

2021 QS World University Rankings
SUMMARY

- In 2021, McMaster University fell 4 positions from the previous year and ranked 144th 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 10, 2020, 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 144th globally. This represents a decrease of four positions compared to the 2020 edition of the WUR. Additionally, the University remained the second highest ranked university in Ontario and the sixth highest ranked university in Canada, behind the University of Toronto (25), McGill University (31), the University of British Columbia (45), the University of Montreal (118) and the University of Alberta (119).

Table 1 shows the Canadian universities that were ranked among the world's top 200 institutions in 2021, and for comparison their 2020 information.

Table 1: QS WUR - Canadian Universities Ranked in the Top 200, 2020 vs. 2021

	2020			2021			Δ 2020-2021		
	Total Score	Rank		Total Score	Rank		Total Score	Rank	
		Can.	World		Can.	World		Can.	World
Toronto	82.1	1	29	82.7	1	25	0.6	N/C	4
McGill	80.4	2	35	80.0	2	31	-0.4	N/C	4
UBC	74.1	3	51	74.8	3	45	0.7	N/C	6
Montreal	52	5	137	54.3	4	118	2.3	1	19
Alberta	57.3	4	113	54.0	5	119	-3.3	-1	-6
McMaster	51.2	6	140	51.5	6	144	0.3	N/C	-4
Waterloo	46.8	7	173	46.8	7	166	0	N/C	7

N/C = No Change

Table 2 provides a breakdown of McMaster's 2021 WUR scores compared to the previous year. In 2021, McMaster's overall score increased by 0.3 points, to 51.5. Out of the top 7 Canadian institutions, McMaster was the only institution which saw a rise in score, but a fall in rank. Modest improvements were made across all the indicators apart from the Student/Faculty Ratio, which fell by 0.72.

Table 2: McMaster's QS WUR Score by Weighted Measure, 2020 vs. 2021

Metrics	2020 WUR		2021 WUR		(Δ)
	Score	Adjusted Score	Score	Adjusted Score	
Student/Faculty Ratio (20%)	85.0	17.0	81.4	16.28	-0.72
Citation/Faculty Ratio (20%)	32.4	6.48	32.4	6.48	0
% International Student (5%)	45.1	2.3	48.1	2.4	0.1
% International Faculty (5%)	97.9	4.90	99.3	4.97	0.07
Academic Reputation (40%)	40.4	16.16	40.7	16.28	0.12
Employer Reputation (10%)	42.5	4.25	47.6	4.76	0.51
Total Score		51.2		51.5	0.3