

TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION (THE) UNIVERSITY IMPACT RANKING 2019

- The new THE University Impact ranking focuses on institutional impact on society, using the **United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** as a framework for 11 categories.
- Around 500 institutions have been ranked globally – 26 UK institutions, and 4 in Scotland. To participate in the ranking, institutions were required to submit data towards one compulsory category (partnership for the goals) and at least three further categories. Participation in this ranking is lower than in more established rankings.
- There are separate rankings for each of the 11 categories, and each participating institution is given an ‘overall’ ranking based on its performance in 4 categories – the compulsory category and its three highest ranking non-compulsory categories.
- Strathclyde participated, and is ranked, in 7 categories:
 - **Overall, Strathclyde is ranked =50th.**
 - In the compulsory Global Partnerships category, **Strathclyde placed 86th.**
 - Strathclyde’s three highest rankings are 9th for Responsible consumption and production, 12th for Climate Action and 17th for Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.
 - Strathclyde also ranks 25th for Decent Work and Economic Growth, 52nd for Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure and 79th for Quality Education.

Introduction

On 3 April 2019, Times Higher Education (THE) published its new University ‘impact’ ranking. This new ranking attempts to capture universities’ impact on society and is based on the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

The ranking uses a new set of performance measures, developed specifically for this ranking. A small number of metrics, qualitative and quantitative, are associated with each of the eleven categories in the ranking. The categories are based on 11 of the 17 UN SDGs (further detail is available in the ‘methodology’ section below). The categories are fairly broad, for example, ‘industry, innovation and infrastructure’, and ‘good health and wellbeing’.

Participating institutions submit both quantitative and qualitative data to evidence commitment to the SDGs in at least 4 of these categories, one of which is compulsory (global partnerships). THE supplement the institution’s submission with bibliometric data from Elsevier.

This year, around 500 institutions from more than 75 countries have participated in the new ranking (more than 1,200 institutions were ranked in the most recent THE World University Ranking).



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Strathclyde Performance

Strathclyde is ranked =50th overall (out of 462 institutions), based on performance in the compulsory category, in addition to our ranking in the three other categories in which we rank highest.

We place in the top 100 in all of the seven categories we are ranked, including in the top 25 in four categories. We are ranked 1st in Scotland for Decent Work and Economic growth (3rd in the UK), Climate Action (3rd in the UK), Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (4th in the UK) and Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (6th in the UK). We also rank 2nd in Scotland and 6th in the UK for Quality Education.

Top 25

- **Ranked 9th** out of 226 institutions for SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production.
- **Ranked 12th** out of 257 institutions for SDG 13 Climate Action.
- **Ranked joint 17th** out of 274 institutions for SDG 11 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.
- **Ranked 25th** out of 291 institutions for SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth.

Top 100

- **Ranked 52nd** out of 338 institutions for SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.
- **Ranked 79th** out of 453 institutions for SDG 4 Quality Education.
- **Ranked 86th** out of 487 institutions for SDG17 Partnership for the Goals.

The table shows all ranking categories including the number of institutions that had been ranked in each of them and full Strathclyde results were appropriate. Categories, that Strathclyde did not submit to are represented by '- '.

SDG	Category	Score	World Rank		Scottish Rank		UK Rank	
			Rank	Out of	Rank	Out of	Rank	Out of
3	Good Health and Wellbeing	-	-	421	-	3	-	26
4	Quality Education	61.6	79	453	2	3	6	21
5	Gender Equality	-	-	336	-	3	-(15)	15
8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	68.4	25	291	1	3	3	19
9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	63.6	52	338	1	3	6	19
10	Reduced Inequalities	-	-	275	-	3	-(17)	17
11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	-	-	293	-	2	-(16)	16
12	Responsible Consumption and Production	81.1	9	226	3	4	6	19
13	Climate Action	79.7	12	257	1	2	3	17
16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	77.8	=17	274	1	2	4	18
17	Partnership for the Goals	69.9	=86	487	3	3	14	26
Overall Position		83.8	=50	462	4	4	12	26

Results - overview

Overall, the highest ranking institution was Auckland (New Zealand). McMaster (Canada) ranked 2nd and British Columbia (Canada) and Manchester (United Kingdom) ranked in joint 3rd.

The table below details the highest ranked institution for each category:

SDG	Category	University	Country
3	Good Health and Wellbeing	University of Auckland	New Zealand
4	Quality Education	University of Gothenburg	Sweden
5	Gender Equality	Western Sydney University	Australia
8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	McMaster University	Canada
9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	Yonsei University (Seoul campus)	South Korea
10	Reduced Inequalities	James Cook University	Australia
11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	Kyung Hee University	South Korea
12	Responsible Consumption and Production	University College Cork	Ireland
13	Climate Action	University of British Columbia	Canada
16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	National Taiwan University	Taiwan
17	Partnership for the Goals	University of Manchester	United Kingdom

Canadian institutions have the highest average score of 86.6, followed by those in Republic of Ireland (85.1) and in Australia (81.6). The United Kingdom's average score of just below 80 is the fourth highest.

