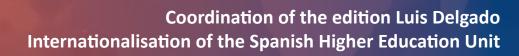# PRISUE 2020 Report

International Positioning and Recognition of the Spanish University System 2020

General Rankings, Young Universities, Knowledge Areas, Subjects, Employability, Sustainable Development, Teaching, University Systems

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STUDY IN SPAIN

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STUDY IN SPAIN

Contenidos

1. Introduction

The 2020 Report on the International Positioning and Recognition of the Spanish University System (PRISUE) is based on the global rankings published in 2020, with the greatest academic and media impact, on Spanish universities: THE (Times Higher Education World University Rankings, 2020), QS ranking (Quacquarelli Symonds World University Ranking, 2020) and Shanghai - ARWU ranking (Academic Ranking of World Universities 2020). Although the rankings are published in 2020, in some cases they are referred to as 2021 as they will be in force during the 2020-21 academic year.

In this edition, in addition to the general rankings, including those dedicated to young universities under 50 years old and those specialized by areas of knowledge and disciplines, other rankings published in 2019 and 2020 after the last edition of the PRISUE Report in 2018 are included, such as those of Employability of Graduates QS 2019, Sustainable Development THE 2020 and Teaching in Europe THE 2019.

With regard to the university systems as a whole, the ranking prepared by the U21 group in 2019 (U21 Ranking of National Higher Education System 2019) is used, as well as the statistics by country from the ARWU 2020 ranking, since that the QS HESSR (QS Higher Education System Strength) ranking published in 2016 and 2018 was not updated in 2020.

As in previous editions, the aim is to systematise and analyse the information offered in order to continue to deepen knowledge of these classifications, offering guidelines that will allow universities and all potential users (students, academics, companies, administrations, civil society, etc.) to make the best use of them for their specific objectives.

Finally, some conclusions are presented including recommendations for universities on the indicators that should be improved and how to do so in order to improve their international positioning in these rankings.

2. Methodology

For this edition, the methodological note from the previous PRISUE reports remains valid, presenting the main characteristics of the 3 ranking systems used in terms of classification criteria, number and type of universities considered both in the general rankings by universities and in the rankings by specific areas of knowledge and disciplines.

The main characteristics regarding the type of classification: general, young universities, areas of knowledge and subjects, with the number of universities classified in each ranking, are summarised in table 1.

TYPE OF RANKING AND ITS SIZE BY NUMBER OF UNIVERSITIES RANKED				
RANKING	**General**	**Young universities under 50**	**Knowledge Areas**	**Subjects**
QS	Top - 1000	Top - 150	**5 broad subjects** - Arts and Humanities - Engineering and Technology - Life sciences and medicine - Natural Sciences - Social Sciences	51 subjects grouped into 5 major areas
ARWU	Top - 1000		**5 large areas** - Natural Sciences - Engineering - Life Sciences - Medical Sciences - Social Sciences Not realised in 2020	54 subjects grouped into 5 major areas
THE	1,527 universities Top 1000 +1001		**11 areas** - Arts and Humanities - Education - Law - Psychology - Business and Economy - Clinical, Pre-clinical and Health - Computer Science - Engineering and Technology - Life sciences - Physical Science - Social Sciences	

Table 1. Characteristics of the ARWU, THE and QS rankings

In 2020 all the three rankings have increased the number of universities included in their overall rankings in the TOP - 1000 in the case of QS and ARWU, with up to 1527 in the case of THE, which includes +1001 positions beyond the Top - 1000.

The rankings by Knowledge Areas and Subjects reach up to 250-1000 universities, while the QS ranking of young universities under 50 years of age, lists universities in the Top - 150.

As already noted in the PRISUE Report 2018, the knowledge areas used by these rankings do not correspond exactly to the 5 knowledge areas of the Spanish university system: Arts and Humanities; Sciences; Health Sciences; Social and Legal Sciences; and Engineering and Architecture.

Thus, the THE ranking considers 11 broad subjects including branches such as Psychology, Education, Law, Business and Economics that in the Spanish system would be included in the Social and Legal Sciences area, or others such as Clinical, Pre-clinical and Health and Life Sciences that in the Spanish system would be included in the Health Sciences area or considers Computer Sciences or Physical Sciences that in the Spanish system would be subsumed in other broad areas.

The same occurs at the subject level that often do not correspond to specific degrees offered by Spanish universities, but rather by groups of degrees and in other cases, such as in Architecture, which appears in the rankings in the area of Arts and Humanities while in the Spanish system it forms a specific area toge-ther with Engineering.

Table 2 presents the classification indicators used by the rankings.

