World University Rankings 2025

Q&A
The 2025 World University Rankings Masterclass: APAC

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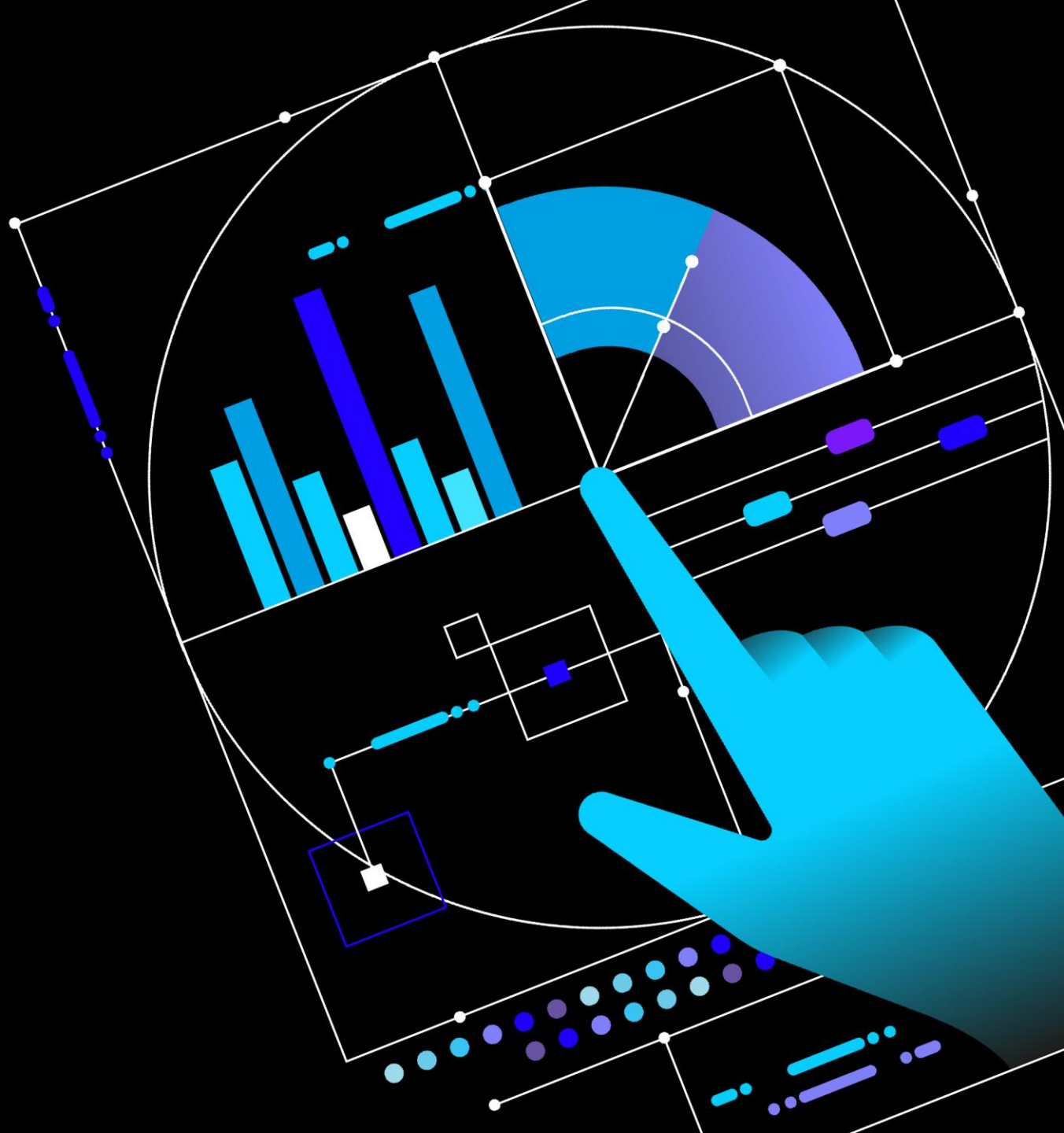

Q&A

Q. How do you calculate the scores of the individual metrics? how will universities explain these scores received?

The scores for individual metrics in the World University Rankings are calculated using a standardisation approach. Each indicator is standardized based on the distribution of data within that indicator. For most metrics, a version of Z-scoring is used to calculate the cumulative probability function, which determines where an institution's indicator sits within that function. However, for certain metrics like the Academic Reputation Survey, Research Excellence, Research Influence, and Patents, an exponential component is necessary due to the nature of their data distribution.

