

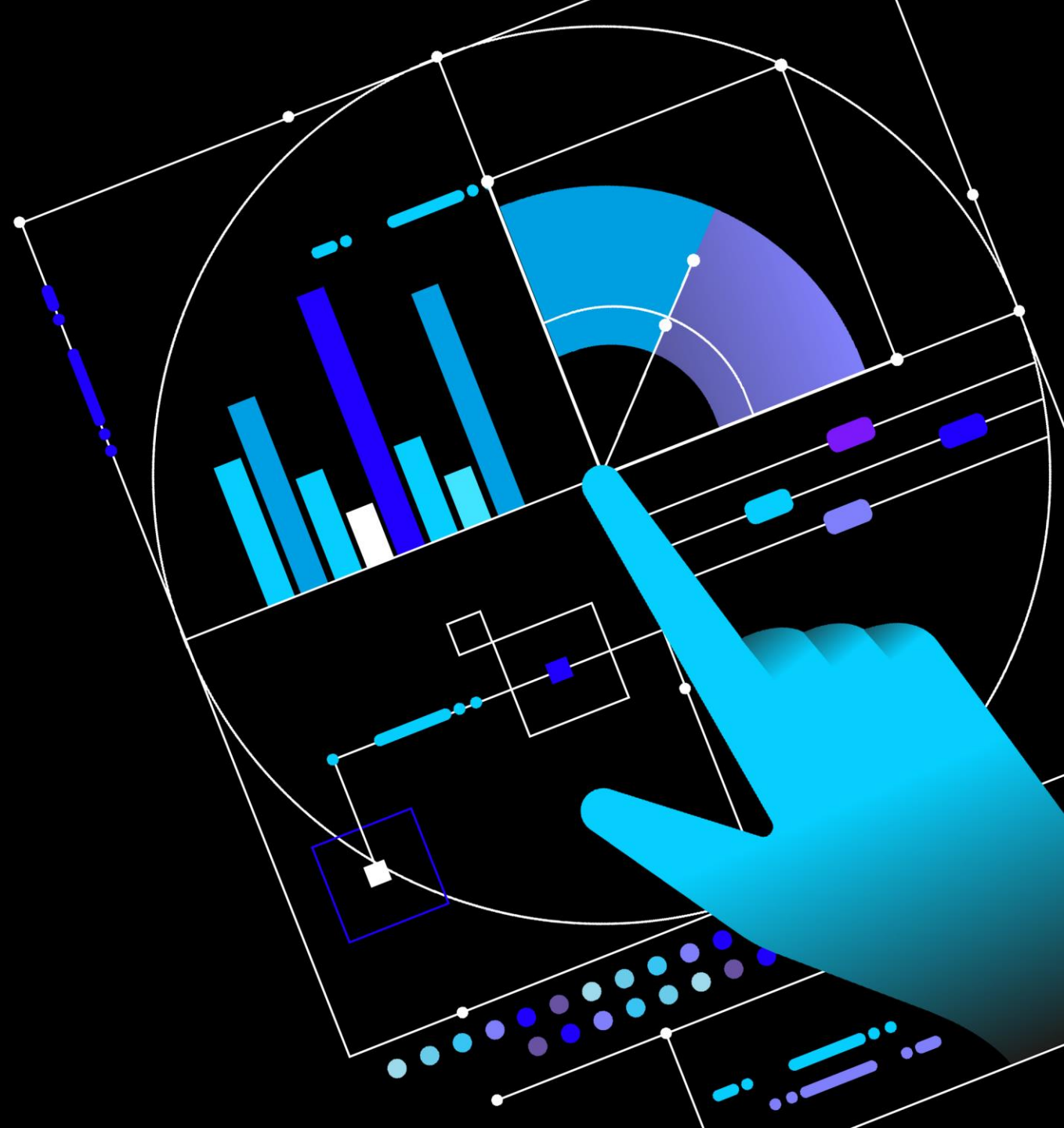


**World
University
Rankings 2025**

Q&A

The 2025 World University Rankings Masterclass: Arab

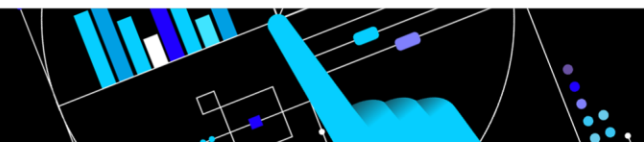
Duncan Ross
Chief data officer
Times Higher Education



