

## Summary

Times Higher Education (THE), a weekly British magazine reporting specifically on news and issues related to higher education, released its 2020 edition of THE World Impact Rankings on April 22, 2020. This new 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 released in April 2019 included more than 450 universities from 76 countries. This second edition, as expected, included a broader footprint of 859 institutions from 89 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. This year’s edition included all 17 SDGs, whereas in the inaugural launch, THE only opened 11 SDGs for participation.

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) participated in this ranking for the first time in 2020, and submitted extensive information in 11 of the 17 SDGs, resulting in rankings in 11 areas and an overall ranking. USask received an overall ranking of 96 in the world, a top 100 outcome within a global participant list of 766 universities. The university performed strongly in every one of the individual 11 SDGs. Globally, there were two top 20 rankings, four others in the top 100, four more in the tier 101-200, and one ranking in the tier 201-300. These included the following:

SDG #	Sustainable Development Goal	# Universities Ranked	Global Ranking
OVERALL		766	96
2	Zero Hunger**	290	4
3	Good Health and Wellbeing	620	12
4	Quality Education	676	101-200
6	Clean Water and Sanitation**	330	56*
7	Affordable and Clean Energy**	361	101-200
9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	494	101-200
11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	470	79*
13	Climate Action	376	101-200
14	Life Below Water**	242	38
16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	453	67
17	Partnership for the Goals	806	201-300

\*Tie with another university

\*\*SDG not ranked in the inaugural 2019 ranking, but added in 2020

## 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 in 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.

**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 9 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:

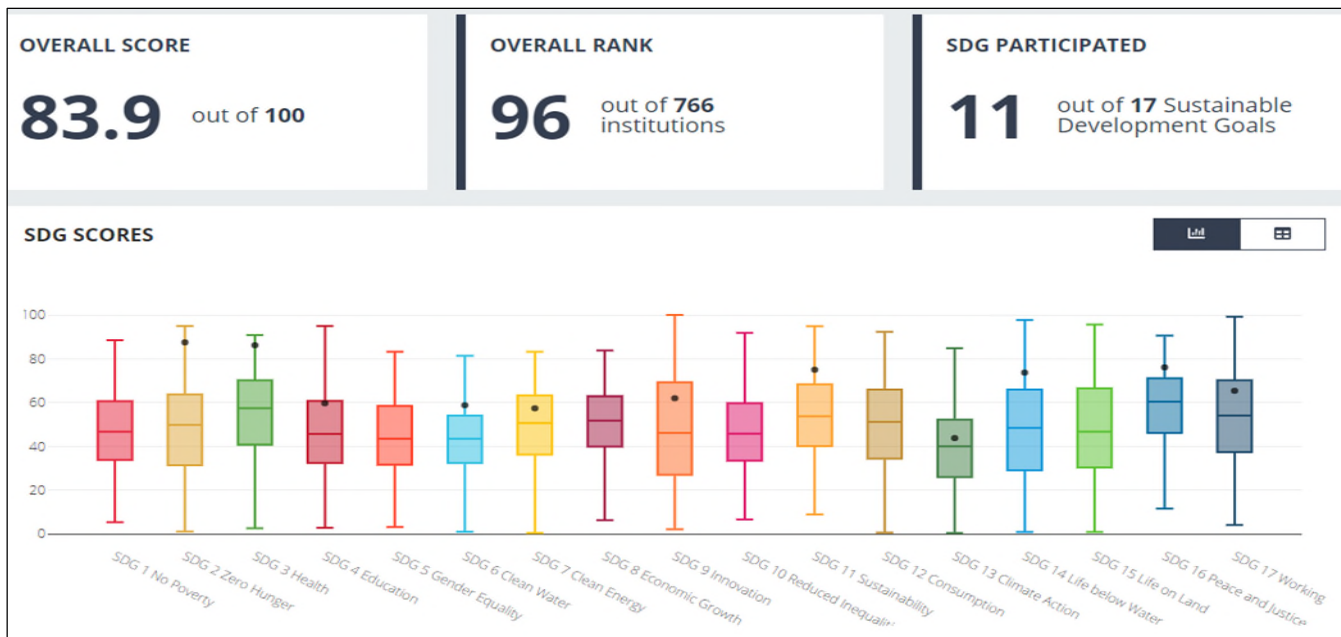
SDG #	Metric	Indicator Weight (%)	Data Source
OVERALL		22% (SDG 17) + 26% (SDG A) + 26% (SDG B) + 26% (SDG C)	Calculation
2	Research performance	27	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Student Hunger	23	University provided data – with evidence
	Proportion of graduates in agriculture including sustainability aspects	23	University provided data
	National hunger	27	University provided data – with evidence
3	Research performance	27	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Number graduating in health professions	35	University provided data
	Collaborations and health services	38	University provided data – with evidence
4	Research performance	27	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Proportion of graduates with teaching qualification	15	University provided data
	Lifelong learning measures	27	University provided data – with evidence
	Proportion of first-generation students	31	University provided data
6	Research performance	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
7	Research performance	27	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	University measures towards affordable and clean energy	23	University provided data – with evidence
	Energy use density	27	University provided data
	Energy and the community	23	University provided data – with evidence
9	Research performance	12	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Patents citing university research	15	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	University spin-offs	35	University provided data
	Research income from industry	38	University provided data
11	Research performance	27	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Support of arts and heritage	23	University provided data – with evidence
	Expenditure on arts and heritage	15	University provided data
	Sustainable practices	35	University provided data – with evidence
13	Research performance	27	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Low-carbon energy use	27	University provided data
	Environmental education measures	23	University provided data – with evidence
	Commitment to carbon neutral university	23	University provided data – with evidence
14	Research performance	27	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Supporting aquatic ecosystems through education	15	University provided data – with evidence
	Supporting aquatic ecosystems through action	19.5	University provided data – with evidence
	Water sensitive waste disposal	19.5	University provided data – with evidence
	Maintaining a local ecosystem	19	University provided data – with evidence
16	Research performance	27	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	University governance measures	27	University provided data – with evidence
	Working with government	23	University provided data – with evidence
	Proportion of graduates in law and civil enforcement	23	University provided data
17	Research performance	27	Bibliometrics – Elsevier (Scopus)
	Relationships to support the goals	19	University provided data – with evidence
	Publication of SDG reports	27	University provided data – with evidence
	Education for the SDGs	27	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/university-impact-rankings-2020-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 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 rankings:

SDG #	Sustainable Development Goal	Global Ranking		Canada Ranking		U15 Ranking	
		Position	# Ranked	Position	# Ranked	Position	# Ranked
OVERALL		96	766	12	19	9	12
2	Zero Hunger	4	290	2	10	2	6
3	Good Health and Wellbeing	12	620	2	17	2	12
4	Quality Education	101-200	676	4*	13	2*	8
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	56*	330	5	12	4	8
7	Affordable and Clean Energy	101-200	361	11*	13	6*	7
9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	101-200	494	10*	12	7*	8
11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	79*	470	11	14	7	8
13	Climate Action	101-200	376	10*	15	5*	8
14	Life Below Water	38	242	7	9	4	6
16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	67	453	10	13	7	9
17	Partnership for the Goals	201-300	806	17*	19	12	12

\*Tie with another university