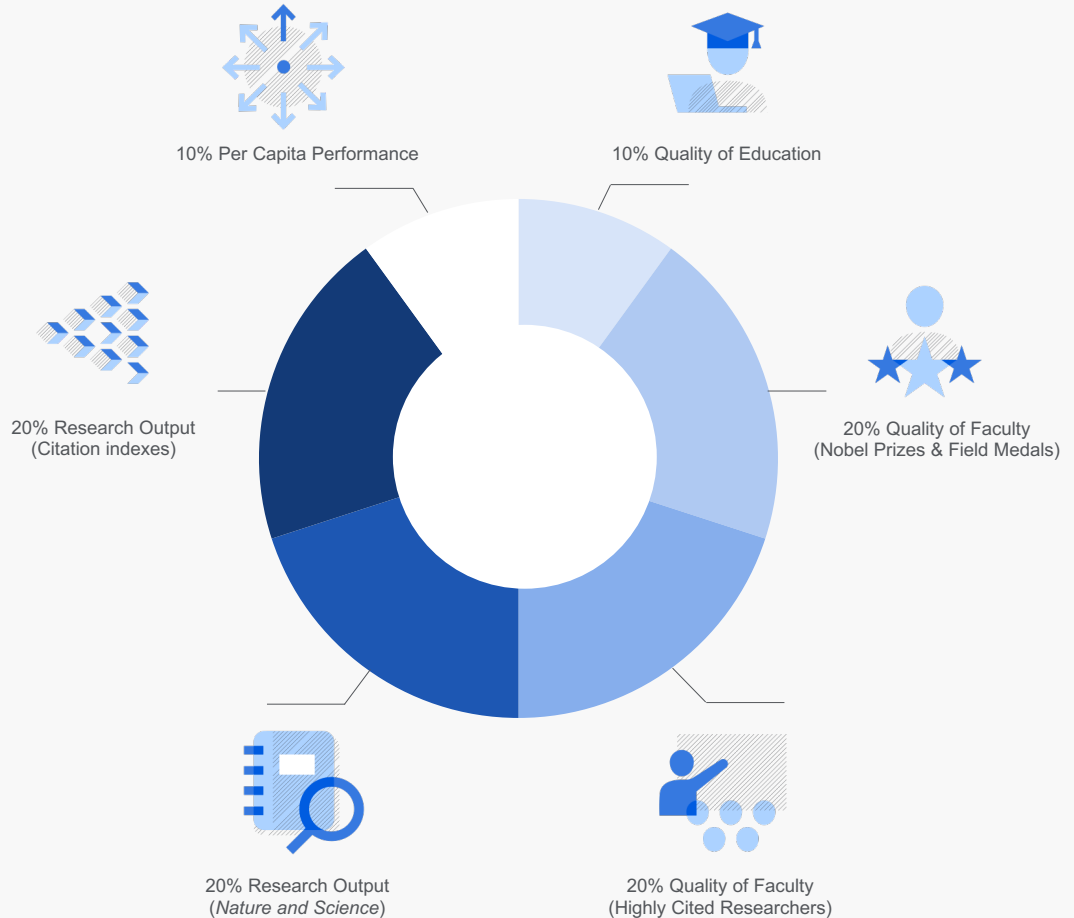
Ranking organization:
Times Higher Education (THE)

Ranking report:
[World University Rankings](#)

Report focus:
Global

Stated goal:
Evaluate research-intensive universities across all their core missions and provide trusted performance data on

Scope:

1,500+ institutions

How to get ranked?
Submit your data to THE by the deadline (generally March) as long as you meet these criteria:

- Teach undergraduates
- Minimum 150 publication per year and 1,000 in the last 5 years.
- Research cannot be 80% in one subject

Bibliometrics Data sources:
Elsevier's Scopus database

Timing:
Annually (September)

THE uses 13 performance indicators to position more than 1,500+ institutions worldwide. These performance indicators are grouped into five areas (as shown to the right).

