

PRISUE report 2025

Position of Spanish universities in the main international rankings



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Spanish Service for the Internationalisation of Education, SEPIE



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **PRISUE 2025** report analyses the position of Spanish universities in the main international higher education rankings published in 2025. The study focuses on the three global rankings with the greatest academic impact — the Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), the QS World University Rankings (QS-WUR) and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (THE-WUR) — as well as their subject-based rankings and specific classifications related to sustainability, social impact and academic reputation.

In the global rankings, **61 Spanish universities** appear in at least one of the three rankings analysed, reflecting a broad presence of the Spanish university system in international classifications. Of these, 27 universities are simultaneously ranked in all three global rankings, 15 appear in two rankings and 19 in only one. This distribution reflects a consolidated international positioning, shaped by methodological differences between rankings.

By ranking, **Shanghai-ARWU 2025** includes **36 Spanish universities**; **QS World University Rankings 2026** ranks **38 universities**, three of which are placed within the top 200; and **THE World University Rankings 2026** includes **57 Spanish universities**, with three in the top 200 and eight in the top 500.

In **subject rankings**, Spanish universities show particularly strong participation, with multiple institutions ranked among the world's top 100. In Shanghai-GRAS 2025, Spanish universities are represented in the top 100 across all five broad subject areas, with notable concentrations in Engineering, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences.

Performance at subject level is even more favourable: 25 Spanish universities are ranked among the top 100 worldwide in at least one subject, and in three subjects — Remote Sensing, Food Science & Technology and Dentistry — Spanish universities reach top-20 positions in Shanghai-GRAS and QS World University Rankings by Subject, highlighting specific strengths of the Spanish university system.

Sustainability rankings provide complementary insights. In the QS Sustainability Rankings 2026, 58 Spanish universities are included, nine of them within the top 300. The THE Impact Rankings 2025 include 52 Spanish universities, with a significant presence in the upper bands of the overall classification.

Finally, the THE World Reputation Rankings 2025 include seven Spanish universities, reflecting an internationally recognised academic reputation concentrated in a limited group of institutions.

Overall, **PRISUE 2025** offers a structured overview of the positioning of Spanish universities in the main international rankings. The results identify consolidated strengths and areas for improvement, providing an informed basis for interpreting rankings and analysing the Spanish university system in an international context.



1. INTRODUCTION

The internationalisation of Spanish higher education has consolidated over recent decades as a strategic priority, within a context of increasing global interdependence in teaching, research and innovation. Spanish universities actively participate in international academic cooperation networks, mobility programmes, collaborative research projects and strategic alliances with higher education institutions worldwide.

This process of internationalisation has been accompanied by increased international visibility of the Spanish university system and a growing need for tools to analyse its relative positioning in a global context. In this regard, international university rankings have become one of the most widely used instruments for providing comparative perspectives on institutional performance, across dimensions such as research activity, academic reputation, internationalisation, graduate employability and social impact.

In an environment characterised by growing academic competition and methodological diversity, international rankings constitute a relevant — though not exhaustive — reference for analysing higher education systems, provided they are interpreted with caution and in line with their respective objectives and methodologies.

Against this background, the present edition of the PRISUE report (Positioning of Spanish universities in the main international rankings) aims to analyse the position achieved by Spanish universities in the main international rankings published in 2025, offering a systematic and contextualised perspective on the standing of the Spanish university system in the international arena.



2. INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS

There are numerous global rankings produced and published by different types of organisations, including magazines, specialised private entities, higher education institutions and public bodies, offering a wide range of approaches, methodologies and data sources.

The most widely disseminated global university rankings are:

- ShanghaiRanking rankings
- Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) rankings
- Times Higher Education (THE) rankings

ShanghaiRanking, QS and THE publish annual global university rankings, as well as rankings by broad subject areas and subjects, in addition to other specific classifications focusing on particular themes or regions.

In 2025, the following rankings from these organisations were published:

ShanghaiRanking rankings:

- Academic Ranking of World Universities 2025 (Shanghai-ARWU)
- Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2025 (Shanghai-GRAS)
- Best Chinese Universities Ranking 2025

Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) rankings:

- QS World University Rankings 2026 (QS-WUR)
- QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025 (QS-WURS)
- QS Sustainability Rankings 2026
- QS Best Student Cities 2026
- QS Global MBA Rankings 2026
- QS Business Master's Rankings 2026
- QS International Trade Rankings 2026

Times Higher Education (THE) rankings:

- THE World University Rankings 2026 (THE-WUR)
- THE World University Rankings by Subject 2025 (THE-WURS)
- THE Regional University Rankings
- THE Impact Rankings 2025
- THE Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2026
- THE World Reputation Rankings 2025

This report analyses the positioning of Spanish universities in the following international rankings published during 2025:

Global rankings:

- Academic Ranking of World Universities 2025 (Shanghai-ARWU)
- QS World University Rankings 2026 (QS-WUR)
- THE World University Rankings 2026 (THE-WUR)



Rankings by areas and subjects:

- Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2025 (Shanghai-GRAS)
- QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025 (QS-WURS)
- THE World University Rankings by Subject 2025 (THE-WURS)

Sustainability rankings:

- QS Sustainability Rankings 2026
- THE Impact Rankings 2025

Other rankings:

- THE World Reputation Rankings 2025

Through this analysis, the report seeks to understand how higher education institutions in Spain are positioned on the global stage, the standing of the Spanish university system in the international context, and the potential implications of these results in areas such as talent attraction, international cooperation, and institutional visibility and reputation.



