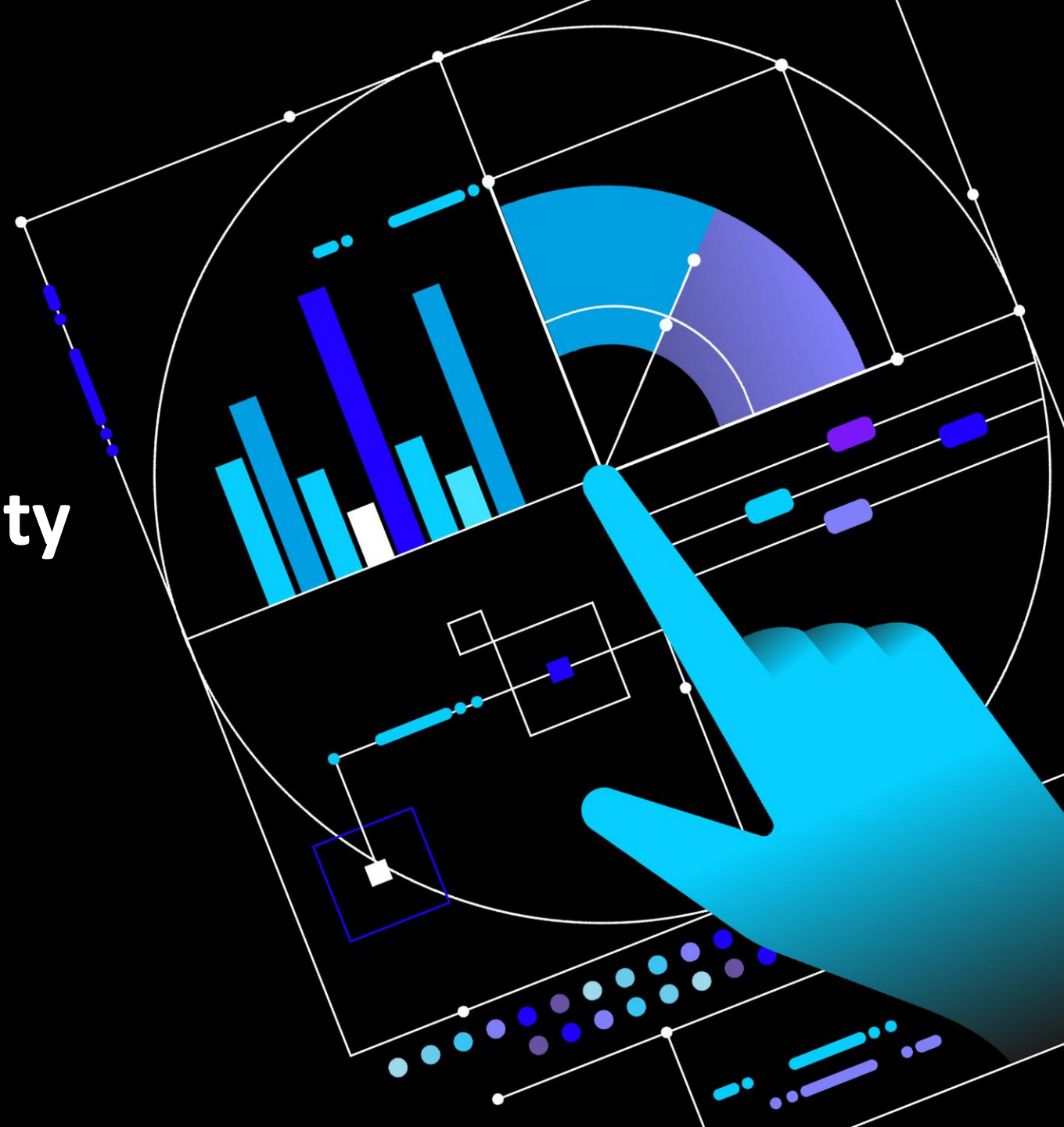




World  
University  
Rankings 2025

# The 2025 World University Rankings Masterclass Japan

**Billy Wong**  
Principal Data Scientist  
Times Higher Education



# 50+ Years of Insights

Empowering higher education by combining data and expertise within a global platform, THE helps universities deliver transformative impact for people, places and the planet.

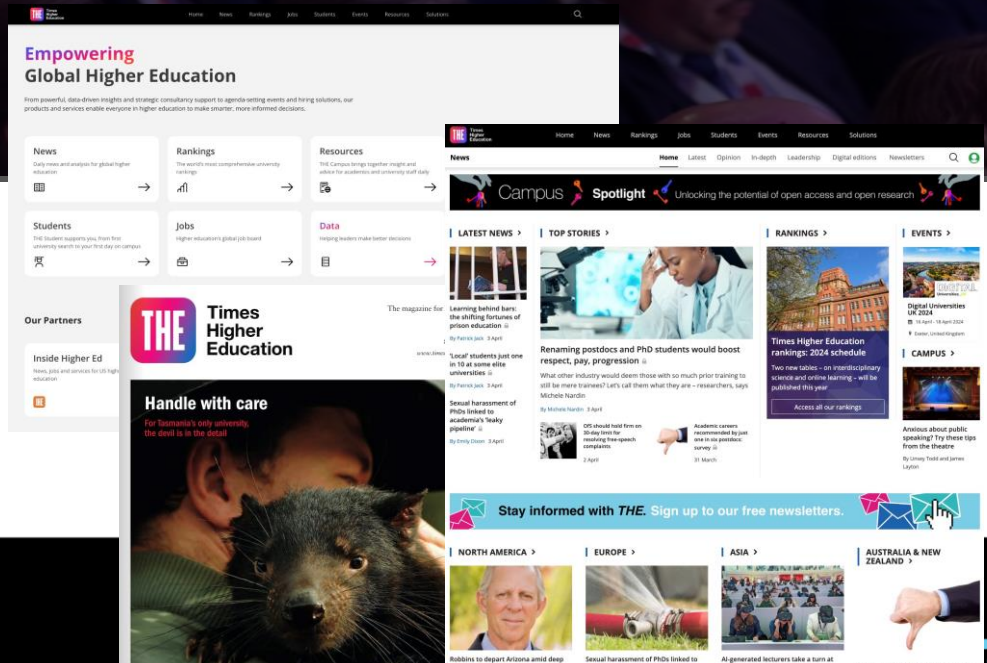
We connect the world's higher education community, facilitate the flow of ideas and talent, and help academics and students fulfil their potential.

We are proud to support universities, and believe that together we will build a better, more sustainable future.

1971



2024



# Our Rankings

## RESEARCH



**Focus:** research output, research quality, research collaboration, reputation + more

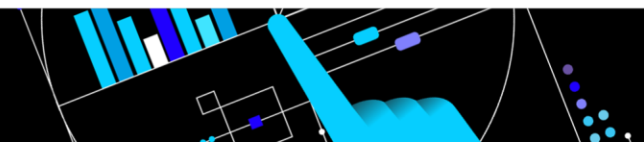
**Participation rules:** 1,000+ publications over 5 years, teach undergraduates across a range of subjects

## IMPACT & SUSTAINABILITY



**Focus:** research, teaching, stewardship and outreach against the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals

**Participation rules:** all UG or PG higher education institutions





# The world's biggest university ranking

## Universities

The world's biggest university ranking

Universities submitted data

**2,860**

Number of countries represented

**133**

## Bibliometrics

In partnership with **ELSEVIER**

Research papers

**18m**

Citations

**157m**

## Universities Data

The world's largest data gathering exercise from universities

Data values

**472,694**

Data fields collected

**216**

## Academic Survey

The world's largest academic survey

Respondents

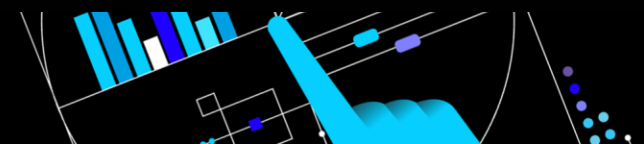
**93,440**

Votes

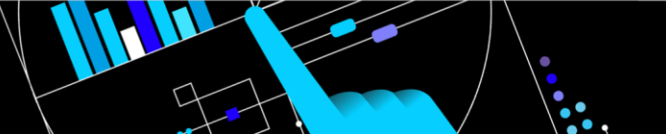
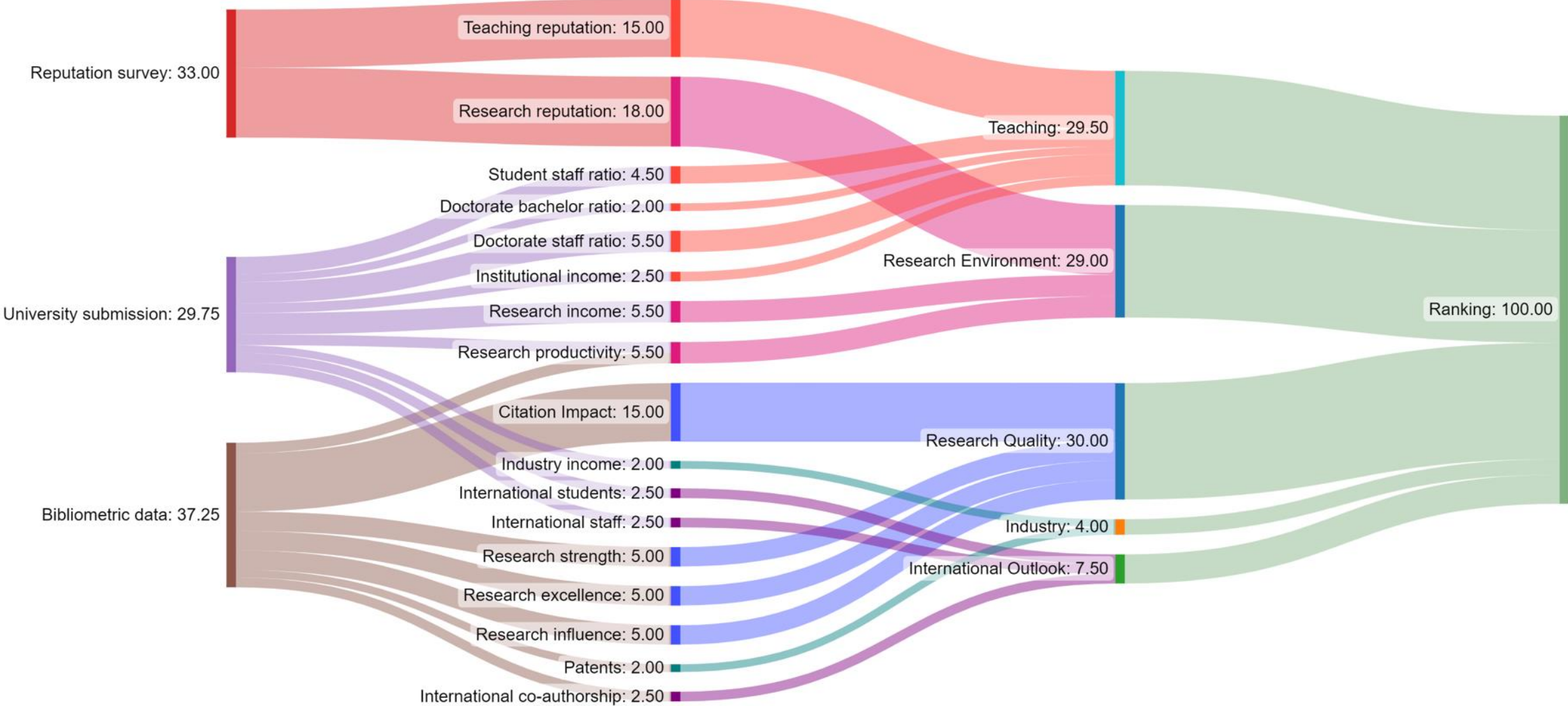
**1,288,684**

Countries

**199**

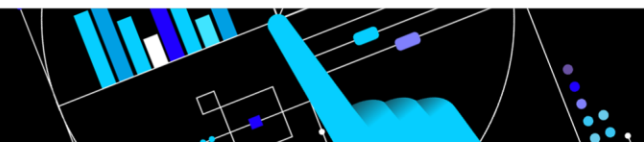
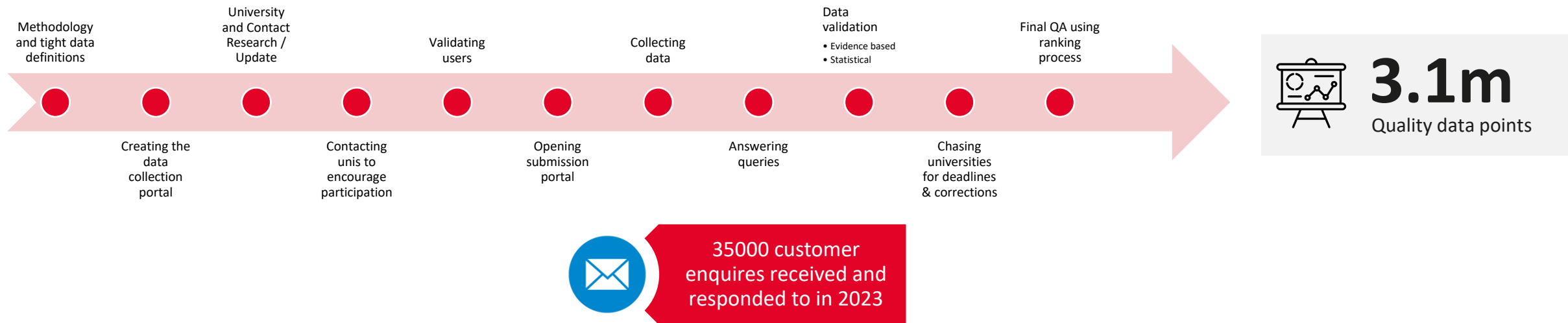


# Methodology



# Key building block: University performance data

- Data is collected direct from universities every year
- Data is collected for the entire university, and in 11 broad subject areas
- Data is validated using statistical techniques, and verified against over 70 external datasets – more are added each year



# Key building block: Academic Survey

## Key participation criteria

- Strictly invitation-only (universities cannot make nominations or supply contact lists, and individuals cannot nominate themselves for participation)
- Academics must have at least one cited research paper and have published in the last 5 years.

