

QS World University Rankings

QS World University Rankings is an annual publication of university rankings by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). The QS system comprises of three parts: the global overall ranking, the subject rankings, which name the world's top universities for the study of 51 different subjects and five composite faculty areas, as well as five independent regional tables, namely Asia, Latin America, Emerging Europe and Central Asia, the Arab Region, and BRICS.^[1]

The QS ranking receives approval from the International Ranking Expert Group (IREG),^[2] and is viewed as one of the three most-widely read university rankings in the world, along with *Academic Ranking of World Universities* and *Times Higher Education World University Rankings*.^{[3][4][5][6]} According to Alexa Internet, it is the most widely viewed university ranking worldwide.^[7] However, it has been criticized for its overreliance on subjective indicators and reputation surveys, which tend to fluctuate over the years.^{[8][9][10][11][12]} Concern also exists regarding the global consistency and integrity of the data used to generate QS ranking results.^{[9][13][14][15]}

The QS ranking was previously known as *Times Higher Education–QS World University Rankings*. The publisher had collaborated with *Times Higher Education (THE)* magazine to publish its international league tables from 2004 to 2009 before both started to announce their own versions. QS then chose to continue using the pre-existing methodology in partnership with Elsevier, while *THE* adopted a new methodology to create their rankings.

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKING



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History

A perceived need for an international ranking of universities for UK purposes was highlighted in December 2003 in [Richard Lambert's](#) review of university-industry collaboration in Britain^[16] for [HM Treasury](#), the finance ministry of the United Kingdom. Amongst its recommendations were world university rankings, which Lambert said would help the UK to gauge the global standing of its universities.

The idea for the rankings was credited in Ben Wildavsky's book, *The Great Brain Race: How Global Universities are Reshaping the World*,^[17] to then-editor of *THE*, [John O'Leary](#). *THE* chose to partner with educational and careers advice company [Quacquarelli Symonds](#) (QS) to supply the data, appointing [Martin Ince](#),^[18] formerly deputy editor and later a contractor to *THE*, to manage the project.

Between 2004 and 2009, QS produced the rankings in partnership with *THE*. In 2009, *THE* announced they would produce their own rankings, the [Times Higher Education World University Rankings](#), in partnership with [Thomson Reuters](#). *THE* cited an asserted weakness in the methodology of the original rankings,^[19] as well as a perceived favoritism in the existing methodology for science over the humanities,^[20] as two of the key reasons for the decision to split with QS.

QS retained intellectual property in the prior rankings and the methodology used to compile them, and continues to produce rankings based on that methodology, which are now called the [QS World University Rankings](#).^[21]

THE created a new methodology with Thomson Reuters, and published the first [Times Higher Education World University Rankings](#) in September 2010.

Global rankings

Overall

Methodology

Methodology of QS World University Rankings^[22]

Indicator	Weighting	Elaboration
Academic peer review	40%	Based on an internal global academic survey
Faculty/Student ratio	20%	A measurement of teaching commitment
Citations per faculty	20%	A measurement of research impact
Employer reputation	10%	Based on a survey on graduate employers
International student ratio	5%	A measurement of the diversity of the student community
International staff ratio	5%	A measurement of the diversity of the academic staff

QS publishes the rankings results in the world's media and has entered into partnerships with a number of outlets, including *The Guardian* in the United Kingdom, and *Chosun Ilbo* in Korea. The first rankings produced by QS independently of *THE*, and using QS's consistent and original methodology, were released on September 8, 2010, with the second appearing on September 6, 2011.

QS designed its rankings to assess performance according to what it believes to be key aspects of a university's mission: teaching, research, nurturing employability, and internationalisation.^[23]

Academic peer review

This is the most controversial part of the methodology. Using a combination of purchased mailing lists and applications and suggestions, this survey asks active academicians across the world about the top universities in their specialist fields. QS has published the job titles and geographical distribution of the participants.^[24]

The 2017/18 rankings made use of responses from 75,015 people from over 140 nations for its academic reputation indicator, including votes from the previous five years rolled forward provided no more recent information was available from the same individual. Participants can nominate up to 30 universities, but are not able to vote for their own. They tend to nominate a median of about 20, which means that this survey includes over 500,000 data points. The average respondent possesses 20.4 years of academic experience, while 81% of respondents have over a decade of experience in the academic world.^{[25][24]}

In 2004, when the rankings first appeared, academic peer review accounted for half of a university's possible score. In 2005, its share was cut to 40% because of the introduction of the Employer Reputation Survey.