3. SHANGHAI – ACADEMIC RANKING OF WORLD UNIVERSITIES (SHANGHAI-ARWU)

3.1. Key features

The Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) was first published in June 2003 by the Center for World-Class Universities (CWCU) of the Graduate School of Education (formerly the Institute of Higher Education) at Shanghai Jiao Tong University (China), and has been updated annually since then. Since 2009, ARWU has been published and copyrighted by ShanghaiRanking Consultancy, an independent organisation specialising in higher education intelligence and consultancy.

In 2025, as in previous years, ARWU evaluates more than 2,500 institutions worldwide and publishes the **top 1,000 universities**.

Institutions ranked within the top 100 are assigned an exact numerical position. Beyond this threshold, ARWU reports results in ranking bands, and institutions within the same band are listed in alphabetical order.

In 2025, Harvard University leads the ranking for the 23rd consecutive year, followed by Stanford University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The remainder of the top 10 includes: the University of Cambridge (4th), the University of California, Berkeley (5th), the University of Oxford (6th), Princeton University (7th), Columbia University (8th), the California Institute of Technology – Caltech (9th), and the University of Chicago (10th).

In continental Europe, Paris-Saclay University (13th) remains the highest-ranked institution, followed by ETH Zurich (22nd). In Asia, Tsinghua University (18th) rises four positions and becomes the highest-ranked Asian university.

By country, the United States maintains its leading position, with 37 universities in the top 100 (and 111 in the top 500), followed by mainland China (13) and the United Kingdom (8).

Within the European context, Spain ranks among the countries with the highest number of universities represented, with **36 institutions** included in the 2025 edition. This places Spain at a level comparable to countries such as France or Italy, although behind Germany and the United Kingdom, which show broader representation. This distribution reflects the participation of the Spanish university system in an international ranking with relatively selective institutional coverage.

3.2. Methodology

The Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) is a research-focused ranking that classifies universities based on six objective indicators grouped into four broad categories.

The methodology remains unchanged compared with the previous edition (2024), with no modifications to indicators, weightings or data sources. Changes in results are exclusively due to the annual updating of the data used.



Indicators

For each indicator, the institution with the highest score receives a value of 100 points, and the scores of other universities are calculated as a percentage of this maximum value.

1. Quality of education (10 %)

Measures the number of alumni who have won a Nobel Prize or a Fields Medal.

2. Quality of faculty (40 %), assessed through:

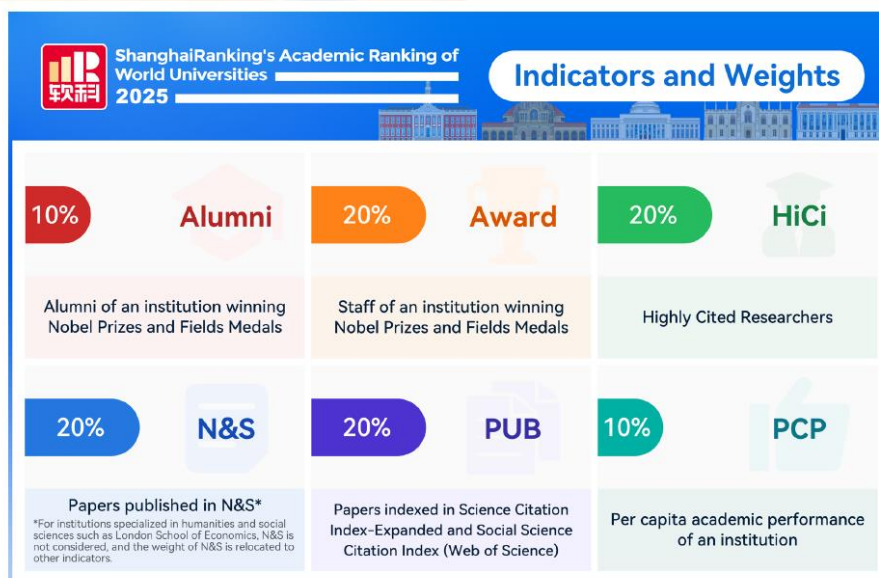
- Staff winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals (20%)
- Highly Cited Researchers (20%), according to the list published by Clarivate

3. Research output (40%), through:

- Papers published in Nature and Science (20%), weighted by authorship
- Papers indexed in the Science Citation Index–Expanded (SCI-E) and Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) (20%), included in Web of Science

4. Per capita academic performance (10%)

- PCP Indicator (Per Capita Performance): This indicator measures an institution's academic performance by dividing the aggregated score of the previous indicators by the number of full-time academic staff. The data are drawn from official national or regional sources (ministries, statistical offices, university associations, or rectors' conferences). In cases where reliable information on academic staff is not available, an average value calculated from the universities included in the ranking is applied.



Source: Shanghairankings
<https://www.shanghairanking.com/>

Data sources

ARWU relies exclusively on external and verifiable sources, including Nobel Prize and Fields Medal organisations, Clarivate (Highly Cited Researchers), Nature and Science, Web of Science (SCI-E and SSCI), and official statistics from public bodies.

The ranking does not conduct reputation surveys or collect data directly from institutions, reinforcing its focus on objective research performance.

