

Summary

Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a company that specializes in providing study abroad services, released the 2021¹ QS World University Rankings on June 10, 2020. In total, 1,604 institutions were considered globally and 1002 were ranked², including 26 Canadian universities and 47 new universities. The University of Saskatchewan (USask) was ranked in a tie at 465 in the world, dropping by 26 positions from the prior year (439). Considering there were approximately 26,000 universities globally, USask was positioned amongst the top 1.8% universities in the world.

Domestically, similar to last year, USask ranked 16 among Canadian universities. The top ranking Canadian universities were University of Toronto (tied for 25), McGill University (tied for 31), University of British Columbia (45), Université de Montréal (118), and University of Alberta (119).

What is the Ranking Based On?

The QS World University Rankings is based on the weighted scores of six indicators listed in the table below:

Indicator	Description	Weight	Source
Academic Reputation	Peer review survey divided into five subject areas including Arts and Humanities, Engineering and IT, Life Sciences and Biomedicine, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences	40%	QS Global Academic Survey (~102,500 responses)
Employer Reputation	Employers surveyed on the quality of graduates	10%	QS Employer Survey (~52,000 responses)
Citations per Faculty	Research performance factored against the size of the research body (self-citations are excluded and citations are normalized; citations in each of the five subject areas are weighted equally)	20%	Scopus abstract and citation database
Faculty per Student	Student to faculty ratio and intended to evaluate level of teaching quality	20%	Data provided by institutions
International Faculty	Proportion of international faculty members, providing a proxy for how internationally attractive a university is to academic staff	5%	Data provided by institutions
International Students	Proportion of international student members, providing a proxy for how internationally attractive a university is to students	5%	Data provided by institutions

For more information about the QS ranking methodology, please go <https://www.topuniversities.com/qs-world-university-rankings/methodology>

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

² The top 500 universities were ranked individually from 1st to 500th place. Universities that were ranked between 501st to 600th were placed in groups of ten (e.g. 501-510, 511-520, 521-530, and so on). The remaining universities were ranked into categories: 601-650, 651-700, 701-750, 751-800 and 801-1000.

Rank by Indicator

Globally, USask ranked highest in International Faculty (233) and International Students (280), and lowest in the Faculty per Student measure (549). USask only improved in one of the six indicators this year, increasing by 6 positions in the International Faculty indicator. Drops in all other indicators contributed to the decrease in the university's overall position. The most significant drop was observed in the Faculty per Student indicator, a reduction of 67 positions.

Compared to our U15 peers, USask ranked highest in Citations per Faculty (10), Faculty per Student (10), and International Students (10), where our scores were at or close to the U15 medians. We ranked lowest in Academic Reputation (14) and Employer Reputation (14), where we remain significantly below U15 median values.

USask Scores and Ranks

Indicator	Score ¹	World		U15	
		Rank	Change from last year	Rank	Change from last year
Academic Reputation	11.7	501+	0	14	0
Employer Reputation	8.9	501+	0	14	0
Citations per Faculty	38.7	337	-6	10	+1
Faculty per Student	26.5	549	-67	10	-2
International Faculty	76.6	233	+6	11	+1
International Students	51.3	280	-8	10	0
Overall	25.2	465 ²	-26	14	0

¹ The QS rankings uses z-scores to normalize the results. That is, indicator scores are calculated based on the distance between each value from the mean average of the entire dataset. Theoretically, a USask score of 11.7 in Academic Reputation means that 11.7% of the universities who participated in the QS rankings are ranked below the USask; or in other words, 88.3% of the universities scored higher.

² The university was tied with four other institutions.