The scores reflect the university's performance across various areas such as teaching, research, citations, international outlook, and industry income. Each metric is weighted differently, reflecting its relative importance as determined by THE's assessment. For instance, teaching reputation has a 15% weighting, while industry income and patents each have a 2% weighting. The final score for a university is a composite of these weighted metrics, representing its overall performance in the ranking." "The scores for individual metrics in the World University Rankings are calculated using a standardisation approach. Each indicator is standardized based on the distribution of data within that indicator. For most metrics, a version of Z-scoring is used to calculate the cumulative probability function, which determines where an institution's indicator sits within that function. However, for certain metrics like the Academic Reputation Survey, Research Excellence, Research Influence, and Patents, an exponential component is necessary due to the nature of their data distribution.

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Q&A

Q. Regarding Impact Rankings 2025, how does THE measure Research metrics? Does THE use SCOPUS only? Are there any other datasets that THE uses?

A. For the measurement of research metrics in the World University Rankings and the Impact Rankings, THE utilises bibliometric data sourced from Elsevier's Scopus database.

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Q. Last year, it was mentioned that the UNESCO dataset used to determine the number of researchers would be replaced. Has this change been implemented, and what dataset is currently being used?

A. The UNESCO dataset continues to be a reference for determining the number of researchers for the purpose of scaling reputation nominations/votes in the World University Rankings. There has been no implementation yet of a new dataset to replace the UNESCO data for this specific use. We are currently looking for an alternative to the UNESCO dataset. The UNESCO dataset continues to be a reference for determining the number of researchers for the purpose of scaling reputation nominations/votes in the World University Rankings. There has been no implementation yet of a new dataset to replace the UNESCO data for this specific use. We are currently looking for an alternative to the UNESCO dataset.

Q&A

Q. what is the difference between THE's methodology in measuring research metrics of Impact Rankings and World University Rankings?

A. The Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings and the World University Rankings use different methodologies to measure research metrics. The Impact Rankings focus on how universities are performing against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), assessing global universities on their success in delivering the SDGs through their research, outreach, and stewardship. This involves metrics that are aligned with the specific goals, such as partnerships for the goals, sustainable cities and communities, and climate action.

On the other hand, the World University Rankings evaluate research metrics based on research environment, quality, and volume. These include research reputation, research income, research productivity, citation impact, research strength, research excellence, and research influence. These metrics assess the perceived prestige of institutions in research, the income generated for research adjusted for purchasing power parity, the number of papers published, and the average number of times a university's published work is cited by scholars globally, among other factors.

In summary, while the World University Rankings focus on traditional research performance indicators, the Impact Rankings are oriented towards the university's commitment and contribution to sustainable development and societal impact as per the SDGs.“ "The Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings and the World University Rankings use different methodologies to measure research metrics. The Impact Rankings focus on how universities are performing against the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), assessing global universities on their success in delivering the SDGs through their research, outreach, and stewardship.

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Q&A

Q. Is the 1,000 publications a hard rule for all universities? How about those institutions that are relatively small wherein 1,000 publications might be difficult to achieve?

What counts as a publication for the 1,000 minimum? Only those in Scopus and Web of Science indexed journals, or includes more?"

A. The 1,000 publications threshold is a standard criterion for universities to be considered for inclusion in the World University Rankings. However, there are exceptions for certain regional rankings. For instance, in the Arab University Rankings, postgraduate-only institutions are eligible even if they have a lower threshold of 500 papers over the past five years. Similarly, for the Latin American University Rankings, the threshold is set at 200 papers over the past five years. These variations acknowledge the different scales and research outputs of institutions in various regions.

For the purpose of the World University Rankings, a publication is defined as a document that falls into one of five categories: journal articles, article reviews, conference proceedings, books, and book chapters. These publications must be indexed by Scopus. Publications in journals that have been suspended or discontinued in Scopus are not considered. Additionally, the rankings do not include all types of documents indexed in Scopus; for example, editorials, letters, and short surveys are typically excluded from the count. The focus is on those types of documents that are most indicative of research output and impact. The 1,000 publications threshold is a standard criterion for universities to be considered for inclusion in the World University Rankings. However, there are exceptions for certain regional rankings. For instance, in the Arab University Rankings, postgraduate-only institutions are eligible even if they have a lower threshold of 500 papers over the past five years.