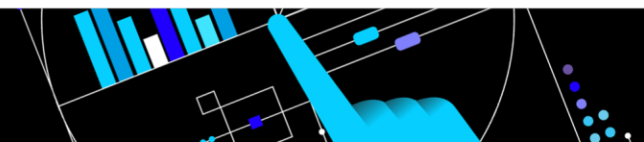
## Survey

- Scholars are questioned at the level of their specific subject discipline and are asked to name up to 15 universities that they believe are the best in research and teaching, both in general and in their direct experience
- The survey is translated into 12 languages

## Fair representation

- Results are benchmarked using UNESCO data to ensure the ranking is representative of the global distribution of scholars, both by country and subject

Survey runs 1<sup>st</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> January annually



# Changes to reputation

## Self voting is not wrong, unless it is abused

- Self votes are now limited to a maximum of 10% of an institution's votes
- Only a small number of institutions are affected

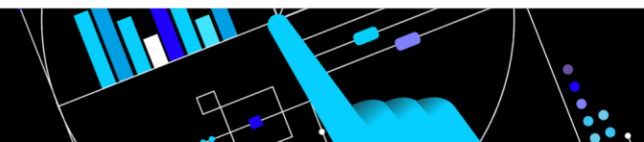


## Voting distribution

- Where votes come from a small range of institutions it may be an indicator of inappropriate behaviour
- We are now limiting the ratio of votes per institution to 15:1
- Less than 15 institutions are affected

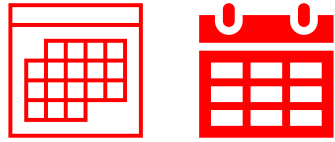
## Country distribution

- The current dataset of national researcher numbers is being discontinued
- Need to find a new stratification approach

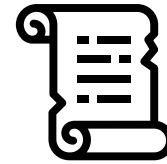




# Key building block: Bibliometric data



2019-2023



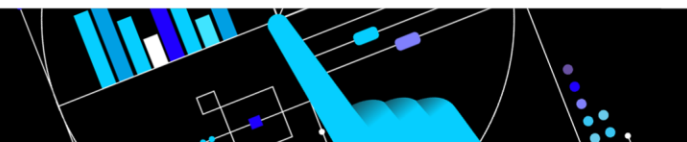
Journal papers, conference proceedings, books, book chapters, reviews



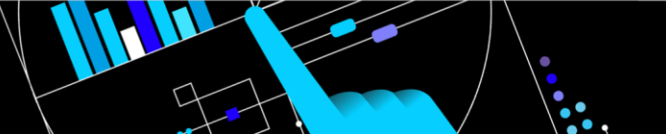
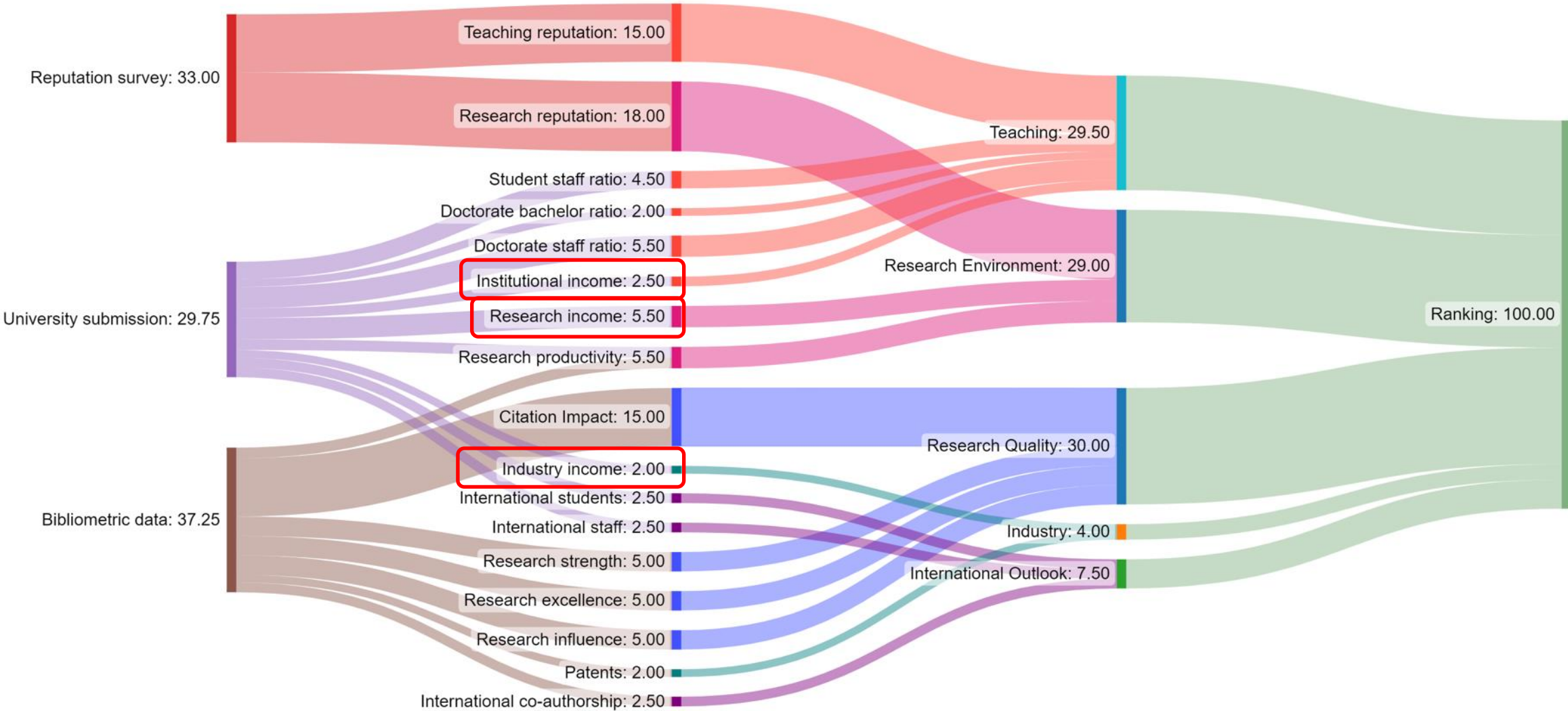
Discontinued journals



Patent offices increased from 5 to 103 (of which 43 have valid data)



# Currency issues



# Key Concept: Field Weighted Citation Impact

Data comes from Elsevier's Scopus dataset

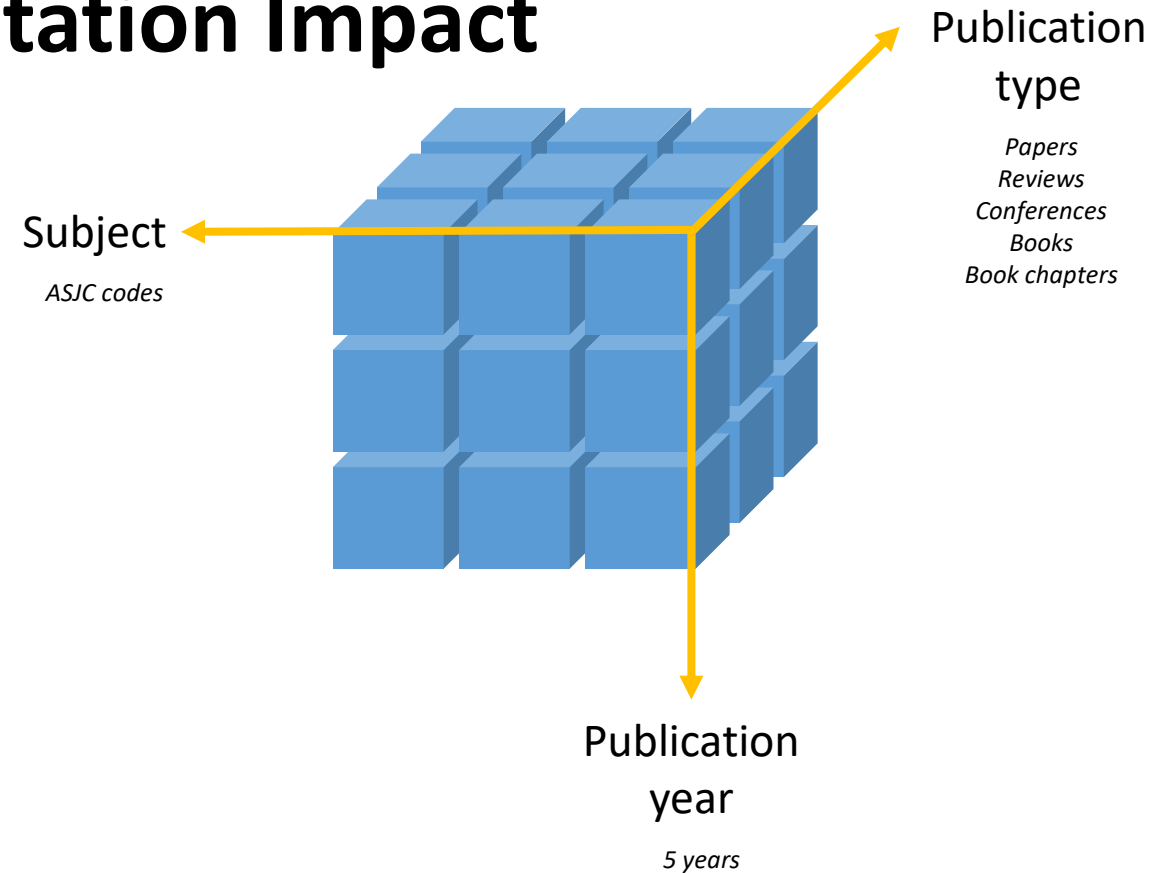
A fundamental measure is Field Weighted Citation Impact.

We want to calculate the average number of citations that a piece of research from an institution receives

We normalise by

- Year
- Type of publication
- Subject

Within each cell we compare a paper to the average



Let's say I published a journal article in 2019 on artificial intelligence, and it received 6 citations so far...

...and the average number of citations received by publications of the same type, same year and same subject is 2...

...then the FWCI of this publication is  $6/2 = 3$

# Research Quality Metrics

## Citation Impact

- Mean FWCI of an institution's research output

## Research Strength

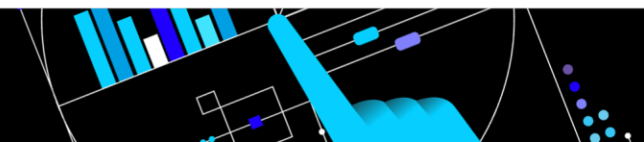
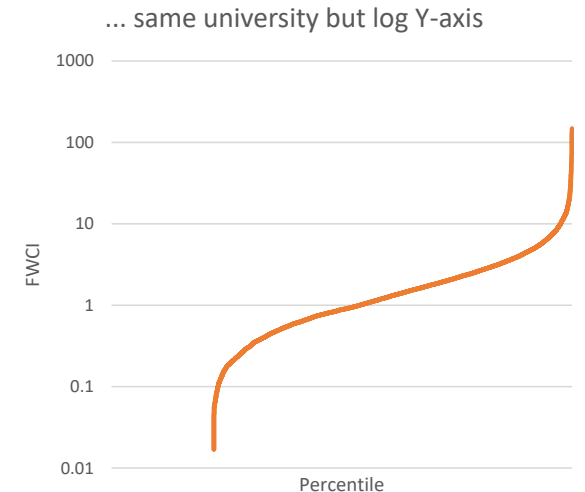
- 75<sup>th</sup> percentile FWCI of an institution's research output

## Research Excellence

- Number of papers in top 10% by FWCI

## Research Influence

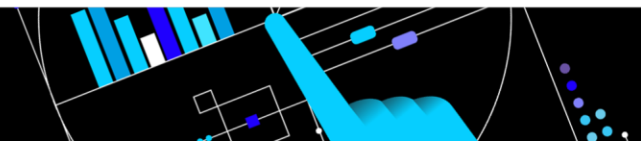
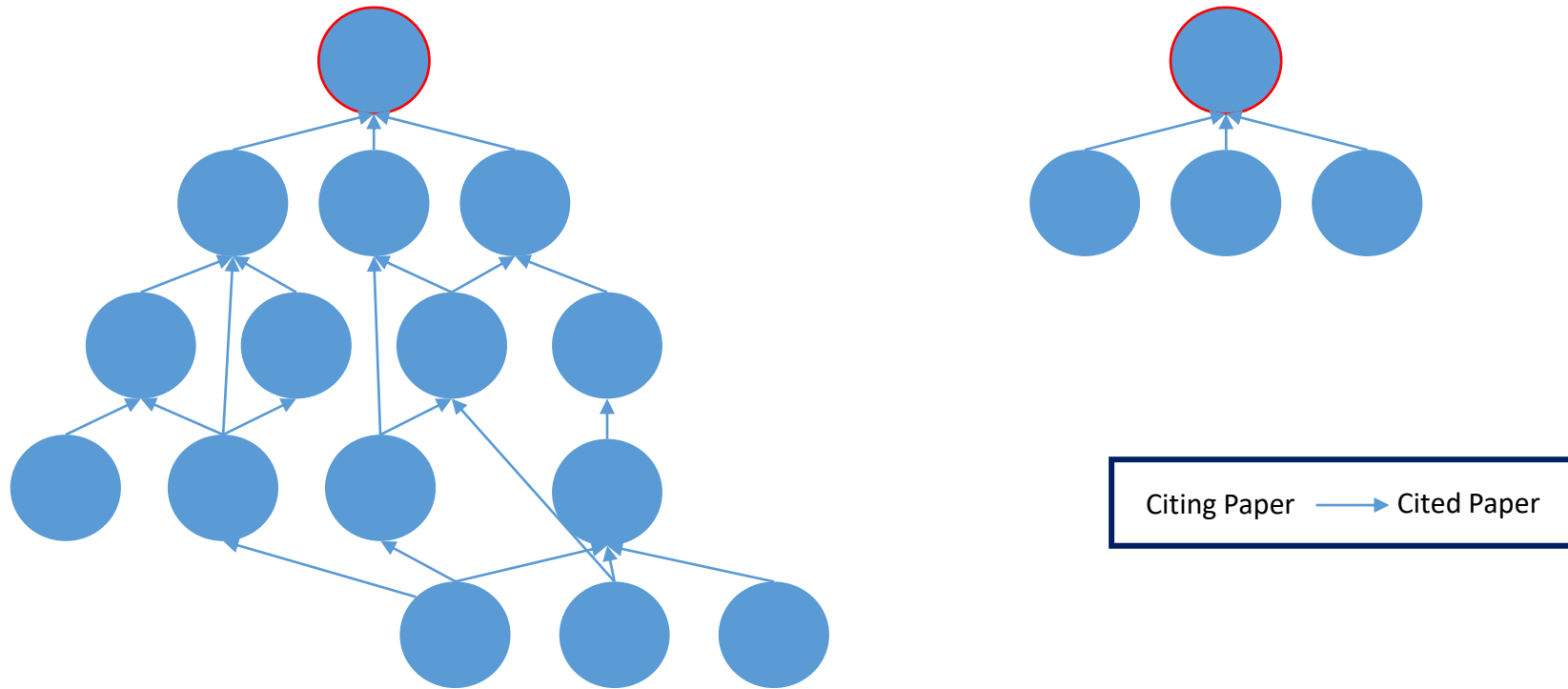
- Network of citations rather than just one level of citation



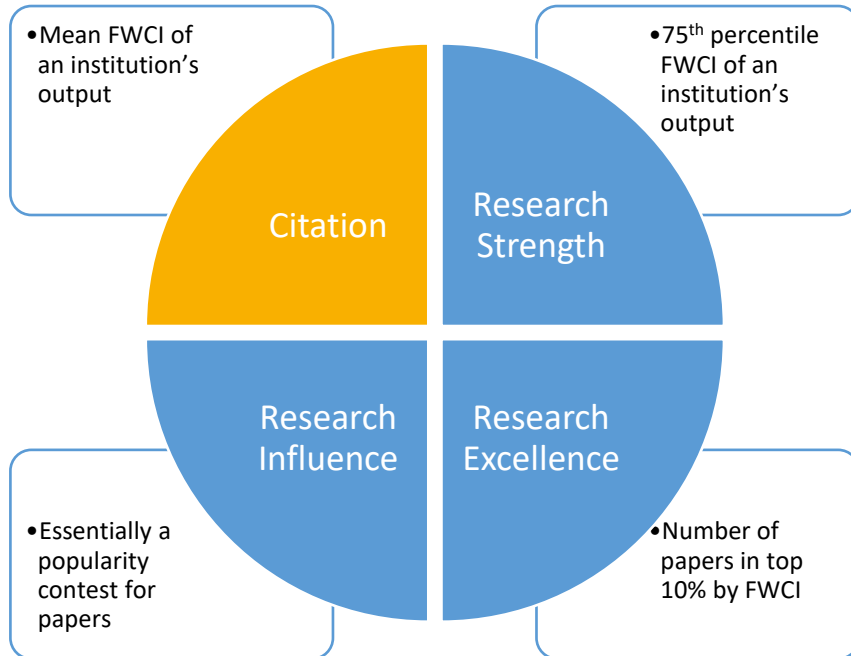


# Research Influence - Papers

Taking a broader look at how citations interlink gives us deeper insight into the value of research

