Summary

Times Higher Education (THE), a weekly British magazine reporting specifically on news and issues related to higher education, released the 2025[1] edition of THE World University Rankings on October 9, 2024. This year, a total of 2,092 institutions were included in the ranking – an increase from the total of 1,904 in the prior year. **The University of Saskatchewan (USask) maintained its ranking placement, placing within the band of 351-400[2].**

Domestically, USask dropped one position within Canada to 16 overall. Within the U15 group, USask remained 14 overall, with University of Manitoba dropping to 15 (previously tied with USask). Although there were two additional Canadian universities ranked this year, with 33 schools ranked overall, there were only 16 universities ranked within the top 400 as compared to 18 one year ago. University of Toronto was again ranked the highest at 21, followed by University of British Columbia (41) and McGill (45). Other schools placing in the top 200 were McMaster and Alberta (tie for 116), Montreal (125), Waterloo (tie for 163), and Ottawa (tie for 191). Other Canadian universities that ranked in the top 400 included Calgary, Western, Laval, Dalhousie, Queen's, Simon Fraser, and Victoria.

What is the ranking based on?

The THE World University Rankings methodology underwent a significant revision for the prior rankings releasae. The revised 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

[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 most metrics, they calculate the cumulative probability function using a version of Z-scoring. The distribution of data in the metrics on teaching reputation, research reputation, research excellence, research influence and patents, requires THE to use an exponential component.

For more information on the THE ranking methodology, please go to: https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/world-university-rankings-2025-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		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Teaching	36.7	39.0	**39.2**	13	11	**10**	304	338	**332**
Research Environment	30.3	35.1	**34.0**	15	13	**14**	420	345	**396**
Research Quality	48.6	62.9	**63.9**	15	15	**15**	879	708	**739**
Industry	69.7	95.8	**94.2**	6	6	**7**	195	109	**139**
International Outlook	75.0	78.9	**78.5**	12	12	**12**	269	265	**294**
Overall	42.0	50.3	**50.3**	15	14*	**14**	501-600	351-400	**351-400**

*tie with another university

Our strongest single globally ranked pillar remained Industry, where the score dropped slightly but USask still placed 139 in the world. Within Canada, we dropped one position to 7 within the U15 and we were also 7 in Canada. Our global position for International Outlook remained in the top 300, placing 294 overall.

Looking more broadly at the five pillars, the only pillar for which the USask ranking improved was a slight improvement in Teaching, where the global rank moved up 6 positions from 338 to 332. The Research Environment pillar was the one that experienced the largest drop amounting to 51 positions, placing 396 this year. Other declines were all about 30 positions year over year, with Research Quality dropping to 739, Industry dropping to 139, and International Outlook falling to 294.

Based on internal calculations using the THE methodology and weightings, our overall USask score remained quite flat year over year at 50.3. This would suggest that our global ranking dropped about 7 positions to ~374 overall as compared to the prior THE ranking.

For more information, please contact Assessment and Analytics in the Office of the Provost and VP Academic.