Q&A

Q. Greetings from HEIs in Oman. We have several colleges who offer UG and PG courses through franchise and validation arrangements. The certificates are issued by the UK and other partners. Can we be part of THE without having the power of issuing the degrees or we have to start issuing our own degrees?

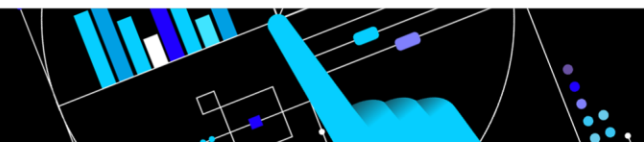
A. Greetings, To participate in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings, an institution must meet certain eligibility criteria. One of the key requirements is that the institution teaches undergraduates. Additionally, the institution must have a research output above a specified number of relevant publications in the past five years, as indexed by Elsevier's Scopus database. For institutions that offer undergraduate and postgraduate courses through franchise and validation arrangements, where certificates are issued by partner institutions, the situation can be complex. The ability to issue degrees may be a factor in determining eligibility for the rankings, as it relates to the institution's autonomy and academic standing. In your case, if the degrees are issued by UK or other partner institutions, it would be necessary to clarify whether the educational and research activities carried out at your institution can be attributed to your institution for the purposes of the ranking. This often requires a detailed review of the institutional arrangements and the nature of the academic programs. It is also important to ensure there is no duplication of data between different institutions. Please reach out directly to THE at profilerankings@timeshighereducation.com to discuss your specific circumstances and to determine whether your institution is eligible to participate in the rankings or what steps you might need to take to become eligible, such as starting to issue your own degrees."



Q&A

Q. How many applications should the university have to be ranked?

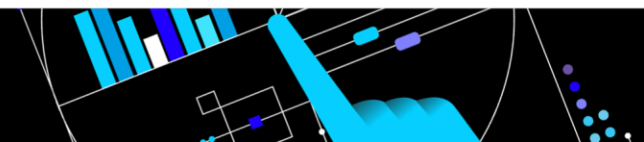
A. To be considered for ranking, a university does not need to have a specific number of applications from prospective students. The eligibility for ranking is based on criteria such as the volume of research publications, the level of degree programs offered (undergraduate level is required for the WUR, not for the Arab University Rankings), the diversity of subject areas, and the provision of data to the ranking body. Universities must meet certain publication thresholds over a set period, and not be on a custom exclusion list, among other requirements. However, the number of student applications to the university is not a criterion for inclusion in the rankings.



Q&A

Q. Under THE WUR, how do you really calculate the Research excellence - I have calculated the Total number of publications (%) by an institution that are in the top 10% of the most-cited publications worldwide, and couldn't reproduce the raw data that you have provided