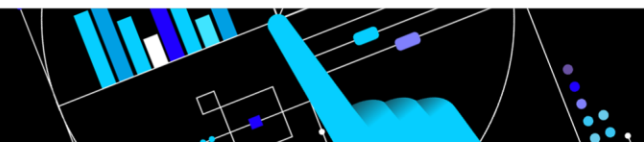


# Research Quality in the World University Rankings



## WUR 2025 Research Quality Top 10

- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Stanford University
- Harvard University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- University of California, Berkeley
- Vita-Salute San Raffaele University
- Princeton University
- University of Oxford
- Imperial College London
- Humanitas University
- UCL

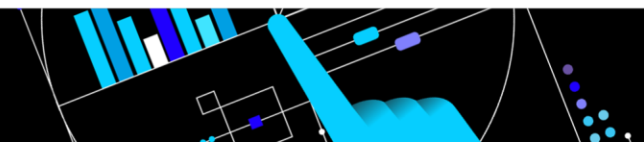


# Effect on participation rules

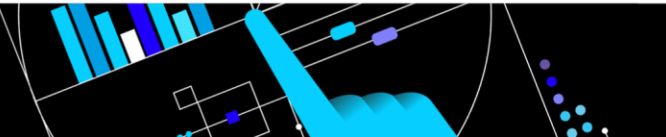
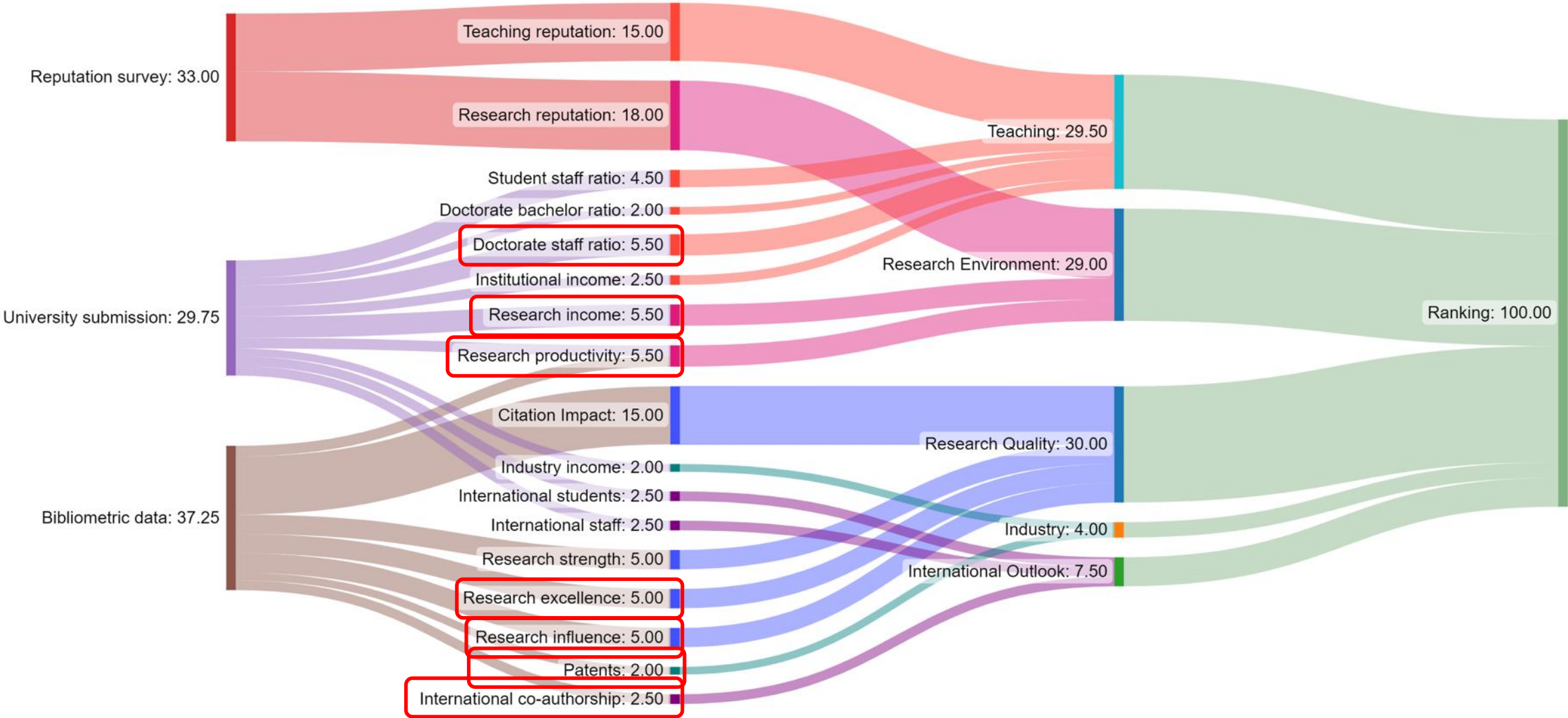
Using a basket of bibliometric measures makes the assessment of quality more stable and robust.

We expect that this will enable us to reduce the number of papers required for participation in the World University Rankings

- Initial reduction in the number of papers per year (maintaining an overall requirement)
- Possible reduction in the overall number of papers required
- Ability to build more sophisticated approaches accounting for subject balance



# Fairness across subjects





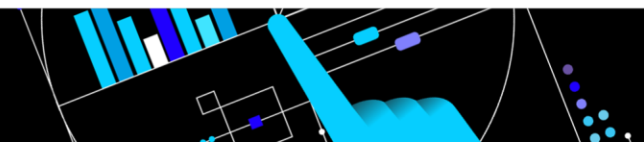
# Subject weighting worked example

Non subject weighted metric – Doctorate undergrad ratio

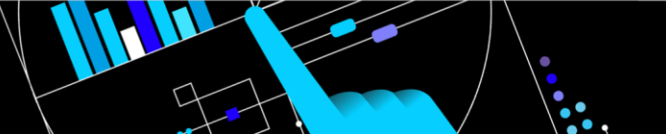
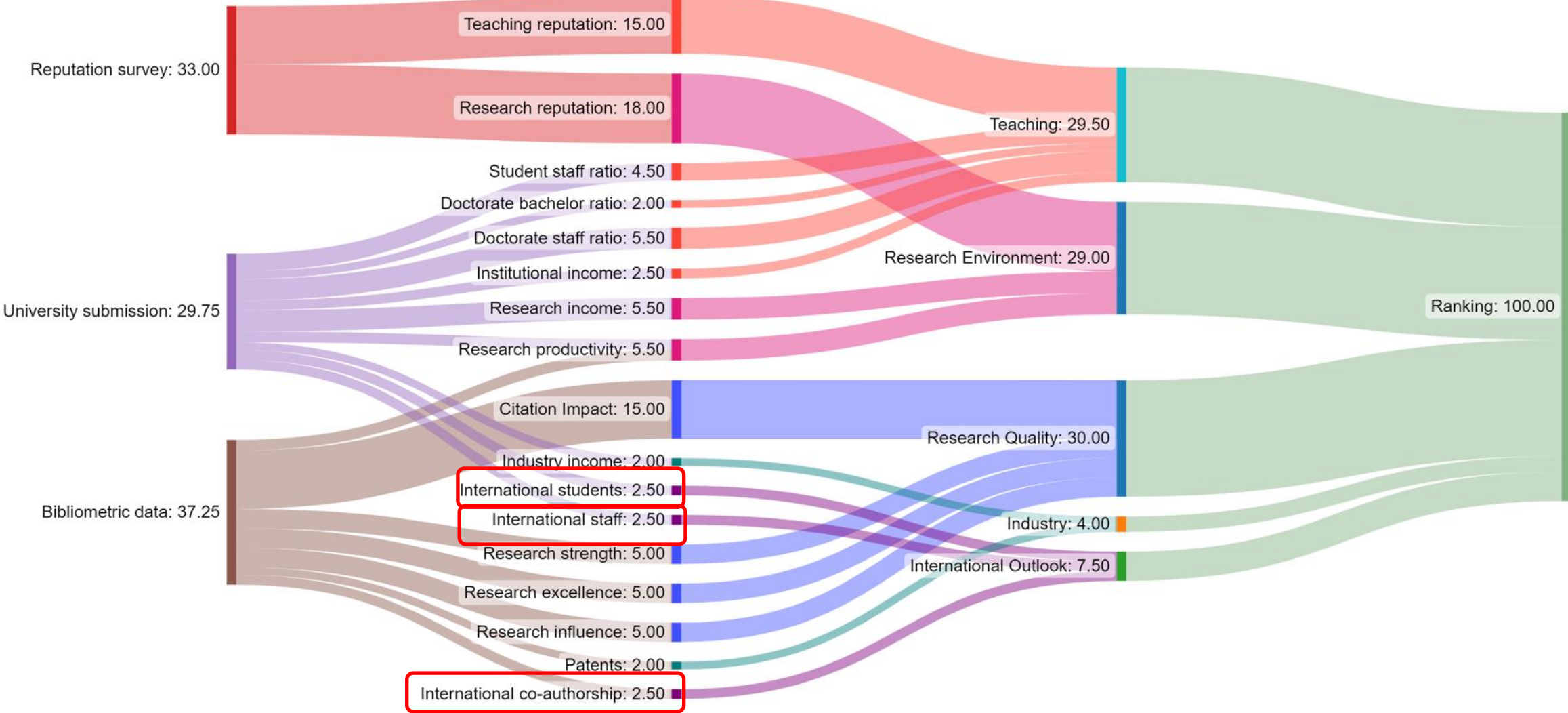
	Overall
<b>Portal Data</b>	
Doctorates Awarded	713
Undergrad Awarded	3562
Ratio	0.20
<b>Statistics of ratio</b>	
mean	0.08
stdev	0.12
<b>Score</b>	84.9

Subject weighted metric – Doctorate staff ratio

	Arts	Medicine	Science	Total
<b>Portal Data</b>				
Doctorate awarded	43	173	72	288
Academic staff	128	286	92	506
Ratio	0.34	0.60	0.78	0.57
<b>Statistics of Ratio</b>				
mean	0.1	0.23	0.18	
stdev	0.13	0.41	0.23	
Z-score of ratio	1.81	0.91	2.62	
<b>Weighted sum of Z-score</b>				1.45
<b>Statistics of weighted sum</b>				
mean				0.00
stdev				0.80
<b>Score</b>				96.5

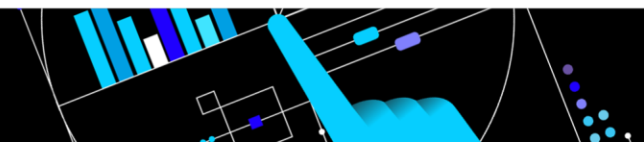


# Fairness across countries

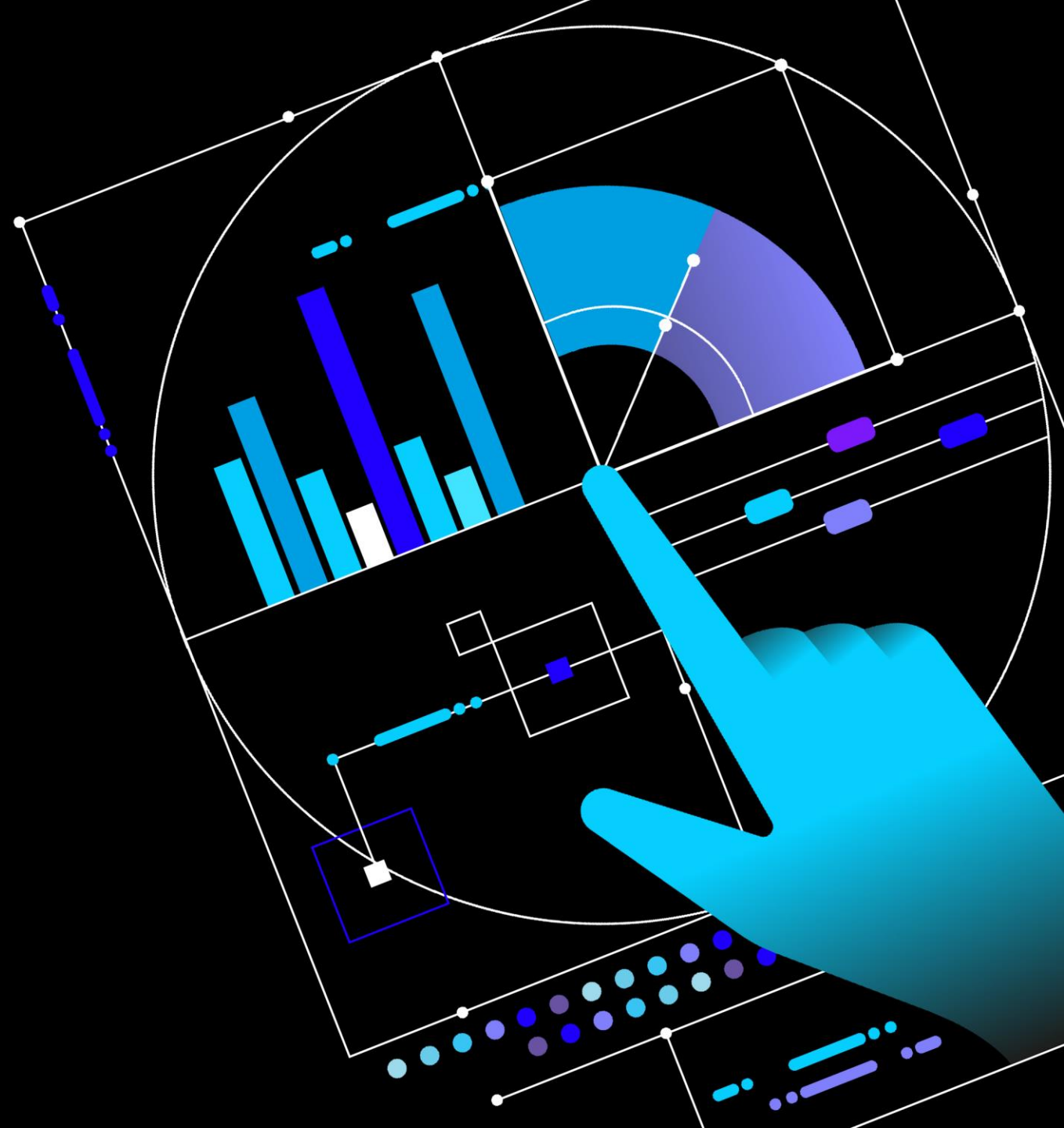


# International Outlook: country size

- Large countries have been disadvantaged compared to small countries in our international metrics, in that it is more likely for staff and students at universities in small countries to have come to work/study from abroad.
- The international metrics are normalised to account for the populations size:
  - Proportion of international students
  - Proportion of international staff
  - Proportion of publications with at least one co-author from an international institution



