

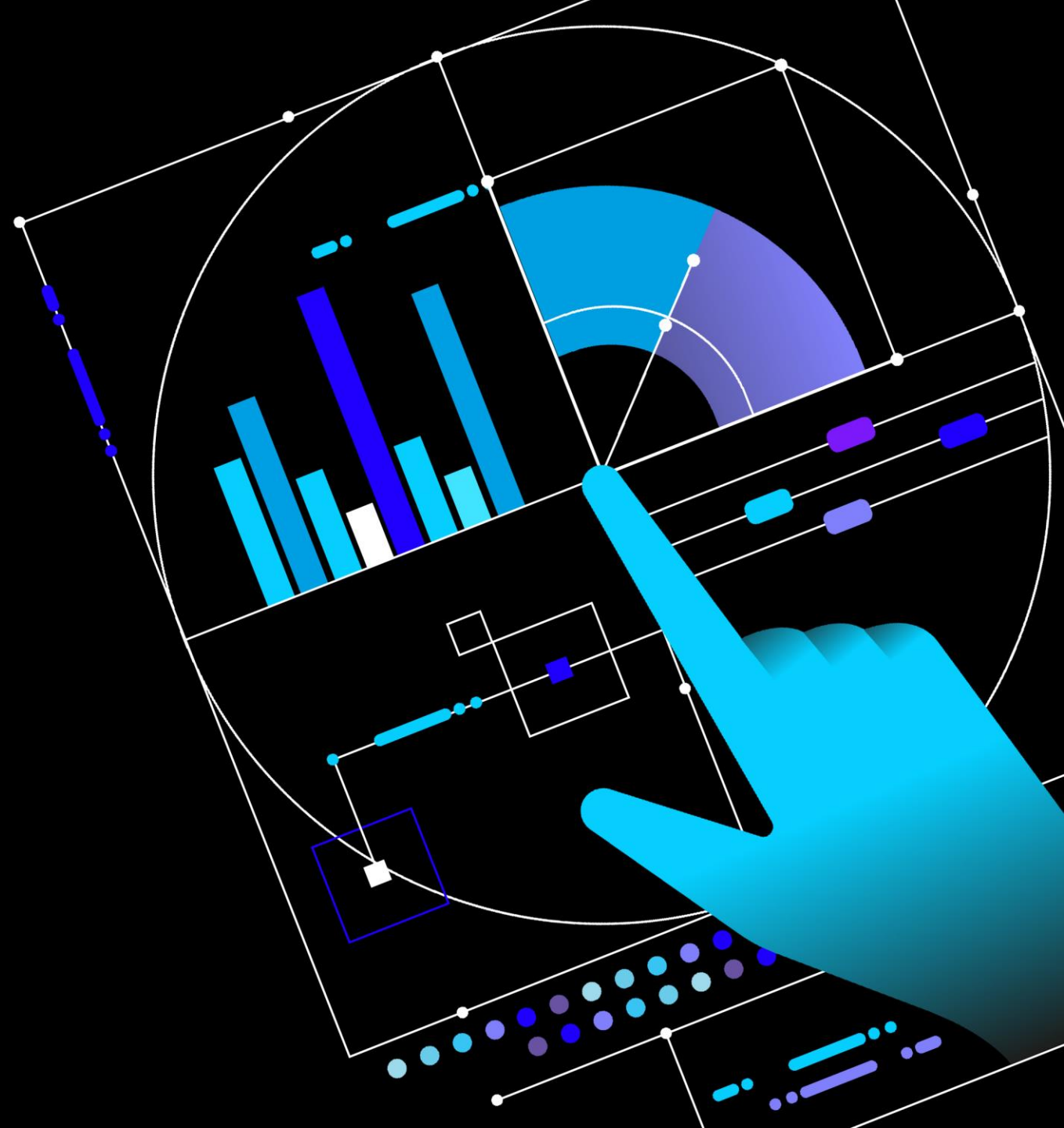


**World  
University  
Rankings 2025**

**Q&A**

# **The 2025 World University Rankings Masterclass: Africa**

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Times Higher Education



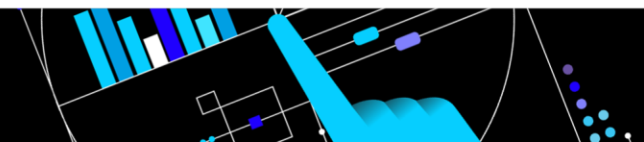
# Q&A

**Q. How would a university join THE impact rankings? Is it by invitation or voluntary?**

**A.** Universities interested in joining THE Impact Rankings can do so voluntarily; it is not by invitation. Please email [impact@timeshighereducation.com](mailto:impact@timeshighereducation.com) for more information.