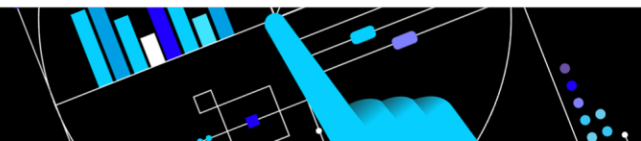
"A. The calculation of Research Excellence in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (THE WUR) is a complex process that goes beyond simply identifying the total number of publications in the top 10% of the most-cited publications worldwide. It involves an iterative method that assesses the importance of a paper by considering not only the number of citations it receives but also the significance of the citing papers themselves. This measure uses a random walk approach, similar to the PageRank algorithm used by search engines, to determine the "importance" of citing papers. The importance is iteratively calculated, with each citation from a significant paper carrying more weight than a citation from a less significant one. Additionally, the calculation takes into account the subject area of the research, as citation patterns can vary significantly between different fields. The actual equation and methodology used for this calculation are proprietary and involve complex mathematical modeling. Therefore, reproducing the raw data provided by THE WUR for Research Influence may not be straightforward without access to the specific algorithms and normalization processes they use. If you are finding discrepancies in your calculations, it may be due to the lack of access to the complete methodology and the iterative calculations involved in the ranking process."



Q&A

Q. What measures does THE Rankings take to verify the accuracy of the submitted data?

A. THE Rankings employs several measures to ensure the accuracy of the submitted data. Institutions are required to have a named representative who submits and authorizes their data for use in the rankings. This data undergoes automatic validation checks prior to submission to ensure completeness and accuracy. Management also reviews and approves all institution submissions for appropriateness and accuracy, comparing them against prior year values and identifying any gaps within datasets. Whenever we can, data is compared with external datasets. Additionally, financial information provided by institutions is converted into USD using international PPP exchange rates to maintain consistency. For bibliometric data, Elsevier provides institution-level data that is mapped to THE institution data via THE's institution ID, ensuring accurate attribution.



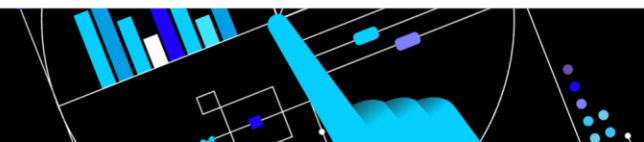
Q&A

Q. How can we participate in the academic survey?

A. To participate in the academic survey, you must be an active, cited academic based at a university or research institution. The survey is by invitation only, and invitees are selected from an in-house academic contact database that includes over 3.4 million verified academic contacts. Academics are chosen based on their recent publication activity and citation record. If you are an academic with recent publications and citations, you may be selected to receive an invitation via email. It is important to note that there is no nomination system for the survey, and you cannot request to be added to the list of invitees. If you believe you meet the criteria and have not received an invitation, it may be beneficial to ensure your published work is visible and properly cited in academic journals, as this is how the contact database is compiled and verified.

Q. are you still using the following rate for PPP rate

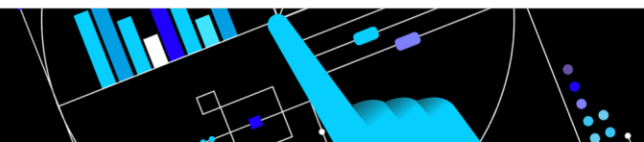
A. Yes, the World Bank Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) dataset, which can be found at <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/PA.NUS.PPP>, is still being used to convert local currency to a common PPP-scaled USD. This dataset is utilized to exemplify the differing currency strengths in each country while allowing for easy cross-country comparisons.



Q&A

Q. How and to whom the academic reputation surveys are sent?

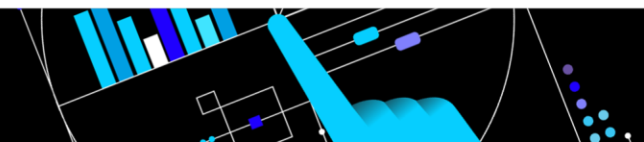
A. The Academic Reputation Surveys are sent to experienced, published scholars who are selected based on their recent academic contributions and citations in academic papers. These individuals are chosen from an in-house academic contact database that contains 3.4 million verified academic contacts. The selection process does not include a nomination system, ensuring that only active, cited academics are invited to participate. The survey is distributed via email to these academics, and they are asked to vote for institutions they believe excel in research and teaching globally. Respondents are also asked to provide additional information such as their subject specialization, their location, and factors important to them when voting. The survey is available in twelve languages and is designed to take up to 15 minutes to complete. The aim is to send no more than four survey invitations to academics per year to avoid overburdening them.



