

2015 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 2015 edition of THE World University Rankings on September 30, 2015. The University of Saskatchewan (U of S) ranked in the band of 401-500 out of 800 institutions worldwide¹. In previous years, only the top 400 were ranked, and the U of S has never been in that range. Within Canada, the U of S ranked 19-21 nationally and 15 among U15.

Twenty-five Canadian universities, including all U15 universities, were placed in the top 600. University of Toronto was ranked the highest at 19, followed by University of British Columbia (34), McGill University (38) and McMaster University (94). Besides the U15, other Canadian universities that ranked in the top 600 included University of Victoria, Simon Fraser University, University of Guelph, Carleton University, York University, Concordia University, University of Quebec, University of Sherbrooke, Memorial University of Newfoundland, and University of Regina.

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.

Area	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/2016/world-ranking/methodology>

¹ 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 800 were all grouped together.

Scores of the University of Saskatchewan

The following table shows the scores for the U of S for each of the five pillars of the THE rankings. Although the U of S still ranked last among U15, we scored higher than last year in all five areas. However, while the higher scores were generally a reflection of improvement, the significantly increased citations score was primarily the result of changes in ranking methodology: 1) a change to the source of data from Thomson Reuter’s Web of Science to Elsevier’s Scopus; 2) the removal of publications that had more than 1,000 authors; and 3) the reduction of level of normalization of citation data within countries.

It is also worth noting that we ranked third among the U15 and 153rd in the world in average research income from industry and commerce per academic staff. Unfortunately this indicator only accounted for 2.5% of the total weight.

Year	Teaching (30%)	Research (30%)	Citations (30%)	Industry income (2.5%)	International outlook (7.5%)	OVERALL
2011	19	18	12	57	51	20
2012	31	21	23	55	42	27
2013	29	21	23	73	42	27
2014	29	20	28	58	50	28
2015	30.8	22.4	39.7	62.9	52.9	33.4
Median score for U15	37.5	36.7	65.2	50.3	74.4	48.1
<i>U of S rank among U15</i>	13th	15th	15th	3rd	15th	15th