3.3. Position of Spanish universities in SHANGHAI-ARWU 2025

Overall analysis

In the 2025 edition of ARWU, **36 Spanish universities** are included among the top 1,000 institutions worldwide.

The highest-ranked Spanish university is the *Universitat de Barcelona*, which remains in the 151–200 band.

The Universitat de València is placed in the 201–300 band, while a broad group of Spanish universities appears in the 301–400 band, including the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, the University of Granada and the University of the Basque Country.

Compared with the previous edition (ARWU 2024), the presence of Spanish universities remains stable, both in the total number of institutions included and in the composition of the top-ranked group. The *Universitat de Barcelona* continues to lead among Spanish universities, followed by the *Universitat de València*, with no significant changes in the upper ranking bands.

Indicator-based analysis

Spanish universities' positioning in ARWU 2025 is mainly driven by **indexed scientific publications (PUB)**, the primary source of international visibility. In this indicator, the Universitat de Barcelona and the Universidad Complutense de Madrid achieve the highest scores among Spanish institutions.

Per capita academic performance (PCP) is the second strongest indicator, with the Universitat Pompeu Fabra achieving the highest national score. This university also attains the best performance in Nature and Science publications (N&S), followed by the Universitat de Barcelona.

In the **Highly Cited Researchers** indicator, the universities of Barcelona and Granada obtain the highest Spanish scores, although only a limited number of Spanish institutions score in this indicator, reflecting the high international concentration of highly cited researchers.



Regarding **Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals**, the Universidad Complutense de Madrid is the only Spanish university scoring in the alumni indicator, while no Spanish institution scores in the staff award indicator.

Overall, the Universitat de Barcelona records the highest scores across the greatest number of indicators, consolidating its position as the Spanish university with the strongest relative performance in ARWU 2025.



36 Spanish universities

Top 300

Universitat de Barcelona (151–200)

Universitat de València (201–300)

Most highly valued indicator (average)

Indexed scientific publications (PUB)



4. QS – WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS (QS-WUR)

4.1. Key features

The QS World University Rankings (QS-WUR) is one of the international rankings with the greatest global impact. It is produced by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a British company specialising in the analysis of higher education institutions, founded in 1990 by Nunzio Quacquarelli.

The first edition of this global ranking was published in 2004 in collaboration with Times Higher Education (THE), with the aim of providing comparative data on university performance. In 2009, the two organisations separated and began publishing independent university rankings based on different methodologies: the QS World University Rankings and the THE World University Rankings.

In its 2026 edition, published in 2025, the QS World University Rankings evaluates more than 8,400 universities and ranks over **1,500 institutions** from more than 100 countries and territories.

Institutions ranked within the top 699 receive a specific overall score. From position 700 onwards, universities are grouped into ranking bands (for example, 701–710) and do not receive an overall score, although they are assigned a score for each individual indicator.

In this edition, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) retains the top global position for the 14th consecutive year, followed by Imperial College London (2nd) and Stanford University (3rd). In the United Kingdom, Imperial College London remains the highest-ranked institution, ahead of the University of Oxford (4th) and the University of Cambridge (6th), while Harvard University ranks 5th.

By country, the QS World University Rankings 2026 shows a strong concentration of universities in large higher education systems, with the United States and the United Kingdom being the most represented countries.

Within the European context, Spain is among the countries with broad representation, with **38 universities** included in the 2026 edition. This places Spain at a level comparable to other large European systems such as Italy or France, and ahead of countries with smaller higher education systems. This reflects the participation of the Spanish university system in an international ranking with a wide institutional base.

4.2. Methodology

The QS World University Rankings (QS-WUR) classifies universities based on an overall score calculated using a combination of quantitative and qualitative indicators that assess different dimensions of institutional performance. Universities receive both an overall score and a specific score for each indicator, allowing performance to be analysed across individual dimensions.

In the QS World University Rankings 2026, the methodology is structured around nine weighted indicators, grouped by QS into five broad dimensions (“lenses”), with the addition of an informational indicator on international student diversity that does not affect the overall score.



Overall, the QS methodology places a clear emphasis on academic reputation and research impact, complemented by growing attention to employability, internationalisation and sustainability. This approach tends to favour universities with high international visibility, strong global networks and consolidated recognition among academics and employers.

Ranking priorities: dimensions (“lenses”) and weightings

Research and Academic Reputation (Research and Discovery 50%)

This is the highest-weighted dimension in the ranking, reflecting QS’s clear emphasis on international academic reputation and research impact.

Institutions that perform strongly in this area are typically characterised by high research output, wide dissemination of their work through academic citations, and well-established recognition within the global academic community.

It includes:

- **Academic Reputation (30%)**, based on international surveys of academics worldwide, assessing the perceived prestige and academic excellence of institutions.
- **Citations per Faculty (20%)**, calculated using bibliometric data from Elsevier’s Scopus database, measuring the impact and visibility of research output, normalised by institutional size.

This dimension tends to favour universities with strong research performance, significant international presence, and consolidated academic recognition.

Employability and Outcomes (20%)

The second most significant dimension assesses the relationship between the university and the labour market, as well as the professional impact of its graduates.

Institutions that perform strongly in this area typically enjoy high recognition among employers, demonstrate solid graduate employability and career success, and maintain strong, stable links with the business and productive sectors.

It includes:

- **Employer Reputation (15%)**, based on international surveys of employers.
- **Employment Outcomes (5%)**, which analyses graduate employability and professional achievements.