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Q&A

Q. In the DataPoints, we can see the unweighted votes and weighted votes of the survey.

For the self-voting cap, does it apply only on the weighted votes? (we want to approximately estimate the size of our self votes).

When you say the maximum of 10% of the total votes are counted, how is it calculated?

For example, if you got 50 votes from other universities and 50 votes from self-voting, then is the total votes 100 or 50? If it's 100, then total of 60 votes will be counted (50 from others, 10 from self-voting), if it's 50, then total of 55 votes will be counted."

A. The self-voting cap applies to the weighted votes in the survey. When estimating the size of your self-votes, you should consider the weighted votes as they are the ones that are adjusted to reflect the cap on self-voting.

The calculation of the self-voting cap means that no more than 10% of the total votes counted for any institution can come from self-votes. In your example, if an institution received 50 votes from other universities and 50 self-votes, the total number of votes before applying the cap would indeed be 100. However, with the cap applied, only 10% of these votes can be self-votes. This means that out of the 50 self-votes, only 5 would be counted, resulting in a total of 55 votes being counted (50 from other universities and 5 from self-voting). The cap ensures that self-voting does not disproportionately influence the total vote count for an institution." "Q1. The self-voting cap applies to the weighted votes in the survey. When estimating the size of your self-votes, you should consider the weighted votes as they are the ones that are adjusted to reflect the cap on self-voting.

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Q&A

Q. How do you manage the self-citation on patent?

A. In managing self-citations on patents, it's important to distinguish between self-citations in academic publications and those in patents. For patents, the focus is on the number of patents citing research from a university, rather than the number of publications citing patents. Self-citations are allowed in this context, meaning that a researcher can cite their own patent within a publication, and others can also cite that patent. In managing self-citations on patents, it's important to distinguish between self-citations in academic publications and those in patents. For patents, the focus is on the number of patents citing research from a university, rather than the number of publications citing patents. Self-citations are allowed in this context, meaning that a researcher can cite their own patent within a publication, and others can also cite that patent.

Q. Are there any considerations to adjust the calculation or normalisation process to provide an advantage to universities that receive very few votes?

A. In the reputation ranking process, there is a mechanism in place to ensure that votes from areas with low response rates are not unfairly penalised. This is achieved by weighting the votes to reflect the distribution of scholars across the world, using publicly available data from UNESCO. These weightings are applied in the final analysis to balance the representation of votes received. In the reputation ranking process, there is a mechanism in place to ensure that votes from areas with low response rates are not unfairly penalised. This is achieved by weighting the votes to reflect the distribution of scholars across the world, using publicly available data from UNESCO. These weightings are applied in the final analysis to balance the representation of votes received.

Q&A

Q. could you please explain a little bit more detail about the formula to assess research quality and research environment? do you consider both citation per paper as well as citation per faculty ?

A. The assessment of research quality and research environment in university rankings involves several metrics, each designed to capture different aspects of an institution's research performance. Two key components of this assessment are citation impact and research productivity.

Citation impact is a measure of research influence and looks at how often a university's published work is cited by scholars globally. This metric considers the average number of citations per paper, which indicates the reach and influence of the research produced by the university. The data is normalized to account for variations in citation practices across different subject areas, ensuring that institutions with high levels of research activity in subjects with traditionally high citation counts do not gain an unfair advantage.

Research productivity, on the other hand, is a measure of the institution's ability to get papers published in quality peer-reviewed journals. This metric is calculated by dividing the total number of papers published by the sum of full-time equivalent (FTE) research staff and FTE academic staff, providing a sense of the institution's research output relative to its size.

Both citation impact and research productivity are important in assessing research quality and environment, as they provide insights into the influence and output of a university's research activities. The assessment of research quality and research environment in university rankings involves several metrics, each designed to capture different aspects of an institution's research performance. Two key components of this assessment are citation impact and research productivity.

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Q&A

Q. Is there a minimum data to be submitted to be included as reporter?

A. Yes, there is a minimum requirement for data submission to be included as a reporter in the rankings. Fields marked with a † are mandatory, and this includes some subject fields. To be considered for the overall rankings, these fields must be completed. If an institution does not meet these minimum requirements, conservative estimates may be used, which could lead to a less favorable representation or even exclusion from the rankings if the data is insufficient. Institutions are advised to provide as complete and accurate data as possible for a representative profile as well as for being included as a reporter. Yes, there is a minimum requirement for data submission to be included as a reporter in the rankings. Fields marked with a † are mandatory, and this includes some subject fields. To be considered for the overall rankings, these fields must be completed. If an institution does not meet these minimum requirements, conservative estimates may be used, which could lead to a less favorable representation or even exclusion from the rankings if the data is insufficient. Institutions are advised to provide as complete and accurate data as possible for a representative profile as well as for being included as a reporter.