QS		ARWU-Shanghai		THE	
		Education Quality 30%		**Teaching (learning environment) 30%**	
Teacher/Student Ratio	20%	Graduates with Nobel Prizes and Field Medals	10%	Staff/Student Ratio	4.5%
		Teachers with Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals	20%	Survey Reputation	15%
				Doctorates/Graduate Students Ratio	2.25%
				Doctoral Thesis/Academic Staff Ratio	6%
				Institutional income	2.25%
Citations		**Quality of Teaching / Research staff 60%.**		**Research 30%**	
Research Citations per Professor in 6 years 2014-2019	20%	Researchers cited in 21 knowledge areas	20%	Survey Reputation	18%
		Publications in "Nature" and "Science	20%	Research income	6%
		Indexed publications in SCI and SSCI	20%	Research productivity	6%
Reputation				**Influencia de la Investigación**	
Academic Reputation	40%			Citations	30%
Reputation among Employers	10%				
				International outlook 7.5%.	
Share of foreign teachers	5%			Ratio of international/national students	2.5%
Share of foreign students	5%			International/national staff ratio	2.5%
				International collaboration	2.5%
		Otther		**Industry revenues 2.5%**	
		Academic performance per capita of the institution	10%	Knowledge transfer	2.5%

Table 2. Evaluation criteria in the QS, ARWU and THE rankings. Source: Own elaboration

As indicated in table 2, the indicators used by the rankings have been grouped according to the criteria used by each ranking reflecting the two basic missions of the university: teaching and research, including citations, as well as the criteria of reputation according to surveys and internationalisation, both used in QS

and THE but not in ARWU, as well as others indicators such as industry income (THE) and the synthetic indicator of academic performance per capita (ARWU).

From the weighting of the indicators given in Table 2, it can be concluded that the QS ranking is primarily based on academic reputation (40%) and among employers (10%) valuing opinions gathered from the academic and scientific community and from employers, while the ARWU and THE rankings give more weight to research and citations (60%) and teaching (30%) based on both bibliometric indicators (ARWU, THE) and other factors such as surveys, income and productivity (THE).

The rankings by areas of knowledge and subjects (QS, THE, Shanghai ARWU-Fields) value the universities in the areas of knowledge and subjects considered in each ranking with the criteria of table 2.

The ARWU Subject ranking considers 5 main indicators: number of publications in the subject, standardized impact, percentage of articles in international collaboration, number of articles in the best journals in the subject and total number of staff with recognition in the subject.

In the QS Subject Ranking, in addition to the criteria of academic and employer reputation from the general rankings two other indicators of research citations per article and H-index are introduced. The weighting of the indicators varies according to the specific knowledge area or subject, in an attempt to reflect the different cultures and publication rates in each area, so in medicine the research criteria and H-index weight 40% while in other areas such as History they only weight 15% and in areas such as art and design with few publications the ranking is based only on the surveys among academics and employers.

Regarding the other rankings of Employability of Graduates QS and Sustainable Development and European Teaching of HT, table 3 reflects the indicators used:

QS Graduate Employability	THE Sustainable Development	THE Teaching Europe	
Reputation among employers 30%	**Research on relevant topics**	**Engagement with students 35%**	
General ranking's indicator based on the Employer Survey with 45,000 responses	On issues related to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030	Students' engagement	10%
		Interactions with students	10%
		Student recommendations	10%
		Labour market links	5%
Value for alumni 25%	**Resource Management**	**Resources 20%.**	
Analysis of the achievements of the graduates	Material and human resources and their value to employers, teachers and students	Staff/Student Ratio	7,5%
		Item/staff ratio	7,5%
		Quality of service	5%
Collaboration with employers per teacher 25%.	**Value for the environment**	**Outcomes 20%.**	
Collaborations in research and jobs	Interaction with local, regional, national and international communities	Academic Reputation	10%
		Graduation rate	5%
		Capacity building	5%
Employer/Student Connections 10%	**Teaching**	**Environment 25%**	
Participation of employers in on-campus activities with students	Capacities to achieve Sustainable Development objectives	Gender balance of teaching staff	7%
		Gender balance of students	7%
		International students	5,5%
		Erasmus + student mobility	5,5%
Graduate employment rate 10%.			
Employment rate 12 months after graduation			

Tabla 3. Criterios de valoración en los rankings de Empleabilidad de Graduados QS 2020, THE Desarrollo Sostenible 2020, THE Docencia Europa2019. Fuente: Elaboración propia

2. Methodology

In the ranking THE Impact on Sustainable Development Goals (ODS), each university's score is calculated by combining its score on Objective 17 of the ODS Partnership with the three best scores on the remaining 16 ODSs. ODS 17 weighs 22% while the other 16 ODS weigh 26% each. Thus, each university is assessed with different ODS. The results are scaled to a base of 100 with the best score obtained.

