2020 QS World University Rankings

SUMMARY

- In 2020, McMaster University moved up 6 positions from the previous year and ranked 140th globally.
- McMaster holds the 6th highest rank amongst the Canadian institutions and the 2nd highest in Ontario.

BACKGROUND

QS World University Rankings

The QS World University Rankings (WUR) is an annual ranking of the world's top universities. The top 400 are ranked individually, whereas institutions 401 and over are ranked in groups.

To assess and rank each university's quality of education, faculty and research output, QS uses the following six weighted measures:

1. Academic reputation survey (40%);
2. Employer reputation survey (10%);
3. Faculty student ratio (20%);
4. Citations per faculty (20%);
5. Proportion of international students (5%); and
6. Proportion of international faculty (5%).

Please note for each of the indicators, QS uses normalized z-scores to rank and compare universities. A university's score is scaled between 1 and 100 and reflects the proportion of institutions that scored lower on the metric.

CURRENT STATUS

On June 19, 2019, QS released its annual ranking of the world's top universities. In total, seven Canadian universities were ranked among the world's top 200 institutions.

Overall, McMaster ranked 140th globally. This represents an increase of six positions compared to the 2019 edition of the WUR. Additionally, the University remained the second highest ranked university in Ontario and decreased one place to the sixth highest ranked university in Canada, behind the University of Toronto (29), McGill University (35), the University of British Columbia (51), the University of Alberta (113) and the University of Montreal (137).

Table 1 shows the Canadian universities that were ranked among the world's top 200 institutions in 2020, and for comparison their 2019 information.

Table 1: QS WUR - Canadian Universities Ranked in the Top 200, 2019 vs. 2020

	2019			2020			Δ 2019-2020		
	Total Score	Rank Can.	Rank World	Total Score	Rank Can.	Rank World	Total Score	Rank Can.	Rank World
Toronto	83.0	1	28	82.1	1	29	-0.9	N/C	-1
McGill	81.7	2	33	80.4	2	35	-1.3	N/C	-2
UBC	75.8	3	47	74.1	3	51	-1.7	N/C	-4
Alberta	58.1	4	109	57.3	4	113	-0.8	N/C	-4
Montreal	49.5	6	149	52	5	137	2.5	1	12
McMaster	**50.1**	**5**	**146**	**51.2**	**6**	**140**	**1.1**	**-1**	**6**
Waterloo	48	7	163	46.8	7	173	-1.2	N/C	-10

N/C = No Change

Table 2 provides a breakdown of McMaster's 2020 WUR scores compared to the previous year. In 2020, McMaster's overall score increased by 1.1 points, to 51.2. Out of the top 7 Canadian institutions, McMaster was one of only two institutions which saw a rise in both their score and rank. Modest improvements were made across all the indicators with the exception of the Citation/Faculty Ratio and Employer Reputation which fell by 0.10 and 0.16 points respectively.

Table 2: McMaster's QS WUR Score by Weighted Measure, 2019 vs. 2020

Metrics	2019 WUR Score	2019 WUR Adjusted Score	2020 WUR Score	2020 WUR Adjusted Score	(Δ)
Student/Faculty Ratio (20%)	81.0	16.2	85.0	17.0	0.8
Citation/Faculty Ratio (20%)	32.9	6.58	32.4	6.48	-0.1
% International Student (5%)	42.0	2.1	45.1	2.3	0.2
% International Faculty (5%)	97.8	4.89	97.9	4.90	0.01
Academic Reputation (40%)	39.5	15.8	40.4	16.16	0.36
Employer Reputation (10%)	44.1	4.41	42.5	4.25	-0.16
Total Score		50.1		51.2	1.1