



The Changing Higher Education Landscape from Rankings' Perspective

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Question I: Please describe the process you use to include institutions in each of your major ranking and the number of institutions considered in the ranking you published in 2019. (For example, each year over 1500 universities are considered in ARWU and 500 are published. How are the 1500 universities selected?)



U.S. News: U.S. News: The overall Best Global Universities rankings encompass the top 1,250 institutions. The first step in producing these rankings, which are powered by [Clarivate Analytics InCites](#), involved creating a pool of 1,372 universities that was used to rank the top 1,250 schools.

To create the pool of 1,372, U.S. News first included the top 250 universities in the results of Clarivate Analytics' global reputation survey, described further below. Next, U.S. News added 1,368 institutions that had met the minimum threshold of 1,500 papers published in the 2012-2016 time frame. The last step was to remove duplicates and institutions that are not schools to reach the final 2018 ranking pool of 1,372 institutions.

So, U.S. News ranked 1,372 and published the rankings for the top 1,250.

[Methodology used to determine and rank the 22 Subjects in the U.S. News Best Global Universities](#)

Clarivate Analytics' Essential Science Indicators schema is the organizational structure that is used for the Best Global Universities Subject Rankings. Essential Science Indicators comprise 21 subject areas in science and social sciences and is based on journal assignments. Arts &

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Humanities subject ranking supported by data taken from the Web of Science's GIPP schema. Essential Science Indicators uses the Web of Science's 18,000 journals.

Next step: The size of the ranking pool in each of the 22 subject areas – except in two cases, microbiology and space science – was determined by the number of universities that had a published paper count of 250 or more in the 2012-2016 time period in the subject area. In microbiology and space science, the paper threshold was 150 and 200 papers, respectively, for the 2012-2016 time period.

Next step was decide the total number of schools that were ranked for each of the 22 subjects which is Total Subject Ranking Universe below and the final step was to decide how many of the ranked schools in each subject would be published on usnews.com which is the Number of Schools Ranked by U.S. News in Each Subject column below –the proportion of schools U.S. News published out of those that are ranked varies by subject .

Subject	Number of institutions > 250 papers in 2012-2016	Number of institutions > 500 papers in 2012-2016	Total Subject Ranking Universe	Number of Schools Ranked by U.S. News in Each Subject
Agricultural Sciences	289	111	256	256
Arts & Humanities	344	146	298	298
Biology & Biochemistry	656	356	586	586
Chemistry	1176	706	1074	1074
Clinical Medicine	1108	814	1006	1006
Computer Science	322	130	280	280
Economics & Business	281	80	246	246
Engineering	824	456	747	747
Environment/Ecology	489	207	422	422
Geosciences	428	232	361	361
Immunology	262	123	220	220
Materials Science	610	303	548	548
Mathematics	413	148	357	357
Microbiology	189	57	291	291
Molecular Biology & Genetics	470	274	415	415
Neuroscience & Behavior	475	284	415	415
Pharmacology & Toxicology	365	125	320	320
Physics	929	618	827	827
Plant & Animal Science	610	305	541	541
Psychiatry/Psychology	434	218	378	378
Social Sciences & Public Health	624	377	553	553
Space Science	250	125	241	241



THE: We have public thresholds for the WUR, any university that thinks it might qualify can apply to participate. Last year 1258 universities from 92 countries were ranked. We have just published our first THE University Impact Rankings, based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals with over 550 universities ranked. Entry is open to all universities. Our teaching rankings, including the WSJ US College Ranking do not require universities to actively participate. The US College Ranking is open to Title IV universities with more than 1000 undergraduate students.

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QS: In our World University Rankings 2019 edition we published 1,000 universities in the final list. We make decisions about whether or not to bring a university forward for evaluation based on their performance in our Academic Reputation metric; taking forward only those that have ranked in the top 1,500 or so in this indicator. In the analysis we then look at their other data and make a decision about where to draw the cut-off based on completeness of data and where a sensible stopping point would be (such as the top 1,000 rather than the top 1,034).

