

2024 Times Higher Education World University Rankings

SUMMARY

- McMaster University ranked 103rd overall. This is a decrease of 18 positions from 2022.
- McMaster remains the second highest ranked university in Ontario and the fourth highest ranked university in Canada.

BACKGROUND

Times Higher Education is a United Kingdom based magazine that focuses on news and issues related to higher education. The Times Higher Education World University Rankings is an annual ranking of the world's top universities. To assess and rank each institution, Times Higher Education uses 17 performance indicators, grouped into five "Pillar" areas:

1. Teaching (29.5%)

- Teaching reputation survey (15%)
- Students to academic staff (4.5%)
- Doctoral degrees by academic staff (5.5%)
- Doctoral degrees by bachelor degrees (2.0%)
- Institutional income per academic staff member (2.5%)

2. Research Environment (29%)

- Research reputation survey (18%)
- Research income per academic staff member (5.5%)
- Research Productivity (5.5%)

3. Research Quality (30%)

- Research excellence (5%)
- Citation Impact (15%)
- Research Strength (5%)
- Research Influence (5%)

4. Industry (4%)

- Research Income from Industry per academic staff member (2%)
- Patents (2%)

5. International Outlook (7.5%)

- % international students (2.5%)
- % international academic staff (2.5%)
- % publications with an international co-author (2.5%)

CURRENT STATUS

On October 2, 2023, Times Higher Education (THE) released the 2024 edition of the World University Rankings (WUR). Overall, McMaster ranked 103rd. This is a decrease of 18 positions compared to last year's edition. Unfortunately, this marks the third consecutive year where McMaster has declined in the THE WUR ranking. It also marks the first time McMaster has fallen out of the top 100 since 2017. The fall in rank can largely be attributed to THE's overhaul in methodology. Table 2 provides an outline of the changes made to the THE WUR in 2024 (metrics with changes are bolded).

McMaster remains the second highest ranked university in Ontario, and the fourth highest ranked university in Canada, behind only the University of Toronto (21), the University of British Columbia (41), and McGill University (49). McMaster also ranked first in Canada for Research Quality and Industry.

In the 2024 WUR, eight Canadian universities ranked in the top 200. Table 1 provides an overview of the Canadian universities that ranked among the world's top 200 institutions in 2024, alongside their 2023 information. Table 3 provides a breakdown of McMaster's 2024 WUR scores compared to the previous year. Of the top Canadian institutions, Waterloo had the largest increase in rank (increasing by at least 43 positions) while Ottawa experienced the largest drop of 40 positions.

Table 1: Top Ranked Canadian Universities, 2023 vs. 2024

	2023			2024			Δ		
	Total Score	Rank		Total Score	Rank		Total Score	Rank	
		Can.	World		Can.	World		Can.	World
Toronto	87.4	1	18	88.6	1	21	1.2	N/C	-3
UBC	75.7	2	40	78.0	2	41	2.3	N/C	-1
McGill	73.0	3	46	76.0	3	49	3.0	N/C	-3
McMaster	65.1	4	85	66.3	4	103	1.2	N/C	-18
Alberta	61.1	6	118	65.9	5	109	4.8	1	9
Montreal	62.3	5	111	65.8	6	111	3.5	-1	N/C
Waterloo	51.2-54.3	9	201-250	61.7	7	158	Incr.	2	Incr.
Ottawa	58.5	7	137	60.2	8	177	1.7	-1	-40

N/C = No Change, Incr. = Increase

Table 2: Changes to THE WUR 2024

Metric	THE WUR 2023	THE WUR 2024
Teaching Reputation Survey	15%	15%
Students to Academic Staff	4.5%	4.5%
Doctoral Degrees / Academic Staff	6%	5.5%
Doctoral Degrees / Bachelor Degrees	2.25%	2%
Institutional Income / Academic Staff	2.25%	2.5%
Research Reputation Survey	18%	18%
Research Income / Academic Staff	6%	5.5%
Research Productivity	6%	5.5%
Research Excellence		5% * New in 2024
Citation Impact	30%	15%
Research Strength		5% * New in 2024
Research Influence		5% * New in 2024
Industry Income / Academic Staff	2.5%	2%
Patents		2% * New in 2024
% International Students	2.5%	2.5%
% International Academic Staff	2.5%	2.5%
% publications with int. co-author	2.5%	2.5%

Table 3: McMaster's THE WUR Score by Weighted Measure, 2023 vs. 2024

Metrics	2023			2024			(Δ) Adjusted Score
	Metric Weight	Score	Adjusted Score	Metric Weight	Score	Adjusted Score	
Teaching Reputation Survey	15%	24.6	3.69	15%	24.6	3.69	0.00
Student to Academic Staff	4.5%	30.0	1.35	4.5%	15.6	0.70	-0.65
Doctoral Degrees / Academic Staff	6%	75.7	4.54	5.5%	91.4	5.03	0.49
Doctoral Degrees / Bachelor Degrees	2.25%	45.0	1.01	2%	53.0	1.06	0.05
Institutional Income / Academic Staff	2.25%	98.4	2.21	2.5%	98.0	2.45	0.24
Research Reputation Survey	18%	20.3	3.65	18%	21.9	3.94	0.29
Research Income / Academic Staff	6%	95.2	5.71	5.5%	98.8	5.43	-0.28
Research Productivity	6%	99.6	5.98	5.5%	99.7	5.48	-0.50
Research excellence				5%	98.2	4.91	4.91
Citation Impact	30%	94.6	28.38	15%	95.3	14.30	-14.09
Research Strength				5%	76.3	3.82	3.82
Research Influence				5%	97.8	4.89	4.89
Industry Income / Academic Staff	2.5%	89.9	2.25	2%	100.0	2.00	-0.25
Patents				2%	100.0	2.00	2.00
% International Academic Staff	2.5%	96.4	2.41	2.5%	98.1	2.45	0.04
% International Students	2.5%	78.7	1.97	2.5%	87.0	2.18	0.21
% publications with int. co-author	2.5%	79.0	1.98	2.5%	76.9	1.92	-0.06
Total	100%		65.1	100%		66.3	1.2

Bolded Metrics are new metrics or experienced a change in weighting in 2024.