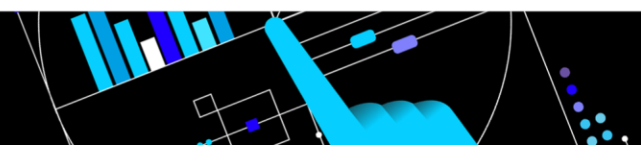
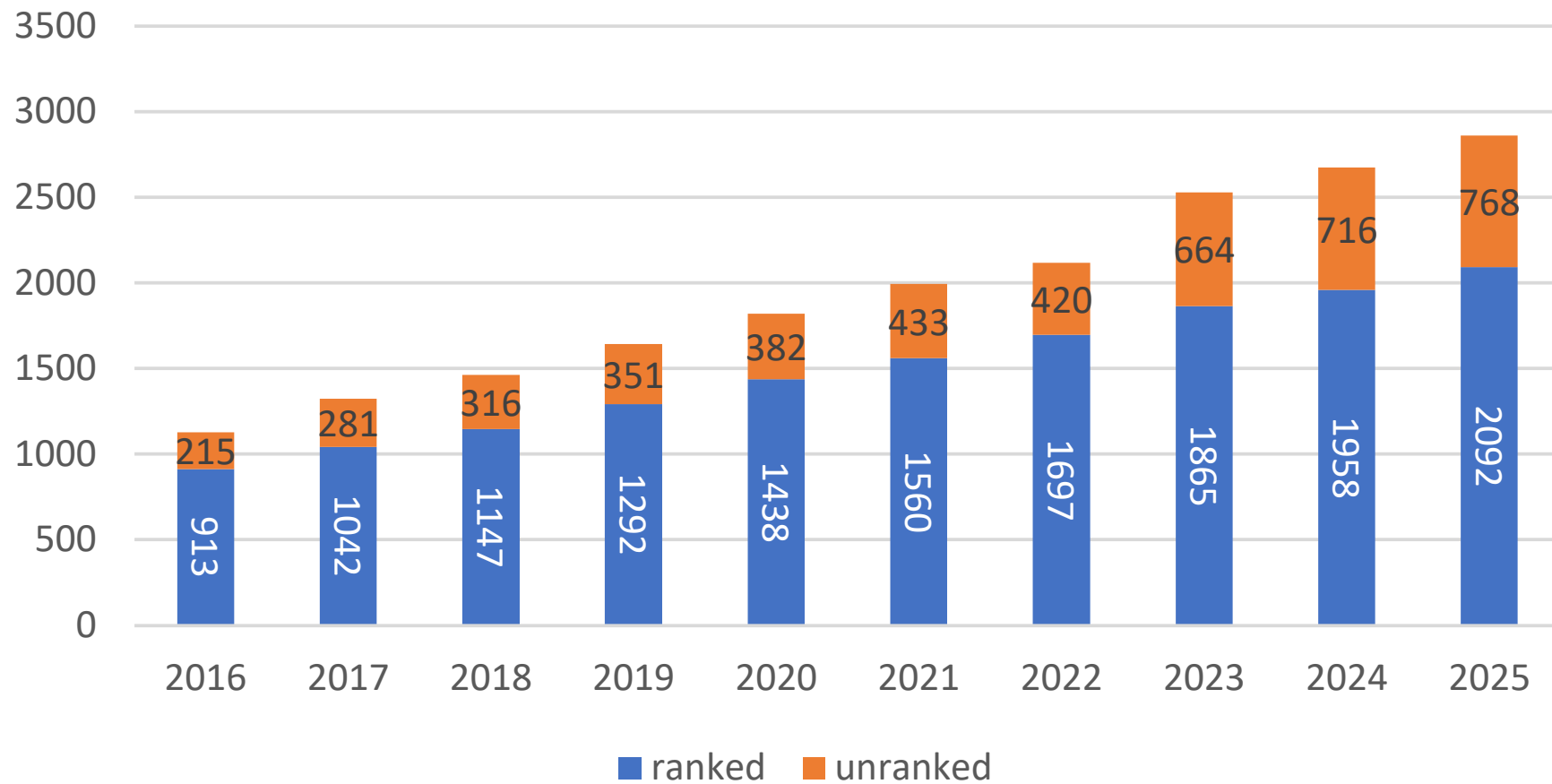
# Japan performance analysis



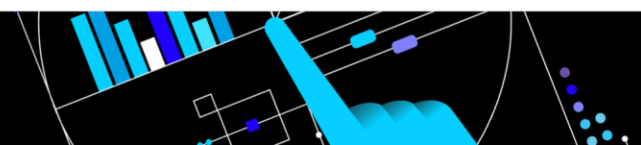
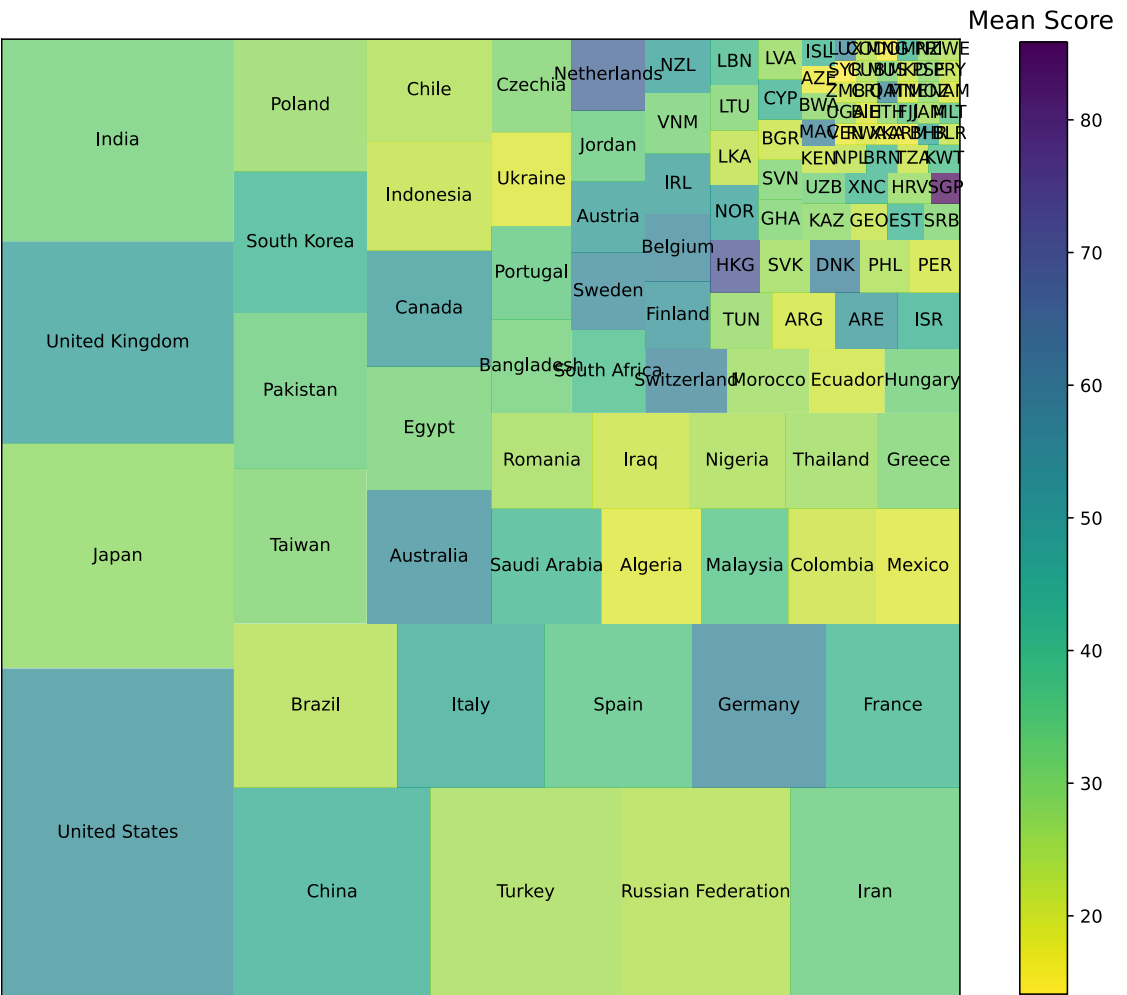
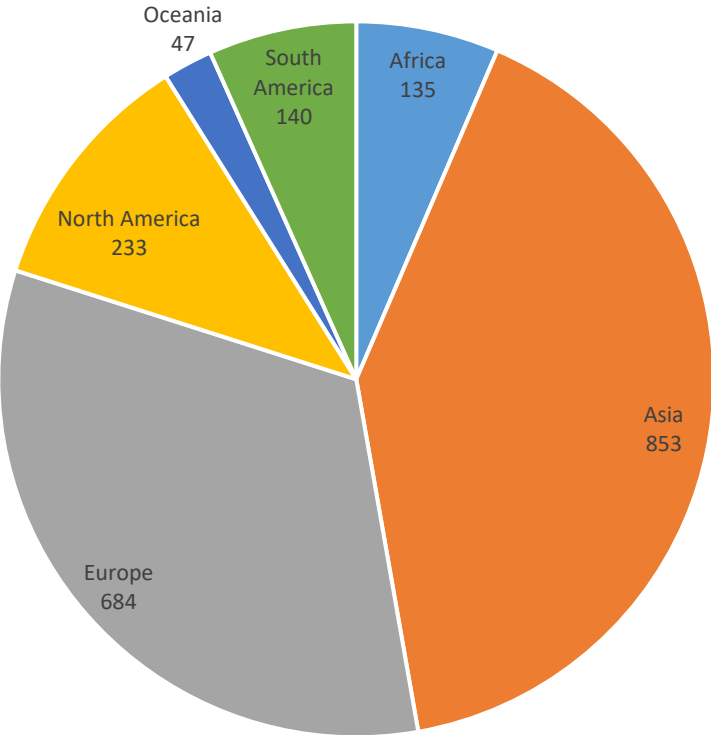


# World University Rankings 2025

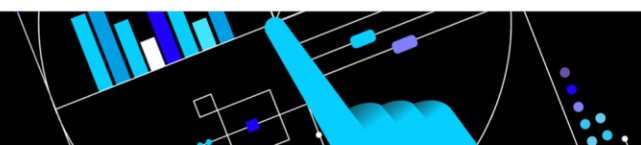
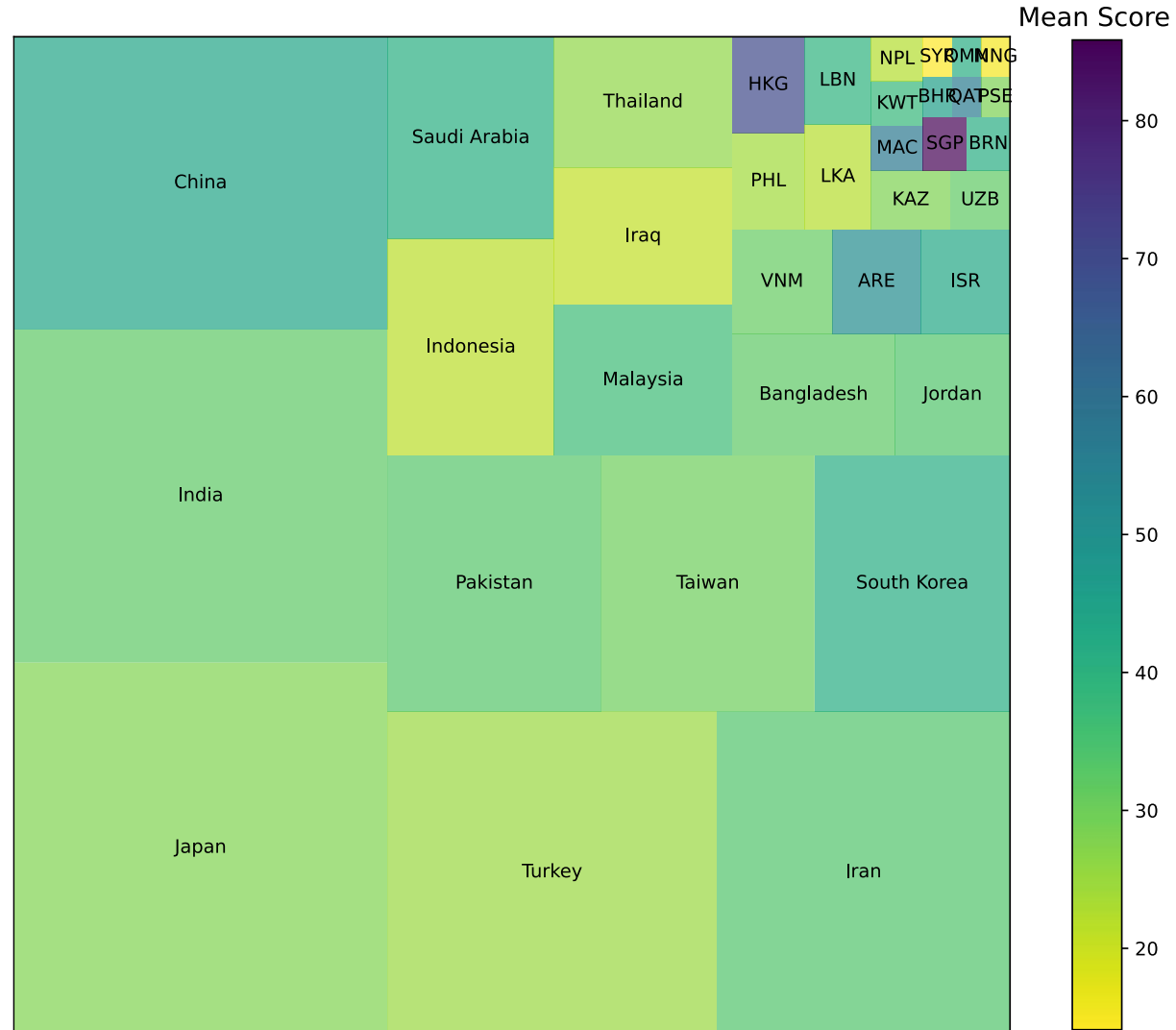
## THE World University Rankings



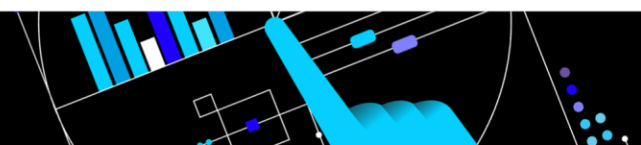
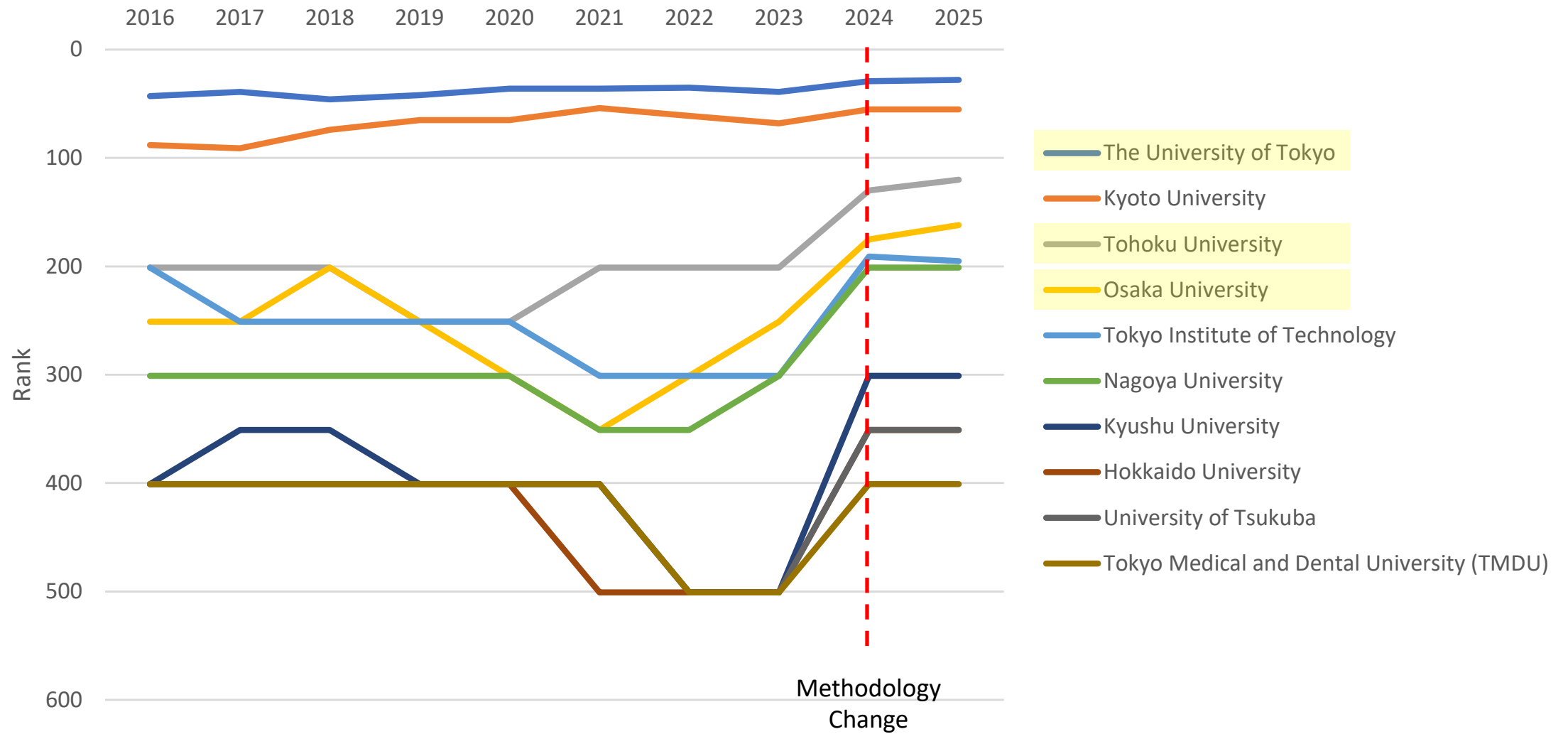
# Country participation



