Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2018

Strategic Planning & Change

5 September 2017
The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2018 were published on 5 September 2017. Royal Holloway was ranked 197th in the world, down from 173rd last year.

Royal Holloway Times Higher Education World University Rankings for the past 3 years are shown below. Green shows improvement since last year; red shows declines; white shows no change.

- Two metrics improved in score since last year (Teaching and Citations), with one (International Outlook) scoring the same as last year.
- All metrics declined in world and UK rankings since last year.
- International Outlook remains our highest ranked metric (35th in the world; 11th in UK).
The decline in Research score from 32.3% last year to 27.9% this year is the factor that has had the biggest impact on our overall ranking decline, because this metric is highly weighted (30% of the overall ranking).

Within ‘Research’:

- Our ‘Papers to academic staff’ ratio has declined from 92.6 last year to 81 this year;
- Our ‘research income to academic staff’ has declined from £27.1k to £25.7k;
- Our ‘Research reputation’ has declined from 33.9 to 26.25.
Royal Holloway was ranked last out of the 31 UK institutions in the world top 200, down from 27th last year.

The top 9 are the same as last year, with Glasgow entering the UK top 10 this year.

Reading drops out of the world top 200 this year (now ranked 201-250).

The full rankings for the world top 1,000+ are available at: https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2018/world-ranking#!/page/0/length/-1/sort_by/rank/sort_order/asc/cols/scores
Top 10 in the world

Summary
• Oxford University remains at number 1 in the world this year, with Cambridge rising to second in the rankings.
• University of California, Berkeley drops out of the top 10 this year, replaced by the University of Chicago.
• The other 9 of the top 10 remain in the top 10.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>World Rank 2018</th>
<th>World Rank 2016-17</th>
<th>World Rank 2015-16</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Overall Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>University of Oxford</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<td>University of Cambridge</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>California Institute of Technology</td>
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<td>Stanford University</td>
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<td>University of Chicago</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>ETH Zurich – Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich</td>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>87.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Methodology (1)

Inputs and weightings
The overall ranking is determined on the average of the five metric categories, weighted as stated in slide 2. The methodology is unchanged from last year.

The full methodology can be seen at: https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/methodology-world-university-rankings-2018

A summary of the metric methodology is as follows:
Teaching – the learning environment employs five separate indicators:

- **Academic reputation** – The Academic Reputation Survey, a worldwide poll of experienced scholars, was carried out in spring 2017. It examined the perceived prestige of institutions in both research and teaching. The results of the survey with regard to teaching make up 15 per cent of the overall rankings score.
- **Student: staff ratio** – the total number of students at an institution scaled against the number of academic staff (worth 4.5 per cent of the overall ranking scores);
- **PhD: bachelor’s ratio** – the ratio of PhD to bachelor's degrees awarded by each institution (the PhD-bachelor's ratio receives 2.25 per cent of the overall ranking scores);
- **Doctorates-awarded-to-academic-staff ratio** – the number of PhDs awarded by an institution, scaled against its size as measured by the number of academic staff (worth 6 per cent of the overall score);
- **Income** – a simple measure of institutional income scaled against academic staff numbers, adjusted for purchasing-price parity so that all nations compete on a level playing field (worth 2.25 per cent overall).

**Industry income** is determined by just a single indicator: a simple figure giving an institution's research income from industry, scaled against the number of academic staff (worth 2.5 per cent of the overall score).
Methodology (2)

Citations – research influence — as measured by the number of times published work is cited by academics. The data are drawn from the 23,000 academic journals indexed by Elsevier’s Scopus database and all indexed publications between 2012 and 2016. The figures are collected for every university with data aggregated over a six-year period from 2012 to 2017. All the citations impact data are normalised to reflect variations in citation volume between different subject areas. This means that institutions with high levels of research activity in subjects with traditionally very high citation counts should no longer gain an unfair advantage;

International outlook employs 3 separate indicators:
- **International-to-domestic-staff ratio** – the ratio of international to domestic staff (worth 2.5 per cent of the overall score);
- **International-to-domestic-students ratio** – the ratio of international to domestic students (worth 2.5 per cent of the final score);
- **Proportion of internationally co-authored research papers** – the proportion of a university's total research journal publications with at least one international co-author, normalised to account for a university's subject mix and using the same five-year window that is employed in the "Citations - research influence" category (worth 2.5 per cent of the overall score);

Research – volume, income and reputation employs 3 separate indicators:
- **Academic reputation** – conducted as for teaching, outlined above (worth 18 per cent of the overall score);
- **Research income** – a university's research income, scaled against staff numbers and normalised for purchasing-power parity (worth 6 per cent of the overall ranking);
- **Research productivity** – the number of papers published in the academic journals indexed by Elsevier’s Scopus database per academic staff member scaled for a university's total size and normalised for subject (worth 6 per cent overall);