This dimension introduces a clear focus on labour market outcomes, a perspective that is less prominently represented in other international rankings.



Learning Experience (10%)

This dimension assesses the teaching environment and the resources available to students.

Institutions that perform well in this area typically have a higher ratio of academic staff to students and demonstrate the capacity to attract and retain highly qualified faculty and researchers.

It includes:

- **Faculty-to-Student Ratio (10%)**, used as an indicator of academic support and the potential quality of the teaching and learning environment.

Although its weighting is lower than that of research or reputation, this indicator introduces a dimension more directly linked to the educational experience.

Global Engagement (15%)

This dimension analyses the degree of internationalisation and global collaboration of institutions.

Universities that perform strongly in this area typically offer more diverse academic and cultural environments for both students and academic staff, and demonstrate active participation in international mobility networks and research collaboration.

It includes:

- **International Faculty Ratio (5%)**
- **International Research Network (5%)**, based on co-authored publications with institutions in other countries
- **International Student Ratio (5%)**

QS also publishes an additional indicator on **International Student Diversity**, which in the 2026 edition does not carry weight in the overall score but is included for informational and analytical purposes.

This dimension tends to favour universities with an active international strategy in both teaching and research.

Sustainability 5 %

This dimension assesses institutional performance in areas related to sustainable development and contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

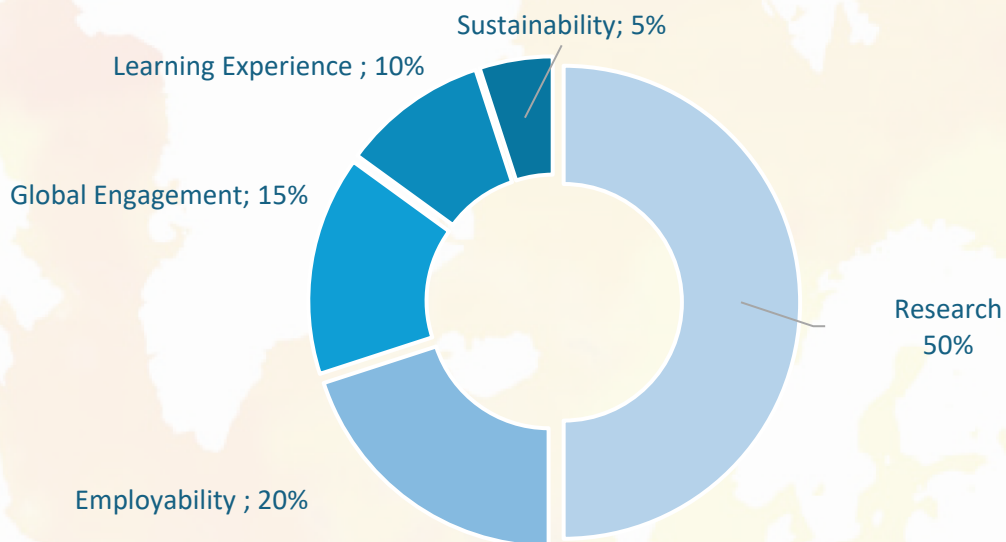
It includes:

- **Sustainability (5%)**, calculated on the basis of specific indicators defined by QS.

Although its weighting is limited, this indicator introduces an emerging dimension linked to the social and environmental impact of universities.



QS-WUR 2026



Data sources and eligibility

The data sources used by the QS World University Rankings (QS WUR) are primarily drawn from:

- International academic and employer reputation surveys
- Bibliometric data from Elsevier's Scopus database
- Data submitted directly by higher education institutions
- External sources, such as public authorities and data agencies

Eligibility

Not all higher education institutions are automatically included in the QS World University Rankings (QS WUR). Before being considered for inclusion, universities must meet a set of minimum eligibility criteria defined by QS. Therefore, appearing in the ranking implies that the institution has undergone a prior process of selection and validation and meets minimum standards in terms of academic visibility, research activity, and international recognition, in line with the ranking's methodology.

To be considered eligible, an institution must:

- Be officially recognised as a higher education institution in its country or territory.
- Demonstrate sufficient research activity to allow for the use of bibliometric data derived from Scopus.
- Provide valid and verifiable institutional data, either submitted directly by the institution or obtained from external sources.
- Participate in the ranking's evaluation processes, including data collection mechanisms and reputation surveys.



4.3. Position of Spanish universities in QS-WUR 2026

Overall results

In the QS World University Rankings 2026, **38 Spanish universities** are included. Three are ranked among the world's top 200: the Universitat de Barcelona (160), the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (172) and the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (187). A further three Spanish universities are placed within the top 300: the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (206), the University of Navarra (262) and the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (265).

Compared with the previous edition (QS-WUR 2025), three Spanish universities enter the ranking, 13 improve their position, seven remain stable and 15 record a decline in position or band.

Results by indicator

Spanish universities achieve their highest average scores in the **International Research Network** indicator, with an average score of 67.7 out of 100. Leading institutions include the Universitat de Barcelona (96.4), the University of Granada (96.4) and the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (93.7).

In **Academic Reputation**, the average score is 29.3, with the Universitat de Barcelona (84.9), the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (78.5) and the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (76.4) standing out.

In **International Students**, IE University (100) and the Universidad Europea de Madrid (96.1) record the highest scores, followed by the University of Navarra (84.0).