Q&A

Q. Is self voting is counted?

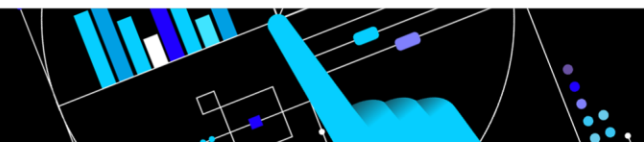
A. Yes, self-voting is counted in the reputation survey. However, there is a cap in place to prevent excessive self-voting. Specifically, self-votes for any given institution in the global academic reputation survey for the WUR can account for no more than 10% of the total votes that the institution receives. This measure is designed to maintain the integrity and fairness of the survey results by ensuring that self-voting does not disproportionately influence an institution's ranking.



Q&A

Q. It looks like Reputation Surveys are not fair for young and/or small universities.

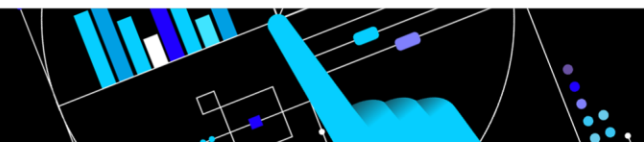
A. The design of reputation surveys often aims to capture the perceptions of academic excellence in research and teaching across a broad range of institutions globally. While it is true that established universities with a long history and significant research output may have an advantage in such surveys due to their visibility and reputation in the academic community, efforts are made to ensure a fair and representative assessment. For instance, the survey may include measures to address potential biases, such as weighting votes to reflect the global distribution of scholars or applying caps on self-voting to prevent institutions from unduly influencing their own scores. Additionally, the inclusion of a question aimed at increasing the number of votes for institutions outside the top of the reputation ranking (pairwise comparison) suggests an attempt to recognize and elevate the profiles of a diverse range of universities. However, it is important to acknowledge that young and small universities may face challenges in gaining recognition in reputation surveys. These institutions may not yet have had the opportunity to establish a strong international presence or may focus on niche areas of research and teaching that are less represented in broader surveys. As such, while efforts are made to ensure fairness, the nature of reputation surveys may inherently favor more established institutions.



Q&A

Q. How do you calculate the Research excellence – is it the Total number of publications (%) an institution that are in the top 10% of publications worldwide by FWCI ?

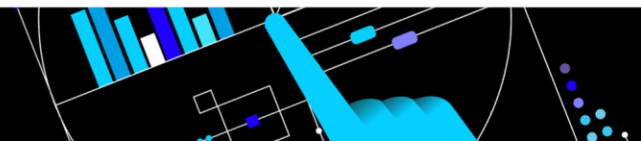
A. Research excellence is calculated by determining the number of an institution's publications that are within the top 10% worldwide by Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI). This is not simply a percentage of the institution's total publications, but rather a count of its publications that are among the most cited in their respective fields. The FWCI is a normalized measure that accounts for differences in citation practices across disciplines, publication types, and years. To calculate research excellence, the number of top 10% publications by FWCI is divided by the square root of the total staff (academic staff + research staff) for each subject area within the institution. This normalization by staff size helps to account for the size of the institution and allows for a fair comparison between institutions of different sizes. The measure is also subject-weighted to ensure that institutions with a focus on subjects that have different citation patterns are not disadvantaged.



Q&A

Q. How do you calculate the research influence ?

A. The calculation of research influence is based on an iterative method that measures the importance of a paper by considering both the number of citations it receives and the significance of the citing papers. This approach acknowledges that not all citations are equal; a citation from a paper deemed important carries more weight than one from a less significant paper. To determine the importance of papers, the model uses a random walk approach, similar to Google's PageRank algorithm, but with adjustments to accommodate the specific properties of academic publications. The algorithm is proprietary and utilizes data from Elsevier. It also accounts for the subject of the research, as citation patterns can vary across different fields. The exact details of the algorithm are not disclosed, but it conceptually considers citation trees, evaluating the diversity of authors within these trees to distinguish between "good" and "bad" self-citations.



