

## Summary

Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a company that specializes in providing study abroad services, released the 2024<sup>1</sup> QS World University Rankings on June 27, 2023. In total, 2,963 institutions were considered globally and 1,503 were ranked<sup>2</sup>, including 31 Canadian universities and 97 new universities. **The University of Saskatchewan (USask) was ranked in a tie for 345 in the world, a significant increase of 128 positions from the prior year (473), and its highest ranking ever in this global ranking.** Considering there are approximately 30,000 universities globally, USask is positioned amongst the top 1.15% universities in the world.

Domestically, USask moved up two positions to being ranked 15<sup>th</sup> among Canadian universities and placed 13<sup>th</sup> among the U15, moving ahead of Laval and remaining ahead of Manitoba. The top five ranking Canadian universities were University of Toronto (21), McGill University (30), University of British Columbia (tied for 34), University of Alberta (111), and University of Waterloo (tied for 112).

## What is the Ranking Based On?

The QS World University Rankings is based upon a methodology that significantly changed over the prior year. It is now based on the weighted scores of nine indicators listed in the table below:

Indicator	Description	Weight	Source
<b>Academic Reputation</b>	Peer review survey designed to evaluate the perceptions of global academics on which institutions are demonstrating academic excellence	30%	QS Academic Reputation Survey
<b>Citations per Faculty</b>	Average number of citations obtained per faculty member (self-citations excluded and citations are normalized; citations in 5 subject areas weighted equally)	20%	Scopus abstract and citation database
<b>Employer Reputation</b>	Employer survey with design focused to evaluate the perceptions of global employers on which institutions are providing the most job-ready graduates	15%	QS Employer Reputation Survey
<b>Employment Outcomes</b>	An indicator of the ability of institutions to ensure a high level of employability for graduates, while also nurturing future leaders who go on to make an impact in their respective fields	5%	Two metrics from QS Graduate Employability Rankings
<b>Faculty Student Ratio</b>	Ratio of academic staff to students and intended to evaluate commitment to learning and teaching	10%	Data provided by institutions
<b>International Faculty Ratio</b>	Proportion of international faculty members, providing a proxy for how internationally attractive a university is to academic staff	5%	Data provided by institutions
<b>International Research Network</b>	This indicator assesses the richness and diversity of an institution's international research partnerships	5%	QS calculation - adaptation of Margalef Index
<b>International Students Ratio</b>	Proportion of international students, providing a proxy for how internationally attractive a university is to students	5%	Data provided by institutions
<b>Sustainability</b>	Evaluation of the social and environmental impact of universities as centres of education and research	5%	Extraction from analysis of QS Sustainability Ranking

For more information about the QS ranking methodology, please go <https://www.topuniversities.com/qs-world-university-rankings/methodology>

- <sup>1</sup> The QS rankings are named to reflect the intended readers: students who plan to attend university in the following year.
- <sup>2</sup> The top 600 universities were ranked individually from 1st to 600th place. Universities that were ranked between 601<sup>st</sup> to 800<sup>th</sup> were placed in groups of ten (601-610, 611-620, 621-630, and so on). Universities ranked between 801<sup>st</sup> and 1000<sup>th</sup> were placed into tiers of fifty (801-850, 851-900, 901-950, and 951-1000). Remaining universities were ranked 1001-1200, 1201-1400, and 1401+.

## Rank by Indicator

Globally, USask’s best individual indicator performance was in one of the new indicators, Sustainability, at 56. The second highest position was Citations per Faculty, where USask made its most significant increase over prior year, placing 237 (improvement of 92 positions). The university continued to do well in the International Faculty Ratio (279) and International Students Ratio (280), and also reasonably well in two other new indicators, International Research Network (331) and Employer Outcomes (396). USask dropped in the three remaining indicators: Academic Reputation (601+), Employer Reputation (601+), and Faculty Student Ratio (701+). Overall compared to prior year, USask moved up in a single indicator, was stable in one, and dropped in four others. However, with the addition of three new indicators and new weights as part of a revised methodology, USask achieved its best QS World University Ranking ever at 345.

Compared to our U15 peers, USask performed the best at Sustainability (6<sup>th</sup> within U15), one of the new indicators. There was a positive move in Citations per Faculty, where USask moved to 8<sup>th</sup> within the same peer group. The other top placement was Faculty Student Ratio, where USask dropped a position to 10<sup>th</sup> best in the U15. As per prior years, the weakest rankings within the U15 were the reputational indicators (Academic Reputation, Employer Reputation), as well as the new indicator Employment Outcomes, where our position in each instance was 15<sup>th</sup>, well below U15 median scores.

**USask Scores and Ranks**

Indicator	Score <sup>1</sup>	World		U15	
		Rank	Change from last year	Rank	Change from last year
Academic Reputation	12.0	601+	↓	15	0
Citations per Faculty	54.3	237	+92	8	+1
Employer Reputation	6.8	601+	↓	15	0
Employment Outcomes	20.9	396	n/a	15	-4
Faculty Student Ratio	17.3	701+	↓	10	-1
International Faculty Ratio	70.0	279	-20	13	0
International Research Network	47.2	331	n/a	11	0
International Students Ratio	51.8	280	0	12	0
Sustainability	94.9	56	n/a	6	n/a
<b>Overall</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>345<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>+128</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>+1</b>

<sup>1</sup> The QS rankings use z-scores to normalize the results. That is, indicator scores are calculated based on the distance between each value from the mean average of the entire dataset. Theoretically, a USask score of 12.0 in Academic Reputation means that 12.0% of the universities who participated in the QS rankings are ranked below the USask; or in other words, 88.0% of the universities scored higher.

<sup>2</sup> Tied with another university