Faculty student ratio

This indicator accounts for 20% of a university's possible score in the rankings. It is a classic measure used in various ranking systems as a proxy for teaching commitment, but QS has admitted that it is less than satisfactory.^[26]

Citations per faculty

Citations of published research are among the most widely used inputs to national and global university rankings. The QS World University Rankings used citations data from Thomson (now Thomson Reuters) from 2004 to 2007, and since then has used data from Scopus, part of Elsevier. The total number of citations for a five-year period is divided by the number of academics in a university to yield the score for this measure, which accounts for 20% of a university's possible score in the rankings.

QS has explained that it uses this approach, rather than the citations per paper preferred for other systems, because it reduces the effect of biomedical science on the overall picture – biomedicine has a ferocious "publish or perish" culture. Instead, QS attempts to measure the density of research-active staff at each institution, but issues still remain about the use of citations in ranking systems, especially the fact that the arts and humanities generate comparatively few citations.^[27]

However, since 2015, QS has made methodological enhancements designed to remove the advantage institutions specializing in the Natural Sciences or Medicine previously received. This enhancement is termed faculty area normalization, and ensures that an institution's citations count in each of QS's five key Faculty Areas is weighted to account for 20% of the final citations score.^[28]

QS has conceded the presence of some data-collection errors regarding citations per faculty in previous years' rankings.^[29]

One interesting issue is the difference between the Scopus and Thomson Reuters databases. For major world universities, the two systems capture more or less the same publications and citations. For less mainstream institutions, Scopus has more non-English language and smaller-circulation journals in its database. As the papers there are less heavily cited, though, this can also mean fewer citations per paper for the universities that publish in them.^[27] This area has been criticized for undermining universities that do not use English as their primary language.^[30] Citations and publications in a language different from English are harder to access. The English language is the most internationalized language, so is also the most popular when citing.

Employer review

This part of the ranking is obtained by a similar method to the Academic Peer Review, except that it samples recruiters who hire graduates on a global or significant national scale. The numbers are smaller – 40,455 responses from over 130 countries in the 2016 rankings – and are used to produce 10% of any university's possible score. This survey was introduced in 2005 in the belief that employers track graduate quality, making this a barometer of teaching quality, a famously problematic factor to measure. University standing here is of special interest to potential students, and acknowledging this was the impetus behind the inaugural QS Graduate Employability Rankings, published in November 2015.^{[31][32]}

International orientation

The final 10% of a university's possible score is derived from measures intended to capture their internationalism: half from their percentage of international students, and the other half from their percentage of international staff. This is of interest partly because it shows whether a university is putting effort into being global, but also because it indicates whether it is taken seriously enough by students and academics around the world for them to want to be there.^[33]

Reception

In September 2015, *The Guardian* referred to the QS World University Rankings as "the most authoritative of their kind".^{[34][35]} In 2016, Ben Sowter, Head of Research at the QS Intelligence Unit, was ranked in 40th position in *Wonkhe* (<http://wonkhe.com/about-us/>)'s 2016 'Higher Education Power List'. The list enumerated what the organisation believed to be the 50 most influential figures in UK higher education.^[36]

Several universities in the UK and the Asia-Pacific region have commented on the rankings positively. Vice-chancellor of New Zealand's *Massey University*, Professor *Judith Kinnear*, says that the *THE-QS* ranking is a "wonderful external acknowledgement of several university attributes, including the quality of its research, research training, teaching, and employability." She said the rankings are a true measure of a university's ability to fly high internationally: "The Times Higher Education ranking provides a rather more and more sophisticated, robust, and well rounded measure of international and national ranking than either New

Zealand's Performance Based Research Fund (PBRF) measure or the Shanghai rankings."^[37] In September 2012, British newspaper *The Independent* described the QS World University Rankings as being "widely recognised throughout higher education as the most trusted international tables".^[38]

Angel Calderon, Principal Advisor for Planning and Research at RMIT University and member of the QS Advisory Board, spoke positively of the QS University Rankings for Latin America, saying that the "QS Latin American University Rankings has [sic] become the annual international benchmark universities use to ascertain their relative standing in the region". He further stated that the 2016/17 edition of this ranking demonstrated improved stability.^[39]