In the THE ranking of teaching, the indicator of Engagement to Students is obtained from a survey among students evaluating the criteria indicated in the table. In the Resources indicator the ratios of academic staff are full time equivalent staff. The ranking only includes universities that are part of the European Higher Education Area.

Regarding the rankings of university systems, Table 4 summarizes the criteria of the U21 ranking of 2019.

Criteria and Indicators of the U21 Ranking of University Systems		
Criteria	**Indicators**	**Weighting**
Resources	• Intensity of Government and Total Expenditure on Tertiary Education Institutions and R&D (% GDP) • Annual expenditure per full-time equivalent student and R&D expenditure by tertiary education institutions at purchasing power parity (US $)	20%
Environment Context	• Proportion of female students and teachers in tertiary education • Data quality and the regulatory environment • Satisfaction of the needs of a competitive economy	20%
Connections	• Proportion of international students in tertiary education • Proportion of articles in international collaboration • Number of open access documents on the web per capita • External links received by third parties per capita • Development Knowledge transfer according to companies' perception • Collaborative publications university - industry	20%
Results	• Total absolute and per capita publications • Average impact of publications • Average of institutions in the Top 500 and the three best in the ARWU ranking • Percentage of students and population with tertiary education • Number of full-time researchers per million inhabitants • Unemployment rates among graduates	40%

Table 4. Assessment criteria for the ranking of university systems U21
Source: Own elaboration from U21

The U21 ranking treats the national university systems as a whole, adjusting the results according to the country's level of economic and cultural development.

3. General Rankings

In 2020 there are 55 Spanish universities, 12 more than in 2018, listed in the general published rankings of QS, ARWU and THE and in QS of young universities, ordered according to the best position in one of the three general rankings, as shown in table 5.

University	QS		ARWU-Shanghai	THE
	General	< 50 years		
Universidad de Barcelona	183		151-200	198
Universidad Pompeu Fabra	287	28	301-400	152
Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona	213		201-300	182
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid	200		301-400	301-350
Universidad Complutense de Madrid	206		201-300	501-600
Universidad de Navarra	252		501-600	251-300
Universidad de Valencia	591-600		201-300	401-500
Universidad de Granada	501-510		201-300	601-800
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	311	35	901-1000	801-100
Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña	314	36	701-800	601-1800
Universidad Politécnica de Valencia	326		301-400	801-1000
Universidad del País Vasco	751-800		301-400	801-100
Instituto Empresa	327	37		
Universidad de Zaragoza	501-510		401-500	801-1000
Universidad San Pablo CEU				401-500
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid	451	61-70	501-600	801-1000
Universidad Rovira i Virgili	751-800	101-150	501-600	601-800
Universidad de las Islas Baleares			501-600	601-800
Universidad de Sevilla	581-590		401-500	801-1000
Universidad de Oviedo	801-1000		401-500	801-1000
Universidad de Alcalá	499	71-80	801-900	801-100
Universidad de Santiago de Compostela	701-750		401-500	801-1000
Universidad Jaume I de Castellón			601-700	601-800
Universidad de La Laguna			601-700	601-800
Universidad Ramón Llull	601-650	101-150		
Universidad de Salamanca	601-650		701-800	801-1000
Universidad Pontificia de Comillas	651-700			
Universidad de Vigo			501-600	801-1000
Universidad de Córdoba			701-800	801-100
Universidad Miguel Hernández de Elche			601-700	601-800
Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria			801-900	801-1000
Universidad de Deusto				601-800
Universidad Europea de Madrid				601-800
Universidad Oberta de Cataluña				601-800
Universidad Internacional de Cataluña				601-800
Universidad de Alicante	801-1000		601-700	+1001
Universidad de Castilla la-Mancha			801-900	+1001
Universidad de Murcia	801-1000		701-800	+1001
Universidad Rey Juan Carlos			901-1000	+1001
Universidad de Lleida			701-800	601-800
Universidad de Jaén			701-800	801-1000
Universidad Pablo Olavide			801-900	801-1000

Universidad de Cantabria			801-900	
Universidad de Extremadura			701-800	
Universidad de Girona			801-900	601-800
Universidad de Málaga			701-800	+1001
Universidad de Valladolid			801-900	+1001
Universidad de A Coruña	801-1000			+ 1001
Universidad de Cádiz			901-1000	+1001
Universidad de Almería				`+1001
Universidad de Burgos				+1001
Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena				+ 1001
Universidad de León				+1001
Universidad Católica San Antonio de Murcia				+1001
Universidad Pública de Navarra				+ 1001

Table 5. 55 Spanish universities listed by position in general rankings

Compared to the last report published in 2018, there is an increase of 12 new universities, 6 private and 6 public: Politécnica de Cartagena (UPCT), Cádiz (UCA), Pública de Navarra (UPNA), Católica San Antonio de Murcia (UCAM), Lleida (UdL), Internacional de Cataluña (UIC), Europea de Madrid (UEM), Pontificia de Comillas (Comillas), Instituto de Empresa (IE), San Pablo CEU, Girona (UdG) and Extremadura (UEX).

