

Thresholds & Pre-requisites

Please see below the scoring thresholds and pre-requisites for the QS Stars™ Evaluation:

OVERALL	1000
1 Star	100
▪ Must have the authority to grant valid degree level programs in its own name	
2 Stars.....	250
3 Stars	400
4 Stars	550
▪ Must have at least 75 academic referees or must have at least 2 citations per faculty member (for any institution not focused exclusively in two or fewer of our broad faculty area	
▪ Must have at least 1% international students	
5 Stars	700
▪ Must have at least 150 academic referees or 3 citations per faculty member (for any institution not focused exclusively in two or fewer of our broad faculty areas)	
▪ Must have at least 5% international faculty	
▪ Must have at least 5% international students	
▪ Must have at least 85 points in Employability category	
▪ Must have a minimum of 70 points in Facilities category	
5 Stars Plus	900
▪ Must have 5 star rating in all categories and meet all the pre-requisites needed for 5 Stars	

Please see below the scoring thresholds for the individual categories, divided into their respective areas:

Core Criteria Categories	150	Specialist Criteria	200
1 Star	15	1 Star	20
2 Stars.....	35	2 Stars	50
3 Stars.....	60	3 Stars.....	80
4 Stars.....	85	4 Stars.....	110
5 Stars.....	105	5 Stars.....	140
Learning Environment Categories	100	Advanced Criteria Categories	50
1 Star	10	1 Star	5
2 Stars	25	2 Stars	15
3 Stars.....	40	3 Stars.....	20
4 Stars.....	55	4 Stars.....	30
5 Stars.....	70	5 Stars.....	35

Please note the time referred in all the indicators (unless stated otherwise) refers to the latest completed financial or academic year. It is not our objective to request additional work on the institution's side so please enquire if you have any doubt.

Core Criteria

These criteria feature the key building blocks of a university whether focused globally, domestically or locally
 - All categories in this section are mandatory for the evaluation.

TEACHING 150

- Faculty student ratio..... 50

Maximum points for a 10:1 ratio (10%) scaled down to a ratio of 50:1 (2%)

- Overall student satisfaction OR Completion..... 40

Overall Student Satisfaction

75% student satisfaction or higher with scaled scores down to 50% student satisfaction. Results based on a minimum 20% response rate OR 1000 respondents using the National Student Satisfaction Survey or equivalent

Completion

90% of students scheduled to graduate succeeding in doing so scaled down to 60%

- Satisfaction with teaching OR Faculty with PhD..... 40

Satisfaction with teaching

75% student satisfaction or higher with scaled scores down to 50% student satisfaction. Results based on a minimum 20% response rate OR 1000 respondents using the National Student Satisfaction Survey or equivalent

Faculty with PhD

80% scaled down to 60% of faculty with PhD or equivalent terminal degree

- Further study..... 20

30% scaled down to 10% of graduated students pursuing further study within 12 months of graduation

EMPLOYABILITY 150

- Employer reputation OR Campus employer presence (max 30 points) 50

Employer reputation

50 employer nominations received from the latest QS global employer reputation analysis

Campus employer presence

200 distinct companies OR a number equivalent to 1% of the FTE student body present at events on campus in a recent 12 month period (for example, an institution with 10,000 students will require the presence of 100 to score 30 points)

- Graduate employment rate..... 50

90% scaled down to 50% of graduated students employed within 12 months of graduation (excluding those not actively seeking work e.g. pursuing further study)

- Career service support 50

10 full-time careers advisors scaled down to 2 OR 1 full-time careers advisor per 1000 students OR 25 full-time staff working in the careers service

RESEARCH 150

- Papers per faculty OR Arts-related outputs 40

Papers per faculty

7 papers per faculty member on Scopus™ in the last 5 years

Arts-related outputs

Recognition of academic outputs in disciplines where journal articles are not pervasive

- Citations per paper 40

6 citations per paper on Scopus™ in the last 5 years (adjusted for specialist institutions with negligible activity in medicine, science and technology)

- Academic reputation 40

200 academic nominations received from the last QS Global Academic Survey drawing results from the last 3 years.