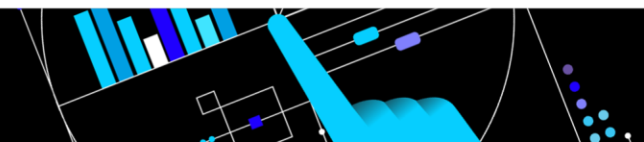
Q&A

Q. Hello. Thanks for the webinar. Regarding the ""reporters"" institutions, are they simply institutions that submitted data seeking to receive a rank without meeting the requirements (or is there still some criteria to filter some of the top ineligible institutions to classify them as ""reporters"")?

A. The "reporter" status in the context of university rankings refers to institutions that have submitted their data for consideration in the rankings but do not meet the eligibility criteria to receive a formal rank. These institutions are acknowledged for their participation and their data is included in the analysis, but they are not placed in the ranked list of universities. The "reporter" status allows these institutions to gain some exposure and recognition for their efforts, even though they are not officially ranked. There are no additional criteria to filter the top ineligible institutions to classify them as "reporters"; any institution that submits data but does not meet the ranking criteria will receive this status.

Q. In another way, is there any merit for being a "reporter" other than "attempted to be ranked"?

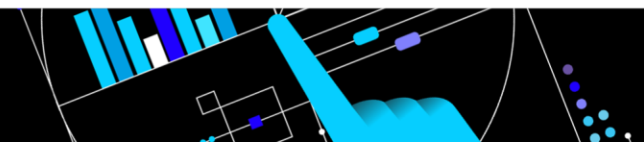
A. Being designated as a "reporter" in the context of university rankings has benefits beyond simply attempting to be ranked. It provides institutions with visibility and recognition for their participation in the ranking process, even if they do not meet the criteria to be fully ranked. This status can be seen as a form of acknowledgment that the institution is engaging with the ranking process and contributing data, which can be valuable for internal benchmarking and external visibility. Additionally, it may offer the institution an opportunity to be part of the ranking community, access insights, and potentially improve their data and strategies for future ranking exercises.



Q&A

Q. How many papers per year to be included in the ranking for the Arab and world ranking

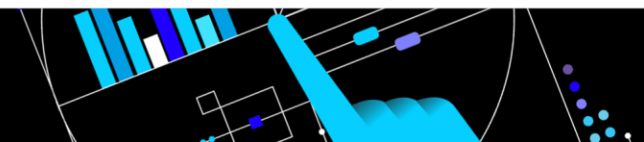
A. For institutions aiming to be included in the Arab University Rankings, there is no annual publication threshold, but the 5-year publication threshold is 500. However, for the World University Rankings, institutions must publish at least 100 relevant publications each year (the 100-publication threshold is new for this year, up until last year it was 150). The 5-year publication threshold for WUR is 1,000 publications.



Q&A

Q. How do you make sure that Reputation Surveys are fair for young and/or small universities?

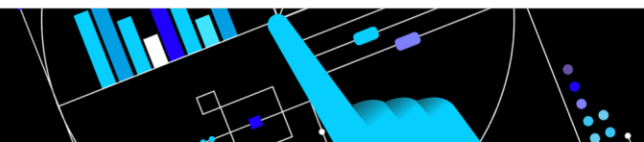
A. Ensuring fairness in Reputation Surveys for young and/or small universities involves several strategies. Firstly, the survey is designed to reach a wide and diverse group of experienced, published scholars from around the world, which helps to mitigate any bias towards older, more established institutions. The selection of respondents is based on recent publication and citation activity, not the reputation or size of their affiliations, which allows for a more equitable representation of opinions. Additionally, the survey includes questions that aim to identify emerging institutions that may not be at the top of the reputation rankings but are recognized for their quality in specific areas. This helps to highlight young and small universities that are excelling in their niche. The weighting of votes also plays a crucial role in leveling the playing field. Votes are weighted to reflect the global distribution of scholars, using data from reliable sources, which ensures that responses from underrepresented regions are not unfairly penalized. Moreover, the survey results are used alongside objective indicators in the World University Rankings, which consider a range of performance areas, not just reputation. This multifaceted approach to ranking helps to provide a more comprehensive and fair assessment of universities, regardless of their age or size.