In the **Faculty-to-Student Ratio** indicator, the highest score is achieved by the University of Alcalá (72.5), followed by the European University of Madrid (56.6) and the University of Zaragoza (54.6).

In the **Citations per Faculty** indicator, the top-performing institutions are the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (76.2) and Universitat Pompeu Fabra (70.6), followed by the Universitat Rovira i Virgili (48.0).

Regarding the **International Faculty Ratio**, the ranking is led by IE University (94.0), followed by Universitat Pompeu Fabra (84.7) and Universitat Ramon Llull (80.4).

In the **Employment Outcomes** indicator, the highest score corresponds to the Complutense University of Madrid (97.3), followed by Comillas Pontifical University (87.1) and Universitat Ramon Llull (81.2).



38 Spanish universities

Top 300

Universitat de Barcelona (160)
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (172)
Universidad Complutense de Madrid (187)
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (206)
University of Navarra (262)
Universitat Pompeu Fabra (265)

Most highly valued indicator (average)

International Research Network



In the **Sustainability** indicator, which carries a 5% weighting in the overall QS WUR 2026 score, Spanish universities achieve an average of 63.4, placing them at a comparatively high level relative to the other indicators analysed. Leading institutions in this dimension include the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (90.3), the University of Barcelona (84.7), and the Complutense University of Madrid (80.4), followed by several polytechnic and comprehensive universities. This distribution reflects varying degrees of development and institutionalisation of sustainability policies within the Spanish university system.

Finally, it is worth highlighting that, in terms of indicator leadership within the Spanish higher education system, several institutions concentrate the highest scores in specific dimensions: IE University leads in both international student and international faculty ratios; the University of Barcelona achieves the highest score in academic reputation and shares leadership in the international research network indicator with the University of Granada; and the Complutense University of Madrid leads in employment outcomes.



5. THE – WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS (THE – WUR)

5.1. Key features

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings (THE-WUR) are published annually by Times Higher Education. As with the QS ranking, the first edition of the global ranking was published in 2004 in collaboration with Quacquarelli Symonds (QS). Following the separation of the two organisations, the THE World University Rankings have been published in their current format since 2010, based on a distinct and proprietary methodology.

THE-WUR is the international ranking that includes the largest number of universities worldwide. The 2026 edition, published in autumn 2025, ranks **more than 2,100 universities**, following a preliminary assessment of over 2,300 institutions globally. Universities ranked within the top 200 receive an exact overall score, while institutions ranked below this threshold are grouped into position bands (for example, 201–250, 251–300), with corresponding score intervals. Regardless of their position in the overall ranking, all universities receive a score for each individual indicator.

In the THE World University Rankings 2026, the University of Oxford retains first place globally, particularly leading in research-related indicators. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) ranks second, while the University of Cambridge and Princeton University share third place, followed by Harvard University.

By country, the United States is the most represented higher education system in THE-WUR 2026, with 171 institutions included, and also shows the strongest presence among the highest-ranked universities.

Within Europe, Spain ranks among the countries with the highest number of universities represented, with **more than 50 institutions** included, at a level comparable to other large European systems such as Italy and Germany, and ahead of France. This reflects the participation of the Spanish university system in a ranking with broad institutional coverage.



● 5.2. Methodology

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings (THE-WUR) evaluate overall university performance across the core missions of teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook.

The methodology remains stable compared with the previous edition (2025), with no changes to the number of indicators or their weightings, and continues to be based on the model introduced in 2012, with minor adjustments to data sources and normalisation processes.

Indicators

THE-WUR uses **13 indicators**, grouped into **five pillars**, each with a specific weighting:

Teaching (29.5%)

This pillar assesses the quality of the teaching and learning environment within institutions.

It includes the following indicators:

- **Teaching Reputation Survey (15%)**, based on an international survey of academics, with more than 40,000 responses distributed across geographical regions and academic subjects.
- **Faculty-to-Student Ratio (4.5%)**
- **Doctoral-to-Bachelor's Ratio (2%)**, as an indicator of the intensity of advanced teaching provision.
- **Doctorates Awarded per Academic Staff (5.5%)**
- **Institutional Income (2.5%)**

Research Environment (29%)

This pillar measures the volume, income, and reputation of research activity.

It includes the following indicators:

- **Research Reputation Survey (18%)**
- **Research Income (5.5%)**, adjusted for purchasing power parity (PPP).
- **Research Productivity (5.5%)**, measured by the number of publications indexed in Elsevier's Scopus database per academic staff member.

Research Quality (30%)

This pillar evaluates the influence and dissemination of the knowledge generated by the institution, based on bibliometric data from Elsevier's Scopus database.

It includes the following indicators:

- **Citation Impact (15%)**
- **Research Strength (5%)**
- **Research Excellence (5%)**
- **Research Influence (5%)**



International Outlook (7.5%)

This pillar assesses the degree of institutional internationalisation.