In general, the top positions of 2018 are repeated, with the UB remaining in the Top -200 of the three rankings.

In young universities under 50, there are 8 Spanish universities (4, one more than in 2018, in the Top-50: UPF, UC3M, UPC and IE) in the QS rankings. The order is the same as in the general ranking when obtaining this general ranking filtered by the number of years the university has been in existence since its foundation.

Table 6 presents the Spanish universities in the Top-100 in the THE and QS 2020 rankings by knowlege area. There are 8 universities in 7 knowledge areas (five in the QS ranking and 2 in the THE ranking).

The best position is for UPF 46 in THE Business and Economics which also occupies the 83rd position in the QS ranking of Social Sciences.

Rankings 2020 por Área de Conocimiento							
	Artes y Humanidades	Ingeniería y Tecnología	Ciencias de la Vida y Medicina	Ciencias Naturales	Ciencias Sociales	Negocios y economía	Derecho
	QS	QS	QS	QS	QS	THE	THE
UPF					83	46	
UAM				76			
UB	93		63	80			
UNAV					83		
UPM		90					
UCM	76						87
UPC		76					
UC3M					92		

Table 6. Spanish Universities in the Top 100 of THE and QS rankings by Knowledge Areas

By knowledge areas, the participation of Spanish universities with the number and percentage of total listed universities and Spanish universities in the Top-300 is as follows:

- **Arts and Humanities:**
    - o **THE: 37 universities out of a total of 536 (6.9%) with 9 in the Top-300: UAB, UB and UCM 101-125, UPF 126-150, UAM and UNAV 201-250, URV, USAL and US 251-300.**
    - o **QS: 16 out of 504 (3.2%) with 8 in the Top-300: UCM 76, UB 93, UAB 130, UAM 155, UNAV 200, UPF 208, USAL 222 and UGR 281.**

- **Engineering and Technology:**
    - o **THE: 40 universities from a total of 1,009 listed universities (3.96%) with 3 in the Top-300: UPF 126-150, UAB 201-250 and UPC 251-300.**
    - o **QS: 14 of a total of 502 (2.8%) with 8 in the Top-300: UPC 76, UPM 90, UB 145, UPV 171, UAB 206, UC3M 215, UCM 229 and UAM 244. Ciencias de la Vida y Medicina**

- **THE Life Sciences: 37 Spanish universities out of a total of 821 listed universities (4.5%) with 4 in the Top-300: UAB and UB 201-250, UAM and URV 251-300**

- **QS Life Sciences and Medicine: 13 out of 502 (2.6%) with 6 in the Top-300: UB 63, UAB 127, UCM 170, UAM 189, UV 229 and UNAV 272.**

- **THE Computer Sciences: 28 Spanish universities out of 750 listed (3.73%) with 5 in the Top-300: UGR 201-250, UAB, UJA, UOC and UPC 251-300.**

• THE Clinic, Pre-clinical and Health: 34 Spanish universities out of a total of 775 (4.38%) with 6 in the Top-300: UAB 101-125, UAM 151-175, UB 176-200, UPF 201-250, UCM, UNAV 251-300.

• THE Psychology: 22 universities out of 494 (4.45%) with 4 in the TOP-300: UB 126-150, UAB, UAM 201-250, UGR 251-300.

• THE Education: 33 universities from a total of 477 listed (6.91%) with 6 in the Top-300: UAM 101-125, UAB 126-150, DEUSTO and USAL 151-175, UB 201-250 and ULE 251-300

• THE Business & Economics: 31 universities out of 632 listed (4.9%) with 5 in the Top-300: UPF 46, UAB 101-125, UNAV 151-175, UC3M 201-250, and DEUSTO 251-300

• THE Law: 7 universities out of 190 listed (3.7%) with 7 in the Top-300: UCM 87, UV 101-125, UB 126-150, UAM, UPV/EHU, UC3M and UGR 151+.

• Social Sciences:
  o THE 33 universities out of 720 listed (4.6%) with 6 in the Top-300: UAB 101-125, UPF 126-150, UAM 201-250, UB, UdL and URV 251-300
  o QS 16 out of 503 (3.2%) with 8 in the Top-300: UNAV and UPF 83, UC3M 92, URLL 118, UAB 124, UCM 129, UB 142 and UAM 153.