Q&A

Q. Do you use Scopus to calculate the Research Influence using the PageRank algorithm which is an iterative algorithm.

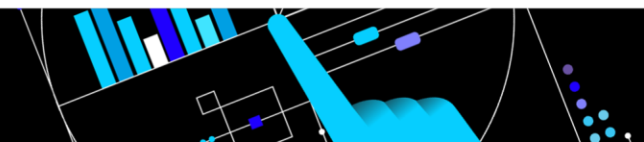
A. Yes, the Research Influence metric utilizes an iterative algorithm similar to Google's PageRank, and it is calculated using data sourced from Elsevier's Scopus database. This method assesses the importance of a paper by considering not only the number of citations it receives but also the significance of the citing papers. The algorithm iteratively refines the importance of each paper by taking into account the entire citation network, thus recognizing that a citation from a highly influential paper carries more weight than one from a less significant paper. The process also accounts for the subject of the research to address different citation patterns across disciplines.



Q&A

Q. How the language used by a university is taking into account, it is clear for example that anglophone universities will attract students more than Spanish or French spoken universities?

A. The language used by a university can indeed influence its ability to attract international students, as English is often considered the lingua franca of higher education. Universities that offer programs in English may have a competitive advantage in attracting a diverse international student body compared to institutions that primarily offer courses in other languages. This is because many students seek education in English to improve their language skills, enhance employability, and access a wider range of academic resources. However, it's important to note that the attractiveness of a university is multifaceted and depends on various factors, including academic reputation, quality of education, research opportunities, location, cultural offerings, and the availability of scholarships and financial aid. Some non-anglophone universities have also established a strong international presence by offering select programs in English, forming international partnerships, and actively recruiting overseas students. While language is a significant factor, it is just one of many that students consider when choosing a university. The overall reputation and perceived quality of the institution often play a more decisive role in attracting students from around the globe.



Q&A

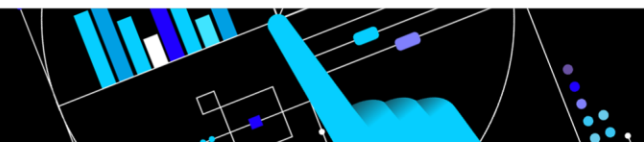
Q. Can you let me know the criteria for “Research Environment” and “Research Quality”. How do you gather points for these two items in your ranking system? Thanks

A. Certainly! The “Research Environment” criterion in the ranking system evaluates three main aspects:

1. **Research Reputation:** This is assessed through an Academic Reputation Survey, which gathers votes from academics regarding the perceived prestige of institutions in research. Votes from the last two years are considered, and the number of global research votes from respondents is weighted by subject and country.
2. **Research Income:** This metric considers the total subject-weighted research income, adjusted for purchasing power parity (PPP), and divides it by the number of academic staff. It reflects the competitive nature of securing research grants and is normalized after calculation.
3. **Research Productivity:** This looks at the number of papers published in academic journals indexed by Scopus per scholar, divided by the sum of full-time equivalent (FTE) research staff and FTE academic staff. It also accounts for cross-subject research and is normalized post-calculation.

