Summary

Times Higher Education (THE), a weekly British magazine reporting specifically on news and issues related to higher education, released the 2024[1] edition of THE World University Rankings on September 27, 2023. This year, a total of 1,904 institutions were included in the ranking – a further increase of 6% from last year. **The University of Saskatchewan (USask) attained its highest ranking placement ever awarded, within the band of 351-400[2].**

Domestically, USask moved up into a tie for 15 within Canadian universities, and made a slight gain to be tied for 14 among the U15 along with the University of Manitoba. Canadian universities improved overall year over year, as there are now 18 schools in the top 400 and 24 in the top 600, with 31 in total ranked across the country. University of Toronto was ranked the highest at 21, followed by University of British Columbia (41) and McGill (49). Schools placing in the top 200 were McMaster (tie for 103), Alberta (tie for 109), Montreal (tie for 111), Waterloo (tie for 158), and Ottawa (tie for 177). Including other U15 schools, other Canadian universities that ranked in the top 400 included Calgary, Western, Laval, Queen's, Simon Fraser, Dalhousie, Manitoba, Victoria, and York.

What is the ranking based on?

The THE World University Rankings methodology underwent a <u>significant</u> revision over prior year. The new methodology is based upon the weighted scores of 17 indicators within 5 pillars as indicated below (an 18th indicator is not currently being used).

Pillar	Indicator	Weight	Source
Teaching (29.5%)	Reputational survey – teaching	15%	Reputational survey
	Academic staff / total students	4.5%	University provided data
	Doctorates awarded / undergraduate degrees awarded	2%	University provided data
	Doctorates awarded / academic staff	5.5%	University provided data
	Institutional income / academic staff	2.5%	University provided data
Research Environment (29%)	Reputational survey – research	18%	Reputational survey
	Academic papers / academic & research staff	5.5%	Elsevier data
	Research income / academic staff	5.5%	University provided data
Research Quality (30%)	Citation impact - normalized average citations per paper (FWCI)	15%	Elsevier data
	Research strength - 75th percentile of FWCI	5%	Elsevier data
	Research excellence - # publications in top 10% by FWCI worldwide	5%	Elsevier data
	Research influence – measure based on importance of citations	5%	Elsevier data
Industry Income (4%)	Research income from industry and commerce / academic staff	2%	University provided data
	Patents - # of global patents that cite research by university	2%	Elsevier data
International Outlook (7.5%)	Ratio of international to domestic staff	2.5%	University provided data
	Ratio of international to domestic students	2.5%	University provided data
	Proportion of internationally co-authored research papers	2.5%	Elsevier data

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[1] Prior to 2017, the THE rankings were named based on the year they were published. Starting in 2017, however, the rankings were named to reflect the intended readers: students who plan to attend university in the following year.

[2] The top 200 universities were ranked individually from 1 to 200. Between 201 and 400, universities were ranked into groups of 50. Universities ranked between 401 and 600 were placed into two groups of 100, while those placed between 601 and 1,200 were divided into three groups of 200. The next group was placed into a 1201-1500 tier, and the remaining institutions were listed as 1501+.

THE uses a standardization approach for each of the indicators which is based on the distribution of data within a particular indicator, where they calculate a cumulative probability function, and evaluate where a particular institution's indicator sits within that function. For all indicators with the exception of the Academic Reputation Survey metrics, Research Excellence, Research Influence, and Patents, Z-scoring is used to normalize the results for each indicator. Otherwise, an exponential component is required in their calculations.

For more information on the THE ranking methodology, please go to: https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/world-university-rankings-2024-methodology.

Scores for the University of Saskatchewan

The following table shows the scores for USask for each of the five pillars of the THE rankings, as well as the respective ranking placements both globally, as well as within the U15:

Pillar	USask Score			U15 Rank			Global Rank		
	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
Teaching	35.3	36.7	**39.0**	12	13	**11**	323	304	**338**
Research Environment	29.9	30.3	**35.1**	14	15	**13**	384	420	**345**
Research Quality	45.5	48.6	**62.9**	15	15	**15**	837	879	**708**
Industry	75.8	69.7	**95.8**	4	6	**6**	151	195	**109**
International Outlook	73.7	75.0	**78.9**	12	12	**12**	270	269	**265**
Overall	40.6	42.0	**50.3**	15	15	**14***	501-600	501-600	**351-400**

*tie with another university

Our strongest single globally ranked pillar was Industry, bolstered by the addition of a new patent indicator helping to place USask 109 in the world. Within Canada, we remained positioned at 6 within the U15 and we were also 6 in Canada. Our global position for International Outlook remained strong, increasing slightly to 265 overall.

Significant increases in both Research Environment (420 to 345) and Research Quality (879 to 708) pillars also contributed to our improvement in the overall ranking. The record level of USask research revenues recorded in the 2020/21 fiscal year were primarily responsible for the improvement in the former pillar, while our institution greatly benefited from the new THE methodology in the latter, notably the Research Excellence and Research Influence indicators. The Teaching pillar score decreased by just over 30 positions to 338.

Based on internal calculations using the modified THE methodology and weightings, our overall USask score did jump up by just more than 8 points to 50.3 from 42.0. This would suggest that we placed ~367 overall and moved up just over 135 positions year over year.

For more information, visit: **https://www.usask.ca/ipa/Assessment-and-Analytics/university-rankings.php**