Criticisms

Certain commentators have expressed concern about the use or misuse of survey data. However, QS's Intelligence Unit, responsible for compiling the rankings, state that the extent of the sample size used for their surveys means that they are now "almost impossible to manipulate and very difficult for institutions to 'game'". They also state that "over 62,000 academic respondents contributed to our 2013 academic results, four times more than in 2010. Independent academic reviews have confirmed these results to be more than 99% reliable". Furthermore, since 2013, the number of respondents to QS's Academic Reputation Survey has increased again. Their survey now makes use of nearly 75,000 academic peer reviews, making it "to date, the world's largest aggregation of feeling in this [the global academic] community."^{[40][41][42]}

The QS World University Rankings have been criticised by many for placing too much emphasis on peer review, which receives 40% of the overall score. Some people have expressed concern about the manner in which the peer review has been carried out.^[43] In a report,^[44] Peter Wills from the University of Auckland wrote of the *THE-QS* World University Rankings:

But we note also that this survey establishes its rankings by appealing to university staff, even offering financial enticements to participate (see Appendix II). Staff are likely to feel it is in their greatest interest to rank their own institution more highly than others. This means the results of the survey and any apparent change in ranking are highly questionable, and that a high ranking has no real intrinsic value in any case. We are vehemently opposed to the evaluation of the University according to the outcome of such PR competitions.

However, QS state that no survey participant, academic or employer, is offered a financial incentive to respond, while no academics are able to vote for their own institutions. This renders this particular criticism invalid, as it is based on two incorrect premises: (1) that academics are currently financially incentivized to participate, and (2) that conflicts of interests are created by academics being able to vote for their own institutions.

Academicians previously criticized of the use of the citation database, arguing that it undervalues institutions that excel in the social sciences. Ian Diamond, former chief executive of the Economic and Social Research Council and now vice-chancellor of the University of Aberdeen and a member of the THE editorial board, wrote to *Times Higher Education* in 2007, saying:^[45]

The use of a citation database must have an impact because such databases do not have as wide a cover of the social sciences (or arts and humanities) as the natural sciences. Hence the low position of the London School of Economics, caused primarily by its citations score, is a result not of the output of an outstanding institution but the database and the fact that the LSE does not have the counterweight of a large natural science base.

However, in 2015, QS's introduction of faculty area normalization ensured that QS's rankings no longer conferred an undue advantage or disadvantage upon any institution based on their particular subject specialisms. Correspondingly, the London School of Economics rose from 71st in 2014 to 35th in 2015 and 37th in 2016.^[46]

Since the split from *Times Higher Education* in 2009, further concerns about the methodology QS uses for its rankings have been brought up by several experts.

In October 2010, criticism of the old system came from Fred L. Bookstein, Horst Seidler, Martin Fieder, and Georg Winckler in the journal *Scientometrics* for the unreliability of QS's methods:

Several individual indicators from the Times Higher Education Survey (THES) data base—the overall score, the reported staff-to-student ratio, and the peer ratings—demonstrate unacceptably high fluctuation from year to year. The inappropriateness of the summary tabulations for assessing the majority of the "top 200" universities would be apparent purely for reason of this obvious statistical instability regardless of other grounds of criticism. There are far too many anomalies in the change scores of the various indices for them to be of use in the course of university management.^[10]

In an article for the New Statesman entitled "The QS World University Rankings are a load of old baloney", David Blanchflower, a leading labour economist, said: "This ranking is complete rubbish and nobody should place any credence in it. The results are based on an entirely flawed methodology that underweights the quality of research and overweights fluff... The QS is a flawed index and should be ignored."^[47]

However, Martin Ince,^[18] chair of the Advisory Board for the Rankings, points out that their volatility has been reduced since 2007 by the introduction of the Z-score calculation method and that over time, the quality of QS's data gathering has improved to reduce anomalies. In addition, the academic and employer review are now so big that even modestly ranked universities receive a statistically valid number of votes. QS has published extensive data^[48] on who the respondents are, where they are, and the subjects and industries to which the academicians and employers respectively belong.