• THE Physical Sciences: 37 universities out of 1,055 listed (3.5%) with 7 in the Top-300: UAB 176-200, UAM, UIB, UB, ULL, UPO, URV 251-300

• QS Natural Sciences: 12 Spanish universities from a total of 502 listed (2.4%) with 8 in the Top-300: UAM 76, UB 80, UAB 116, UCM 158, UV 185, UGR 258, UPC 287 and USC 290.

5. Subjects Rankings

Table 7 presents the Spanish universities in the top 50 of the QS and ARWU (underlined in the table) subject rankings. There are 20 universities in 19 disciplines.

In the Top 20 there are 6 Spanish universities: UPM 5 in Civil Engineering (ARWU), UAB 5 in Veterinary Medicine (ARWU), UV 11 in Remote Sensing, UB 14 in Anatomy and Physiology (QS), UCM 17 in Geography (QS) and UPF 19 in Public Health (ARWU).

By universities, the following stand out in the Top-50

- UPM with 6 positions: Civil Engineering (5 at ARWU and 38 at QS), Architecture (35 at QS), Mining and Mineral Engineering (38 at QS), Instrument Science and Technology (46 at ARWU), Mechanical Engineering, Aeronautics and Manufacturing (49 at ARWU)

- UB with 5 positions: Anatomy and Physiology (14 at QS), Library and Information Management (43 at QS), Philosophy (45 at QS), Archaeology (47 at QS) and Clinical Medicine (48 at ARWU).

- UPC with 3 positions: Architecture (21 in QS), Civil and Structural Engineering (23 in QS) and Instrument Science and Technology (42 in ARWU).

- UCM with 3 positions: Dentistry (17 in QS), Veterinary Medicine (14 in ARWU and 34 in QS).

- UAB with 3 positions: Veterinary (5 at ARWU and 31 at QS) and 30 in Geography.

By subject in the Top 50 there are:

- Hospitality. Leisure and Tourism Management with 5 universities: ULPGC (23 in ARWU), EUTH-StPOL - UdG (30 in QS), UA (31 in ARWU), URLL (45 in QS) and UMA (47 in ARWU).

- Food Science and Technology: 4 universities at ARWU: UV (23), UPV (28), UGR (36) and US (44).

- Veterinary Science with 3 universities at UAB (5 at ARWU and 31 at QS), UCM (14 at ARWU and 34 at QS) and UMU (31 at ARWU).

- Business and Management with 3 universities in QS: 21 URLL, 29 UNAV and 31 IE

- Science and Technology of Instruments with 3 universities at ARWU: 42 UPC and 46 UPM.

- Remote Sensing: 2 universities at ARWU: UV (11) and UEX (27).

	IE	UA	UAB	UB	UC3M	UCM	UEX	UGR	ULPGC	UMA	UMU	UNAV	UPC	UPM	UPV	UPF	URLL	US	U St Pol	UV
Anatomy and Physiology				14																
Archaeology				47																
Architecture															21	35				
Geography			30																	
Business and Management	31											29						21		
Civil and Structural Engineering (QS)/Civil Engineering (ARWU)													23	38 / 5						
Dentistry						17														
Economics and Econometrics (QS) and Economics (ARWU)					45												44			
Hospitality. Leisure Management (QS) / Tourism /ARWU)		31							23	47								45		30
Library and Information Management (QS), Library and Information Science (ARWU)				43				32												
Philosophy				45																
Veterinary Science			31 / 5			34 / 14					31									
Food Science and Technology								36							28			50		23
Instrument Science and Technology													42	46						
Mechanical Engineering, Aeronautics and Manufacturing														49						
Mining and Mineral Engineering														38						
Clinical Medicine				48																
Public Health																19				
Remote sensing						27														11

Tabla 7. Universidades españolas en el Top-50 de los rankings por disciplinas QS y ARWU 2020

The Graduate Employability ranking was first conducted by QS in 2019. Table 8 presents the 15 Spanish universities listed in this ranking.

National ranking	University	Global position
1	Universidad de Navarra	71
2	Universidad Politécnica de Madrid	79
3	Universidad de Barcelona	80
4	Universidad Complutense de Madrid	94
5	Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña	111-120
6-8	Universidad Autónoma de Madrid	141-150
6-8	Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	141-150
6-8	Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona	141-150
9-12	Universidad de Alcalá	201-250
9-12	Universidad Politécnica de Valencia	201-250
9-12	Universidad Pontificia de Comillas	201-250
9-12	Universidad Pompeu Fabra	201-250
13-14	Universidad Rey Juan Carlos	251-300
13-14	Universidad de Valencia	251-300
15	Universidad de Sevilla	301-500

Table 8: Spanish universities in the QS 2020 ranking of Graduate Employability

There are 15 Spanish universities out of a total of 499 listed (3%) with 4 universities in the Top-100: UNAV 71, UPM 79, UB 80 and UCM 94.