30% Teaching (the learning environment):
- 15.0% Reputation survey
- 4.50% Staff-to-student ratio
- 2.25% Doctorate-to-bachelor's ratio
- 6.00% Doctorates-awarded-to-academic-staff ratio
- 2.25% Institutional income

30% Research (volume, income and reputation):
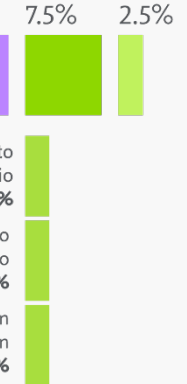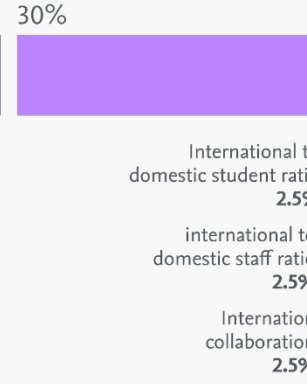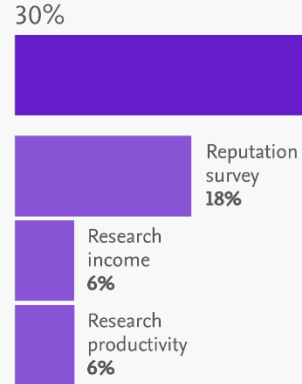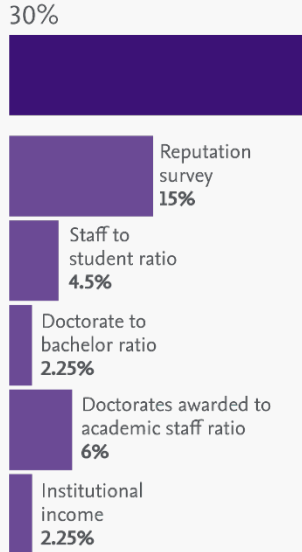- 18% Reputation survey
- 6.0% Research income
- 6.0% Research productivity

30% Citations (research influence)

7.5% International outlook (staff, students and research)
- 2.5% Proportion of international students
- 2.5% Proportion of international staff
- 2.5% International collaboration

2.5% Industry income (knowledge transfer)

Quick guide to 7 major ranking reports

Ranking organization:
QS

Ranking report:
[QS World University Rankings](#)

Report focus:
Global

Stated goal:
For students seeking to understand how their prospective university choices are perceived by the global academic community, and by potential employers across the world.

Scope:
1,000 institutions

How to get ranked:
University must teach at undergraduate and postgraduate level, and conduct work in at least two of five possible faculty areas: Arts and Humanities, Engineering and Technology, Social Sciences and Management, Natural Sciences and Life Sciences and Medicine. You must [contact](#) QS to signal your interest.

Bibliometrics Data sources:
Elsevier's Scopus database

Timing:
Annually (Spring)

QS uses a consistent methodological framework, compiled from six simple metrics to capture university performance. Faculty area normalization was introduced in 2015 to ensure that institutions specializing in Life Sciences and Natural Sciences were not unduly advantaged, QS has avoided fundamental changes, with the aim to provide a consistent year-on-year comparison.

QS World University Rankings evaluates universities according to six metrics:

- 5% International student ratio
- 5% International faculty ratio
- 20% Citations per faculty, sourced from Scopus
- 20% Faculty/student ratio
- 10% Employer reputation
- 40% Academic reputation

