

Sub-Saharan Africa Ranking webinar 2024

Q&A



**Times
Higher
Education**

- **I feel institutions should be able to view and to check the number of survey responses by students. What is THE doing to help with this?**

THE performs some proprietary checks on the quality of the student survey to determine the number of valid responses. Only Valid responses are used in the ranking. We will inform you if your submissions are lower than the minimum of 50 validated responses.

- **"Good morning and many thanks to THE for organizing this Webinar. My questions are in two folds:**

1. What is the role of a student survey in the ranking of a university in the Times Higher Education University Ranking including THE SSA University Ranking?

**2. Why and how would a university be ranked better on the World University Ranking better than in the SSA version? This appears ironic to me!
Thanks for the opportunity. Lagos State University."**

1. The students are the recipients of the services provided by the university hence some insight for some of the measures from the SSA University Rankings can only come from students.

2. The methodology for the SSA University Rankings and WUR differ. The SSA University Rankings is a bespoke ranking developed specifically for the region which is a hybrid of research, teaching and Impact rankings. THE WUR is a ranking that focuses mostly on research.

- **For African what kind of evidence would be accepted? Will establish of an institute to study culture or language be accepted?**

This metrics explores how much a university helps its students value their African heritage, either by recording or preserving African cultural heritage or referencing African achievements in their curriculum. This will ensure that students develop a sense of pride in being African. We will accept evidence that is able to show this.

- **Are the surveys for Undergrad and postgrads?**

The Student survey is for undergraduates who are not first year students

- **For institutions that participate last year will the last year evidence still work for this year?**

If the evidence does not have a specific time duration and is still applicable for the data year

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- **Is there a way to be saving the data as we fill the portal form?**

Once you click on the next page, your data is saved and you can log out and come back using the same link and your data will be there. You will need to complete the current page and click on the next button to save your data

- **Can we have this pdf document shared please?**

We will send out the slides and a recording via email in the next few days

- **My institution does not offer Doctoral program. However in the data collection sheet doctoral program is marked * meaning it must be filled. What do we do in such situation?**

You can enter 0 for non-mandatory fields but this will attract a score of 0 for them

- **How does mekelle University Ethiopia do in research and academia?**

What are the important cluster research they do in perspective among African University list? Please send university specific query to the mailbox and we will be happy to attend to you.

- **Do you have FTE for teaching assistants, in addition to adjunct and full time faculty?**

Yes, we ask you to provide the number of faculty FTE

- **Clarification: My school provides full board & lodging with free tuition to all students, regardless of economic background ... so how do we answer questions like 'number of students getting financial aid BECAUSE of poverty'?? Do we say none? All?**

We would need the number who are getting this because of poverty if this is possible to record

- **Hello, we, at the University of Namibe, do not offer bachelor degree courses. Our courses are all 4 years duration, degrees which is equivalent to Honours degree. Ho do we answer questions related to number of students enrolled for Bachelor's degree then? Thank you!**

We understand that there are sever education qualifications similar to a bachelor's degree in the region so we will be willing to consider

Honours degree students can be included in this count.

These are typically students studying for the equivalent of an SCED-2011 Level 6 qualification. (See ISCED 6 Source Definition and Chapter on ISCED Level 6).

- **Can philanthropy/donations be listed as a defined category for sources of income?**

Yes, please include this under Other source of income

- **Will the survey be available in a pdf format - as part of the collation of the needed info from various university stakeholders?**

Yes, we can provide the student survey instrument to universities

- **Was THE challenged to provide such a tool for HEIs or the initiative came from THE staff?**

Is there an equivalent initiative for the north Africa countries?

Is there a partnership, support, sponsorship form African UNion or African authorities, for this initiative?

What is the THE business model based on the SSA a Ranking initiative?

THE was not challenged to develop a ranking for the region. The SSA University ranking was developed by THE in extensive engagement with university leaders across the region, under a project initiated by a consortium of African and international higher education organisations, and Ashesi University in Ghana.

THE Arab University Rankings covers the north of Africa

- **Will you be measuring career placement (job placement, graduate school placement, or start-ups) for graduating students?**

Graduation rates and career placement are important metrics of university performance.

This are very good measures explored the feasibility of using them during the development of the methodology. The major challenge with these is the inability to get quality data for these measures.

- **Sorry, I missed an important information. Can you confirm that the data to be provided regards the school year 2021 -22?**

Yes the data is for school year starting September 2021 to July 2022

- **We are a new institution, so in 2022 we had not graduated any cohort ... can we still participate without losing considerable points?**

Yes, the total scores for the ranking is drawn from all data points.

- **Missing Data. I may have missed this in the presentation. Will there be an alert warning us that data is missing. Patricia Jacob Nelson mandela University**

Yes there will be a prompt to indicate when a data field has not been provided. For mandatory fields, you will not be able to move on without providing this data, for non-mandatory fields, you will be reminded that not providing the data will yield a score of 0

- **Kindly clarify the data collection period for example if I have an academic year running from September of one year to August of the next year.**

The data is for school year starting September 2021 to July 2022

- **Do you track the number of student submissions throughout the process for the institution to review?**

Yes we track the number of student submissions, THE Performs some proprietary check son the quality of the student survey to determine the quality and number of valid responses. Only Valid responses are used in the ranking. We will inform you if your submissions are lower than the minimum of 50 validated responses.

- **Thank you for your wonderful explanation.**

Who is responsible to distribute student survey link to the intended students.? The Data provider for the particular institution?

Thank you! From Wachemo University

THE Institution is responsible for distributing the link to the student survey to it's current students. This can either be the data provider or anyone assigned by the institution.

- **What is the ultimate goal of the ranking of universities in the Sub-Saharan Africa through this mode?**

Please refer to presentation slides and ranking methodology for more details

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/sub-saharan-africa-university-rankings-2023-methodology-0>

- **For the purposes of this survey, what is the meaning of first "generation students"?**

A first-generation student is one who reports they are the first person in their immediate family to attend university at any level (note - the individual may have studied at another university previously). We do not apply a fixed definition of 'immediate family', but in most cases it refers to parents, grandparents, and siblings

- **What are bibliometric indicators data available to measure research visibility and impact of African faculties in higher education?**

For research measures, the SSA University Ranking looks at the research produced by institutions: is this research used by other researchers in Africa (African citation) and is it the result of African collaboration (African co-authorship)? Those two measures are normalised by the total research output.

- **And Is there a specific group of students? Or the general student population is eligible to respond to the survey?**

Undergraduates students excluding the new cohort of students starting in 2023/2024

View the webinar recording and slides via this link:

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/content/sub-saharan-africa-ranking-webinar>

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