It includes the following indicators:

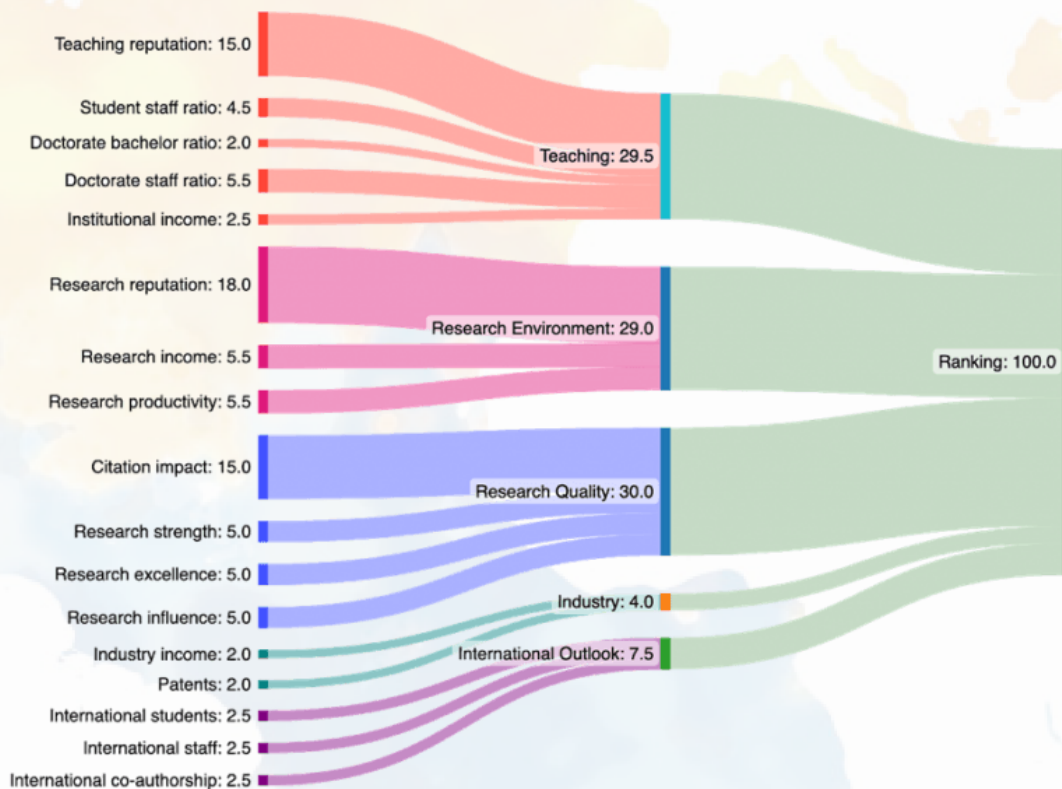
- **International Student Ratio (2.5%)**
- **International Faculty Ratio (2.5%)**
- **International Research Collaboration (2.5%)**, measured as the percentage of publications with international co-authorship.

Industry (Knowledge Transfer) (4%)

This pillar measures the university's capacity to transfer knowledge to industry.

It includes the following indicators:

- **Industry Income (2%)**, normalised by academic staff, as an indicator of businesses' willingness to fund university research and the level of university–industry interaction.
- **Patents (2%)**



Source: World University Rankings 2026: methodology

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/methodology>



Data sources

For the preparation of the ranking, THE combines:

- International academic reputation surveys
- Data submitted by higher education institutions and external entities
- Bibliometric data from Elsevier's Scopus database

Eligibility

Not all higher education institutions are automatically included in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (THE WUR). Only universities that meet the following **seven eligibility criteria** may be analysed and included in the global ranking.

Therefore, appearing in the ranking indicates that the institution meets minimum requirements in terms of academic activity, research output, and data availability, regardless of its final position.

The eligibility criteria established by THE for the 2026 edition are as follows:

1. **Publications:** The institution must have published more than 1,000 relevant publications over the previous five years and at least 100 relevant publications in at least one of those years.
2. **Undergraduate Teaching:** The institution must provide undergraduate teaching, normally evidenced by the awarding of recognised academic degrees. Postgraduate-only institutions are not eligible.
3. **Disciplinary Diversity:** The institution must not be overly specialised in a single academic field; those where more than 80% of research output derives from one subject area are excluded.
4. **Data Provision:** The institution must have submitted the required institutional data for the ranking year.
5. **Critical Indicators:** The institution must not have more than two missing or unavailable critical data points among the following: academic staff, international academic staff, research staff, students, international students, outgoing mobility students, degrees awarded, doctorates awarded, institutional income, research income, and research income from industry and commerce.
6. **Subject Coverage:** The institution must declare activity in at least one applicable subject area.
7. **Exclusion List:** The institution must not appear on the exclusion list, which includes universities that have requested not to participate or that are deemed ineligible for specific reasons.

Universities that meet criteria 4 (data provision), 6 (subject coverage), and 7 (exclusion list), but not all of the remaining criteria, are not included in the ranked list and do not receive a score. However, they appear at the end of the ranking as "Reporters", unless they have opted not to be listed under this category.



5.3. Position of Spanish universities in THE-WUR 2026

Overall results

The THE World University Rankings 2026 include **57 Spanish universities**. Three are ranked within the top 200 worldwide: the Universitat de Barcelona (149), the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (157) and the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (176). A further eight Spanish universities are placed within the top 500 bands.

Compared with the previous edition (THE-WUR 2025), nine Spanish universities improve their position, three enter the ranking, 21 remain stable, and 24 decline in position or band.

Results by indicator

Spanish universities perform particularly well in **Research Quality**, where the University of Vic – Central University of Catalonia (92.3) and the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (91.8) stand out.

In **International Outlook**, leading institutions include the University of Navarra (74.3), the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (70.2) and the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (69.1).