The QS Subject Rankings have been dismissed as unreliable by Brian Leiter, who points out that programmes that are known to be high quality, and which rank highly in the Blackwell rankings (e.g., the University of Pittsburgh) fare poorly in the QS ranking for reasons that are not at all clear.^[49] However, the University of Pittsburgh was ranked in the number one position for Philosophy in the 2016 QS World University Rankings by Subject, while Rutgers University — another university that Leiter argued was given a strangely low ranking — was ranked number three in the world in the same ranking. An institution's score for each of QS's metrics can be found on the relevant ranking page, allowing those wishing to examine why an institution has finished in its final position to gain access to the scores that contributed to the overall rank.^[50]

In an article titled *The Globalisation of College and University Rankings* and appearing in the January/February 2012 issue of Change, Philip Altbach, professor of higher education at Boston College and also a member of the THE editorial board, said: "The QS World University Rankings are the most problematical. From the beginning, the QS has relied on reputational indicators for half of its analysis ... it probably accounts for the significant variability in the QS rankings over the years. In addition, QS queries employers, introducing even more variability and unreliability into the mix. Whether the QS rankings should be taken seriously by the higher education community is questionable."^[51]

Simon Marginson, professor of higher education at the University of Melbourne and a member of the THE editorial board, in the article "Improving Latin American universities' global ranking" for University World News on 10 June 2012, said: "I will not discuss the QS ranking because the methodology is not sufficiently

robust to provide data valid as social science".^[52] QS's Intelligence Unit counter these criticisms by stating that "Independent academic reviews have confirmed these results to be more than 99% reliable".^[41]

















In 2021, research published by the Center for Studies in Higher Education at the University of California, Berkeley raised the possibility that institutions that employ QS's consulting services are rewarded with improved rankings. QS denied the possibility and stated that it had firm policies and practices to minimize potential conflicts of interest.^[53]

Results

The 2022 QS World University Rankings, published on June 8, 2021, was the eighteenth edition of the overall ranking. It confirmed Massachusetts Institute of Technology as the world's highest-ranked university for a seventh successive year. In doing so, MIT broke the record of consecutive number-one positions.

QS World University Rankings—Top 50^[note 1]

Institution	2012 ^[54]	2014 ^[55]	2015 ^[56]	2016 ^[57]	2017 ^[58]	2018 ^[59]
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1	1	1	1	1	1
 University of Oxford	5	6	5	6	6	6
 University of Cambridge	2	3	2	3	4	5
 Stanford University	15	7	7	3	2	2
 Harvard University	3	2	4	2	3	3
 California Institute of Technology	10	10	8	5	5	4
 Imperial College London	6	5	2	8	9	8
 Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich	13	12	12	9	8	10
 University College London	4	4	5	7	7	7
 University of Chicago	8	9	11	10	10	9
 National University of Singapore	25	24	22	12	12	15
 Nanyang Technological University	47	41	39	13	13	11
 University of Pennsylvania	12	13	13	18	18	19
 Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne	29	19	17	14	14	12
 Yale University	7	8	10	15	15	16
 University of Edinburgh	21	17	17	21	19	23
 Tsinghua University	48	48	47	25	24	25
 Peking University	44	46	57	41	39	38
 Columbia University	11	14	14	22	20	18
 Princeton University	9	10	9	11	11	13
 Cornell University	14	15	19	17	16	14
 University of Hong Kong	23	26	28	30	27	26
 University of Tokyo	30	32	31	39	34	28
 University of Michigan	17	22	23	30	23	21
 Johns Hopkins University	16	16	14	16	17	17
 University of Toronto	19	17	20	34	32	31
 McGill University	18	21	21	24	30	32
 Australian National University	24	27	25	19	22	20
 University of Manchester	32	33	30	33	29	34
 Northwestern University	27	29	34	32	26	28
 Fudan University	90	88	71	51	43	40
 University of California, Berkeley	22	25	27	26	28	27
 Kyoto University	35	35	36	38	37	36
 Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	33	34	40	28	36	30

 King's College London	26	19	16	19	21	23
 Seoul National University	37	35	31	36	35	36
 University of Melbourne	36	31	33	42	42	41
 University of Sydney	39	38	37	45	46	50
 Chinese University of Hong Kong	40	39	46	51	44	46
 University of California, Los Angeles	31	40	37	27	31	33
 KAIST	63	60	51	43	46	41
 New York University	43	44	41	53	46	52
 University of New South Wales	52	52	48	46	49	45
 Paris Sciences et Lettres University	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	50
 Zhejiang University	170	165	144	110	110	87
 University of British Columbia	45	49	43	50	45	51
 University of Queensland	46	43	43	46	51	47
 University of California, San Diego	70	63	59	44	40	38
 Polytechnic Institute of Paris	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
 London School of Economics	69	68	71	35	37	35

