2024 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings (WUR) by Subject

SUMMARY

- In 2024, McMaster ranked 36th in the world in Clinical, Pre-Clinical and Health and 4th in Canada. McMaster remained in the top 200 for Life Sciences, Psychology and Engineering and Technology subject areas.

BACKGROUND

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings (WUR) by Subject uses the same methodology as THE's WUR, calibrated by subject area:

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 26, 2023, THE released its annual WUR by Subject for 2024. This ranking is complementary to THE's WUR, with a further breakdown by major subject category.

THE WUR by Subject

Overall, McMaster's performance in the 2024 THE WUR Subject Ranking had mixed results among the subjects, largely due to THE's methodology overhaul in 2024. McMaster decreased 11 positions in Clinical, Pre-Clinical and Health, ranking 36th in the world and 4th in Canada. McMaster's position increased in 5 of the subject areas in which it was ranked (see Table 1).

Table 1 shows the subject areas where the University ranked globally and within the country. THE currently ranks institutions in 11 subject areas; however, McMaster is excluded from the Education and Law subject rankings since we do not offer these programs. In Canada, McMaster increased its position in 5 of the 9 subject areas. McMaster's largest national increase was by 7 positions in both Physical Sciences and Computer Science. The average score across the subject areas have increased, globally, as a result of THE's methodology changes. This is clearly evident when viewing Clinical, Pre-Clinical and Health; despite McMaster increasing its score by 4.2 points, McMaster's world rank still fell.

Table 1: McMaster University, THE Ranked Subjects, 2023 & 2024

	2023			2024			Δ		
	Canada Rank	World Rank	Score	Canada Rank	World Rank	Score	Canada Rank	World Rank	Score
Clinical, Pre-Clinical and Health	2	25	74.0	4	36	78.2	-2	-11	4.2
Life Sciences	4	101-125	55.8-58.1	5	101-125	59.7-61.7	-1	N/C	1.6-5.9
Physical Sciences	23	501-600	34.7-37.7	16	301-400	42.7-46.9	7	Increase	5.0-12.2
Psychology	12	176-200	42.5-44.2	8	126-150	51.8-54.3	4	Increase	7.5-11.8
Arts and Humanities	10	251-300	28.4-31.8	11	251-300	34.4-36.9	-1	N/C	2.6-8.5
Social Sciences	8	201-250	39.8-42.1	9	201-250	43.4-47.7	-1	N/C	1.3-7.9
Business and Economics	13	301-400	33.2-37.0	8	201-250	44.3-46.1	5	Increase	7.3-12.9
Computer Science	16	301-400	35.8-38.9	9	201-250	46.6-49.2	7	Increase	7.7-13.4
Engineering and Technology	9	201-250	42.8-45.2	7	176-200	49.7-51.7	2	Increase	4.5-8.9

N/R = Not Ranked, N/C = No Change, N/A = Not Applicable

Table 2 presents the top five ranked Universities in Canada (via THE WUR) and how they rank by subject, both within Canada and worldwide. McMaster's performance is very strong in the Clinical, Pre-Clinical and Health subject area. Of the top five Canadian institutions, McMaster has only the Clinical, Pre-Clinical and Health subject area ranked in the top 100. Conversely, the top three Canadian institutions have every subject ranked within the top 100, and the 5th ranked institution has three subjects in the top 100.

Table 2: Ranking by Subject of the Top Five Canadian Ranked Institutions

	Clinical, Pre-Clinical and Health		Life Sciences		Physical Sciences		Psychology		Arts and Humanities		Social Sciences		Business and Economics		Computer Science		Engineering and Technology	
	Can. Rank	World Rank	Can. Rank	World Rank	Can. Rank	World Rank	Can. Rank	World Rank	Can. Rank	World Rank	Can. Rank	World Rank	Can. Rank	World Rank	Can. Rank	World Rank	Can. Rank	World Rank
Toronto	1	9	1	27	1	25	1	10	1	13	1	24	1	24	1	25	1	26
UBC	3	34	2	33	2	52	2	17	3	62	2	27	2	35	4	49	2	49
McGill	2	26	3	44	3	72	3	28	2	48	3	38	5	89	5	75	4	71
McMaster	4	36	5	101-125	16	301-400	8	126-150	11	251-300	9	201-250	8	201-250	9	201-250	7	176-200
Alberta	5	73	4	101-125	5	126-150	14	176-200	5	151-175	6	151-175	6	101-125	6	89	5	90