5% International students

5% International faculty

10% Employer reputation

20% Citations per faculty

20% Faculty students

40% Academic reputation
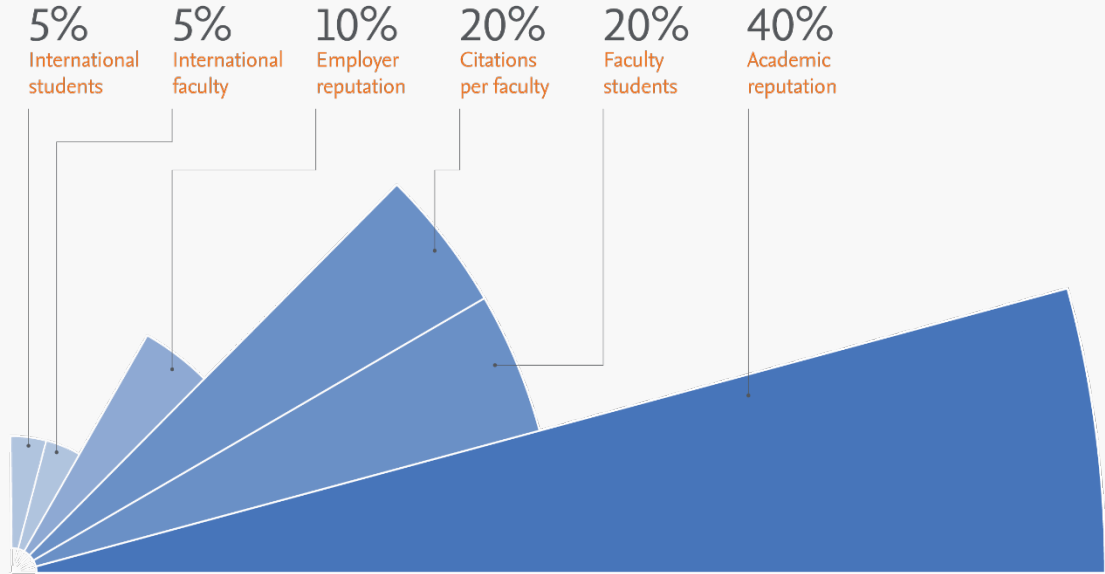
Ranking organization:
US News &World Report

Ranking report:
Best University Rankings

Report focus:
Global

Stated goal:

To explore higher education options and to compare key aspects of schools' research missions. Provide a way to benchmark themselves against other schools, become more visible globally, and find top schools in other countries to collaborate with.

Scope:
1,500 institutions across more than 80 countries

How to get ranked:

- Have a broad curriculum, i.e. no specialized schools
- Have peers rate you in the assessment survey
- Enrollment greater than 200
- Provide a 6-year graduation ratel

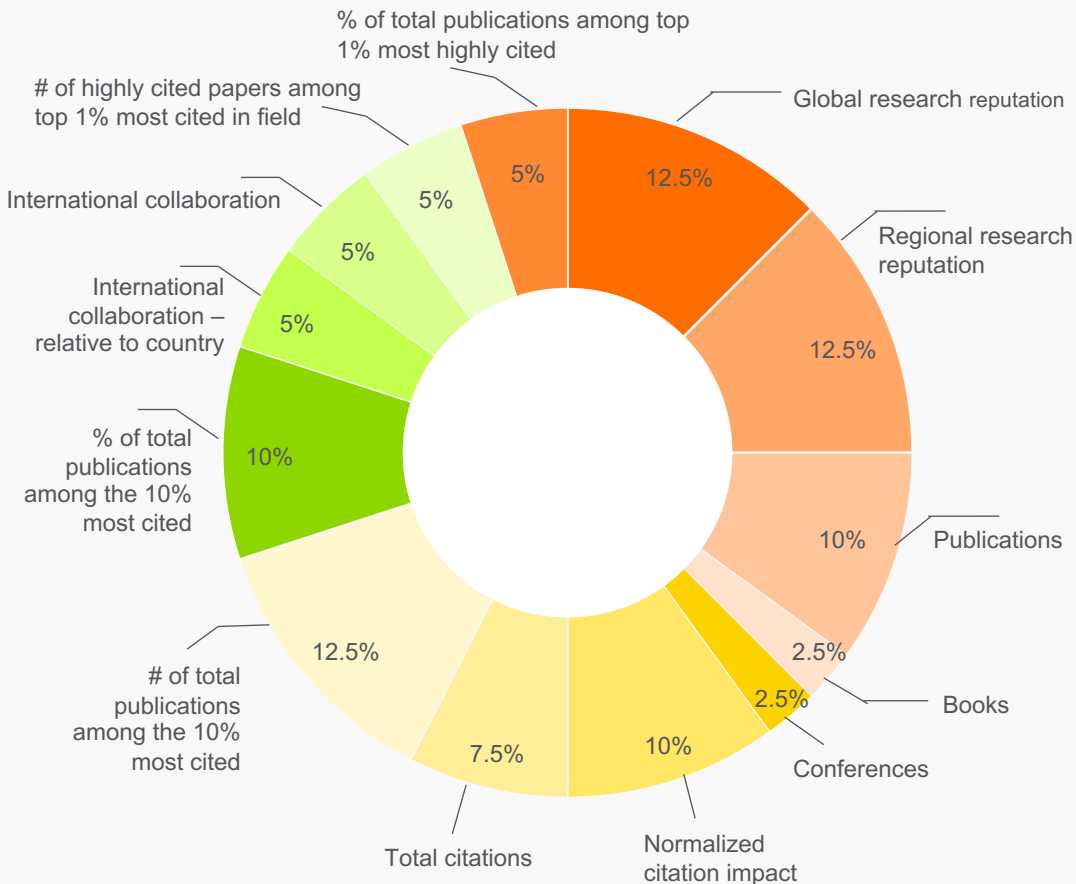**Bibliometrics Data sources:**
Clarivate's Web of Science and InCites