Young Universities

QS also releases the *QS Top 50 under 50 Ranking* annually to rank universities which have been established for under 50 years. These institutions are judged based on their positions on the overall table of the previous year.^[64] From 2015, QS's "Top 50 Under 50" ranking was expanded to include the world's top 100 institutions under 50 years of age, while in 2017 it was again expanded to include the world's top 150 universities in this cohort. In 2020, the table was topped by [Nanyang Technological University of Singapore](#) for the seventh consecutive year. The table is dominated by universities from the Asia-Pacific region, with the top four places taken by Asian institutions.^[65]

Faculties and subjects

QS also ranks universities by academic discipline organized into 5 faculties, namely Arts & Humanities, Engineering & Technology, Life Sciences & Medicine, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences & Management. The methodology is based on surveying expert academics and global employers, and measuring research performance using data sourced from Elsevier's Scopus database. In the *2018 QS World University Rankings by Subject* the world's best universities for the study of 48 different subjects are named. The two new subject tables added in the most recent edition are: Classics & Ancient History and Library & Information Management.

The world's leading institution in 2020's portfolio in terms of most world-leading positions is [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#), which is number one for 12 subjects. Its longtime rankings rival, [Harvard University](#), is number one for eleven subjects.^[66]

Categories of QS World University Rankings by Faculty and Subject^[66]

Art & Humanities	Engineering & Technology	Life Sciences & Medicine	Natural Sciences <small>[note 2]</small>	Social Sciences
Archaeology	Chemical Engineering	Agriculture & Forestry	Chemistry	Accounting & Finance
Architecture	Civil & Structural Engineering	Anatomy & Physiology	Earth & Marine Sciences	Anthropology
Art & Design	Computer Science & Information Systems	Biological Sciences	Environmental Sciences	Business & Management Studies
Classics & Ancient History	Electrical & Electronic Engineering	Dentistry	Geography	Communication & Media Studies
English Language & Literature	Mechanical, Aeronautical & Manufacturing Engineering	Medicine	Geology	Development Studies
History	Mineral & Mining Engineering	Nursing	Geophysics	Economics & Econometrics
Linguistics	Petroleum Engineering	Pharmacy & Pharmacology	Materials Science	Education & Training
Modern Languages		Psychology	Mathematics	Hospitality & Leisure Management
Performing Arts		Veterinary Science	Physics & Astronomy	Law
Philosophy				Library & Information Management
Theology, Divinity & Religious Studies				Politics & International Studies
				Social Policy & Administration
				Sociology
				Sports-related Subjects
				Statistics & Operational Research





















Regional rankings and other tables

QS Graduate Employability Rankings

In 2015, in an attempt to meet student demand for comparative data about the employment prospects offered by prospective or current universities, QS launched the *QS Graduate Employability Rankings* (<https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/employability-rankings/2020>). The most recent installment, released for

the 2020 academic year, ranks 500 universities worldwide. It is led by Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and features four universities from the United States in the top 10.^[67] The unique methodology consists of five indicators, with three that do not feature in any other ranking.^[68]





















QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2020—Top 20^[note 1]

Institution	2016 ^[69]	2017 ^[70]	2018 ^[71]	2019 ^[72]	2020 ^[73]
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2	2	5	1	1
 Stanford University	1	1	1	2	2
 University of California, Los Angeles	12	15	2	2	3
 University of Sydney	14	4	4	5	4
 Harvard University	3	n/a	3	4	5
 Tsinghua University	9	3	10	9	6
 University of Melbourne	n/a	11	7	6	7
 University of Cambridge	4	5	6	7	8
 University of Hong Kong	n/a	18	20	13	9
 University of Oxford	6	8	8	10	10
 New York University	23	38	11	11	11
 Cornell University	11	13	18	21	12
 Yale University	5	n/a	18	14	13
 University of Chicago	21	17	21	22	14
 Princeton University	7	10	13	15	15
 University of Toronto	n/a	19	15	12	16
 Swiss Federal Institute of Technology - Zurich	17	16	16	15	17
 Peking University	15	11	15	20	18
 École Polytechnique	10	6	28	30	19
 University of Pennsylvania	13	23	22	24	20

Arab Region

First published in 2014, the annual *QS Arab Region University Rankings* (<https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/arab-region-university-rankings/2020>) highlights 130 leading universities in this part of the world. The methodology for this ranking has been developed with the aim of reflecting specific challenges and priorities for institutions in the region, drawing on the following 10 indicators.





