**Q. Do you publish the confidence intervals for scores and discuss the uncertainty of results? Surely lots of universities must overlap, especially the very high scoring ones, meaning that you can't meaningfully rank them in strict order.**

**A.** We do not publish confidence intervals for the scores in the rankings. The rankings are presented as they are, based on the calculated scores according to the methodology and data. Precise ranks and overall scores are shown for the institutions ranked in the top 200. We then display banded ranks and overall scores for institutions in the rest of the table because the difference between their scores is not statistically significant. Precise pillar scores are displayed for each ranked institution.



# Q&A

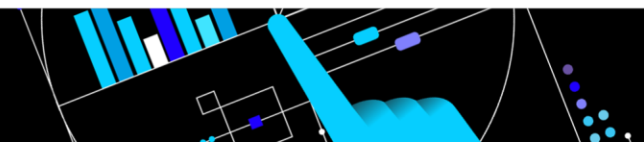
**Q. What is the difference between QS ranking and THE ranking? Do Universities need to go for both? Do you rank programs in addition to Universities?**

**A.** The QS and THE rankings are two separate university ranking systems with different methodologies. QS rankings typically use six indicators: academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty/student ratio, citations per faculty, international faculty ratio, and international student ratio. THE rankings, on the other hand, use 18 performance indicators across five areas: Teaching, Research Environment, Research Quality, International Outlook, and Industry.

Universities do not need to participate in both rankings, but doing so can provide a more comprehensive picture of their performance in different areas, as each ranking emphasizes different aspects of university performance and may appeal to different audiences.

**Q. Does the ability of retention is considered a matrix of measurement? and how you analyse the effectiveness of research conducted in this Universities?**

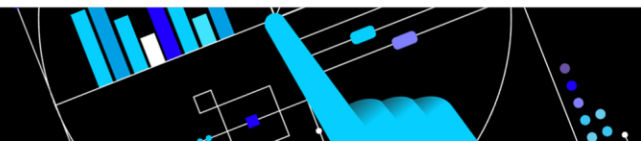
**A.** The ability of retention is not a metric of measurement in the context of university rankings. The effectiveness of research conducted at universities is typically analyzed through various bibliometric measures, such as citation impact, research influence, and research excellence. These metrics assess the quality and impact of the university's research output by examining factors like the number of citations received, the influence of citing papers, and the proportion of publications that are among the top 10% worldwide by field-weighted citation impact. Additionally, patents citing the university's research are considered as an indicator of the institution's contribution to industry and innovation.



# Q&A

**Q. How will the academic staff of each University get the email for the academic reputation survey while their email addresses were not provided before?**

**A.** The academic staff of each university will receive their invitations for the academic reputation survey via email from [surveys@timeshighereducationsurvey.com](mailto:surveys@timeshighereducationsurvey.com). The distribution of these invitations will be spread across a three-month period. To ensure that the staff receive the survey invitation, universities are recommended to inform their IT departments to whitelist the email address and the specified IP address. This proactive measure will help to prevent the survey emails from being caught in spam filters. Additionally, university staff are encouraged to check their inboxes and spam folders for the invitation. However, it's important to note that the survey is invitation-based, and the contact details for the academic staff are sourced from an in-house academic contact database that includes verified academic contacts who are published scholars with citations in academic journals. Regular verification of these contacts is conducted, and emails that have not been verified in the last six months are not used.