Japan has the highest number of universities ranked (42), followed by the US (30), Russia (29) and the UK in fourth, with 26 Universities ranked. Other than the compulsory category, the most popular category is SDG 4 (Quality Education) - over 400 institutions submitted evidence in this category.

Only 4 Scottish institutions are ranked –Strathclyde (=50th overall), Dundee (20th Overall), Aberdeen (31st Overall) and Glasgow Caledonian (44th Overall). Dundee are 3rd and Aberdeen 5th for Responsible Consumption and Production. Glasgow Caledonian ranks 12th for Gender Equality and 14th for Sustainable Cities and Communities.

Within the UK, Manchester is ranked 3rd in the world overall, and ranked 1st for Partnership for the Goals. Manchester also ranks in the top 10 in Good Health and Wellbeing (6th), Sustainable Cities and Communities (7th) and Responsible Consumption and Production (8th). King's College ranks 5th overall and Southampton ranked 12th.

Methodology

The methodology for this new THE University Impact Ranking is different from other world rankings, as it relies on qualitative and quantitative data submissions from institutions, which is then supplemented by bibliometric datasets from Elsevier. The broad categories are based on UN SDGs, and rankings are

based on progress towards and commitment to the goals. Institutions are ranked based on different criteria in each category, as set out in the table below.

SDG	Category	Methodology
<u>SDG 3</u>	Good Health and Wellbeing	Research on health and well-being* (27%) – based on bibliometric data; Proportion of health graduates*(34.6%) - evidence from institutions; Collaborations and health services (38.4%) - evidence from institutions.
<u>SDG 4</u>	Quality Education	Research on early years and lifelong learning education* (27%) - based on bibliometric data; Proportion of graduates with teaching qualification* (15.4%) - evidence from institutions; Lifelong learning measures (26.8%) - evidence from institutions; Proportion of first-generation students* (30.8%) - evidence from institutions.
<u>SDG 5</u>	Gender Equality	Research* (27%) - based on bibliometric data; Proportion of first-generation female students* (15.4%) - evidence from institutions; Student access measures (15.4%) - evidence from institutions; Proportion of senior female academics* (15.4%) - evidence from institutions; Proportion of women receiving degrees* (11.5%) - evidence from institutions; Women's progress measures (15.3%) - evidence from institutions.
<u>SDG 8</u>	Decent Work and Economic Growth	Research on economic growth and employment* (27%) - based on bibliometric data; Employment practices (23.2%) - evidence from institutions; Proportion of students taking work placements* (23%) - evidence from institutions; Proportion of employees on secure contracts* (26.8%) - evidence from institutions.
<u>SDG 9</u>	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	Research on industry, innovation and infrastructure* (11.6%) - based on bibliometric data; Patents* (15.4%) - evidence from institutions; University spin-offs* (34.6%) - evidence from institutions; Research income from industry* (38.4%) - evidence from institutions.
<u>SDG 10</u>	Reduced Inequalities	Research on reduced inequalities* (27%) - based on bibliometric data; First-generation students* (23.1%) - evidence from institutions; Students from developing countries* (15.4%) - evidence from institutions; Students and staff with disabilities* (11.4%) - evidence from institutions; Measures against discrimination (23.1%) - evidence from institutions.
<u>SDG 11</u>	Sustainable Cities and Communities	Research on sustainable cities and communities* (27%) - based on bibliometric data; Support of arts and heritage (22.8%) - evidence from institutions; Expenditure on arts and heritage* (19.2%) - evidence from institutions; Sustainable practices (31%) - evidence from institutions.
<u>SDG 12</u>	Responsible Consumption and Production	Research on responsible consumption and production* (27%) - based on bibliometric data; Operational measures (26.7%) - evidence from institutions; Proportion of recycled waste* (27%) - evidence from institutions; Publication of a sustainability report (19.3%) - evidence from institutions.

SDG 13	Climate Action	Research on climate action* (27%) - based on bibliometric data; Low-carbon energy use* (26.9%) - evidence from institutions; Environmental education measures (46.1%) - evidence from institutions.
SDG 16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	Research* (27%) - based on bibliometric data; University governance measures (26.6%) - direct evidence from institutions; Working with government (23.2%) - direct evidence from institutions; Proportion of graduates in law and civil enforcement* (23.2%) -direct evidence from institutions.
SDG 17	Partnership for the Goals.	Research* (27%) based on bibliometric data; Relationships to support the goals (23%) - direct evidence from institutions; Publication of SDG reports (50%) - direct evidence from institutions.
Overall Rank	SDG 17 + 3 highest scoring SDGs	SDG 17 - 22% from the overall score; Top three SDGs -26% each from the overall score.

**The data were normalised across its range using z-scoring.*

Media Coverage

There has been limited media coverage on the release of the new ranking, on the whole limited to Times Higher Education and university press releases.

Times Higher Education - [THE University Impact Rankings 2019: results announced](#)

Times Higher Education – [THE University Impact Ranking 2019: Canada Leads the way](#)

Global News - [Hamilton's McMaster University ranks 2nd in world of universities that make a global impact](#)

The Courier.co.uk - [Dundee University ranked among world's top institutions for impact on society](#)

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