Methodological Changes

Our next generation of performance metrics
To help universities understand their position against their mission. To help students find and access the university best suited to their abilities and aspirations. To help higher education deliver transformational teaching, research and innovation.
A UNIVERSITY’S MISSION

Research

Teaching

Impact

THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

THE IMPACT RANKINGS

WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

2021 COLLEGE RANKINGS

THE JAPAN UNIVERSITY RANKINGS
A DATA VIEW...

- Reputation
- Student outcomes
- Student experience
- Bibliometric data
- Student numbers
- Staff numbers
- Financial data
- Impact
- Policies and actions
• WUR 3.0 methodology update in WUR 2024
  • Collection of additional data in WUR 2023
• Fixed scoring parameters
• New metrics
  • International placement
  • Patents cited
• Improved citations and reputation metrics
• Country normalisation for internationalisation metrics
Why fixed parameters?
NEW METRICS...

Teaching
- Teaching Reputation: 15.00
- Staff to student: 4.50
- PhD to BA: 2.25
- PhD to Staff: 6.00
- Income to Staff: 2.25

Research
- Research Reputation: 18.00
- Research: 30.00
- Research Income: 6.00
- Research Productivity: 6.00

Citations
- FWCI: 30.00
- Citations: 30.00

Industry
- Industry Income: 2.50

International
- Int students: 2.50
- Int staff: 2.50
- Int Collaboration: 2.50
- Int: 7.50
• Currently we have a single measure
• Normalises for
  • Subject
  • Year
  • Type of publication
• Different calculation for kilo author papers
• Country normalisation to balance for non-English language publications
Objectives

- Allow extension of ranking
- Remove country weighting and Kilo Author Paper fix
- Reduce outlier institutions/papers
- Explore impact of self-citations
• We want to calculate the average number of citations that a piece of research from an institution receives.

We normalise by:
• Year
• Type of publication
• Subject

• Within each cell we compare a paper to the average

• We average these scores across the university
CURRENT APPROACH

1. Remove publications in suspended journals
2. Remove publications outside current time window
3. Calculate FWCI of every publication in Scopus
4. Calculate Fractional FWCI of publications with 1000 or more authors
5. Calculate average FWCI of publications associated with each university
6. Create country weighted version
7. Normalise across set of included universities
1. Remove publications in suspended journals
2. Remove publications outside current time window
3. Calculate FWCI of every publication in Scopus
4. Calculate Fractional FWCI of publications with 1000 or more authors
5. Calculate 75th percentile FWCI of publications associated with each university
6. Create country weighted version
7. Normalise across set of included universities
ANOMALIES OF CURRENT CITATION SCORES
CONTENTIOUS ISSUE: SELF-CITATION
• Taking greater control of reputation survey
• More respondents
• Better wording of questions
ACADEMIC REPUTATION SURVEY

- 2018: 10,162 voters; 132,250 votes
- 2019: 11,554 voters; 157,575 votes
- 2020: 11,004 voters; 160,129 votes
- 2021: 10,963 voters
Academics are selected from Elsevier’s Scopus database

**Primary goals:**
- Randomly selected
- Active academics (published in last 5 years)
- Balanced by geography

**Secondary goals:**
- Balanced by subject
NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS

- Other
- Arab
- LatAm
- North America
- Europe
- APAC

(Chart showing trends from 2015 to 2021)
• Research Reputation and Teaching Reputation treated separately
• Two years of reputation data used
• Each is normalised across its range
• Teaching Reputation 15%
• Research Reputation 18%
• Applies to all qualifying universities
### National Differences

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Objectives

- Widen importance
- Add new measure
Objectives

- Adjust for country size effects
- Recognise importance of outbound student opportunities
  - In Japan we evaluate the proportion of students who spend a significant period outside the main country of study
• Consultation throughout 2020-2021
• Publication of ranking methodology at World Academic Summit, September 2021
• Creation of World University Rankings Advisory Board Autumn 2021
• Data collection spring 2023
• New rankings published September 2023
HOW WILL COVID-19 AFFECT THE RANKINGS?

- Bibliometric data
- Reputation data
- University data

Timeline:
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017
- 2018
- 2019
- 2020
HOW WILL COVID-19 AFFECT THE RANKINGS?

- Bibliometric data
- Reputation data
- University data
Advisory Board

Following the creation of the Impact Advisory Board we are now recruiting for the World University Rankings Advisory Board.

Role: to advise on the general strategy for the World University Rankings in order for it to achieve its objectives.

- *THE* will still be responsible for the final decisions, but the board will help us to get those decisions right.

- We will be publishing a blog with further details of the process shortly.
Thank you

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