In **Teaching**, the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona achieves the highest Spanish score (36.8).

In **Research** environment, the Universitat de Barcelona leads (45.1), while in **Industry Income**, the University of Navarra records the highest score (68.4).

Considering the top three scores across the five main pillars, the Universitat Pompeu Fabra shows the most balanced performance among Spanish universities, ranking among the top three nationally in four of the five pillars.



57 Spanish universities

Top 300

Universitat de Barcelona
Universitat de Autònoma de Barcelona
Universitat Pompeu Fabra
University of Navarra

Most valued indicator (average)

Research Quality



6. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE THREE GLOBAL RANKINGS

6.1. Comparison of ranking methodologies

Despite differences in their methodologies and the indicators employed, the three international rankings analysed — Shanghai-ARWU, QS World University Rankings (QS WUR) and Times Higher Education World University Rankings (THE WUR) — share the common objective of assessing the overall performance of universities, albeit through clearly differentiated methodological approaches.

The **Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU)** adopts the most research-focused approach, allocating 80% of the total score to indicators directly linked to research excellence (publications, citations, highly cited researchers and major scientific awards). Teaching and other institutional dimensions carry very limited weight, and the ranking does not include specific indicators on internationalisation or reputation, reinforcing its emphasis on measurable scientific outcomes.

The **QS World University Rankings (QS WUR)** follows a multidimensional approach structured around five broad dimensions or “lenses”, combining indicators related to academic reputation, research impact, employability, learning experience, internationalisation and sustainability. Within this framework, research and academic reputation account for the largest share of the weighting (50%), followed by employability and professional outcomes (20%).

The **Times Higher Education World University Rankings (THE WUR)** is characterised by a more balanced distribution between teaching, research and knowledge transfer, assessing university performance across five broad pillars. Research-related indicators — encompassing both research environment and research quality and impact — account collectively for 60% of the total score, while teaching represents 30%. International outlook and knowledge transfer complete the model.

With regard to internationalisation, the three rankings display clearly differentiated approaches. QS WUR and THE WUR incorporate specific indicators relating to the proportion of international students and faculty, as well as international research collaboration, although with moderate weightings in the overall score. By contrast, ARWU does not include explicit internationalisation indicators, as it focuses exclusively on scientific and academic performance.

Taken together, these methodological differences largely explain the divergences observed in institutional results and positioning across the rankings. They also highlight the importance of interpreting outcomes in light of each ranking’s specific approach and priorities, avoiding direct comparisons between systems with distinct objectives and methodologies.



METHODOLOGY WORLD RANKINGS PUBLISHED IN 2025					
ACADEMIC RANKING OF WORLD UNIVERSITIES		QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS		THE World University Rankings	
EDUCATION 10%		EDUCATION 10%		EDUCATION 6,5%	
Former students awarded Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals	10%	Teacher-student ratio	10%	Ratio of teaching staff to students	4.5%
				Ratio of PhDs to graduates	2%
RESEARCH 80%		RESEARCH 20%		RESEARCH 30%	
Highly cited researchers	20%	Citations by faculty	20%	Citations	15%
Staff with Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals	20%			Strength in research	5%
Publications in Natural Sciences and Sciences	20%			Research excellence	5%
Publications indexed in SCI and SSCI	20%			Influence of research	5%
		REPUTATION 50%		REPUTATION 33%	
		Academic reputation	30%	Reputation in research	18%
		Employer reputation	15%	Teacher reputation	15%
		Employment outcomes	5%		
		INTERNATIONALISATION 15%		INTERNATIONALISATION 18,5%	
		Ratio of international teachers	5%	Ratio of PhDs awarded to academic staff	5,5%
		Ratio of international students	5%	Research income	5,5%
		International Research Network	5%	Ratio of international students	2,5%
				Ratio of international staff	2,5%
				International collaboration	2,5%
OTHERS 10%		OTHERS 5 %		OTHERS 12%	
Per capita academic performance	10%	Sustainability	5%	Research productivity	5,5%
				Institutional income	2,5%
				Industry revenue	2,0%
				Patents	2,0%
TOTAL 100%		TOTAL 100%		TOTAL 100%	

Excerpt from Annex 4_Methodology of the world rankings Shanghai-ARWU, QS-WUR and THE-WUR

6.2. Position of Spanish universities across the three rankings

Across the three rankings published during the year — ARWU 2025, QS-WUR 2026 and THE-WUR 2026 — **61 Spanish universities** (47 public and 14 private) appear in at least one ranking, representing approximately 64% of the Spanish university system.

Of these, 27 universities appear in all three rankings, 15 in two rankings and 19 in only one.

Seven Spanish universities are ranked among the world's top 300 in at least one ranking: the Universitat de Barcelona, the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, the Universitat de València and the University of Navarra.





At least in 1 ranking
61 Spanish universities

In the 3 rankings
27 universidades españolas

Top 300
Universitat de Barcelona
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid
Universidad Complutense de Madrid
Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Universitat de València
University of Navarra



From a comparative perspective, the University of Barcelona and the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona stand out as the Spanish institutions with the strongest overall performance, ranking in advanced positions in both the QS WUR and the THE WUR, while also maintaining a prominent presence in the Shanghai ARWU. This reflects a balanced performance across rankings with differing priorities and methodological approaches.