For “Research Quality,” four metrics are used:

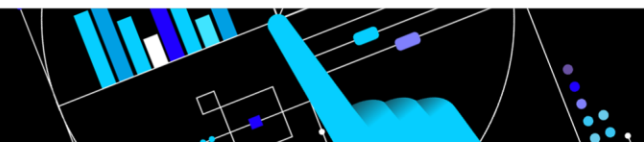
1. **Citation Impact:** This measures the average number of times a university's published work is cited by scholars globally. It considers publications indexed by Scopus from the past five years and citations made in the six years from 2019 to 2024.



Q&A

Continued ...

A. The data is normalized to account for variations in citation volume across different subject areas.² Research Strength: This is based on the 75th percentile of the Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI) of all papers published by a university, looking at Scopus-indexed publications from 2019 to 2023 and citations to these publications made in the six years from 2019 to 2024.³ Research excellence looks at the number of research publications in the top 10 per cent for field-weighted citation impact worldwide – a guide to the amount of world-leading research at an institution. It is normalised by year, subject and staff numbers.⁴ Research influence helps us to understand when research is recognised in turn by the most influential research in the world – a broader look at excellence. The idea behind the metric is that the value of citations is not equal: a citation from an “important” paper is more significant than a citation from an “unimportant” one. We use an iterative method to measure the importance of a paper by not only counting the number of citations but also taking into account the importance of the citing papers. We also consider the subject of the research, as different disciplines have different citation patterns. These criteria are designed to capture the breadth and impact of a university's research activities.



Q&A

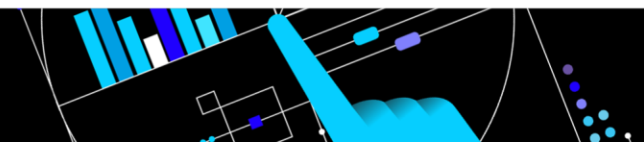
Q. This question is for the Arab Pillar trends, score vs world Graph how come the Universities mentioned in this post show a different picture in comparison to the Arab region displayed here

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/philbaty_ksa-uae-ksa-activity-7253698724038610944-wzB-?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop

A. The graphs are different. The graph in the Masterclass showed the Arab world compared to the rest of the world. The graphs in https://www.linkedin.com/posts/philbaty_ksa-uae-ksa-activity-7253698724038610944-wzB-?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop show Saudi Arabia and the UAE respectively compared to the World's top 500.

Q. can we withdraw from the rankings for a couple of year as it is said in the webinar to solve our issues and come back later one once we resolved and improved some of our indicators ?

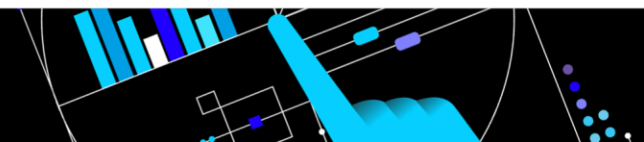
A. Yes, you can choose to withdraw from the rankings for a period of time to address any issues and improve your indicators. Participation in the World University Rankings is voluntary, and institutions can decide when they wish to participate. If you feel that taking time to focus on improvements would be beneficial, you can opt out of the data collection process and re-enter the rankings in a future cycle once you believe your institution is ready.



Q&A

Q. We need important dates for the upcoming submission for Arab university ranking so we can start planning our submission and resources.

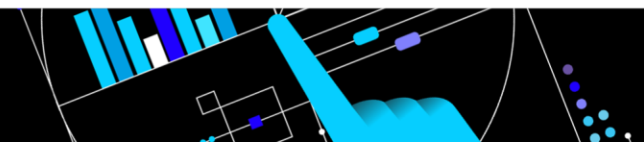
A. The important dates for the upcoming submission for the Arab University Rankings (same as the World University Rankings) are as follows:- Data collection opens on January 13, 2025.- Data collection closes on March 30, 2025.- Data validation will occur in April and May 2025, during which you may be contacted to verify some numbers.- Subject Validation is in June 2025, which is optional and does not impact your place in the rankings.- The publication date for the Arab University Rankings 2025 is to be confirmed (TBC).Please ensure that your data submission is prepared in accordance with these dates. It's also important to note that the data you submit should be for the year ending in 2022. If you have any questions or require further assistance, you can reach out via profilerankings@timeshighereducation.com."