# Asia participation



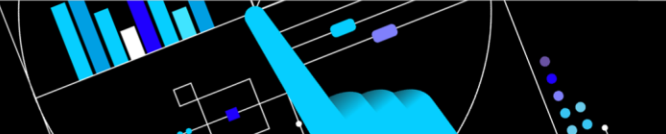
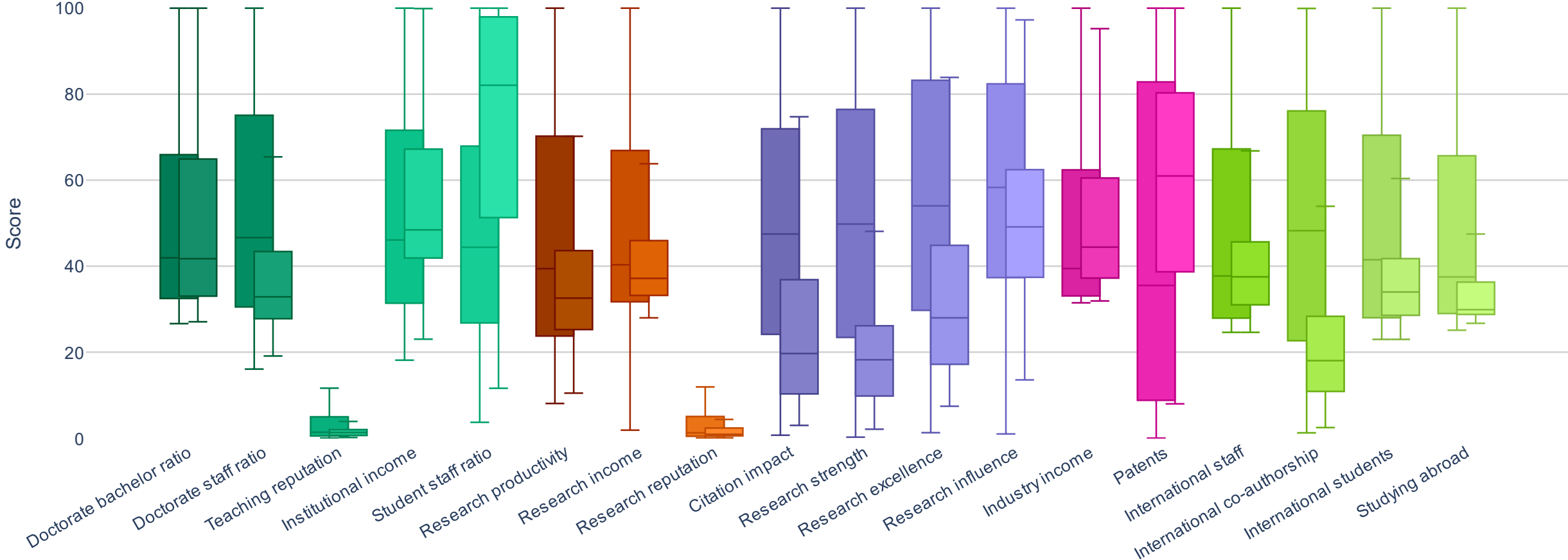
# Top universities



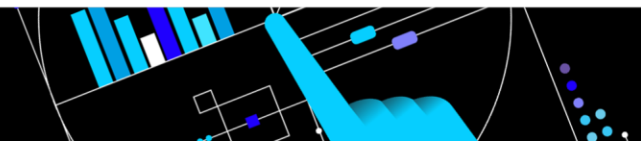
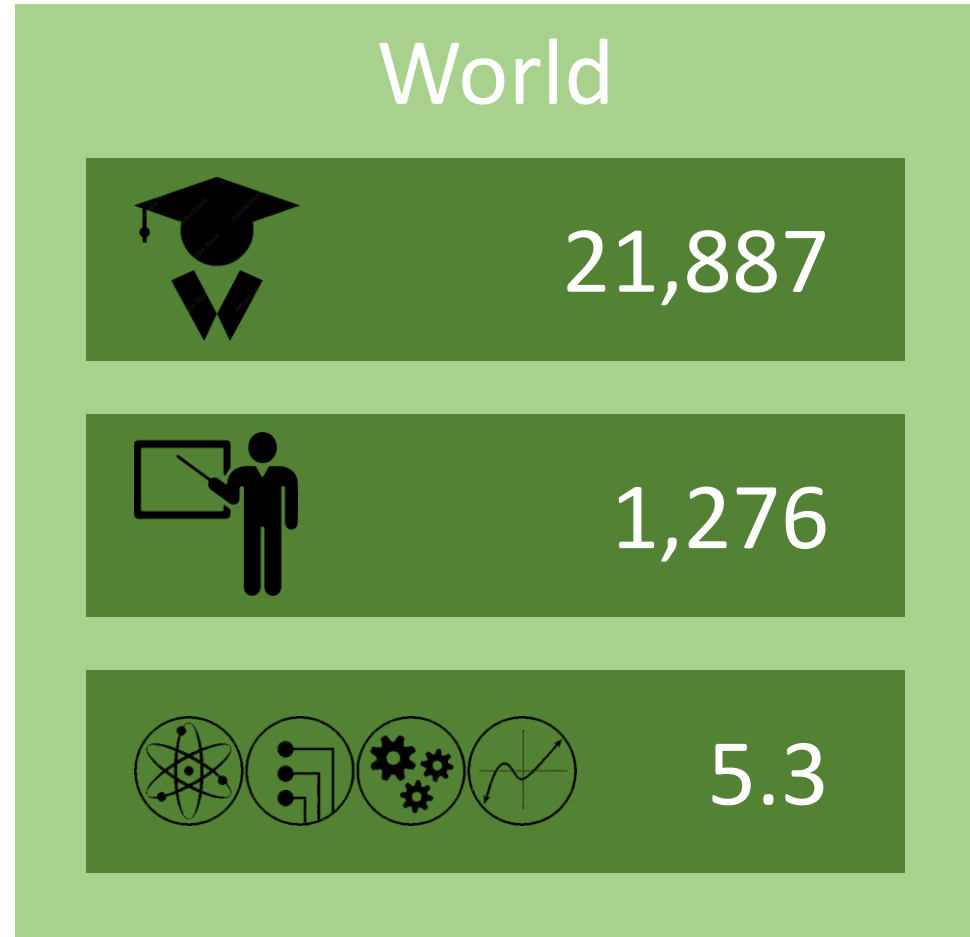
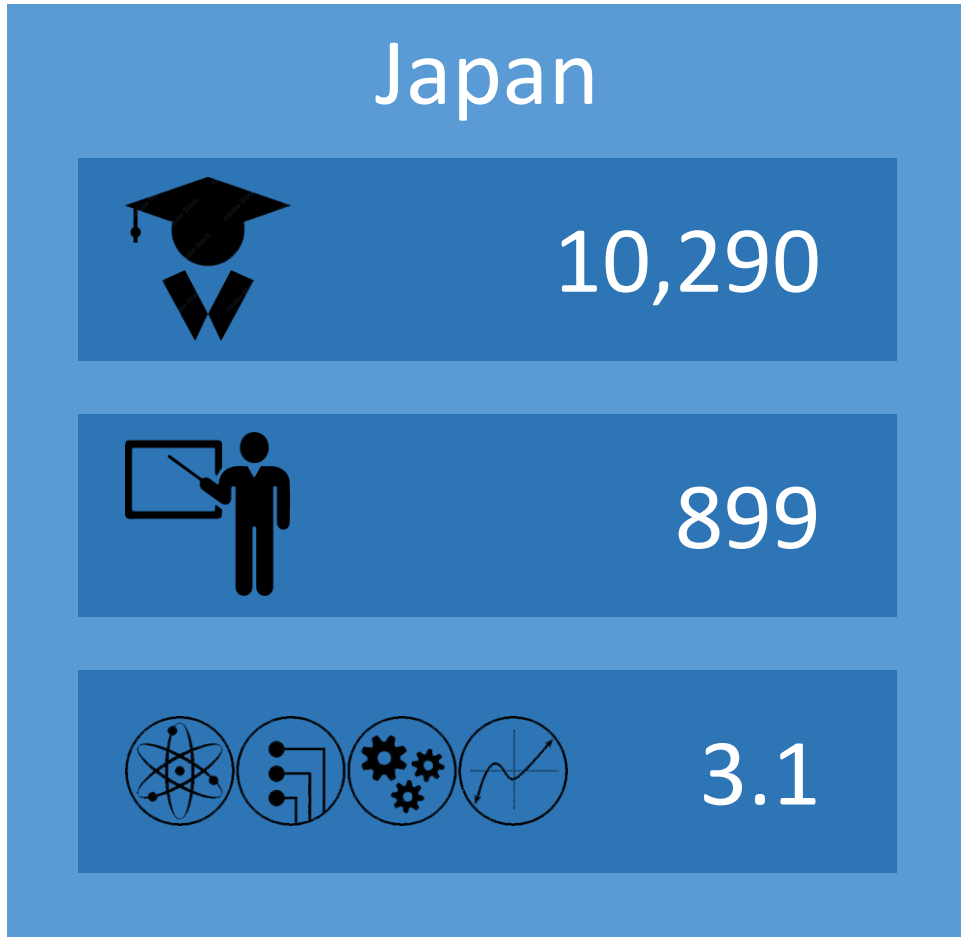


# How are Japanese universities different?

Overall 2025 - Asia vs Japan

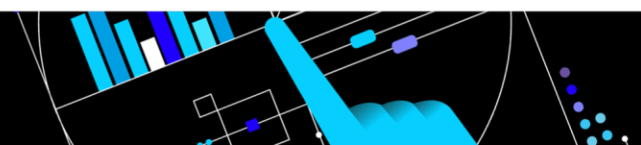
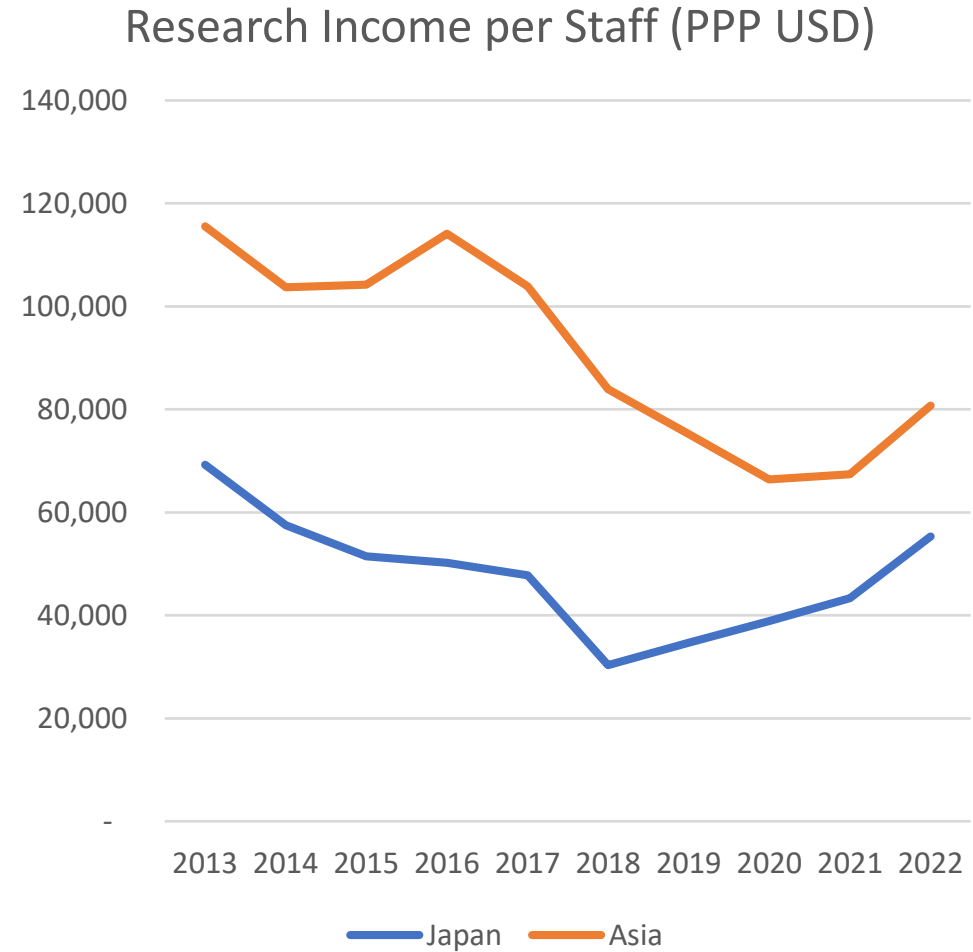
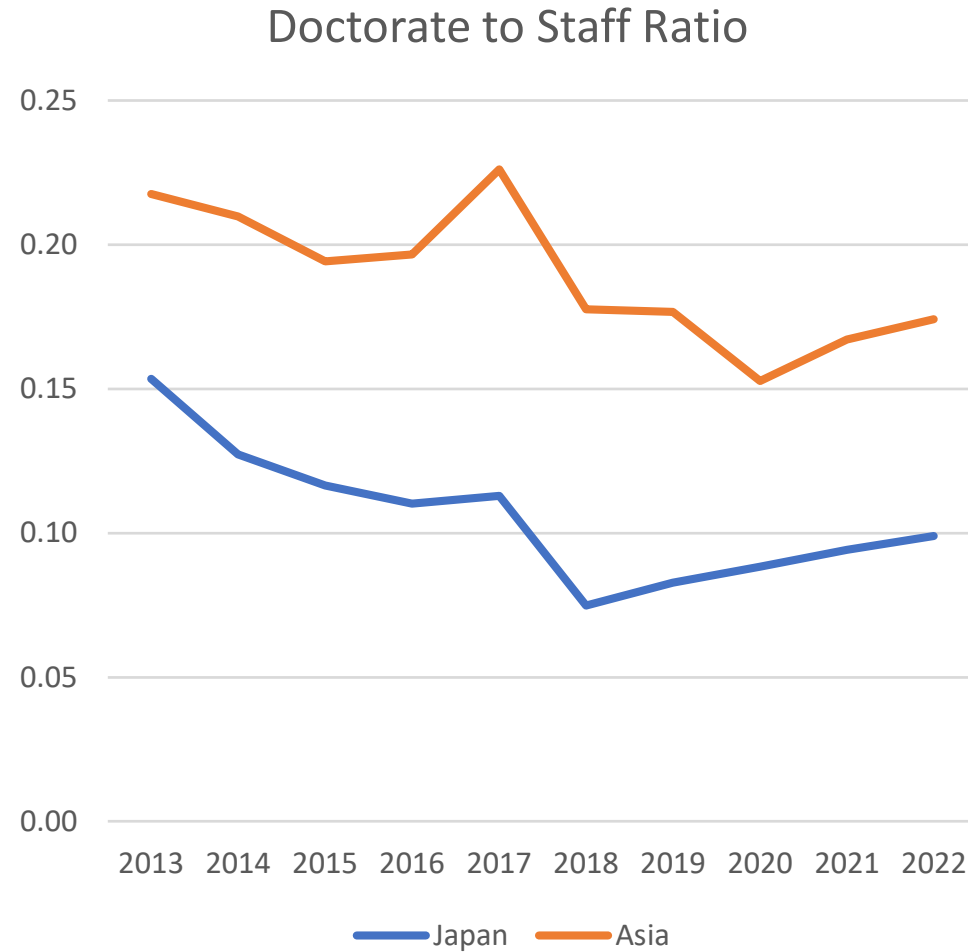