Timing:
Annually (October)

ELSEVIER

The rankings focus specifically on schools' academic research and reputation overall and not on their separate undergraduate or graduate programs.

To arrive at a school's rank, the overall global scores are calculated using a combination of the weights and z-scores for each of the 13 indicators used in the rankings.

- 12.5% Global research reputation
- 12.5% Regional research reputation
- 10% Publications
- 2.5% Books
- 2.5% Conferences
- 10% Normalized citation impact
- 7.5% Total citations
- 12.5% Number of publications among the 10% most cited
- 10% Percentage of total publications among the 10% most cited
- 5% International collaboration
- 5% International collaboration - relative to country
- 5% Number of highly cited papers among the top 1% most cited in their respective field
- 5% Percentage of total publications among the top 1% most highly cited papers

ELSEVIER

Quick guide to 7 major ranking reports

% of total publications among top 1% most highly cited — 5%

# of highly cited papers among top 1% most cited in field — 5%

Global research reputation — 12.5%

Regional research reputation — 12.5%

International collaboration — 5%

International collaboration – relative to country — 5%

Publications — 10%

% of total publications among the 10% most cited — 10%

Books — 2.5%

Conferences — 2.5%

# of total publications among the 10% most cited — 12.5%

Normalized citation impact — 10%

Total citations — 7.5%

THE IMPACT RANKINGS

Ranking organization:
Times Higher Education (THE)

Ranking report:
[Impact Rankings](#)

Report focus:
United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Stated goal:
To showcase work being delivered by universities in our communities, and an opportunity to shine a light on institutional activities and efforts not covered in other rankings and demonstrate the differences a university is making to the world we live in.

Scope:
1240 institutions (changes annually)

How to get ranked:
All schools can submit data on any of the SDGs to be ranked per SDG. To be ranked overall, you must submit data for three SDGs + SDG 17.

Bibliometrics Data sources:
Elsevier's Scopus database

Timing:
Annually (April)

ELSEVIER

How universities are ranked

THE uses indicators to provide comparisons across three broad areas: **research, outreach, and stewardship**, across all of the SDGs.

Any university that provides data on SDG 17 and at least three other SDGs is included in the overall ranking.

The methodology was developed in conjunction with THE's partners Vertigo Ventures and Elsevier, and after consultation and input from individual universities, academics, and sector groups.