6. Other rankings: Graduate Employability, Sustainable Development and Teaching

Table 9 presents the 32 Spanish universities listed out of a total of 768 (4.2%) in the THE 2020 ranking with regard to the impact on the fulfilment of the sustainable development objectives of Agenda 2030.

National ranking	University	Global position	Overall score
1	Universidad de Málaga	40	89,7
2	Universidad de Jaén	51	88,4
3	Universidad Pompeu Fabra	53	88,1
4	Universidad de Barcelona	91	84,1
5-18	Universidad de A Coruña	101-200	75,4-83,3
5-18	Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona	101-200	75,4-83,3
5-18	Universidad del País Vasco	101-200	75,4-83,3
5-18	Universidad de Deusto	101-200	75,4-83,3
5-18	Universidad de Girona	101-200	75,4-83,3
5-18	Universidad Miguel Hernández de Elche	101-200	75,4-83,3
5-18	Universidad de Murcia	101-200	75,4-83,3
5-18	Universidad de Navarra	101-200	75,4-83,3
5-18	Universidad Politécnica de Valencia	101-200	75,4-83,3
5-18	Universidad Rovira i Virgili	101-200	75,4-83,3
5-18	Universidad de Salamanca	101-200	75,4-83,3
5-18	Universidad de Valencia	101-200	75,4-83,3
5-18	Universidad de Vigo	101-200	75,4-83,3
5-18	Universidad de Zaragoza	101-200	75,4-83,3
19-23	Universidad de Alcalá	201-300	68,2-75,3
19-23	Universidad de Bugos	201-300	68,2-75,3
19-23	Universidad Jaime I	201-300	68,2-75,3
19-23	Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña	201-300	68,2-75,3
19-23	Universidad Rey Juan Carlos	201-300	68,2-75,3
24-28	Universidad Pontificia de Comillas	301-400	61,5-68
24-28	Instituto de Empresa	301-400	61,5-68
24-28	Universidad de Lérida	301-400	61,5-68
24-28	Universidad Politécnica de Madrid	301-400	61,5-68
24-28	Universidad de Valladolid	301-400	61,5-68
29-32	Universidad de Alicante	401-600	46,7-61,4
29-32	ESIC	401-600	46,7-61,4
29-32	Universidad de La Laguna	401-600	46,7-61,4
29-32	Universidad Pública de Navarra	401-600	46,7-61,4

Table 9: 32 Spanish universities listed in THE 2020 ranking of Impact on Sustainable Development Goals

There are 4 universities in the Top-100: UMA (40), UJA (51), UPF (53) and UB (91).

Table 10 shows the 45 Spanish universities listed out of a total of 258 (17.4%) in the THE ranking of European university teaching.

Ranking nacional	Universidad	Posición global	Puntuación global
1	Universidad de Navarra	3	80,0
2	Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona	12	76,4
3	Universidad Autónoma de Madrid	18	75,4
4	Universidad de Barcelona	29	73,6
5	Instituto de Empresa	33	73,3
6	Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	47	71,8
7-9	Universidad Complutense de Madrid	51-75	67,6-71,4
7-9	Universidad Politécnica de Valencia	51-75	67,6-71,4
7-9	Universidad Pompeu Fabra	51-75	67,6-71,4
10-17	Universidad de Alcalá	76-100	67,1-64,7
10-17	ESIC	76-100	67,1-64,7
10-17	Universidad Pablo Olavide	76-100	67,1-64,7
10-17	Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña	76-100	67,1-64,7
10-17	Universidad Ramón Llull	76-100	67,1-64,7
10-17	Universidad de Salamanca	76-100	67,1-64,7
10-17	Universidad de Valencia	76-100	67,1-64,7
10-17	Universidad de Zaragoza	76-100	67,1-64,7
18-21	Universidad Pontificia de Comillas	101-125	63,1-64,4
18-21	Universidad Rovira i Virgili	101-125	63,1-64,4
18-21	Universidad de Santiago de Compostela	101-125	63,1-64,4
18-21	Universidad de Valladolid	101-125	63,1-64,4
22-23	Universidad del País Vasco	126-150	60,4-63,0
22-23	Universidad de Deusto	126-150	60,4-63,0
24-38	Universidad de A Coruña	151-200	56,9-60,3
24-38	Universidad de Alicante	151-200	56,9-60,3
24-38	Universidad de Almería	151-200	56,9-60,3
24-38	Universidad de Burgos	151-200	56,9-60,3
24-38	Universidad de Castilla La Mancha	151-200	56,9-60,3
24-38	Universidad Católica San Antonio de Murcia	151-200	56,9-60,3
24-38	Universidad de Córdoba	151-200	56,9-60,3
24-38	Universidad Jaume I	151-200	56,9-60,3
24-38	Universidad de Lérida	151-200	56,9-60,3
24-38	Universidad de Málaga	151-200	56,9-60,3
24-38	Universidad Miguel Hernández de Elche	151-200	56,9-60,3
24-38	Universidad de Murcia	151-200	56,9-60,3
24-38	Universidad de Oviedo	151-200	56,9-60,3
24-38	Universidad de Sevilla	151-200	56,9-60,3
24-38	Universidad Politécnica de Madrid	151-200	56,9-60,3
39-45	Universidad de las Islas Baleares	201+	45,8-56,8
39-45	Universidad de Jaén	201+	45,8-56,8
39-45	Universidad de La Laguna	201+	45,8-56,8
39-45	Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	201+	45,8-56,8
39-45	Universidad de León	201+	45,8-56,8
39-45	Universidad Rey Juan Carlos	201+	45,8-56,8
39-45	Universidad de Vigo	201+	45,8-56,8