QS University Rankings: Arab Region—Top 20^[note 1]

Institution	2015 ^[74]	2016 ^[75]	2018 ^[76]	2019 ^[77]	2020 ^[78]	2021 ^[79]
 King Abdulaziz University	4	4	4	3	1	1
 American University of Beirut	2	2	1	2	2	2
 Qatar University	11	9	7	6	4	3
 King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals	1	1	2	1	3	4
 United Arab Emirates University	6	6	5	5	5	5
 King Saud University	3	3	3	4	6	6
 American University of Sharjah	7	7	8	7	7	7
 Sultan Qaboos University	16	11	10	10	8	8
 Khalifa University	17	25	21	15	12	9
 University of Jordan	8	8	9	9	10	10
 The American University in Cairo	5	5	6	8	9	11
 Cairo University	9	10	11	11	11	12
 Jordan University of Science and Technology	10	13	14	14	13	13
 Lebanese American University	14	15	16	16	15	14
 Ain Shams University	13	12	17	13	14	15
 University of Sharjah	21	19	21	18	17	16
 Umm Al-Qura University	14	18	18	21	22	17
 Alexandria University	12	14	15	12	16	18
 Saint Joseph University	20	17	12	20	18	19
 Zayed University	22	20	20	22	20	20

Asia

In 2009, QS launched the *QS Asian University Rankings* or *QS University Rankings: Asia* in partnership with *The Chosun Ilbo* newspaper in Korea to rank universities in Asia independently. The Ninth instalment, released for the 2017/18 academic year, ranks the 350 best universities in Asia, and is led by [Nanyang Technological University](#), Singapore.^[80]





















These rankings use some of the same criteria as the world rankings, but there are changed weightings and new criteria. One addition is the criterion of incoming and outgoing exchange students. Accordingly, the performance of Asian institutions in the *QS World University Rankings* and the *QS Asian University Rankings* released in the same academic year are different from each other.^[1]

Institution	2009 ^[81]	2010 ^[82]	2011 ^[83]	2012 ^[84]	2013 ^[85]	2014 ^[86]
 <u>National University of Singapore</u>	10	3	3	2	2	1
 <u>Tsinghua University</u>	15	16	16	15	14	14
 <u>Nanyang Technological University</u>	14	18	17	17	10	7
 <u>University of Hong Kong</u>	1	1	2	3	2	3
 <u>Zhejiang University</u>	32	32	27	25	28	31
 <u>Fudan University</u>	26	24	21	19	23	22
 <u>Peking University</u>	10	12	13	6	5	8
 <u>Hong Kong University of Science and Technology</u>	4	2	1	1	1	5
 <u>University of Malaya</u>	39	42	39	35	33	32
 <u>Shanghai Jiao Tong University</u>	29	34	33	29	27	28
 <u>Korea University</u>	33	29	26	21	19	18
 <u>Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology</u>	7	13	11	7	6	2
 <u>Chinese University of Hong Kong</u>	2	4	5	5	7	6
 <u>Seoul National University</u>	8	6	6	4	4	4
 <u>University of Tokyo</u>	3	5	4	8	9	10
 <u>Sungkyunkwan University</u>	44	43	27	24	21	17
 <u>Kyoto University</u>	5	8	7	10	10	12
 <u>City University of Hong Kong</u>	18	15	15	12	12	11
 <u>National Taiwan University</u>	22	21	21	20	22	21
 <u>Tokyo Institute of Technology</u>	9	11	9	13	13	15

Emerging Europe and Central Asia

First published in 2015, *QS Emerging Europe and Central Asia University Rankings* (<https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/eeca-rankings/2020>) ranks 350 universities from mostly Eastern Europe and Central Asia, with Russia's Lomonosov Moscow State University in the top spot since the first publishing of rankings.

QS University Rankings: Emerging Europe and Central Asia—Top 20^[note 1]





















Institution	2015 ^[94]	2016 ^[95]	2018 ^[96]	2019 ^[97]	2020 ^[98]	2021 ^[99]
 Lomonosov Moscow State University	1	1	1	1	1	1
 University of Tartu	4	5	3	5	4	2
 Saint Petersburg State University	5	3	4	3	2	3
 Charles University	3	4	5	3	5	4
 Novosibirsk State University	2	2	2	2	3	5
 Jagiellonian University	7	7	14	7	6	6
 University of Warsaw	6	6	6	6	7	7
 Masaryk University	9	10	17	11	10	8
 Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology	10	17	13	16	11	9
 Tomsk State University	27	20	11	13	8	10
 Koç University	15	16	14	12	11	11
 Czech Technical University in Prague	8	7	8	9	9	12
 Warsaw University of Technology	24	18	19	15	14	12
 Middle East Technical University	11	14	9	8	13	14
 Boğaziçi University	17	9	7	10	15	15
 Higher School of Economics	31	35	25	23	17	16
 Istanbul Technical University	30	23	26	21	20	17
 Bilkent University	11	12	12	14	16	18
 Al-Farabi Kazakh National University	21	11	10	19	18	19
 Vilnius University	19	21	18	17	18	20