- Prolific academic experts 30

20 faculty members internationally recognized for work (e.g. Nobel Prizes or equivalent awards)

INTERNATIONALIZATION 150

- International faculty 20

25% international faculty members

- International collaborations 50

50 university research collaborations yielding publications in Scopus™ in the last 5 years or joint-degree programmes with QS top 500 universities in previous 3 years published rankings

- International students 20

20% international students

- Religious facilities 10

1 place of worship for a minimum of 3 major religious groups (Christianity, Islam, Sikhism/Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism or Judaism) OR 1 multi-denominational religious facility

- Inbound exchange students 20

2% inbound academic students against total number of students

- Outbound exchange students 20

2% outbound academic students against total number of students

- International diversity 10

50 nationalities scaled down to 5 represented in student body

Learning Environment

There's more to universities than research and teaching. The criteria below outline the key areas that enhance the learning environment of the university, which in many cases the centre of the students' lives. Institutions typically select one of the two learning environment categories below:

FACILITIES* 100

■ Sporting Facilities 20

2 points for each of the following on-campus facilities with 4 bonus points for 6 or more:

- i) swimming pool
- ii) fitness gym
- iii) indoor sports court
- iv) outdoor sports court
- v) outdoor sports pitch
- vi) athletics track
- vii) stadium
- viii) full-time sports coach or dedicated sport medical staff

■ Medical Facilities 10

1 on-campus medical centre with minimum 1 full time qualified medical doctor OR 1 full time nurse per every 3000 full time students

■ Student societies 10

50 scaled down to 10 student administered organizations

■ Student accommodation 20

Maximum points for the same number of rooms available in student residences as first year students

■ IT infrastructure 20

1 on computer per 5 students OR internet access in every university provided student residence OR WIFI access across 90% scaled down to 60% of campus area (excluding parks and sports fields)

■ Library Facilities 20

Investment of \$250 scaled down to \$10 per student over the past year OR 3 scaled down to 1 new library catalogue entry per student

ONLINE/ DISTANCE LEARNING*

100

■ Student services and technology 20

2 points for each of the following with 2 bonus points for 7 or more:

- i) Tablet compatible
- ii) Windows Compliant
- iii) iOS Compliant
- iv) Android Compliant
- v) Low Bandwidth capacity access
- vi) Application for smartphone
- vii) Digitized library
- viii) Customised access for users with special needs
- ix) Online access to career centre / dedicated online career advisor

■ Track record 10

10 years' operating successful online programs scaled down to 0

■ Student faculty engagement..... 20

2 points for each of the following with 4 bonus points for 6 or more:

- i) Dedicated point of contact (tutor or similar)
- ii) Scheduled conversations (phone/video conference)
- iii) Face to face component: opportunity to meet faculty (dedicated to online/distance students) in drop-in sessions. It can be at regional centres.
- iv) Live tutoring
- v) Live streaming course video
- vi) Pre-recorded course video
- vii) 24/7 support for students (Time-Zone sensitive)
- viii) Faculty assessment

■ Student interaction 20

5 points for each of the following:

- i) Online forum / discussion board
- ii) Alumni Network
- iii) Group Work / Team Assessment
- iv) Peer Assessment

■ Commitment to online 10

75% of degrees available at the university that can be taken through online/distance learning, scaled down to 25%

■ Reputation 20

10 points for each of the following:

- i) 5 organizations using programs and technology for staff training
- ii) 10 completed applications per enrolment scaled proportion of the points down to a ratio of 2: 1

***Universities will only be evaluated in one of the sections in this area as part of the QS Stars Evaluation. A maximum of 100 points can be scored.**

SPECIALIST CRITERIA

Excellence in a narrow field is as valid a claim to world-class status as competence in the round. These criteria are designed to extend credit where it's due. – All categories in this section are mandatory for the evaluation.

■ Faculty area ranking **OR** Specific subject ranking..... 150

Faculty area ranking

Highly ranked in any of one of 5 broad specialist areas based on the QS World University Rankings: By Faculty.
Maximum points for ranked position 1- 50, scaled down to 10 points at position 300.

- i) Engineering & Technology
- ii) Natural Sciences
- iii) Life Sciences & Medicine
- iv) Arts & Humanities
- v) Social Sciences & Management

Specific subject ranking

Highest scoring discipline based on one of the 42 QS World University Rankings by Subject* or respected alternate publisher.
Maximum points for ranked positions 1- 20, scaled down to 10 points at position 200.