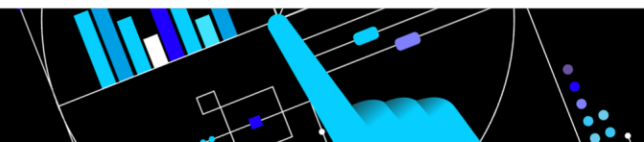
# Q&A

**Q. Technical Universities (TUs) in Ghana have higher student population offering Higher National Diploma (HND) which is equivalent to ISCD Level 5 compared to undergraduate and postgraduate program student numbers. The TUs are now developing more undergraduate and postgraduate programs to increase their students population.**

**My questions are:**

- 1. Can TUs add these HND students, population to the total students required in the data submission?**
- 2. Is it possible to update data submitted in the previous years, since there is a tendency of comparing the previous data with the current year's submission?**

**A.** The academic staff of each university will receive their invitations for the academic reputation survey via email from [surveys@timeshighereducationsurvey.com](mailto:surveys@timeshighereducationsurvey.com). The distribution of these invitations will be spread across a three-month period. To ensure that the staff receive the survey invitation, universities are recommended to inform their IT departments to whitelist the email address and the specified IP address. This proactive measure will help to prevent the survey emails from being caught in spam filters. Additionally, university staff are encouraged to check their inboxes and spam folders for the invitation. However, it's important to note that the survey is invitation-based, and the contact details for the academic staff are sourced from an in-house academic contact database that includes verified academic contacts who are published scholars with citations in academic journals. Regular verification of these contacts is conducted, and emails that have not been verified in the last six months are not used.



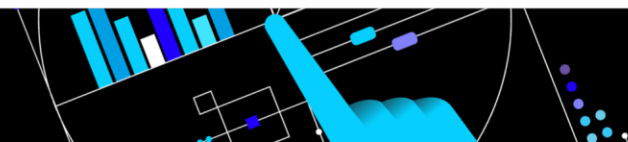
# Q&A

**Q. The WUR needs to improve in its ranking as it bands Universities in its ranking and such banding is as large as 200. The adverse effect of this is that some Universities were given same ratings which created a confusion as to which is actually better. The essence of ranking from a parent's perspective is to be able to ascertain which is better so banding them is counter productive. I suggest there should be a list where what each University is ranked can be actually ascertained.**

**A.** Precise ranks and overall scores are shown for the institutions ranked in the top 200. We then display banded ranks and overall scores for institutions in the rest of the table because the difference between their scores is not statistically significant. Precise pillar scores are displayed for each ranked institution. Institutions that are ranked within bands are listed in alphabetical order. All the universities ranked within the same band have the same position. For instance, if the top two universities in country A are ranked in the same band (201-250), they are both ranked joint first in Country A.

**Q. Can we limit our nominations to our countries? Or is that too limiting?**

**A.** If you are talking about being a respondent to the Academic Reputation Survey, please note the survey is designed to capture a global perspective on excellence in higher education. Respondents are selected from a large in-house academic contact database based on their active publication record and citation history, ensuring that only active, cited academics participate. The selection process does not include a nomination system where voters or institutions can nominate others, nor does it allow for self-nomination or the limitation of nominations to specific countries. The aim is to ensure a diverse and representative sample of academic opinions on research and teaching excellence globally.



# Q&A

**Q. African universities in west Africa are often been excluded from certain international grants; especially Nigeria often been excluded from the list of qualified countries for such grants. Can you please provide reasons for this?**

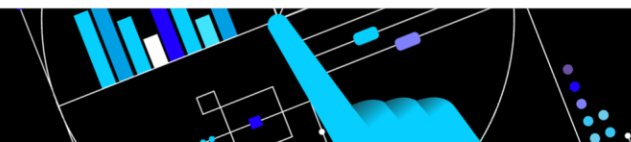
**A.** THE is not involved in providing international grants, we would suggest to reach out to these organisations to understand the reasons why some countries are excluded.

**Q. It is the first time Angolan Universities are participating in the WURs. Would, briefly, tell us about their performance?**

**A.** 20 Angolan universities have submitted data to the World University Rankings this year and are now featured as reporters in the main table. More information is available at <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/latest/world-ranking>.

**Q. How possible is it for THE to release data from those universities that performed excellently very well in the ranking exercise?**

**A.** Please reach out to [data@timeshighereducation.com](mailto:data@timeshighereducation.com) if you are interested in gaining access to more granular performance data..