Universities can submit data on as many of the SDGs as they are able. Each SDG has a series of metrics that are used to evaluate the performance of the university in that SDG.

As well as the overall ranking, THE also publishes the results of each individual SDG. This rewards any university that has participated with a ranking position, even if they are not eligible to be in the overall table.

Methodology

A university's final score in the overall table is calculated by combining its score in SDG 17 with its top three scores out of the remaining 16 SDGs. SDG 17 accounts for 22% of the overall score, while the other SDGs each carry a weight of 26%. This means that different universities are scored based on a different set of SDGs, depending on their focus.

The score from each SDG is scaled so that the highest score in each SDG in the overall calculation is 100. This is to adjust for minor differences in the scoring range in each SDG and to ensure that universities are treated equitably whichever SDGs they have provided data for. It is these scaled scores that we use to determine which SDGs a university has performed most strongly in; they may not be the SDGs in which the university is ranked highest or has scored highest based on unscaled scores

The SDGs included:

Ranking organization:
QS

Ranking report:
QS World University Rankings by Subject

Report focus:
Individual subject areas (48 subject areas)

Stated goal:
Help prospective students identify the world's leading schools in their chosen field in response to high demand for subject-level comparisons.

Scope:
1,000 institutions

Bibliometrics Data sources:
Elsevier's Scopus database

How to get ranked:
Contact QS to signal your interest.

Timing:
Annually (Spring)

Source: https://www.topuniversities.com/qs-world-university-rankings/methodology
Website accessed on: 12 July 2021

QS World University Rankings by subject

Four components are combined to produce the results for each of the subject rankings, with weightings adapted for each discipline:

- Academic reputation
- Employer reputation
- Research citations per paper
- *h*-index

As research cultures and publication rates vary significantly across academic disciplines, the QS World University Rankings by Subject applies a different weighting of the four indicators in each subject.

For example, in medicine, where publication rates are very high, research citations and the *h*-index account for 25% of each university's total score. On the other hand, in areas with much lower publication rates such as history, these research-related indicators only account for 15% of the total ranking score. Meanwhile, in subjects such as art and design, where there are too few papers published to be statistically significant, the ranking is based solely on the employer and academic surveys.

51 Subjects across 5 disciplines

Arts & Humanities

Engineering & Technology

Life Science & Medicine

Natural Sciences

Social Sciences & Medicine

CWTS Leiden Ranking — Meaningful metrics

Ranking organization:
CWTS

Ranking report:
CWTS Leiden Ranking

Report focus:
Research-intensive universities

Stated goal:
The Leiden Ranking stands for a multidimensional perspective on university performance.

Scope:
1,225 institutions (changes annually)

Bibliometrics Data sources:
Clarivate's Science Citation Index Expanded, the Social Sciences Citation Index, and the Arts & Humanities Citation Index – which is then enriched by CWTS.

Timing:
Annually (June)

CWTS Leiden Ranking
Meaningful metrics

The Leiden Ranking provides information exclusively about the research done at universities. They offer important insights into the scientific performance of nearly 1000 major universities worldwide. Research is represented in publications, and the collected data about these publications forms the basis for the Leiden Ranking. A set of bibliometric indicators are used to provide statistics on scientific impact, collaboration, open access publishing, and gender diversity.

Identification of universities: Typically, a university is characterized by a combination of education and research tasks in conjunction with a doctorate-granting authority. However, these characteristics do not mean that universities are particularly homogeneous entities that allow for international comparison on every aspect. As a result of its focus on scientific research, the Leiden Ranking presents a list of institutions that have a high degree of research intensity in common.

These indicators include:
- Publications
- Size-dependent vs. size-independent indicators
- Scientific impact indicators
- Collaboration indicators
- Open access indicators
- Gender indicators
- Counting method
- Trend analysis
- Stability intervals

Publications

Gender indicators

Size-dependent vs. size-independent indicators

Counting method

Scientific impact indicators

Trend analysis

Collaboration indicators

Stability intervals

Open access indicators

Thank you