QUESTION 2: Please discuss the recent changes and new development of your rankings, including new rankings, the expansion and change of methodology of existing rankings.



U.S. News: The number of schools ranked in the overall U.S. News Best Global Universities Rankings in 2018 vs 2017 remained unchanged at 1,250.

These institutions are spread across 75 countries in 2018, up from 74 last in 2017.

In the Best Global 2018 U.S. News worked with Clarivate Analytics' bibliometric experts to increase the number of universities published in three fields. The number of ranked universities published in Environment/Ecology, Molecular Biology and Genetics, and Neuroscience and Behavior increased from 200 to 400. The number of ranked schools published in the other 19 fields remained the same as last year. This meant that 7,400 universities were ranked in 22 subjects in the 2018 rankings, which is an 8.8 percent increase from the 6,800 ranked last year.

The weights and ranking factors that were used in the 2018 U.S. News Best Global Universities Rankings were unchanged in 2017 vs 2018 in both the overall rankings and the 22 subject rankings.

For the first time, the U.S. News 2018 Best Global Universities Rankings [included French ComUE universities](#). A ComUE (Communautés d'Universités et Établissements) is a French group of universities and higher education institutions. These organizations were created with the Law on Higher Education and Research of July 22, 2013.

The U.S. News 2018 Best Global Universities overall rankings includes 13 of these ComUE universities. The inclusion of these 13 in the overall rankings meant that a lot of universities

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previously listed separately in the 2017 U.S. News Best Global Universities overall rankings are now included as part of another university and are no longer listed individually.



THE: The WUR has seen minor updates over the last year, our major focus has been around expanding the Teaching Rankings (to include Europe), and the new THE University Impact Rankings.



QS: Since AIR last year we have expanded our innovative range of Business Masters Rankings to include Marketing and rolled out the International Research Network indicator into our regional rankings. This indicator examines the richness of international diversity amongst a university's research collaborations – rewarding institutions that partner with universities in different locations across the world, rather than sticking to a few locations (e.g. China and Hong Kong or Russia and Kazakhstan).

We continue to expand the coverage of our rankings, so that new universities can feature in our tables and on topuniversities.com where growing numbers of international students look to before making their decisions about where to study.

This year will also see the launch of our newest edition to our regional rankings suite – a US Ranking.

QUESTION 3: Please discuss/demonstrate the change of higher education landscape reflected in your international ranking data.



U.S. News: A chief characteristic about the U.S. News Best Global Universities rankings has been the growth in number of schools ranked in the overall rankings and the number of schools in total that are ranked in the subject rankings over the last 5 year. The first two tables show the increases in the number of schools ranked and the number of different schools appearing in the subject rankings. What does this data tell about global education? The global education landscape is different if you just look at the top 500 ranked schools in 2015 USNEWS Best Global Universities rankings versus looking at the top 1,250 schools in the 2018 Best Global Universities rankings data. The same holds for subject rankings when 2,100 schools appeared vs 7,400 schools in 2018.

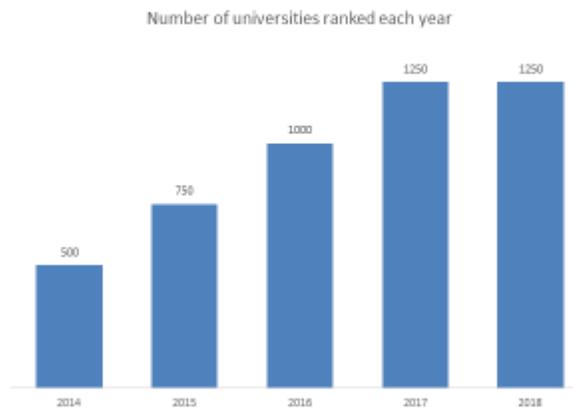
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This larger number of schools ranked has meant that the rankings aren't dominated by the U.S. and European schools and has shown the rise in Asian schools, especially from China. The growth in number of schools ranked has also significantly increased the number of countries that appear in the rankings. There are two slides below that show which countries have been introduced to the rankings each year as the number of schools ranked rises.