Q&A

Q. We need 1000+ publications to be able to participate in the WUR?

A. Yes, to be eligible for participation in the World University Rankings (WUR), an institution must have published at least 1,000 relevant publications indexed by Scopus over a specified five-year period. Additionally, there is a requirement for at least 100 relevant publications in each of those years. The relevant publications considered for this threshold include journal articles, article reviews, conference proceedings, books, and book chapters. It's important to note that publications in Scopus suspended journals are not counted towards this threshold. Institutions that do not meet these criteria may still gain visibility on the ranking's website as 'reporters' but will not be included in the actual rankings. Yes, to be eligible for participation in the World University Rankings (WUR), an institution must have published at least 1,000 relevant publications indexed by Scopus over a specified five-year period. Additionally, there is a requirement for at least 100 relevant publications in each of those years. The relevant publications considered for this threshold include journal articles, article reviews, conference proceedings, books, and book chapters. It's important to note that publications in Scopus suspended journals are not counted towards this threshold. Institutions that do not meet these criteria may still gain visibility on the ranking's website as 'reporters' but will not be included in the actual rankings.

Q&A

Q. Does the 1000+ publication includes the patents?

A. No, the 1000+ publication threshold for eligibility in the World University Rankings does not include patents. The threshold specifically refers to relevant publications indexed by Scopus for a set period, which includes five types of publications: journal articles, article reviews, conference proceedings, books, and book chapters. Patents are considered separately in the rankings under a different metric that measures the number of patents citing research from a university. No, the 1000+ publication threshold for eligibility in the World University Rankings does not include patents. The threshold specifically refers to relevant publications indexed by Scopus for a set period, which includes five types of publications: journal articles, article reviews, conference proceedings, books, and book chapters. Patents are considered separately in the rankings under a different metric that measures the number of patents citing research from a university.

Q. I have noticed that the Research Quality score is unexpectedly high for some countries in the region, why is this?

A. The Research Quality score includes metrics such as Citation Impact and Research Strength, which are influenced by the number of times a university's research is cited and the quality of these citations. If universities in the region have produced research that is highly cited or of significant influence, this would also contribute to a higher Research Quality score. The Research Quality score includes metrics such as Citation Impact and Research Strength, which are influenced by the number of times a university's research is cited and the quality of these citations. If universities in the region have produced research that is highly cited or of significant influence, this would also contribute to a higher Research Quality score.

Q&A

Q. What is the cost of consultancy for universities in Pakistan?

A. Please email consultancy@timeshighereducation.com.

Q. What was the survey response rate for this year? It was ~1.8% last year

A. The reputation survey rate is still around 1.8%. The reputation survey rate is still around 1.8%.

Q. How many languages has the survey been administered in? Are THE going to increase this to improve diversity / response rate?

A. The survey is currently available in 12 languages. While we recognize that this is not an exhaustive list and we are open to considering additional languages to improve diversity and response rates, we have also noted that accommodating all requests may not be possible. The survey is currently available in 12 languages. While we recognize that this is not an exhaustive list and we are open to considering additional languages to improve diversity and response rates, we have also noted that accommodating all requests may not be possible.

Q&A

Q. What is the main difference between QS and THE ranking in terms of teaching and research?

A. The main difference between QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) and THE (Times Higher Education) rankings in terms of teaching and research lies in the methodology and weightings they apply to these categories. QS rankings typically emphasize academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty/student ratio, citations per faculty, international faculty ratio, and international student ratio. Teaching quality is often assessed through surveys that gauge the reputation of institutions among academics and employers.

On the other hand, THE rankings use a broader set of performance indicators across five pillars: Teaching, Research Environment, Research Quality, International Outlook, and Industry. Within these pillars, THE includes metrics such as teaching reputation, research reputation, research income, research productivity, and citation impact. THE's methodology is designed to provide a comprehensive view of an institution's performance, with a strong focus on research influence and output." "The main difference between QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) and THE (Times Higher Education) rankings in terms of teaching and research lies in the methodology and weightings they apply to these categories. QS rankings typically emphasize academic reputation, employer reputation, faculty/student ratio, citations per faculty, international faculty ratio, and international student ratio. Teaching quality is often assessed through surveys that gauge the reputation of institutions among academics and employers.