- i) Accounting & Finance
- ii) Agriculture & Forestry
- iii) Anthropology
- iv) Archaeology
- v) Architecture
- vi) Art & Design
- vii) Biological Sciences
- viii) Business and Management Studies
- ix) Chemistry
- x) Communication & Media Studies
- xi) Computer Science & Information Systems
- xii) Dentistry
- xiii) Development Studies
- xiv) Earth & Marine Sciences
- xv) Economics & Econometrics
- xvi) Education
- xvii) Engineering - Chemical
- xviii) Engineering - Civil & Structural
- xix) Engineering - Electrical & Electronic
- xx) Engineering - Mechanical, Aeronautical & Manufactur
- xxi) English Language & Literature
- xxii) Environmental Sciences
- xxiii) Geography & Area Studies
- xxiv) History
- xxv) Law
- xxvi) Linguistics
- xxvii) Materials Science
- xxviii) Mathematics
- xxix) Medicine
- xxx) Mining Engineering
- xxxi) Modern Languages
- xxxii) Nursing
- xxxiii) Performing Arts
- xxxiv) Pharmacy & Pharmacology
- xxxv) Philosophy
- xxxvi) Physics & Astronomy
- xxxvii) Politics & International Studies
- xxxviii) Psychology
- xxxix) Social Policy and Administration
- xl) Sociology
- xli) Statistics & Operational Research
- xlii) Veterinary Science

* QS may have sufficient data for other subjects, please enquire.

- Internationally recognized **AND/OR** Nationally recognized accreditations 50

25 points for an internationally recognized accreditation relative to specific subject and 10 points for a national accreditation relative to specific subject up to a maximum of 50 points

ADVANCED CRITERIA

For a university to aspire to being truly world-class, its mission and its impact must extend further than the basics. This selection of criteria looks at important factors that a university with a solid foundation in the core criteria might target to advance to a higher level of performance and recognition.

Recognising that institutions vary in specialisation, this section gives universities the option to select two of the categories in this area that showcases their strengths.

ARTS & CULTURE* 50

- Concerts and exhibitions 20

500 scaled down to 300 concerts and exhibitions featuring the work or performances of students and faculty staff

- Credits and cultural awards 20

100 scaled down to 60 credits or cultural awards for students, faculty members or the institution as a whole publically accessible works

- Cultural investment 10

1% of turnover or USD\$2 million contribution to arts projects outside the university OR investment in cultural preservation

INNOVATION* 50

- Patents 20

50 active patents registered with national or international patent offices (no limitation of time)

- Spin-off companies 10

5 spin-off companies established in the last 5 years still operating and no longer requiring support from the university

- Industrial research 20

10 distinct corporations (non-university) yielding publications in Scopus™ in the last 5 years

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY*

50

- **Community investment and development** 20
1% of turnover or USD\$2 million contribution to community projects within 200km of any campus of affiliated facility
- **Charity work and disaster relief** 10
1% of turnover or USD\$2 million contribution to national or international causes and charities
- **Regional human capital development** 10
50% scaled down to 30% of graduates employed in the region OR proportion of students from the region
- **Environmental impact**..... 10
2 points for each of the following
 - (i) sustainability webpage
 - (ii) energy conservation program
 - (iii) water conservation program
 - (iv) recycle program
 - (v) transportation policy

INCLUSIVENESS*

50

- **Scholarships and bursaries** 20
2% of turnover spent on funds for scholarships OR attendance made possible for 200 students on 50% scholarships
- **Disabled access**..... 10
Based on presence of a map identifying wheelchair access points, 80% scaled down to 40% of campus area with wheelchair access
- **Gender balance**..... 10
50:50 scaled down to 60:40 for either gender
- **Low-income outreach**..... 10
15% scaled to 5% of students identified as low-income OR 1% of turnover or USD\$2 million investment in promotion to low-income families

**Universities will only be evaluated in two of the sections in this area as part of the QS Stars Evaluation. A maximum of 100 points can be scored.*

Find out more

If you have questions about the QS Stars methodology, feel free to contact:

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If you are considering an audit from us, please get in touch with:

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