Best Global Universities rankings

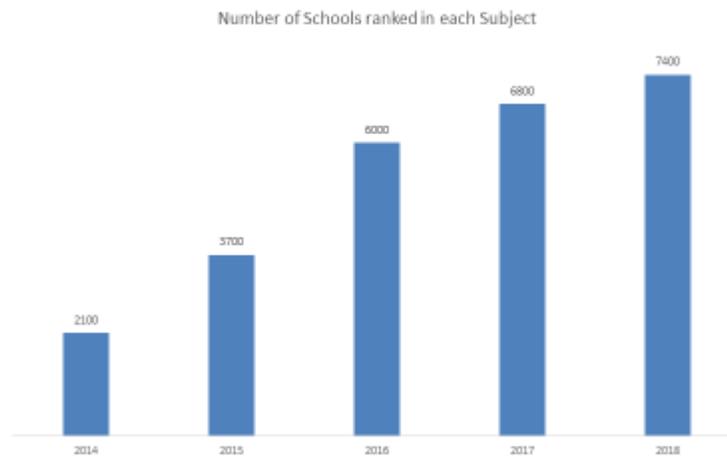
Year to Year Growth in Overall Rankings



LIFE'S DECISIONS MADE HERE

Best Global Universities rankings

Growth in Subject Rankings



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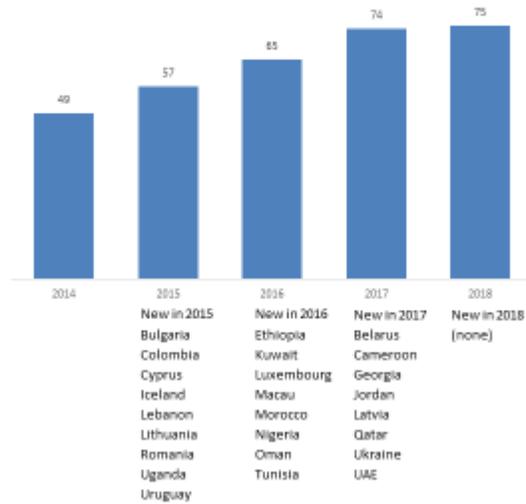
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Best Global Universities rankings