Latin America

The *QS Latin American University Rankings* or *QS University Rankings: Latin America* were launched in 2011. They use academic opinion (30%), employer opinion (20%), publications per faculty member, citations per paper, academic staff with a PhD, faculty/student ratio and web visibility (10 per cent each) as measures.^[100]

The 2021 edition of the *QS World University Rankings: Latin America* ranks the top 300 universities in the region. Chile's [Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile](#) retained its status as the region's best university for the fourth straight year.^[101]

QS University Rankings: Latin America—Top 20^[note 1]

Institution	2013 ^[102]	2014 ^[103]	2015 ^[104]	2016 ^[105]	2018 ^[10]
 Pontifical Catholic University of Chile	2	1	3	3	1
 University of São Paulo	1	2	1	1	3
 Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education	7	7	9	7	5
 University of Chile	5	6	4	6	6
 University of Campinas	3	3	2	2	2
 University of Los Andes	4	5	7	8	8
 National Autonomous University of Mexico	6	8	6	4	4
 University of Buenos Aires	12	19	15	11	9
 Federal University of Rio de Janeiro	8	4	5	5	7
 National University of Colombia	9	14	13	10	11
 University of Concepción	15	12	17	13	15
 São Paulo State University	11	9	8	12	10
 University of Antioquia	32	23	27	22	17
 University of Santiago, Chile	13	16	16	17	16
 Federal University of Minas Gerais	10	10	11	14	11
 Pontifical Catholic University of Peru	23	30	19	21	25
 Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro	18	13	14	15	13
 Pontifical Xavierian University	20	31	27	28	20
 Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul	14	10	12	16	14
 University of Costa Rica	26	23	21	18	19





















Africa

The number of universities in Africa increased by 115 percent from 2000 to 2010, and enrollment more than doubled from 2.3 million to 5.2 million students, according to UNESCO. However, only one African university, the [University of Cape Town](#), was among the world's 100 best, to judge the world universities ranking of 2016.^[109]

BRICS

This set of rankings adopts eight indicators to select the top 100 higher learning institutions in [BRICS](#) countries. Institutions in [Hong Kong](#), [Macau](#) and [Taiwan](#) are not ranked here.





















QS University Rankings: BRICS—Top 20^[note 1]

Institution	2013 ^[110]	2014 ^[111]	2015 ^[112]	2016 ^[113]	2018 ^[114]	2019
 Tsinghua University	1	1	1	1	1	1
 Peking University	2	2	2	2	2	2
 Fudan University	4	5	3	3	3	3
 University of Science and Technology of China	6	4	6	4	4	4
 Zhejiang University	9	11	11	9	6	5
 Lomonosov Moscow State University	3	3	4	7	5	6
 Shanghai Jiao Tong University	6	8	6	5	7	7
 Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	15	15	16	13	9	8
 Nanjing University	5	6	8	8	8	9
 Indian Institute of Science Bangalore	15	15	5	6	10	10
 Saint Petersburg State University	14	12	15	20	13	11
 Novosibirsk State University	22	18	19	20	11	12
 Sun Yat-sen University	20	21	21	23	16	13
 University of São Paulo	8	7	9	10	13	14
 Wuhan University	26	33	17	16	15	15
 University of Campinas	10	9	12	12	12	16
 Indian Institute of Technology Madras	16	17	20	19	18	17
 Indian Institute of Technology Delhi	13	13	13	15	17	18
 Tomsk State University	58	47	44	43	26	19
 Harbin Institute of Technology	23	27	23	18	20	20

QS Best Student Cities Ranking

In 2012, QS launched the *QS Best Student Cities* ranking - a table designed to evaluate which cities were most likely to provide students with a high-quality student experience. Five editions of the ranking have been published thus far, with Paris taking the number-one position in four of them.^{[116][117][118]} The 2017 edition was also the first one to see the introduction of student opinion as a contributory indicator.