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Q&A

Q. How much of the data can universities access? If access is limited - Is it legal that only THE consulting can use the data provided by all the universities to provide insights and opportunity identification?

A. Please see our terms and conditions at https://www.timeshighereducation.com/additional-terms-times-higher-education-data-portal/2018821.article Please see our terms and conditions at https://www.timeshighereducation.com/additional-terms-times-higher-education-data-portal/2018821.article

Q&A

Q. I understand that the Impact rankings use the SDGs to rank universities against their progress wrt to the goals. While SDGs are good enough for assessing sustainability of universities, are they holistic enough as the Impact rankings consider research-related metrics here as well and do not consider curriculum or campus sustainability?

A. The Impact Rankings indeed focus on universities' progress towards the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While the SDGs provide a comprehensive framework for assessing various aspects of sustainability, including environmental, social, and economic dimensions, they may not cover every aspect of a university's operations or academic offerings.

Research-related metrics are considered in the Impact Rankings because research is a significant way universities contribute to the SDGs. However, it's important to note that the Impact Rankings are separate from the World University Rankings, which have a broader set of criteria, including teaching, research, citations, international outlook, and industry income.

The Impact Rankings do not specifically measure curriculum or campus sustainability. While these areas are important for a university's overall sustainability efforts, the Impact Rankings are more focused on the institution's research impact, stewardship of resources, and community engagement related to the SDGs.

For a holistic assessment of a university's sustainability, including curriculum and campus operations, additional metrics and evaluations would be necessary. These might include assessments of sustainability integrated into the curriculum, energy efficiency measures, waste management, and other campus sustainability initiatives.

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Q&A

Q. How do you normalise the publications based on the year, type, and publication subject?

A. To normalize publications based on the year, type, and subject, a specific process is followed. Each publication is compared to an average or expected citation rate that is determined by the year of publication, the type of publication (such as journal articles, article reviews, conference proceedings, books, and book chapters), and the subject area, which is classified using the ASJC codes provided by Scopus. This normalization process ensures that publications are assessed fairly across different disciplines, which may have varying citation behaviors, and accounts for changes in citation practices over time. The goal is to compare the performance of a publication against a benchmark that reflects the typical citation performance for similar works, thus providing a field-weighted citation impact (FWCI). This FWCI is then used to calculate various metrics in the ranking process, ensuring that each publication's impact is measured in the context of its field's citation norms. To normalize publications based on the year, type, and subject, a specific process is followed. Each publication is compared to an average or expected citation rate that is determined by the year of publication, the type of publication (such as journal articles, article reviews, conference proceedings, books, and book chapters), and the subject area, which is classified using the ASJC codes provided by Scopus. This normalization process ensures that publications are assessed fairly across different disciplines, which may have varying citation behaviors, and accounts for changes in citation practices over time. The goal is to compare the performance of a publication against a benchmark that reflects the typical citation performance for similar works, thus providing a field-weighted citation impact (FWCI). This FWCI is then used to calculate various metrics in the ranking process, ensuring that each publication's impact is measured in the context of its field's citation norms

Q&A

Q. Can you show us how research strength and research excellence is calculated? Just an ideal to learn. many thanks

A. Research strength is calculated using the Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI), focusing on the 75th percentile of all papers published by a university. This means that instead of averaging the FWCI across all papers, which could be skewed by a few highly cited papers, the metric considers the FWCI at which 75% of a university's papers are cited at or below. This provides a more representative measure of the average research quality and is robust against outliers.

Research excellence, on the other hand, is determined by identifying the top 10% of publications worldwide by FWCI in each subject. For an institution, the number of its publications that fall within this top 10% is counted. This count is then normalized by the size of the institution, which involves adjusting for the number of academic and research staff. This normalization ensures that the measure of research excellence is proportional to the institution's size, allowing for a fair comparison between institutions of different sizes.

Both metrics take into account the year of publication, the subject area, and the type of publication to ensure that comparisons are fair and account for differences in citation practices across disciplines and publication types.

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Q&A

Q. Why it is hard for a university to move up in the THE Ranking ? is the scores evaluation were agregated for several Consecutive year ?

