

QS Stars™ Methodology



QS Stars™ draw upon a much broader range of indicators than international rankings are able to do. These are split into four major areas, each organized into a number of categories

Core Criteria

These criteria feature the key building blocks of a university whether focused globally, domestically or locally
– All categories in this section are mandatory for the evaluation.

TEACHING

150

Overall student satisfaction

OR

Completion

40

Proportion of students expressing satisfaction with overall experience in student survey

Proportion of students scheduled to graduate succeeding in doing so

Satisfaction with teaching

OR

Faculty with PhD

40

Proportion of students expressing satisfaction with teaching through student survey

Proportion of faculty with PhD or equivalent terminal degree

Further study

20

Proportion of students pursuing further study within 12 months of graduation

Faculty student ratio

50

EMPLOYABILITY

150

Employer reputation

50

Number of employer referees endorsing institution in QS Global Employer Survey

Graduate employment rate

50

Proportion of students employed within 12 months of graduation (excluding those not actively seeking work e.g. pursuing further study)

Career service support

50

Number of full-time careers advisors

RESEARCH

150

Papers per faculty

OR

Arts-related outputs

40

Research papers (Scopus) per faculty member

Recognition of academic outputs in disciplines where journal articles are not pervasive

Core Criteria

Citations per paper

40

Citations per paper – adjusted for institutions with negligible activity in medicine, science and technology

Academic reputation

40

Number of academic referees endorsing institution in QS Global Academic Survey

Prolific academic experts

30

Number of faculty members achieving international recognition through awards (e.g Nobel)

INTERNATIONALIZATION

150

International faculty

20

Proportion of international faculty

International collaboration

50

University research collaborations or joint degree programs with QS top 500 universities in previous three years published rankings

International students

20

Proportion of international students

Religious facilities

10

Provision of appropriate facilities for international students of different religions

Inbound exchange students

20

Proportion of inbound exchange students

Outbound exchange students

20

Proportion of inbound exchange students

International diversity

10

Number of nationalities represented in student body

Learning environment

Universities are able to select two of the categories in this area as part of the QS Stars™ evaluation

Facilities

100

Sporting Facilities

20

Provision of key, popular sporting facilities (e.g. swimming pool, gym, track, sports courts etc...)

Medical Facilities

10

Provision of medical facilities appropriate to the size of the student body

Student societies

10

Number of student administered organizations

Student accommodation

20

Number of student rooms relative to size of student body

IT infrastructure

20

Number of computers on campus; proportion of wired student rooms or campus Wi-Fi coverage

Library Facilities

20

Value or number of acquisitions with the past 12 months

Learning environment

Online/ Distance Learning

100

Latest technology

20

Use of new technology for program deployment

Track record

10

Length of time the institution had been operating successful online programs

Student faculty engagement

20

Regular access to faculty for one on one support

Student interaction

20

Opportunities to meet and interact with fellow students

Commitment to online

10

Number/proportion of programs made available online

Reputation

20

Number of organizations using programs and technology for staff training

Advanced criteria

For a university to aspire to being truly world-class, its mission and its impact must extend further than the basics. This selection of criteria looks at important factors that a university with a solid foundation in the core criteria might target to advance to a higher level of performance and recognition.

Recognising that institutions vary in specialisation, this section gives universities the option to select two of the categories in this area that showcases their strengths.

CULTURE

50

Concerts and exhibitions

20

Concerts and exhibitions featuring the work or performances of students and faculty

Credits and cultural awards

20

Credits or cultural awards for students, faculty members or the institution as a whole publically accessible works

Cultural investment

10

Financial contribution to arts projects outside the university OR investment in cultural preservation

INNOVATION

50

Patents

20

Active patents registered with national or international patent offices

Spin-off companies

10

Spin-off companies established in the last five years still operating and no longer requiring support from the university

Industrial research

20

Joint research projects with distinct research corporations (non-university), yielding publications in Scopus in the last 5 years

Advanced criteria

ENGAGEMENT

50

Community investment and development

20

Financial or in-kind contributions to community projects within 200km of any campus or affiliated facility

Charity work and disaster relief

10

Financial or in-kind contributions to national or international causes and charities

Regional human capital development

10

Proportion of graduates employed in the region OR proportion of students from the region

Environmental impact

10

Performance against a checklist of environmental indicators

ACCESS

50

Scholarships and bursaries

20

Financial value of, or number of students granted access through, scholarships

Disabled access

10

Proportion of campus with wheelchair access

Gender balance

10

Recognition of gender parity

Low-income outreach

10

Proportion of students identified as low-income OR investment in promotion to low-income families

**Universities will only be evaluated in two of the sections in this area as part of the QS Stars Evaluation. A maximum of 100 points can be scored.*

Specialist criteria

Excellence in a narrow field is as valid a claim to world-class status as competence in the round. These criteria are designed to extend credit where it's due. – All categories in this section are mandatory for the evaluation.

DISCIPLINE RANKING

150

Faculty area ranking

OR

Specific subject ranking

150

Ranking performance in any one of five broad faculty areas conducted

Ranking performance in specific disciplines in rankings conducted by QS or respected alternate publisher

ACCREDITATION

50

Internationally recognized accreditations

OR

Nationally recognized accreditations

50

Programs accredited by internationally recognized and applicable standards

Programs accredited by internationally recognized and applicable standards

THRESHOLDS & PRE-REQUISITES

1 Star (100 / 1000)

- Must have the authority to grant valid degree level programs in its own name

2 Stars (250 / 1000)

3 Stars (400 / 1000)

4 Stars (550 / 1000)

- Must have at least 75 academic referees or must have at least 2 citations per faculty member (for any institution not focused exclusively in two or fewer of our broad faculty area)
- Must have at least 20 employer referees
- Must have at least 1% international students

5 Stars (700 / 1000)

- Must have at least 150 academic referees or 3 citations per faculty member (for any institution not focused exclusively in two or fewer of our broad faculty areas)
- Must have at least 5% international faculty
- Must have at least 5% international students
- Must have at least 20 employer referees
- Must have a minimum of 80 points in Infrastructure category within Core Criteria

5 Stars Plus (900/1000)

- Must have 5 star rating in all categories