Compare universities your way:
U-Multirank and
its uses for institutional management

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www.umultirank.org
Agenda

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U-Multirank – why and how
Why U-Multirank?

U-Multirank provides information for diverse needs (informed decisions), e.g. choosing study programmes, strategic planning.

Dr. José Joaquín Brunner, Director Cátedra UNESCO de Políticas Comparadas de Educación Superior, Chile,

“U-Multirank is a great instrument for students, faculty, the public and policy makers.”
Why U-Multirank?

U-Multirank makes performance transparent beyond the research function of the university (5 dimensions)

Fernando M. Galán, Vice-Chairperson of the European Students Union (ESU)

“U-Multirank will be an extremely useful tool for students all over the world, being the first global ranking that includes in a serious manner the teaching and learning dimension.”
The basic principles:
multi-dimensional (without composite scores),
user driven,
multi-level (incl. field-based rankings)

Professor Sir Howard Newby, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Liverpool, UK,
“U-Multirank provides an elegant solution to a problem which undermines conventional rankings. It does not seek to weight different activities of a university but allows users to devise their own ranking according to what they believe is important.”
U-Multirank’s indicators address universities’ needs

Source: EUA RISP-study

In the framework of your strategic planning and international monitoring of activities, does your institution pay special attention to the following?

Not covered by U-Multirank

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of international students</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student satisfaction</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research income earned</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retention rate and/or dropout rate</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of doctorates awarded</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer review publications</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission and/or institutional profile</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of research active staff members</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time to degree</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment rates after graduation</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citation impact factor and/or other research impact indicators</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher/student ratio</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patents and licenses, commercialisation activity</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Other) external income earned</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of industry or community partnerships</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of international staff</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments in campus facilities</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access/participation by socio-economic status</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size of library collection</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reputation among employers</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employer satisfaction</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Nobel or similar prizes</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reputation among peers</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of art exhibitions or performances</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = 171. The results do not add up to 100% as respondents to this question could indicate multiple replies.
The web tool
The web tool offers four access points for different needs.

U-Multirank helps you compare universities around the world — matching like with like and seeing what each is best at.
Default tables offer a selection of indicators

### Teaching & Learning
- Bachelor graduation rate
- Masters graduation rate
- Graduating on time (bachelors)
- Graduating on time (masters)

### Research
- Citation rate
- Research publications (size-normalised)
- External research income

### Knowledge Transfer
- Co-publications with industrial partners
- Income from private sources
- Patents awarded (size-normalised)
- Publications cited in patents

### International Orientation
- Student mobility
- International joint publications

### Regional Engagement
- Bachelor graduates working in the region
- Regional joint publications
- Income from regional sources

This is the default for the “compare track” – overview of all dimensions (“student track”: default focuses on teaching and related issues)
More internationalisation indicators

**International Orientation**

- Foreign language bachelor programmes
- Foreign language master programmes
- Student mobility
- International academic staff
- International joint publications
- International doctorate degrees

**International Orientation**

- International orientation of bachelor programmes
- International orientation of master programmes
- Opportunities to study abroad
- International doctorate degrees
- International joint publications
- International research grants

Institution as a whole

Field-level, specific

@UMultirank
Comparisons are made using 5 performance groups
The web tool allows snapshot performance overviews.
The web tool allows you to see specific details.
U-Multirank 2015
U-Multirank 2015 gives the most comprehensive international data comparison in higher education

1,200 universities are included with publicly available data

80 countries have universities in U-Multirank

670 of the 1,200 universities have provided comprehensive data faculties/departments are included in the 7 field-based rankings (psychology, medicine, computer science, physics, electrical and mechanical engineering, business studies)

1,800 study programmes within these faculties are included

7,500 students completed the student satisfaction survey

85,000 countries have universities in U-Multirank

Alex Usher, President of Higher Education Strategy Associates (HESA), Canada

“U-Multirank is the most global, most diverse and least reductive ranking ever.”
U-Multirank offers a global view of a large variety of university profiles

Worldwide coverage

PhD-awarding institutions + universities of applied sciences

small + large

specialised + comprehensive

old (pre 1870) + young (after 1980)

