

Summary

Late in October 2020, Times Higher Education (THE), a weekly British magazine reporting specifically on news and issues related to higher education, released the 2021¹ edition of their subject rankings. Universities were ranked in eleven subject areas: Arts and Humanities, Business and Economics, Clinical, Pre-clinical and Health, Computer Science, Education, Engineering and Technology, Law, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Psychology, and Social Sciences. Depending on the subject area, between 224 and 1149 universities were ranked.

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) was ranked in ten of the eleven subject areas: 301-400 in each of Clinical, Pre-clinical and Health, Computer Science, Engineering and Technology, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences, 401-500 in each of Arts and Humanities, Education, Life Sciences, Psychology, and tied for 601 in Business & Economics. No ranking was received in the subject area of Law.

What were the rankings based on?

The THE World University Rankings by Subject were based on the weighted scores of the same thirteen indicators in five pillars that were used in Times Higher Education's overall university rankings. However, the weightings were adjusted for each subject to suit the individual fields. For example, the Teaching pillar carried 27.5 percent of the weight in Psychology, but 37.4 percent in Arts and Humanities.

Pillars	Indicator	Weight*	Source
Teaching	Reputational survey – teaching	27.5% -37.4%	Reputational survey
	Academic staff / total students		University provided data
	Doctorates awarded / undergraduate degrees awarded		University provided data
	Doctorates awarded / academic staff		University provided data
	Institutional income / academic staff		University provided data
Research	Reputational survey – research	27.5% - 37.6%	Reputational survey
	Academic papers / academic & research staff		Scopus database
	Research income / academic staff		University provided data
Citations	Citation impact (normalized average citations per paper)	15% - 35%	Scopus database
Industry income	Research income from industry and commerce (per academic staff)	2.5% - 5%	University provided data
International outlook	Ratio of international to domestic staff	7.5% - 9%	University provided data
	Ratio of international to domestic students		University provided data
	Proportion of internationally co-authored research papers		Scopus database

* The weighting of each indicator varied depending on the subject area.

In order to be considered in the subject rankings, institutions must meet a certain threshold in the number of papers published in the discipline area as well as in the proportion of faculty who work in the discipline.

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

¹ The rankings were named to reflect the intended readers: students who plan to attend university in the following year.



Rankings of the University of Saskatchewan

The highest global ranking that USask received was 301-400 in five subject areas: Clinical, Pre-clinical and Health, Computer Science, Engineering and Technology, Physical Sciences, and Social Sciences. However, within Canada, USask received their highest rankings in each of Physical Sciences and Social Sciences (tied for 11) and Computer Science (tied for 13). In terms of the U15, the best outcomes were similarly in Social Sciences (tied for 9) and each of Computer Science and Physical Sciences (tied for 10).

As compared to the previous year, six of the eleven global rankings remained the same. The ranking placement for Social Sciences improved one tier to 301-400 from 401-500. The ranking for four other subjects dropped: Arts and Humanities (401* to 401-500), Business and Economics (501* to 601*), Education (301-400 to 401-500), and Psychology (301-400 to 401-500). There were generally small movements up and down within Canada and the U15, with most significant placement shifts nationally being an increase in Social Sciences (+5) and decreases in Education (-5), Engineering and Technology (-5), and Psychology (-7). USask continued to not be ranked in Law, however only 224 schools are ranked, the lowest number for any subject area.

USask Rankings in 2021 THE World University Rankings by Subject

Subject Area	World	Canada	U15
Arts & Humanities	401-500	19*	14*
Business & Economics	601*	26	15
Clinical, Pre-clinical & Health	301-400	15*	15
Computer Science	301-400	13*	10*
Education	401-500	18*	11*
Engineering & Technology	301-400	16*	11*
Law	224+	14+	11+
Life Sciences	401-500	19*	13*
Physical Sciences	301-400	11*	10*
Psychology	401-500	24*	14
Social Sciences	301-400	11*	9*

Notes:

1. Depending on the subject area, between 224 and 1149 universities were ranked.
2. Grey font indicates that the USask was not ranked in the subject area, while 224 universities were ranked.
3. An asterisk (*) indicates a tie.

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