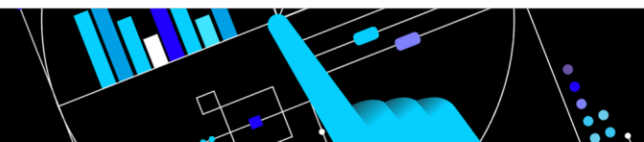
# Q&A

**Q. How could we develop an impact ranking system that only evaluates traditional metrics like economic growth but also prioritizes cultural preservation and indigenous knowledge system?**

**A.** Developing an impact ranking system that evaluates traditional metrics like economic growth while also prioritizing cultural preservation and indigenous knowledge systems would require a multi-dimensional approach. The system should incorporate indicators that measure the contribution of universities to the economy, such as industry partnerships, technology transfer, and graduate employment rates.

For cultural preservation and indigenous knowledge, the ranking system could include metrics that assess the extent to which universities are involved in documenting, supporting, and integrating indigenous knowledge into their curricula and research. This could involve partnerships with local communities, courses on indigenous languages and cultures, and research projects that are co-designed with indigenous peoples.

Additionally, the system could measure the impact of university-led initiatives on cultural sustainability, such as the preservation of heritage sites, the promotion of cultural events, and the support of arts and crafts that reflect local traditions. The system would need to be developed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including indigenous communities, to ensure that it accurately reflects the values and priorities of those it seeks to represent. This holistic approach would provide a more comprehensive view of a university's impact on society, beyond traditional economic measures.





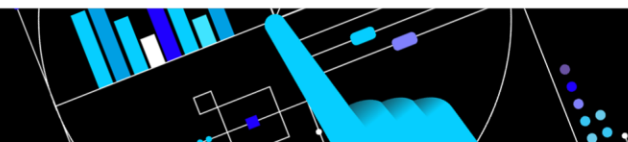
# Q&A

**Q. How can we access the results of Sub-Saharan Africa University Rankings 2024? We are now inputting data for 2025 but still pending results of the previous year.**

**A.** As per the THE Ranking Schedule at <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/times-higher-education-rankings-2024-schedule>, the Sub-Saharan Africa University Rankings will be published on 27 November. <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/times-higher-education-rankings-2024-schedule>. Universities will typically receive an embargoed email with their results at least 48 hours ahead. The ranking will be updated at <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/sub-saharan-africa-university-rankings>

**Q. Do you consider journals not listed on Scopus during ranking assessment**

**A.** No, journals that are not listed in the Scopus database are not considered during the ranking assessment for the World University Rankings. The rankings rely on data sourced directly from Elsevier's Scopus database, which includes a range of publication types such as journal articles, article reviews, conference proceedings, books, and book chapters. Publications in journals that are not indexed by Scopus, or those that have been suspended or discontinued from Scopus, are excluded from the assessment. This ensures that only publications from recognized and vetted sources contribute to an institution's ranking.



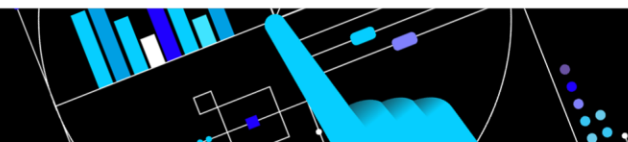
# Q&A

## **Q. How far has the African Rating Mechanisms of AAU been accommodated into THE and global metrics?**

**A.** Thank you for your kind words about the presentations. Regarding the integration of the African Rating Mechanisms of the Association of African Universities (AAU) into the Times Higher Education (THE) and global metrics, THE has its own set of criteria and methodologies for its World University Rankings, and may not directly incorporate regional rating mechanisms. However, THE does consider a wide range of global metrics and continuously reviews its methodology to ensure it reflects the diversity and dynamism of global higher education. This includes looking at different higher education stakeholders, as well as listening to the members of our World University Rankings Advisory Board, who represents various experiences, regions and views in the world.

## **Q. What's the maximum improvement for a university ranked in best 601s in WUR if there strategy is more effective**

**A.** The maximum improvement for a university ranked in the best 601+ category in the World University Rankings (WUR) would depend on various factors, including the specific changes made to their strategy, how these changes affect the university's performance across the different metrics used in the ranking, and the performance of other universities. Since the WUR evaluates universities on a range of metrics, including teaching, research, citations, international outlook, and industry income, a more effective strategy would ideally involve improvements across these areas. It is also important to note that the rankings are relative, so improvements made by other institutions could impact the potential rise in rankings for any single university.



Thank you