# Japanese universities are smaller



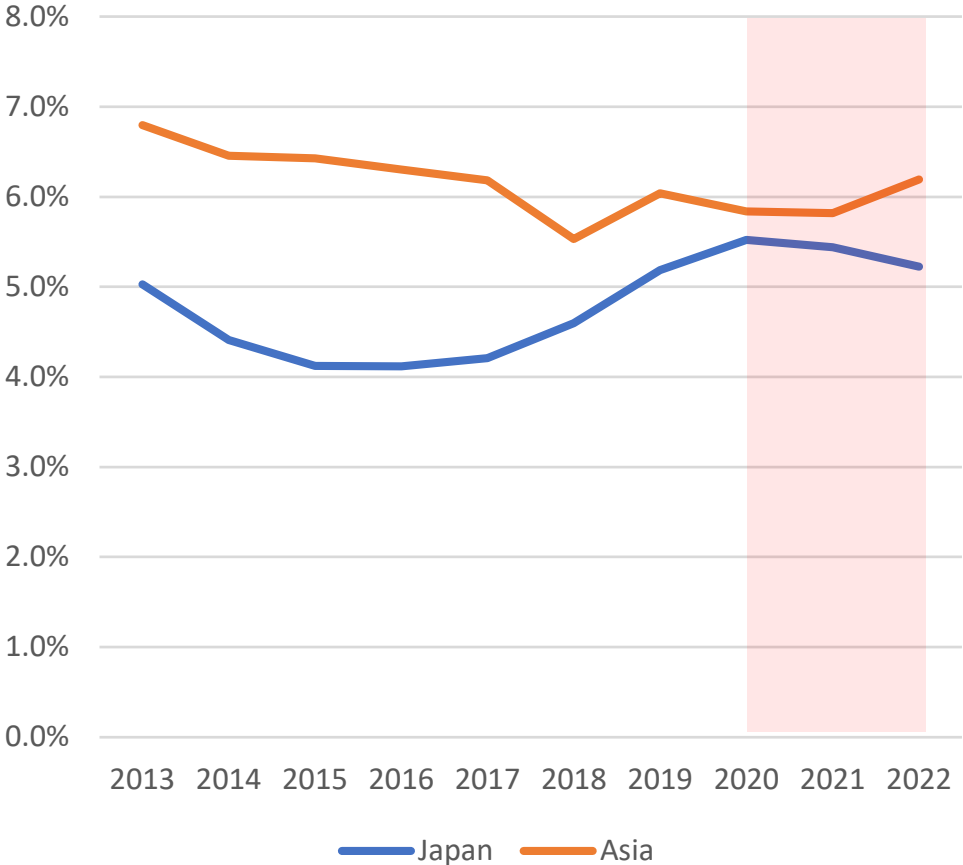
# Input factors

Institutions that are ranked every year since 2020

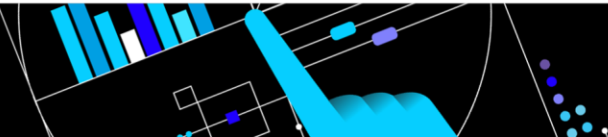
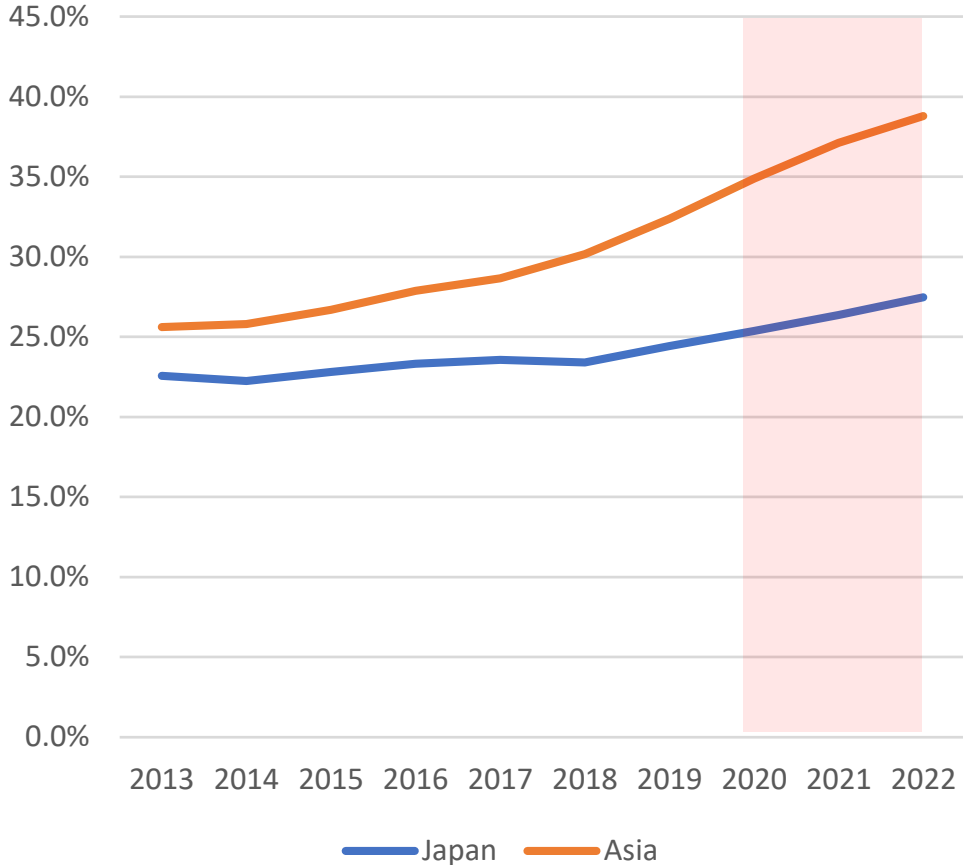


# Internationalisation

### International Students

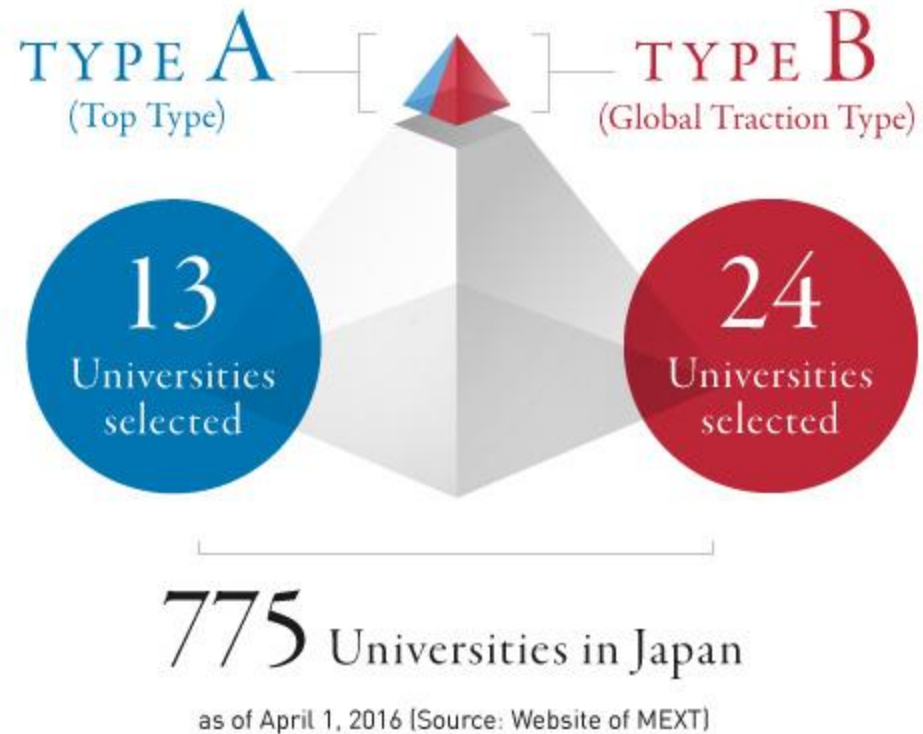


### International Collaborations



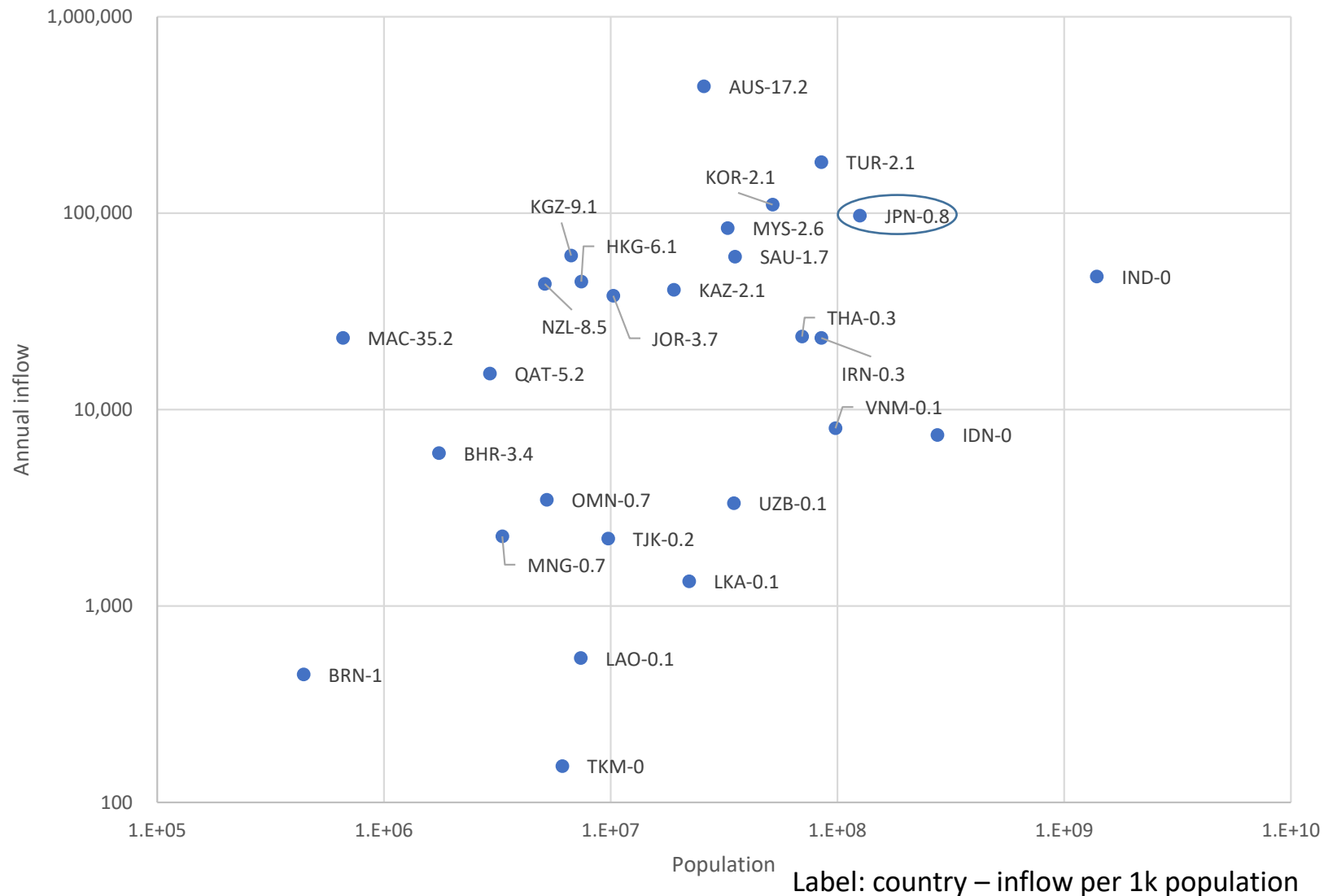
# Japan's Top Global Universities Project

[ Outline of the Top Global University Project ]





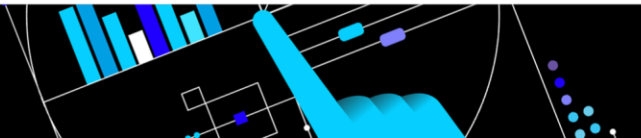
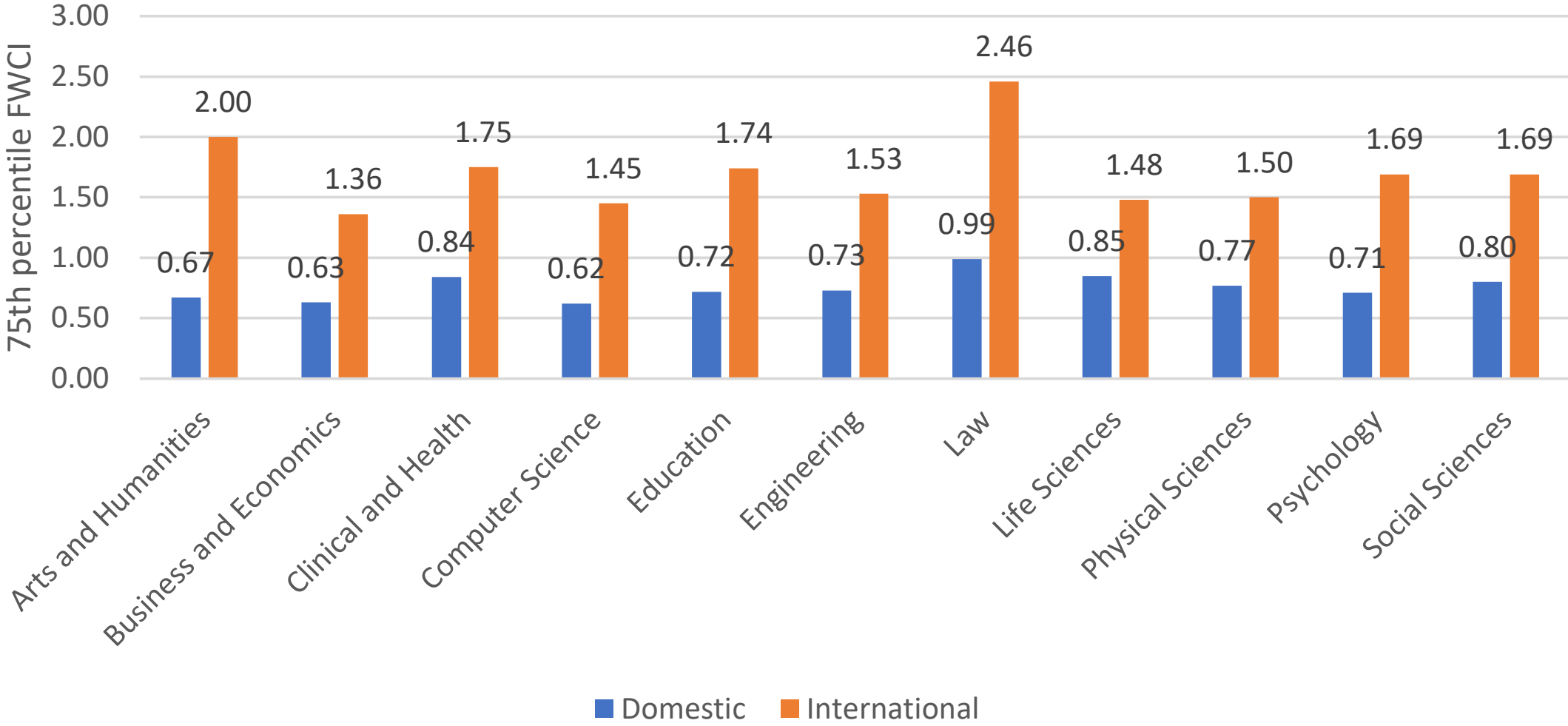
# Annual Inflow of international students (2019)



Even though the number of foreign students in Japan is increasing, it is still significantly below its neighbours in the region.