A. Moving up in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings can be challenging for universities due to several factors. One key reason is the methodology's reliance on historical data, particularly in the reputation surveys. The reputation metrics are based on votes from the last two years, which means that a university's reputation is not solely determined by its performance in a single year but is influenced by perceptions over a consecutive period. This can make rapid changes in ranking more difficult.

Additionally, the rankings are competitive, with many institutions striving to improve and maintain their positions. As universities continuously work to enhance their research, teaching, and other activities, the overall standard rises, making it harder for any single institution to climb significantly without substantial improvements.

Furthermore, some metrics involve normalized scores, which are calculated relative to the performance of other institutions. This means that even if a university improves its absolute performance, its ranking may not rise if other universities improve at a faster rate.

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Lastly, the rankings are based on a comprehensive set of indicators, and a university must perform well across all these areas to move up significantly. This requires sustained, long-term efforts across multiple facets of the institution's operations. Moving up in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings can be challenging for universities due to several factors. One key reason is the methodology's reliance on historical data, particularly in the reputation surveys. The reputation metrics are based on votes from the last two years, which means that a university's reputation is not solely determined by its performance in a single year but is influenced by perceptions over a consecutive period. This can make rapid changes in ranking more difficult.

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Q&A

Q. Why was scopus data used instead of those from Web of Science?

A. Scopus data is utilized due to its comprehensive coverage and the detailed affiliation information it provides, which is essential for accurate institutional profiling and bibliometric analysis. Scopus, an Elsevier product, is known for its extensive abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature, which includes scientific journals, books, and conference proceedings. This broad coverage ensures a wide representation of global research output, which is crucial for constructing reliable and inclusive university rankings and assessments. Additionally, the collaboration between THE and Elsevier allows for the use of Scopus data in analytical tools like SciVal, which further aids in the detailed evaluation of research performance and impact. The choice of Scopus over other databases like Web of Science may also be influenced by specific methodological preferences and the historical relationship between THE and Elsevier.

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Q&A

Q. When do you think the Studying Abroad metric will be included in the rankings?

A. The study abroad metric – assessing the provision of international learning opportunities for domestic students – is currently given a weight of 0%. The zero weight is a temporary provision due to the impact of Covid-19 on international travel. As we are moving away from the Covid-impacted period for the data collection window, we will review the potential inclusion of this metric in the next edition of the ranking. The study abroad metric – assessing the provision of international learning opportunities for domestic students – is currently given a weight of 0%. The zero weight is a temporary provision due to the impact of Covid-19 on international travel. As we are moving away from the Covid-impacted period for the data collection window, we will review the potential inclusion of this metric in the next edition of the ranking.

Q. Are there any considerations to adjust the calculation or normalisation process to provide an advantage to universities that receive very few votes?

A. In the process of calculating university rankings, particularly in reputation surveys, there is a mechanism in place to ensure that votes from areas with low response rates are not unfairly penalized. This is achieved by weighting the votes to reflect the distribution of scholars across the world, using publicly available data such as that from UNESCO. These weightings are applied in the final analysis to balance the representation of votes received. In the process of calculating university rankings, particularly in reputation surveys, there is a mechanism in place to ensure that votes from areas with low response rates are not unfairly penalized. This is achieved by weighting the votes to reflect the distribution of scholars across the world, using publicly available data such as that from UNESCO. These weightings are applied in the final analysis to balance the representation of votes received.

Q&A

Q. Can you explain about the patent again?

A. Patents are a key metric used in university rankings to measure the impact of a university's research. The patents metric specifically looks at the number of patents that cite the university’s research publications. This includes patents filed by anyone, not just the university itself, and can be from over 40 patent offices such as the World Intellectual Property Organisation, the European Patent Office, and the patent offices of the US, the UK, and Japan. The data for this metric is sourced from Elsevier.

The calculation of the patents metric involves dividing the number of patents citing the university’s research by the square root of the total number of staff, which includes both academic and research staff. This is done because productivity in research does not tend to scale linearly with the size of an institution. The metric is also subject-weighted to ensure that universities focusing on STEM subjects, which typically produce more patents, do not have an unfair advantage.