Q&A

Q. Any recommendations for an uprising university that will start next year what to do to get a high ranking and when we can apply for ranking

A. For an upcoming university aiming for a high ranking, it is crucial to focus on developing strong undergraduate programs, as these are key eligibility criteria for inclusion in the World University Rankings (WUR). Ensure that your institution produces a significant volume of relevant publications, ideally over 1,000 in the past five years, with a minimum of 100 per year, as indexed by Elsevier's Scopus database. Additionally, offering a range of subjects can be beneficial. To participate in the rankings, you should prepare to provide contact details for a Data Provider and an Approver at your institution. Data collection for the WUR typically opens in January, with the next cycle starting in January 2025 and closing at the end of March 2025. Data validation occurs from April to May, and you should also be aware of the Subject Validation exercise in June, which, while optional, complements your university's profile."



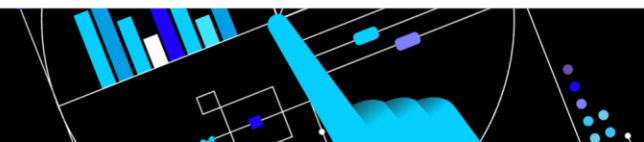
Q&A

Q. How many papers per year to be included in the Asia ranking ?

A. To be included in the Asia University Rankings, the eligibility criteria are the same as for the World University Rankings. There is no separate data collection for the Asia University Rankings, universities located in Asia who are ranked in the World University Rankings are automatically included in the Asia University Rankings.

Q. Can you please illustrate on THE Impact Rankings. What is the minimum number of SDGs against which a university can apply?

A. More information on the Impact Ranking methodology can be found at <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/impact-rankings-2024-methodology>. Any university that provides data on SDG 17 and at least three other SDGs is included in the overall ranking.



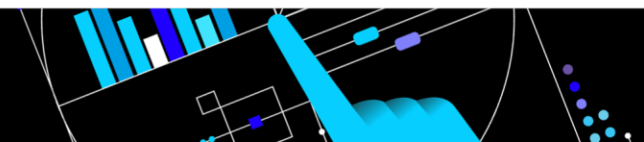
Q&A

Q. Are we allowed to submit for the ranking without having a class already graduated

A. To be eligible for the World University Rankings (WUR), one of the key criteria is that your institution must teach undergraduates and yes, you would need to have at least one class graduated, as the eligibility criteria for the undergraduate teaching requirement is the number of undergraduate degrees awarded.

Q. What make a university featured and have the explore button ?

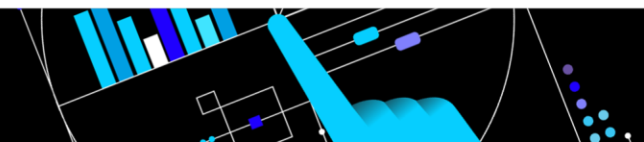
A. To have a university marked with an "Explore" button means that the institution has acquired a specific THE feature to be prominently displayed, enabling users to delve deeper into the details of that university. For a university to be featured in such a way, please contact branding@timeshighereducation.com or themembership@timeshighereducation.com.



Q&A

Q. How can we register in THE portal? and when will the submission begin for next year?

A. To register for the THE Data Collection Portal, you need to nominate a data provider for your institution by sending an email to profilerankings@timeshighereducation.com. The team will then send the nominated representative the portal URL and login details to access the portal. The data collection period typically begins in January, and the final deadline for submissions is at the end of March. Therefore, you can expect the submission process for the next year to start in January of that year. If you encounter any issues or anticipate difficulties in meeting the deadline, you should contact the provided email address for assistance.



Thank you

