

Summary

Times Higher Education (THE), a weekly British magazine reporting specifically on news and issues related to higher education, released the 2021¹ edition of THE World University Rankings on September 1, 2020. This year, a total of 1,527 institutions were included in the ranking – an increase of 9% from last year. The University of Saskatchewan (USask) continued to rank in the band of 401-500², unchanged since 2015.

Domestically, USask dropped a position to a tie for seventeenth among Canadian universities, and remained fifteenth among the U15. As in the prior year, twenty-one Canadian universities were placed in the top 600. University of Toronto was ranked the highest at 18, followed by University of British Columbia (34) and McGill University (40). Besides the U15, other Canadian universities that ranked in the top 600 included Simon Fraser University, University of Victoria, York University, Memorial University of Newfoundland, University of Guelph, and Carleton University.

What is the ranking based on?

The THE World University Rankings were based on the weighted scores of thirteen indicators in five categories as indicated below.

Category	Indicator	Weight	Source
Teaching (30%)	Reputational survey – teaching	15%	Reputational survey
	Academic staff / total students	4.5%	University provided data
	Doctorates awarded / undergraduate degrees awarded	2.25%	University provided data
	Doctorates awarded / academic staff	6%	University provided data
	Institutional income / academic staff	2.25%	University provided data
Research (30%)	Reputational survey – research	18%	Reputational survey
	Academic papers / academic & research staff	6%	Scopus database
	Research income / academic staff	6%	University provided data
Citations (30%)	Citation impact (normalized average citations per paper)	30%	Scopus database
Industry Income (2.5%)	Research income from industry and commerce (per academic staff)	2.5%	University provided 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%	Scopus database

The THE Rankings used z-scores to normalize the results for each indicator. That is, scores were calculated based on the distance between each value from the average of the entire dataset. Theoretically, if a university had a score of 40 in Citations, it meant that 40% of the universities who participated in the THE Rankings were ranked below the university. For more information on the THE ranking methodology, please go to: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/world-university-rankings-2021-methodology>.

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 1,000 were divided into two groups of 200. The remaining institutions were listed as 1001+.

Scores for the University of Saskatchewan

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

Category	USask Score			U15 Rank			Global Rank		
	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021	2019	2020	2021
Teaching	35.7	35.9	34.7	11	11	12	291	292	321
Research	26.0	26.9	27.4	15	15	15	411	422	431
Citations	43.6	48.1	48.9	15	15	15	649	660	689
Industry Income	75.0	59.2	61.4	2	6	5	114	238	247
International Outlook	70.7	72.6	73.5	12	12	12	244	250	261
Overall	38.8	40.2	40.3	14*	15	15	401-500	401-500	401-500

*Tied with University of Manitoba

Although we slipped a bit further in overall position, our strongest category area continued to be research income from industry and commerce (Industry Income). We moved slightly higher to fifth within the U15, while dropping to 247 in the world. As compared to the prior year, we obtained slightly higher scores in each category (except Teaching) and remained in very similar positions, domestically. However, each of our global placements dropped anywhere from about 10 to 30 positions. Our lowest ranking scores and placements continue to notably be in Research and Citations, where we remain last in the U15, ranked at 431 and 689 respectively.

Our overall USask score hardly changed from 40.2 to 40.3, and as such, we held onto our 401-500 band placement, but our relative placement dropped approximately 25 positions to ~484.

For more information, visit: www.usask.ca/ipa