Growth in Overall Rankings

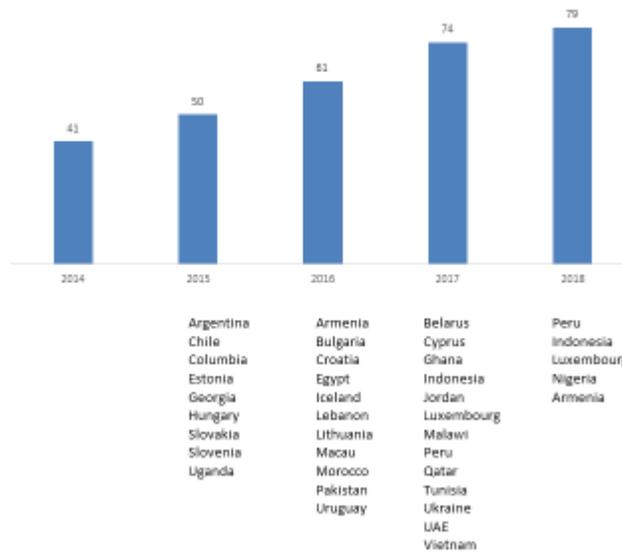
Number of Countries in Overall Rankings



U.S. News & World Report
LIFE'S DECISIONS MADE HERE

Best Global Universities rankings

Growth in Subject Rankings



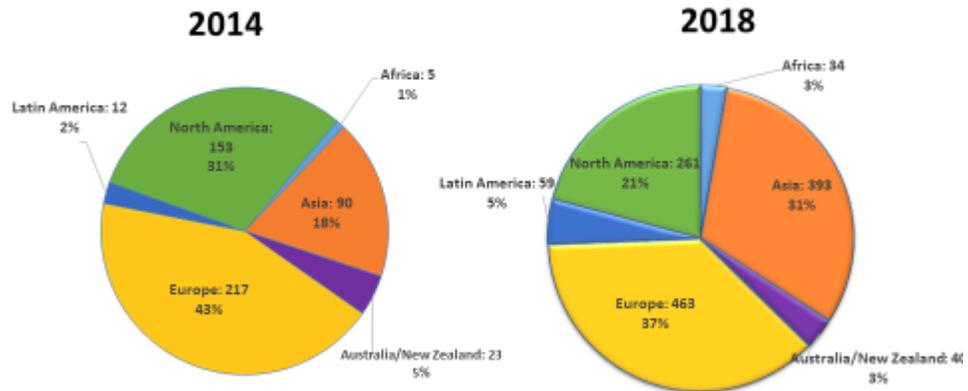
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Best Global Universities rankings

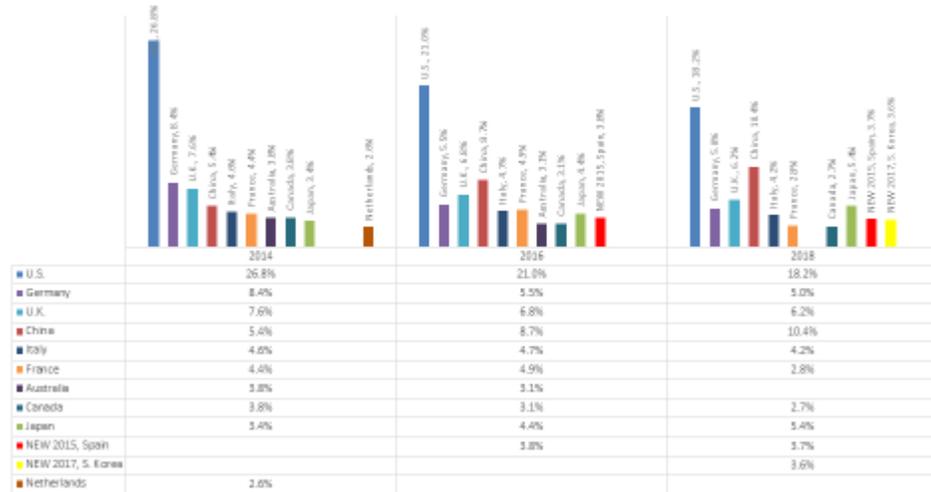
Regional Breakdown:



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Best Global Universities rankings

Top 10 Countries in Overall Rankings



LIFE DECISIONS MADE HERE

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THE: The first change is more the continuation of growth of research, and the number of research focused institutions. The rise of China continues, with China producing more academic publications than the US for the first time (in modern history). Universities are increasingly recognizing that impact needs to be assessed too, both in teaching and also in terms of the direct effect on the world. Systems like STARS in the US have become prevalent (although the approaches are still very different in different geographies).



QS: The rise of China as an academic powerhouse is continuing, with for example 30 Chinese institutions ranked in our QS World University Rankings 2016 compared to 40 in the 2019 edition. Higher education policy reform in many European countries has focused on mergers between higher education institutions, notably in Finland, France and Ireland to name a few, while the German and French so-called Excellence Initiatives may be starting to bear fruit. This has translated into higher visibility of a core group of French and German institutions, with PSL breaking into the QS WUR top 50. Further mergers in France will see a smaller number of consolidated institutions rise in our world university rankings. In the UK and USA political events have led to uncertainty for the higher education sector. In the UK, the stalemate in Brexit negotiations has impacted institutions' capacity to attract EU and potentially non-EU students and provided challenges in securing research funding. The US has also been perceived globally as being less welcoming to prospective international students. Whether a less welcoming environment on both sides of the Atlantic truly is affecting the reputation of American and British institutions remains to be seen. However, they should not be complacent of the competitive threat being posed by these emerging education powerhouses.