QS Best Student Cities—Top 20^[note 1]

City	2014 ^[119]	2015 ^[120]	2016 ^[121]	2017 ^[122]	2018 ^[123]	2019 ^[124]
 London	2	3	5	3	1	1
 Tokyo	17	7	3	7	2	2
 Melbourne	5	2	2	5	3	3
 Munich	10	14	11	9	6	4
 Berlin	11	16	9	6	7	5
 Montréal	9	8	7	1	4	6
 Paris	1	1	1	2	5	7
 Zurich	5	11	12	15	8	8
 Sydney	4	4	4	13	9	9
 Hong Kong	7	5	8	11	12	10
 Seoul	14	10	10	4	10	10
 Toronto	13	9	13	11	13	12
 Boston	8	6	13	8	13	13
 Vienna	15	20	16	16	11	14
 Edinburgh	32	26	33	18	16	15
 Vancouver	21	12	13	10	17	16
 Taipei	28	25	23	21	20	17
 Kyoto-Osaka-Kobe (since 2016)	50 (Kyoto) n/a (Osaka) n/a (Kobe)	34 (Kyoto) 48 (Osaka) n/a (Kobe)	21	17	19	18
 New York City	21	17	20	19	18	19
 Singapore	3	15	6	14	15	20

Events

QS Quacquarelli Symonds organizes a range of international student recruitment events throughout the year. These are generally oriented towards introducing prospective students to university admissions staff, while also facilitating access to admissions advice and scholarships. In 2019, over 360 events were hosted, attended by 265,000 candidates, in 100 cities across 50 countries. Separated into ‘tours’, QS’ event offerings typically comprise a series of university and business school fairs.

World MBA Tour

The QS World MBA Tour is the world’s largest series of international business school fairs, attended by more than 60,000 candidates in 100 cities across 50 countries.

World MBA Tour Premium

QS World MBA Premium also focuses on MBA student recruitment, but invites only business schools ranked in the top 200 internationally, according to the QS World University Rankings. The event aims to provide a more holistic overview of an MBA degree, with enhanced focus on pre- and post-study processes and insights.

World Grad School Tour

The QS World Grad School Tour focuses on international postgraduate programs, particularly specialised master's degrees and PhDs in FAME (Finance, Accounting, Management and Economics) and STEM disciplines.

World University Tour

The QS World University Tour has an emphasis on undergraduate student recruitment, inviting undergraduate programs only.

Connect Events

QS Connect MBA and QS Connect Masters differ from other event series' in that an open fair format is not followed. Instead, candidates take part in pre-arranged 1-to-1 interviews with admissions staff, based on pre-submitted CVs and academic profiles.

QS Stars

QS also offers universities an auditing service that provides in-depth information about institutional strengths and weaknesses. Called QS Stars, this service is separate from the QS World University Rankings. It involves a detailed look at a range of functions which mark out a modern, global university. The minimum result that a university can receive is zero Stars, while truly exceptional, world-leading universities can receive '5*+', or 'Five Star Plus', status. The QS Stars audit process evaluates universities according to about 50 different indicators. By 2018, about 20 different universities worldwide had been awarded the maximum possible Five Star Plus rating.^[125]

QS Stars^[126] ratings are derived from scores on in eight out of 12 categories. Four categories are mandatory, while institutions must choose the remaining four optional categories.^[127] They are:

- Teaching
- Employability
- Research
- Internationalization
- Facilities
- Online/Distance Learning
- Arts & Culture
- Innovation
- Inclusiveness
- Social Responsibility
- Subject Ranking
- Program Strength^[128]

Stars is an evaluation system, not a ranking. About 400 institutions had opted for the Stars evaluation as of early 2018. In 2012, fees to participate in this program were \$9850 for the initial audit and an annual license fee of \$6850.^[129]

Notes

1. Order shown in accordance with the latest result.
2. The term "Natural Sciences" here actually refers to physical sciences since life sciences are also a branch of natural sciences.

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External links

- [Official website \(https://www.topuniversities.com\)](https://www.topuniversities.com)
 - [QS Intelligence Unit Blog \(http://iu.qs.com\)](http://iu.qs.com)—blog on rankings and higher education from the team that compiles the QS World University Rankings
 - [Interactive maps comparing the QS World University Rankings with the Academic Ranking of World Universities and Times Higher Education rankings \(http://www.statsilk.com/maps/where-are-worlds-top-universities-interactive-maps-comparing-three-rankings-arwu-the-qs\)](http://www.statsilk.com/maps/where-are-worlds-top-universities-interactive-maps-comparing-three-rankings-arwu-the-qs)
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