

Summary

Times Higher Education (THE), a weekly British magazine reporting specifically on news and issues related to higher education, released its 2022 edition of THE World Impact Rankings on April 27, 2022. This ranking was initially launched in 2019 and is the only global performance assessment of universities against the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals. The first edition of the rankings was released in April 2019 included more than 450 universities from 76 countries. Now in its fourth edition, the ranking included a broader footprint of over 1,400 institutions from 106 countries.

Institutions could submit information and be ranked in any of the individual 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and also qualify to receive an overall ranking.

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) participated in this ranking for the third time in 2022 and submitted comprehensive information in 8 of the 17 SDGs, resulting in rankings in all 8 areas, as well as an overall ranking. USask received an exceptional overall ranking of 58 (tie) in the world, a top 60 outcome within a global participant list of 1406 universities. As the university ranked 96 globally in each of the two previous years, this was an improvement of 38 positions even with the number of participating universities increasing over last year by nearly 300. The university performed well in every one of the individual 8 SDGs. Globally, there were three top 50 rankings, three others in the top 100, and two in the tier 101-200. These included the following:

SDG #	Sustainable Development Goal	# Universities Ranked	Global Ranking
OVERALL		1406	58*
2	Zero Hunger	553	52*
3	Good Health and Wellbeing	1101	22*
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	634	101-200
9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	785	101-200
11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	783	17
14	Life Below Water	452	95*
16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	809	72*
17	Partnership for the Goals	1438	16

*Tie with another university

Ranking Methodology

The THE Impact Rankings are unique in a number of ways from traditional global rankings. The information requested from institutions is significantly more comprehensive, includes qualitative content in addition to quantitative data, and institutions have the freedom to submit to one, many, or all of the SDG areas. Supportive evidence to answers is required to demonstrate best practice in the majority of cases and impact the review and evaluation. In many instances, the requirement is that the evidence provided be public.

The indicators are designed to provide a balanced comparison in three areas: Research, Outreach, and Stewardship. Each individual SDG that is evaluated and ranked, is based on anywhere from 3-6 metrics that are weighted. Each of the metrics can further have as many as 10 indicator components. Within each SDG, one of those metrics is a research component worth 27% of the ranking and solely based on 2 or 3 bibliometric measures. For an institution to receive an ‘overall’ ranking, they have to submit in SDG 17, and in at least three other SDG areas. The ‘overall’ score is based on a

weighting of the individual results from SDG 17 (22%) and your best three other individual SDG rankings (26% each). These are summarized as follows:

SDG #	Metric	Indicator Weight (%)	Data Source
OVERALL		22% (SDG 17) + 26% (SDG A) + 26% (SDG B) + 26% (SDG C)	Calculation
2	Research	27	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Campus food waste	15.4	University provided data – with evidence
	Student hunger	19.2	University provided data – with evidence
	Proportion of graduates in agriculture including sustainability aspects	19.2	University provided data
	National hunger	19.2	University provided data – with evidence
3	Research	27	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Number graduating in health professions	34.6	University provided data
	Health impact	38.4	University provided data – with evidence
6	Research	27	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Water consumption per person	19	University provided data
	Water usage and care	23	University provided data – with evidence
	Water reuse	12	University provided data
	Water in the community	19	University provided data – with evidence
9	Research	11.6	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Patents	15.4	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Spin-offs	34.6	University provided data
	Industry income	38.4	University provided data
11	Research	27	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Support of arts and heritage	22.6	University provided data – with evidence
	Expenditure on Arts and Heritage	15.3	University provided data
	Sustainable practices	35.1	University provided data – with evidence
14	Research	27	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Supporting aquatic ecosystems through education	15.3	University provided data – with evidence
	Supporting aquatic ecosystems through action	19.4	University provided data – with evidence
	Water sensitive waste disposal	19.3	University provided data – with evidence
	Maintaining a local ecosystem	19	University provided data – with evidence
16	Research	27	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	University governance measures	26.6	University provided data – with evidence
	Working with government	23.2	University provided data – with evidence
	Graduates in law and civil enforcement related courses with ethical element	23.2	University provided data
17	Proportion of all SDG research with international coauthorship	27.1	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Relationships with NGOs, Regional and National Government	18.5	University provided data – with evidence
	Publish outputs across all SDGs	27.2	University provided data – with evidence
	Education for the SDGs	27.2	University provided data – with evidence

Scores from each SDG are scaled such that the highest score in each SDG in the overall calculation is 100. This adjusts for slight variations in the scoring range in each SDG and ensures equity across SDGs. Particular indicator components are also normalized to the size of the respective institution. For more information on the THE Impact Ranking methodology, please go to: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/impact-rankings-2022-methodology>.

Scores for USask and Performance within Canada

The following chart provides a visual of the USask performance overall, as well as the outcomes in the individual 8 SDG areas (designated as black dots) in comparison to median scores:



Additionally, the following table provides some context of the USask performance in comparison to other Canadian schools whom have participated in the 2022 rankings:

SDG #	Sustainable Development Goal	Global Ranking		Canada Ranking		U15 Ranking	
		Position	# Ranked	Position	# Ranked	Position	# Ranked
OVERALL		58*	1406	12	24	9	14
2	Zero Hunger	52*	553	8	15	6	9
3	Good Health and Wellbeing	22*	1101	2	22	2	14
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	101-200	634	13*	18	9*	11
9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	101-200	785	11*	19	9*	12
11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	17	783	6	17	3	9
14	Life Below Water	95*	452	12*	14	7	7
16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	72*	809	7	20	5	13
17	Partnership for the Goals	16	1438	1	24	1	14

*Tie with another university