Summary

Research Infosource, a company that specializes in providing research and development intelligence, released their annual Canada’s Top 50 Research Universities on December 7, 2023. The University of Saskatchewan (USask) ranked 11th overall (~$240 million), dropping one position over prior year. The University of Toronto continued as the top ranked university, followed by University of British Columbia, McGill University, Universite de Montreal, and University of Alberta. University of Toronto’s annual research revenue dropped by over $100 million to $1.34 billion. The other four schools in the Top 5 had revenues approximately between $600-$740 million.

The Canada’s Top 50 Research Universities ranking is based on total sponsored research income which refers to all funds to support research received in the form of a grant, contribution, or contract from all sources external to the institution. The 2023 ranking was based on financial data for the 2021-22 fiscal year obtained from Statistics Canada. Information on the 2023 results is available here: https://researchinfosource.com/cil/2023/top-50-research-universities/list.

University of Saskatchewan Details

According to the Canada’s Top 50 Research Universities rankings, USask had a total sponsored research income of $239,652,000. This was a decrease over prior year of about 16.0%, one of the largest drops amongst the 16 schools in the medical tier group as USask had experienced a record year of research revenue in the prior year. Over the most recent ten years, USask had consistently been ranked between 10 and 14 overall in terms of total research revenue.

In addition to Canada’s Top 50 Research Universities ranking, Research Infosource also publishes secondary ranking tables pertaining to various measures such as Research Intensity ($) per Faculty and Research Intensity ($) per Graduate Student, and ultimately a ranking for Research Universities of the Year. In addition, from year to year, they also provide different spotlights on 5-year changes in particular funding categories.

The Research Universities of the Year ranking takes into account a number of factors including total sponsored research income (20%), research intensity per faculty (20%), research intensity per graduate student (10%), total number of publications (20%), publication intensity (20%), and publication impact (10%). USask maintained its rank at 10th within the medical tier with a total score of 35.6 out of 100. In terms of the individual indicators, USask again performed...
strongest in research intensity per graduate student, this time finishing 5th in the country ($66,500 per student). Other rankings within the medical tier group were 10th in research intensity per faculty ($233,800 per faculty member), 11th in total sponsored research income, 11th in publication intensity, 14th in total number of publications, and 16th in publication impact. The lowest ranking indicator continues to be the one measuring impact. Further information on the Research Universities of the Year ranking is available here: https://researchinfosource.com/cil/2023/top-50-research-universities/ruy-tiers.

This year, Research Infosource presented a spotlight on the 5-year changes in sponsored research income funding in three funding categories: Corporate Research Income, Not-for-Profit Research Income, and International Government Research Income. In terms of publication output, they also provided a new spotlight on how institutional scholarly output changed over 5 years in the areas of Cross-sector Collaboration and International Collaboration. The research income analysis examined financial data the 2017/18 through 2021/22 fiscal periods, while the publication analysis compared scholarly output data from calendar year 2017 through 2021.

In terms of Corporate Research Income over the 5-year period within the medical tier group of 16 universities, USask placed 2nd in the group with a growth rate of 49.3%, even though its aggregate income over 5 years was 14th. With regards to Not-for-Profit Research Income over the same time period, although the aggregate income for the period was again 14th, USask was ranked 1st overall within the tier group in growth over the period at 66.1%. Research Infosource also included a new table on International Government Research Income, and although aggregate income in this category was again 14th, the USask growth rate was also ranked high at 3rd overall (93.4%). Details on these three ranking tables are located here: https://researchinfosource.com/cil/2023/top-50-research-universities/spotlight-tiers.

The collaboration analysis based on publication output is a different spotlight for Research Infosource. Cross-sector Collaboration involves co-authoring a publication with a non-university institution within Canada, while an International Collaboration is co-authoring a publication with an institution outside of Canada. In terms of the 5-year analysis of cross-sector publications within the medical tier, USask was 14th in aggregate publication total over the period and 9th in growth rate (41.8%). USask was positioned slightly better in terms of international collaboration over the same period, positioned 13th in aggregate publication total, but ranked 4th overall in terms of growth rate (48.0%) for the period. Details on these ranking tables are located here: https://researchinfosource.com/cil/2023/top-50-research-universities/spotlight-tiers.

Further Information

For more information about this ranking or other university rankings, please contact Assessment and Analytics in the Office of the Provost and VP Academic.