Table 10: 45 Spanish universities listed in THE 2020 ranking of Teaching in Europe

7. Rankings by University Systems

With respect to the positioning of the Spanish university system as a whole, Table 11 presents the statistics by country in the ARWU ranking in its first 22 positions.

Position	Country	Top 20	Top 100	Top 200	Top 300	Top 400	Top 500	501-1000
1	USA	15	41	65	95	114	133	73
2	United Kingdom	3	8	20	28	34	36	29
3	France	1	5	8	12	16	17	13
4	Switzerland	1	5	7	7	7	8	1
5	Australia	—	7	8	15	22	23	11
6	China	—	6	24	38	57	81	87
7	Germany	—	4	10	19	24	30	19
8	Canada	—	4	9	12	18	19	9
9	Netherlands	—	4	9	10	10	12	1
10	Japan	—	3	7	8	10	14	26
11	Sweden	—	3	5	6	9	11	3
12	Belgium	—	2	4	5	7	7	1
13	Denmark	—	2	3	3	5	5	1
14	Singapore	—	2	2	2	2	2	2
15	Israel	—	1	4	4	4	6	1
16	Norway	—	1	2	2	3	3	2
17	Russia	—	1	1	1	2	3	8
18	Finland	—	1	1	1	2	3	5
19	Italy	—	—	3	7	10	17	29
20	Saudi Arabia	—	—	2	3	3	4	—
21	South Korea	—	—	1	6	9	11	21
22	**Spain**	—	—	1	5	9	13	27

Table 11. Classification by country in ARWU ranking

The country statistics of the ARWU ranking according to the number of universities in each segment of the ranking, are overwhelmingly dominated by the USA, with only 4 countries (USA, UK, Switzerland and France) having universities in the Top 20 and 18 countries having universities in the Top 100.

Spain ranks 22nd (21 in 2018) due to the entry of Saudi Arabia in the 20th position with two universities in the Top 200 for only one, the UB of Spain. Our country has more universities in the Top 500 and in positions 501-1000 than the previous countries (except Italy) from position 12 Belgium to 18 Russia. This confirms a good average positioning of our universities with a lack of presence in the high segments of the ranking.

7. Rankings by University Systems

Finally, within the rankings of university systems, table 12 shows the U21 ranking by country elaborated with the criteria illustrated in table 3.

Position	Country	Overall score	Position 2018
1	United States	100	1
2	Switzerland	88.6	2
3	United Kingdom	84,5	3
4	Sweden	82,9	4
5	Denmark	82,5	5
6	Canada	81,9	8
7	Singapore	81,3	9
8	Australia	80,9	10
9	Finland	80,4	6
10	Netherlands	80,2	6
11	Norway	77,8	12
12	Austria	77,2	11
13	Belgium	73,6	13
14	New Zealand	71,5	14
15	Hong Kong	70,2	17
16	Germany	69,6	15
17	France	67,6	16
18	Israel	67,3	18
19	Ireland	64,7	19
20	Japan	61,7	20
21	Taiwan	60,1	21
22	Saudi Arabia	59,3	23
23	South Korea	57,4	22
24	Spain	**57,3**	**25**
25	Portugal	56,8	24

Table 12. Classification by National Higher Education Systems in U21 ranking

In this U21 ranking, Spain is in 24th position, moving up one place from 2018 by overtaking Portugal. Spain's position and score in each of the 4 criteria is as follows:

Criteria	Position	Score
Resources	30	52,3
Environment	33	74,8
Connectivity	29	48,9
Results	23	46,5

Table 13. Position and Score of Spain in the criteria of the U21 2019 ranking

The best position is obtained in Results and the best score in Environment. In the criteria of connectivity and results, the 50 points out of 100 are not reached.