It's important to note that only granted patents are considered, not patent applications, and the patents must have been published between 2018 and 2022. The university's research that is cited by these patents includes journal articles, article reviews, books, book chapters, and conference proceedings, but excludes pre-prints and publications in suspended journals. Patents are a key metric used in university rankings to measure the impact of a university's research. The patents metric specifically looks at the number of patents that cite the university’s research publications. This includes patents filed by anyone, not just the university itself, and can be from over 40 patent offices such as the World Intellectual Property Organisation, the European Patent Office, and the patent offices of the US, the UK, and Japan. The data for this metric is sourced from Elsevier.

Q&A

Continued . . .

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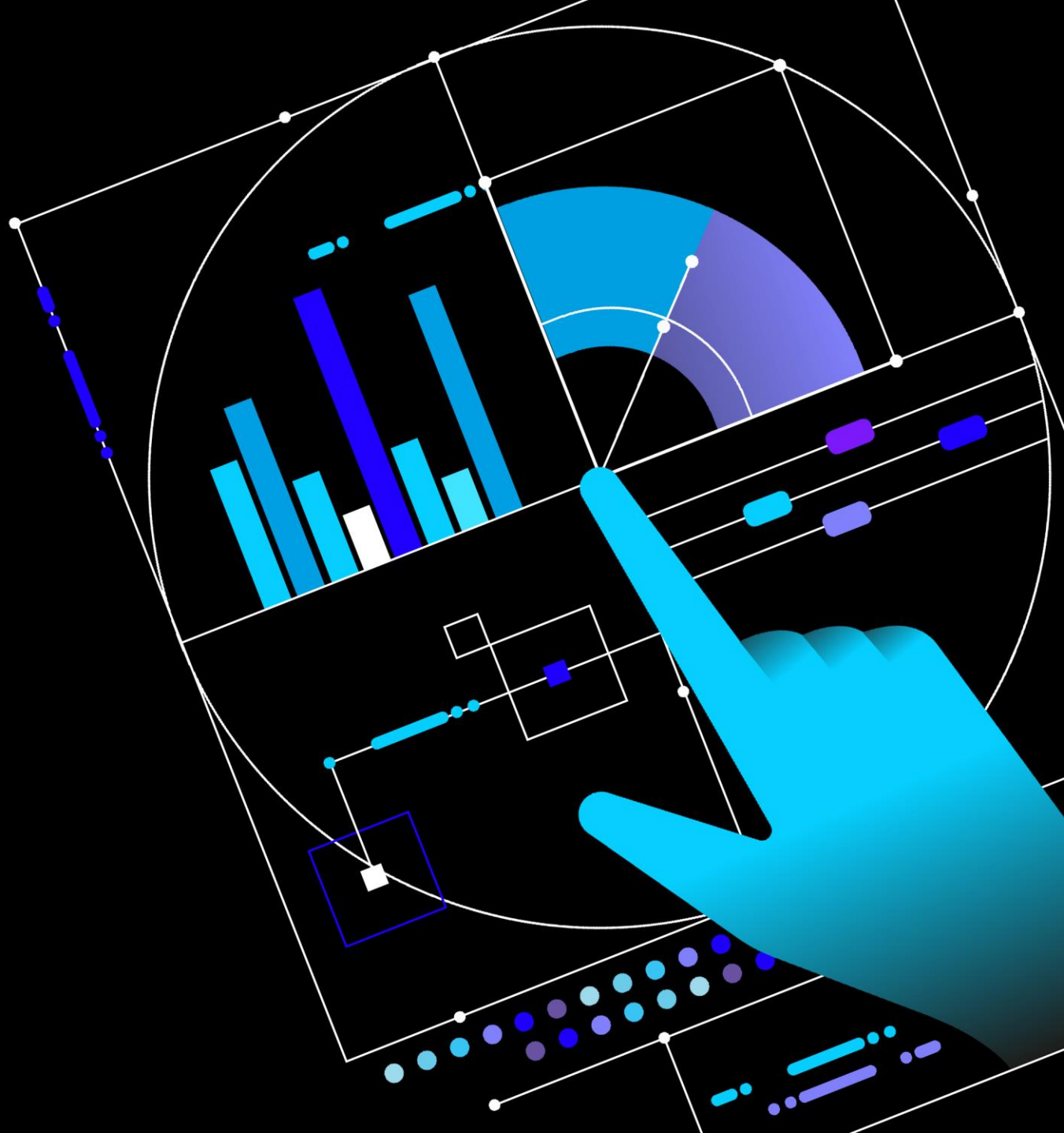
Thank you



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