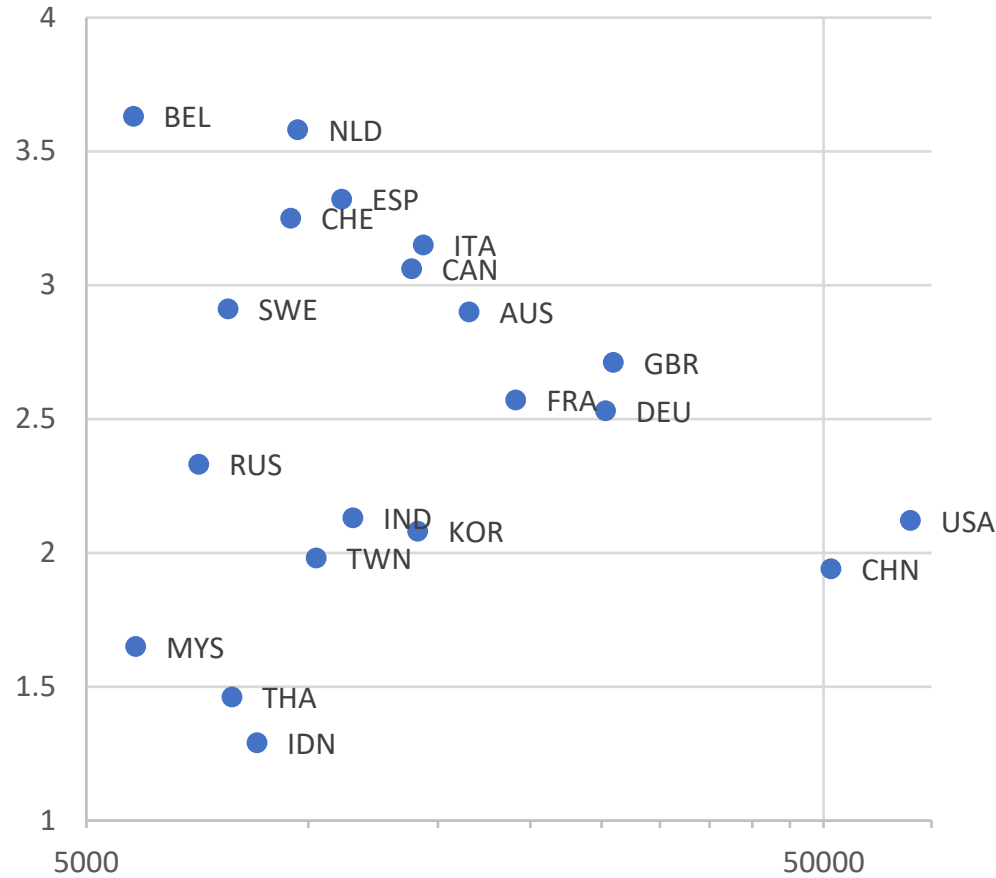
In 2019, there was only 0.8 foreign students going to Japan per 1k people. This compares poorly with South Korea (2.1), Malaysia (2.6), and Hong Kong (6.1)

# Is international partnership the solution?

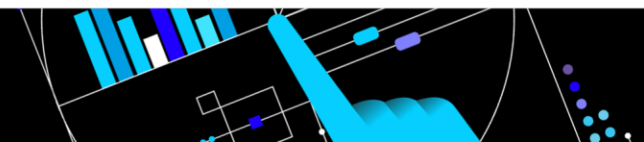
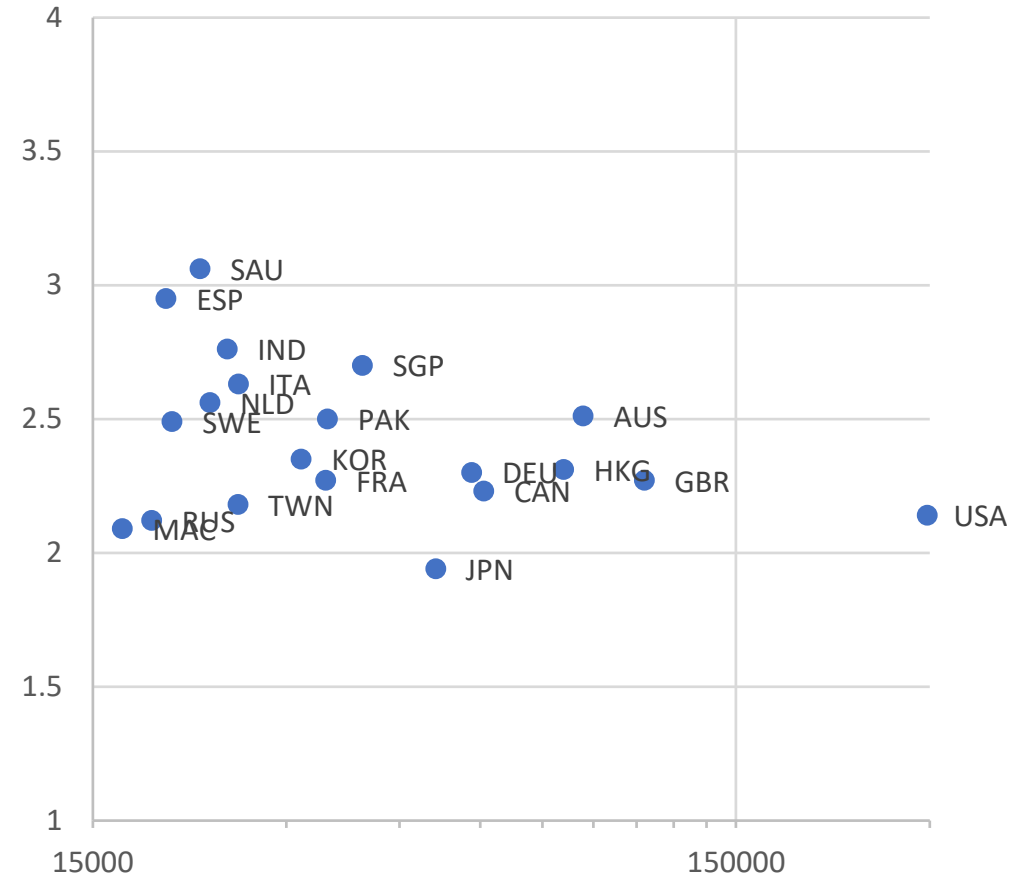


# Who are your partners?

Japan's Top 20 collaboration partners

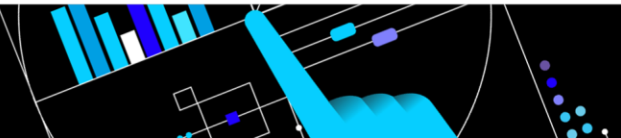
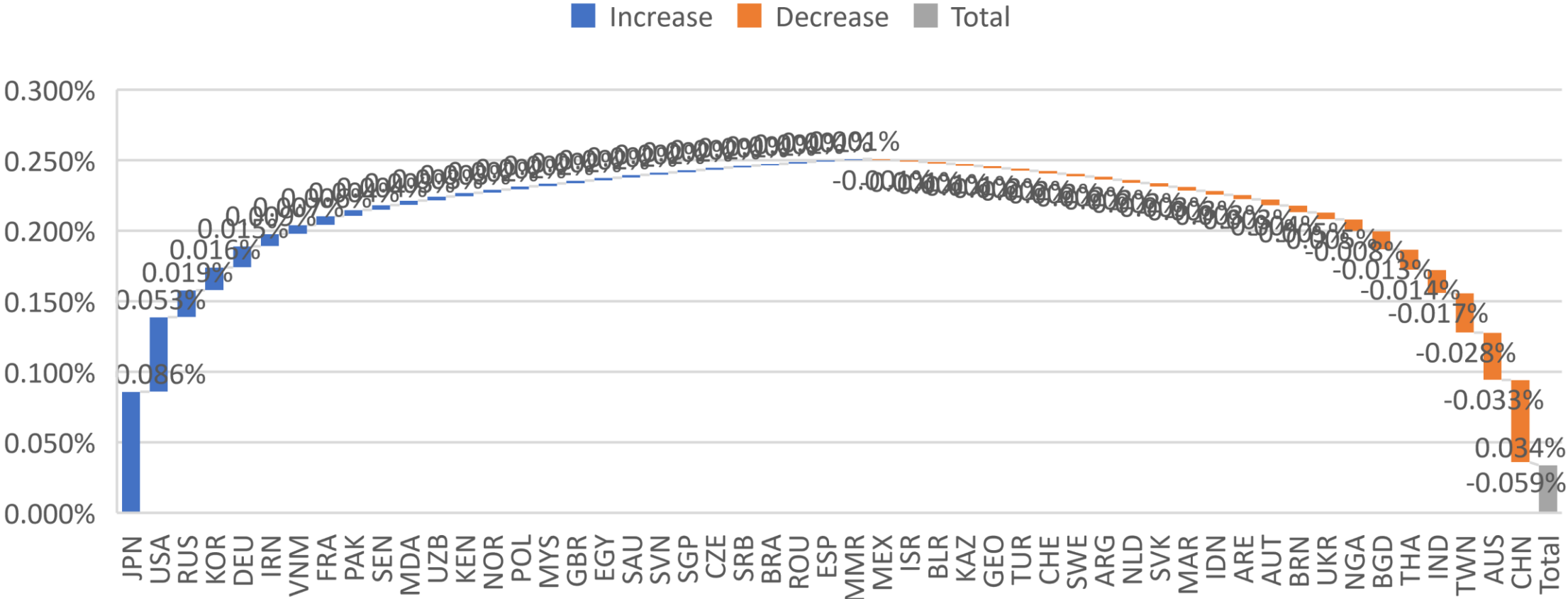


China's Top 20 collaboration partners



# Research reputation changes

Changes in Japan's global reputation vote share

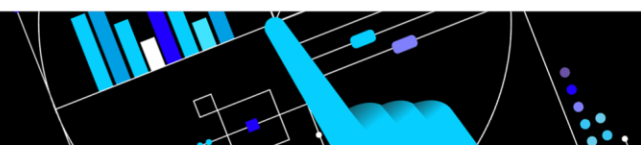
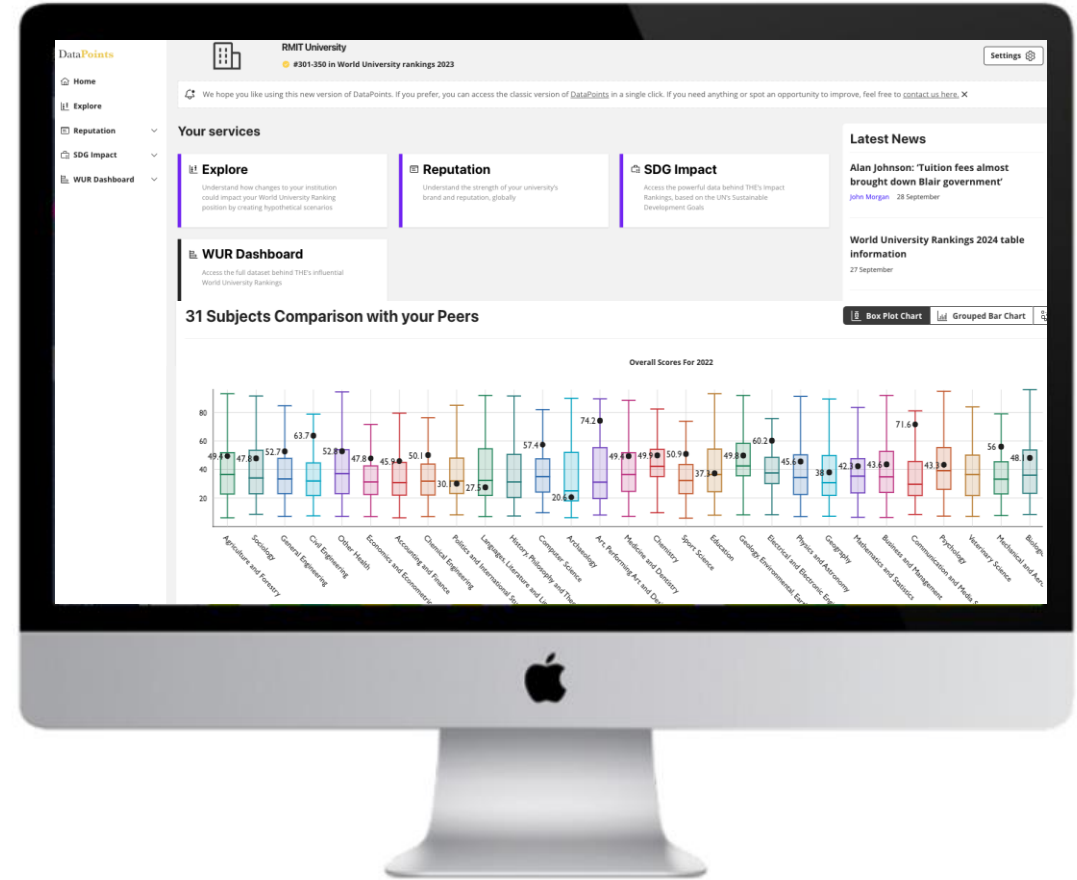




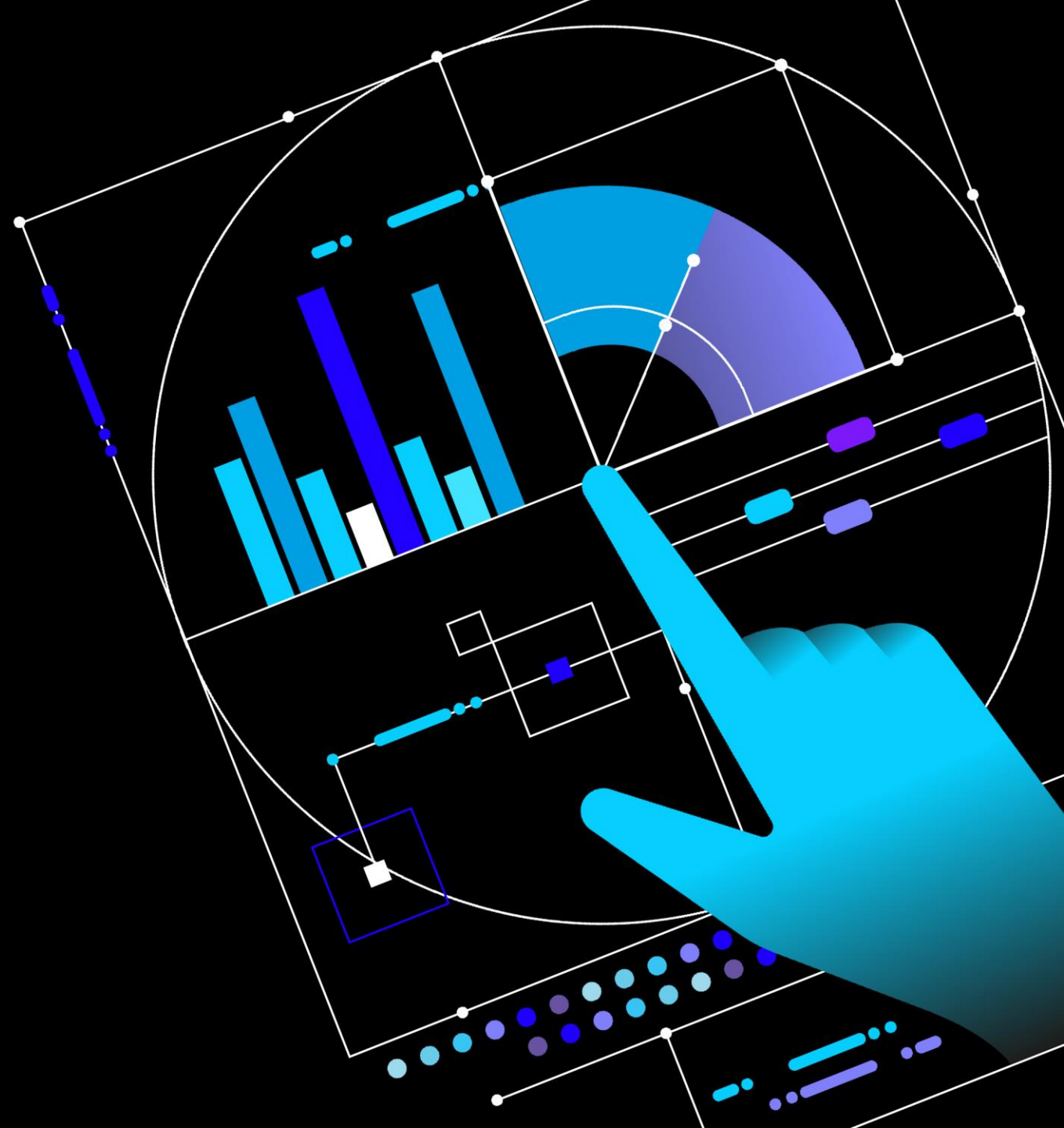
# DataPoints

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Thank you



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In-depth analysis of institutional and subject level performance in THE's suite of global rankings. We also provide institutional level simulation of rankings performance for unranked institutions, with detailed analysis of strengths,...

