

2020 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings

Summary

Times Higher Education (THE), a weekly British magazine reporting specifically on news and issues related to higher education, released the 2020¹ edition of THE World University Rankings on September 11, 2019. This year, a total of 1,396 institutions were included in the ranking – an increase of 11% from last year. The University of Saskatchewan (USask) continued to rank in the band of 401-500², unchanged since 2015.

Domestically, USask slightly improved its position to sixteenth among Canadian universities, but dropped to fifteenth among the U15. 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 (42). 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 pillars as indicated below.

Pillars	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/methodology-world-university-rankings-2020>.

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 the 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.

Scores for the University of Saskatchewan

The following table shows the scores for USask for each of the five pillars of the THE rankings.

Although we dropped in position, our strongest pillar area continued to be research income from industry and commerce (Industry Income). We remained sixth within the U15 and 238 in the world. As compared to the prior year, we obtained slightly higher scores and remained in very similar positions for each of the other four pillars, both domestically and internationally. Our lowest ranking scores continue to be in Research and Citations, where we are last in the U15.

Our overall USask score did improve slightly from 38.8 to 40.2, and that was enough to both hold our 401-500 band placement and our relative position of ~459, even with the inclusion of an additional ~140 universities in the ranking exercise.

	USask Score			Rank among U15			Rank in the World		
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
Teaching	34.7	35.7	35.9	12	11	11	269	291	292
Research	24.5	26.0	26.9	15	15	15	414	411	422
Citations	40.9	43.6	48.1	15	15	15	608	649	660
Industry Income	60.2	75.0	59.2	4	2	6	191	114	238
International Outlook	66.8	70.7	72.6	13	12	12	250	244	250
Overall	36.5	38.8	40.2	14*	14*	15	401-500	401-500	401-500

*Tied with University of Manitoba