

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021 include more than 1,500 universities across 93 countries and regions, making them the largest and most diverse university rankings to date. The table is based on 13 carefully calibrated performance indicators that measure an institution's performance across four areas: teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook. This year's ranking analysed more than 80 million citations across over 13 million research publications and included survey responses from 22,000 scholars globally.

- 1 - University of Oxford. United Kingdom
- 2 - Stanford University. United States
- 3 - Harvard University. United States
- 4 - California Institute of Technology. United States
- 5 - Massachusetts Institute of Technology. United States
- 6 - University of Cambridge. United Kingdom
- 7 - University of California, Berkeley. United States
- 8 - Yale University. United States
- 9 - Princeton University. United States
- 10 - University of Chicago. United States

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- 167 – Università di Bologna. Italia

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- 170 – Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa. Italia

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- 181 – Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa. Italia

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- 201 – Università Sapienza, Roma. Italia

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- 251 – Università di Padova. Italia

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- 251 – Vita Salute San Raffaele. Italia