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### Research Strategy

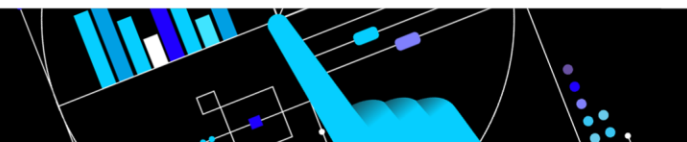
THE Consultancy can support universities and ministries of education enhance their academic research strategies, using THE's bibliometric data and unique artificial intelligence tools

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Our team work closely with industry and commercial organisations to provide insights and tailored thought leadership on a topical basis to support with market awareness, sector engagement, reputation and to help in forging strategic...

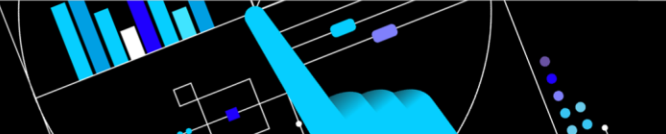
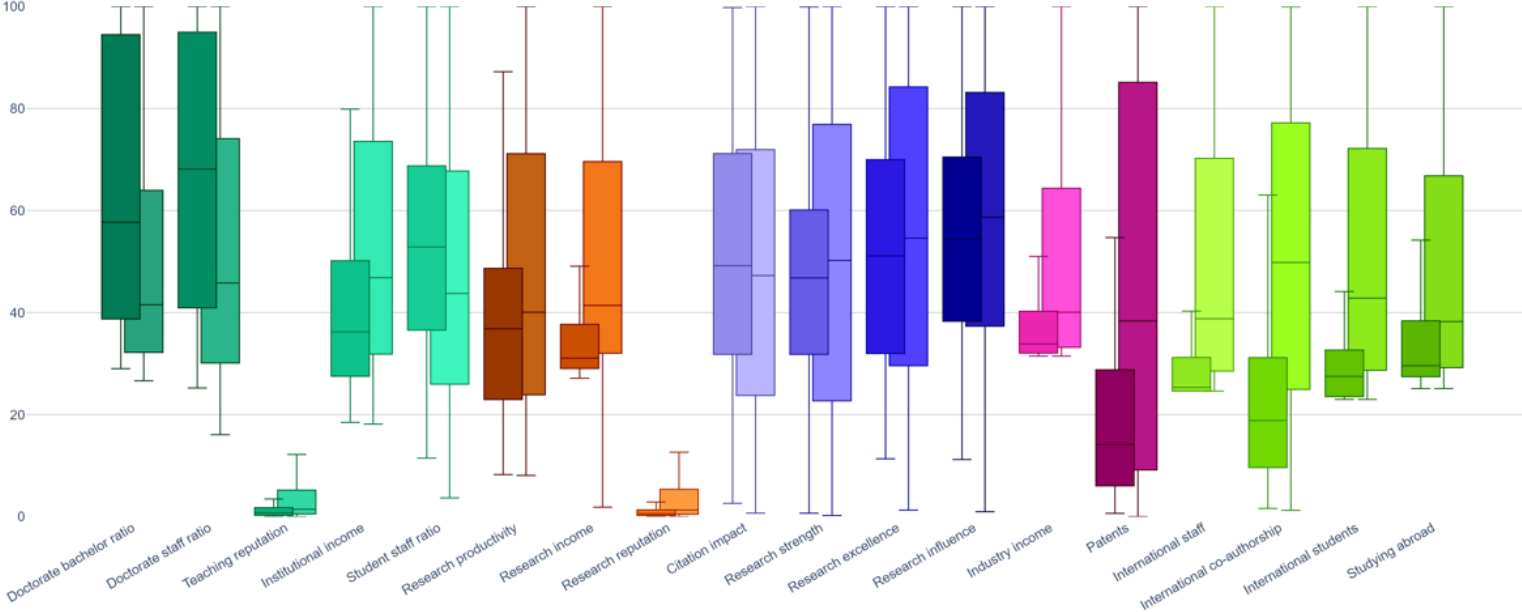
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# WUR Performance Analysis and Simulation

Understand your institution's performance across all metrics, benchmarked against competitors



# WUR Performance Analysis and Simulation

---

1

## Metric-by-metric analysis

- Analysis of each of the metric scores benchmarked against competitors
- Analysis of temporal change
- Broken down by 11 subject areas
- Evaluation of performance across each of the metric pillar categories

2

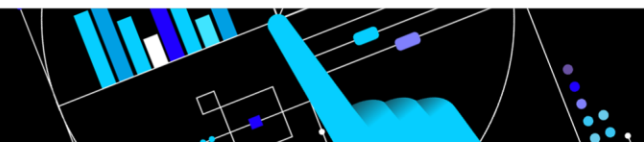
## Reputation vote analysis

- Detailed breakdown of institutional votes from the THE academic survey
- Analysis of sources of voting, benchmarked against peers
- Broken down by 11 subject areas
- Provides insight into difference between teaching and research reputation

3

## Strategic recommendations

- Creation of KPIs for each of the metrics to support institutional strategy
- Broader institutional change management strategies, linked to research partnerships and academic networks, reputation and international profile



# Academic Network Analysis

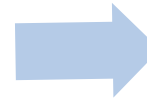
Develop high quality research collaborations using our tool to find academic partners outside your current network



University  
A's chosen  
subjects

**Examples of subjects:**

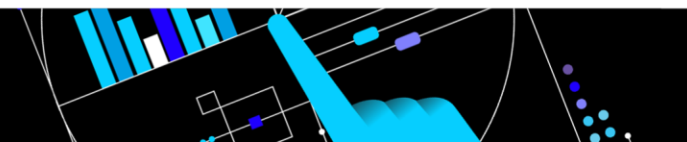
Neuroscience  
Computer Science – artificial intelligence  
Economics – management  
Medicine – internal medicine  
Social Psychology  
Electrical Engineering



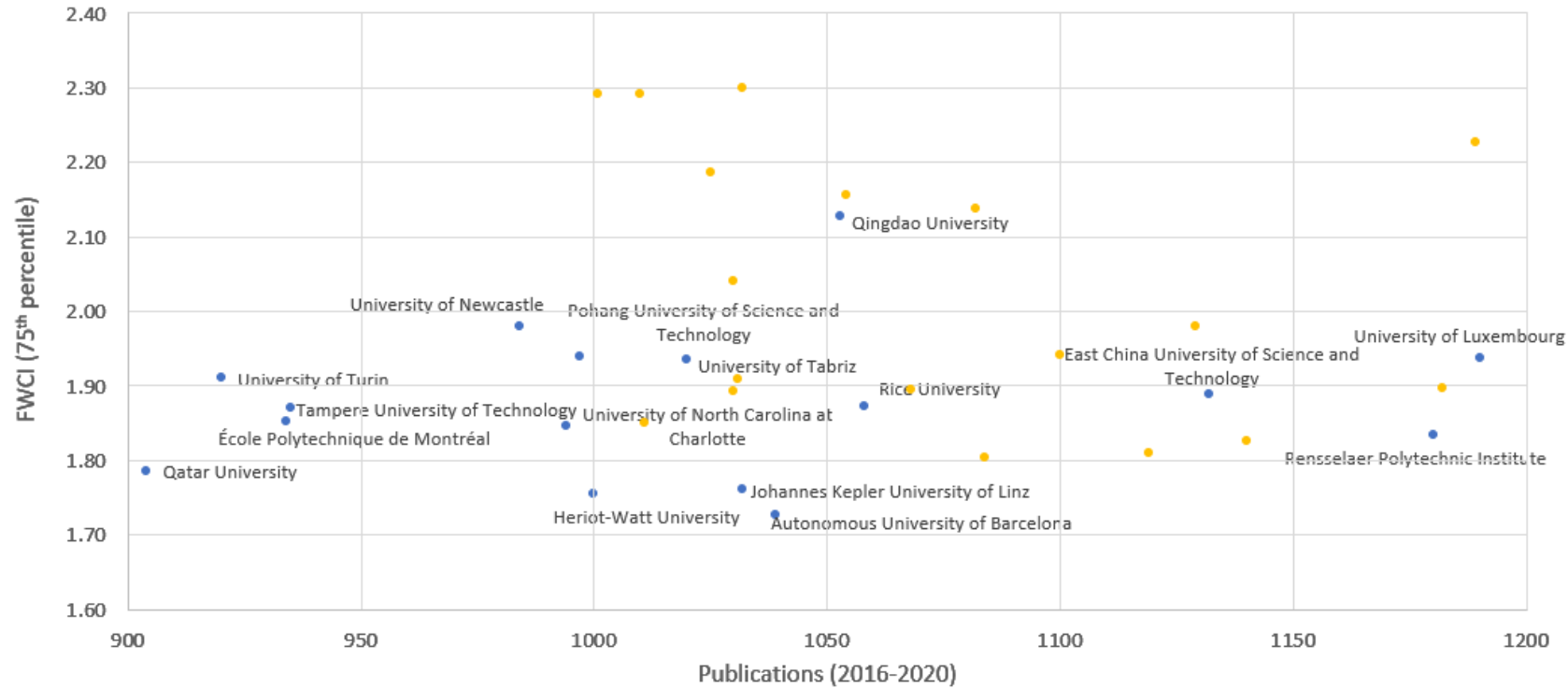
Competitor  
bibliometric  
database  
profile

University 1  
University 2  
University 3  
University 4  
University 5

Academic  
networks



# Academic Network Analysis



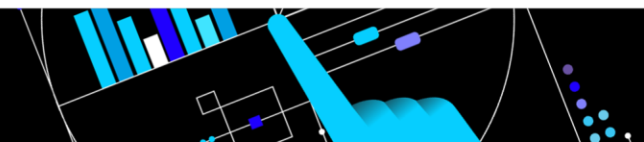
- University A's collaborators in common with its chosen peers
- Collaborators of University A's chosen peers that are outside University A's current network  
- Possible for future collaborations as they work with Universities who specialise in similar subjects as you

Publication range 900-1200  
FWCI range 1.6-2.4

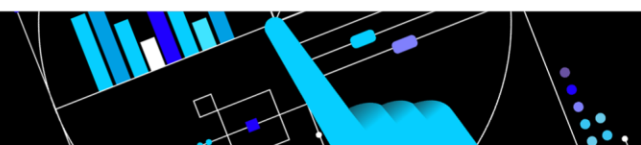
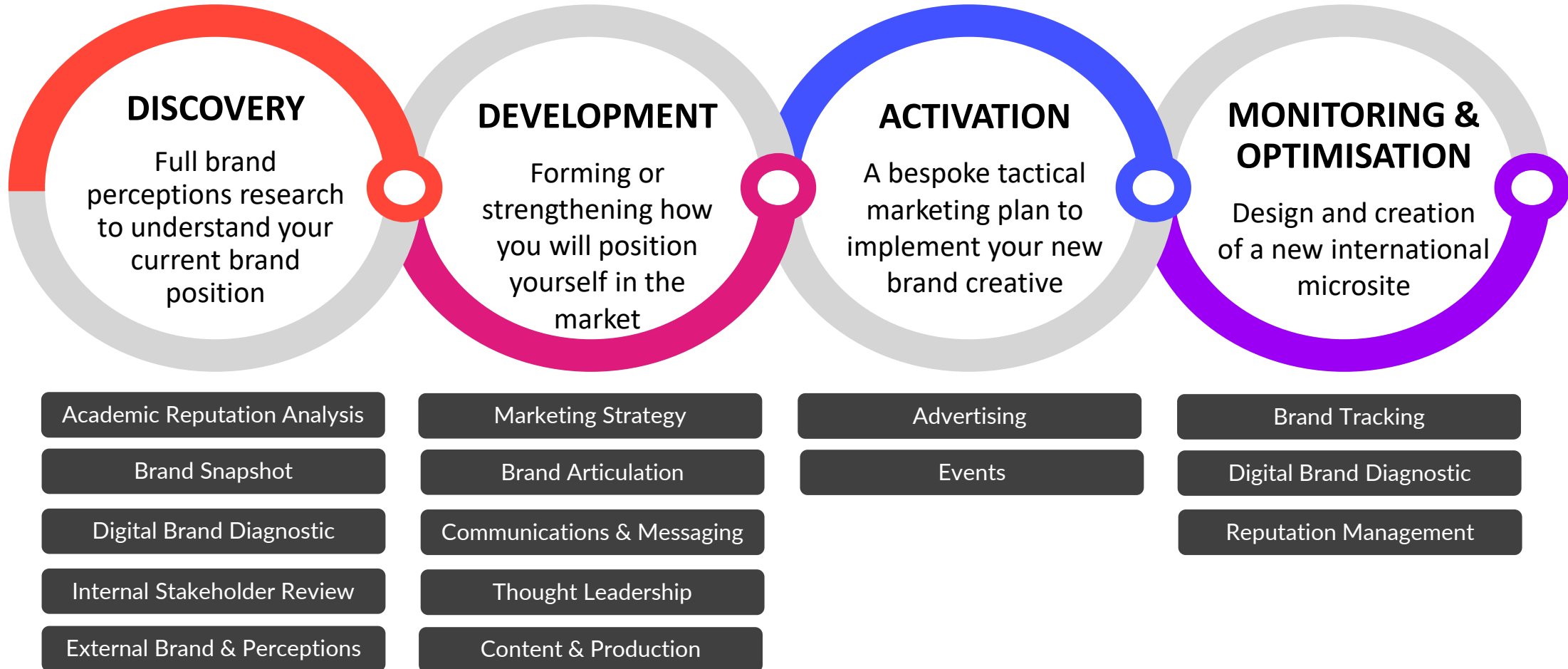
This tool provides insight into the quality and quantity of research partnerships

In yellow are University A's current collaborators

In blue are the collaborators of your chosen peers in the same subject area



# Brand and Reputation Transformation Framework



# Internationalisation and TNE Framework

Discover, develop and deliver unparalleled educational collaborations with leading global universities, tailored to meet national development goals and enhance global educational standards

## Discover



Market Intelligence

Competitor Environment

Key Recruitment Pools

Programme Portfolio

- Policy research
- Desk research
- Internal and external dataset analysis

## Develop



Global Academic Partnerships

Reputation and Brand

Marketing Campaigns

- Network analysis and partnership building
- Surveys and focus groups
- Marketing tools and creative service

## Deliver



TNE Growth

KPI Toolkits

Global Benchmarking

- Agile project management
- Monitoring and evaluation frameworks
- QA tools