7. Rankings by University Systems

In the correction for the country's economic level, Spain would fall 7 places to 31st position, which would indicate that according to this ranking the Spanish university system is below what it should be for its economic level but that its score is around what is expected in its level of expenditure on education.

In these country rankings it is interesting to observe the trend of Spain's position in recent years as shown in Figure 1 for the ARWU and U21 rankings.
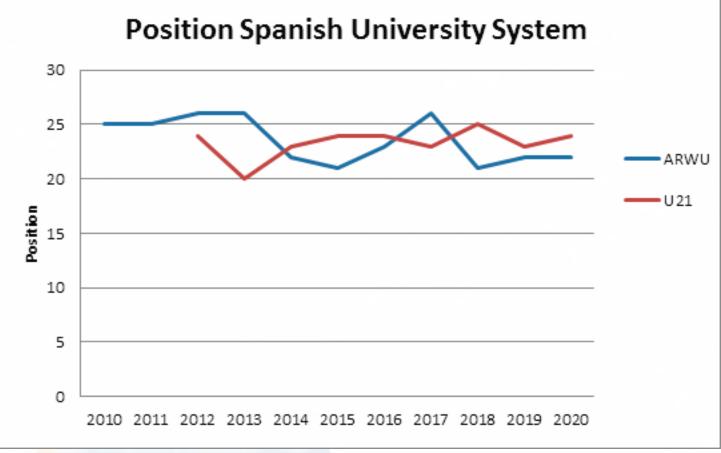

Figure 1. Evolution of the position of the Spanish University System in the ARWU and U21 rankings

Spain's position in these rankings has ranged from 21 to 25 in ARWU and 21 to 26 in U21.

There is a stagnation with annual oscillations that indicate a stable situation, showing the difficulty to advance in these rankings and statistics by countries as long as there are no Spanish universities in the Top-100 of any of the three major rankings

8. Conclusions

In 2020, the Spanish universities with 55 listed universities have gained presence with 12 more universities in the three general rankings THE, QS and ARWU (43 in 2018 and 33 in 2017).

In terms of young universities under 50, Spain has 4 universities in the Top-50 and maintains 8 universities in the Top 150 despite the fact that in 2018 the autonomous universities of Madrid and Barcelona UAM and UAB and the UPV which in 2017 were leading these rankings no longer appear in this ranking as they will be 50 years old in 2018.

This situation shows the strength of the young universities created in Spain in the last 50 years with the expansion of the number of universities to the current 84, with the consolidation of the polytechnics of Madrid, Catalonia and Valencia from the integration of the technical schools and the appearance of other young universities such as UC3M, UPF, UPV/EHU, URV, UAH, URLL.

As in previous years, there are no Spanish universities in the Top-100 in any of the three rankings. This fact is partly a consequence of the score of our universities in the teaching and research indicators considered in these rankings, especially in the THE and ARWU rankings.

The situation is better in the specialized rankings by knowledge areas with 9 universities in 7 subject areas in the Top 100, maintaining the result of previous years despite the increase in the number of universities considered in these rankings.

The relevance of Spanish universities is maintained in the more specialized subject rankings with 20 universities in 19 disciplines in the Top 50 of the subject rankings QS and ARWU and even 6 universities in the Top 20: UPM 5th in Civil Engineering, UAB 9th in Veterinary Science, UV 11 in Remote Sensing, UB 14 in Anatomy and Physiology (QS), UCM 17 in Geography (QS) and UPF 19 in Public Health (ARWU).

As with the general rankings in the specialized areas of knowledge and subject rankings, it is in the indicators of teaching, research and internationalization, where Spanish universities have more room to improve their score and climb positions in these rankings that generally recognize good performance in research, citations and reputation.

It is worth mentioning the presence of Spanish universities in the new rankings of Graduate's Employability (QS), Impact on Sustainable Development and Teaching in the EHEA, with universities in the Top-100 in all of them: 4 in the QS Employability, 4 in the THE Sustainable Development and 6 in THE Teaching in Europe. As already stated in previous PRISUE reports, it is this good position of Spanish universities by young universities, knowledge areas and subjects and the new rankings of Employability, Sustainable Development and Teaching in Europe, which must be better communicated and put into value, in contrast to the media's emphasis on the absence of Spanish universities in the high segments of generalist rankings.

The fact that the three rankings have been extended in terms of subjects and number of universities listed, has led to greater competition in the high segments of the rankings with a decrease in the presence of our universities in them but with a greater total number of Spanish universities listed.

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