Africa
Asia
Latin America
US/Canada
Europe
Oceania

@UMultirank
U-Multirank shows a wide distribution of “A” scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“A” scores per univ.</th>
<th>% of univs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 5</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 9</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 or more</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some univs. with no “A” scores

Many univs. have specific strengths

No univ. has “across the board” “A” scores

Nearly 150 univs. have a wide range (10 or more) “A” scores

On individual indicators performance differences between univs. are clearly visible

Of the nearly 150 universities with 10 or more “A” scores, more than 40 do not appear in the other 3 global rankings (ARWU, QS and THE)

Tom Boland, Chief Executive of the Higher Education Authority, Ireland, “U-Multirank demonstrates very well that different universities have different kinds of strengths.”
The highest scoring universities per indicator are diverse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator (examples)</th>
<th>Top Scoring University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citation rate</td>
<td>Rockefeller University (US)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of research publications</td>
<td>Harvard University (US)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of co-public. with industrial partners</td>
<td>UAS Reutlingen (GER)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of patents awarded</td>
<td>MIT (US)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student mobility</td>
<td>IESEG School of Management Lille (F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internat. joint publications</td>
<td>UAS Wiener Neustadt (A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from private sources</td>
<td>ESSEC Business School Cergy (F)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The “world’s top 100 universities overall”?  

- U-Multirank demonstrates the diversity of university profiles in the international context
- The findings indicate that it is not possible to meaningfully identify “the world’s top 100 or 200 universities overall”
- U-Multirank identifies the top performers – but these are different depending on the indicator
- U-Multirank is a flexible tool where students, parents, academics, policy-makers, administrators, etc., can find information to support decision-making

Dr. Simon Marginson, Professor of International Higher Education at the UCL Institute of Education, University College, London,  

“U-Multirank is a vital corrective to the ‘football league mentality’ that has crept into higher education.”
U-Multirank’s uses for institutional management
U-Multirank is a web tool and not a single table

Intention of U-Multirank: evidence-based decisions
Our core mission is to be relevant for institutional management
(and for student choices, etc...)

- Understand competitors
- Demonstrate profile
- Measure strategy
- Realise SWOT
- Better understanding of data
- Find benchmarking partners
- Realise benchmarking
- Support student recruitment
- Create marketing messages
- Support target agreements
- .....
Example 1

U-Multirank could be used to clarify an institutional strategy that is distinctive from others. Example: strategy of applied research.
Example 2

U-Multirank could be used for a SWOT-analysis as starting point for internal discussions about quality enhancement
Example Panthéon-Sorbonne U, computer sciences, teaching dimension: good outcomes, except rooms and IT facilities – a very specific weakness!

Based on student survey: each indicator consists of several items assessed by students
Participating universities get all detailed information for internal use
Example: organisation of study programme

Existing institutional student surveys: combine with U-Multirank?
Example 5

U-Multirank could be used for benchmarking
Example 5

- U-Multirank can be used for benchmarking by:
  - Informal groups of universities, mutually agreeing to exchange data
  - Formal associations of institutions with participating members

- U-Multirank is used for benchmarking by CESAER (group of leading European technical universities; 50 members from 24 countries)
  - Provision of complete U-Multirank indicator data
  - Potential additional analysis & indicators:
    - e.g., normalisation by income instead of *fte* academic staff, to measure efficiency
    - New on-demand indicators which could be calculated out of data
  - Special graphical presentation of data
What is to come?
U-Multirank will again be extended in 2016

Current sample of 1,210 institutions

+ 250 institutions

+ 6 new fields: (biology, chemistry, mathematics, history, sociology and social work/welfare)

2017 registration will open soon (until May 2016)

U-Multirank 2016 releases in March 2016
What does participation entail?

- We ask for participation in data collection
  - Institutional data – including profile indicators
  - Field-based data
  - Student survey

- In addition we will use publicly available data from other sources
  - Bibliometric data
  - Patent data
  - National data if available (e.g. Norwegian student survey)

- No monetary costs to participate
The current project will last up to four years

The European Commission gives seed money to a new, innovative initiative

U-Multirank is not a political instrument, it will never be an official EC/EU ranking

After 4 years it needs a governance and funding structure. The project team is working on non-profit, open access solutions.
• For more information: www.umultirank.org

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