WORLD RANKING 2025 - 2026			
SPANISH UNIVERSITIES			
	2025	2026	2026
Universities			
Universitat de Barcelona	151-200	160	145
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona	301-400	172	183
Universitat Pompeu Fabra	301-400	265	187
Universidad de Navarra	501-600	262	251-300
Universidad Autònoma de Madrid	301-400	206	351-400
Universidad Complutense de Madrid	301-400	187	501-600
Universitat de Valencia	201-300	430	501-600
Universidad de Granada	301-400	401	601-800
Universitat Rovira Virgili	601-700	771-780	601-800
Universidad del País Vasco	301-400	624	601-800
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	701-800	392	601-800
Universitat Politècnica de Valencia	401-500	422	601-800
Universidade de Santiago de Compostela	501-600	628	601-800

Excerpt from Annex 5. Position of Spanish universities in global rankings
Shanghai-ARWU 2025, QS-WUR 2026, and THE-WUR 2026



7. RANKINGS BY SUBJECT AREAS AND SUBJECTS

7.1. Key features

In addition to the global rankings analysed in the previous sections of this report, ShanghaiRanking, QS and Times Higher Education (THE) publish annual classifications of the best universities by broad subject areas or subjects, typically listing between 500 and 1,000 universities worldwide.

The editions of these subject-based rankings published in 2025 and analysed in this report are:

- Shanghai Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2025 (Shanghai-GRAS)
- QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025 (QS-WURS)
- THE World University Rankings by Subject 2025 (THE-WURS)

	Shanghai-GRAS 2025	QS-WURS 2025	THE-WURS 2025
AREAS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Arts and Humanities2. Engineering and Technology3. Life Sciences and Medicine4. Natural Sciences5. Social Sciences and Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Natural Sciences2. Engineering3. Biological Sciences4. Medical Sciences5. Social Sciences	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Arts and Humanities2. Business and Economy3. Education4. Law5. Social Sciences6. Computer Science7. Engineering8. Medicine and Health9. Biological Sciences10. Physical Sciences11. Psychology
DISCIPLINES	57 subjects	55 subjects	33 subjects

Although the naming and structuring of areas and subjects differ across the three rankings, for analytical purposes they can be broadly aligned with one another and with the classifications commonly used within the Spanish university system.

Overall, Spanish universities show particularly strong results in these international subject-based rankings, achieving higher levels of representation and positioning than in the global rankings.



7.2. Shanghai Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2025 (SHANGHAI-GRAS)

The **Shanghai Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2025 (Shanghai-GRAS)** ranks universities across **57 academic subjects**, grouped into **five broad subject areas**:

1. Natural Sciences
2. Engineering
3. Life Sciences
4. Medical Sciences
5. Social Sciences

According to the official **GRAS 2025 methodology**, this ranking is based exclusively on **objective indicators** and data from external sources, and **does not incorporate academic reputation surveys**.

GRAS uses a set of objective indicators organised into five categories:

- World-Class Faculty (including major awards, Highly Cited Researchers, journal editors and leadership roles in academic organisations)
- World-Class Output (publications in leading journals and conferences)
- High-Quality Research (publications in Q1 journals)
- Research Impact (Category Normalised Citation Impact – CNCI)
- International Collaboration

Elements such as leading journals, academic awards and professional organisations are identified through the **Academic Excellence Survey** conducted by ShanghaiRanking, which serves as a technical instrument for defining reference lists. The weighting of indicators is adjusted by subject to reflect differences between academic fields.





ShanghaiRanking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2025

Ranking Indicators

World-Class Faculty

Laureate International Award Laureates

HCR Highly Cited Researchers

Editor Chief Editors of International Academic Journals

Leadership International Academic Organization Leadership

World-Class Output

TJ Top Journal Papers

Award International Academic Awards

High Quality Research

Q1 Q1 Journal Papers

Research Impact

CNCI Category Normalized Citation Impact

International Collaboration

IC International Collaborated Papers

Source: Shanghairankings

<https://www.shanghairanking.com/>



Spanish universities ranked among the world's top 100 across the five subject areas

<p>NATURAL SCIENCES</p> <p>34 Spanish universities included 5 ranked in the top 100</p> <p>Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (46) Universitat de Barcelona (51-71) Universidad Complutense de Madrid (51-71) University of Granada (51-71) University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (51-71)</p>	<p>ENGINEERING</p> <p>34 Spanish universities included 12 ranked in the top 100:</p> <p>University of Extremadura (12) University of Vigo (17) Universitat de València (43)</p>
<p>LIFE SCIENCES</p> <p>35 Spanish universities included 4 ranked in the top 100:</p> <p>Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (23) University of Córdoba (40) Universidad Complutense de Madrid (49) University of Murcia (50)</p>	<p>MEDICAL SCIENCES</p> <p>33 Spanish universities included 1 ranked in the top 100:</p> <p>Universidad Complutense de Madrid (80)</p>
<p>SOCIAL SCIENCES</p> <p>35 Spanish universities included 3 ranked in the top 100:</p> <p>University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (34) Universitat Pompeu Fabra (42) University of Alicante (45)</p>	

7.3. QS World University Rankings by Subject (QS-WURS) 2025

The QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025 (QS-WURS) differentiates between **five broad subject areas**, subdivided into **55 subjects**.

The five subject areas are:

1. Arts and Humanities
2. Engineering and Technology
3. Life Sciences and Medicine
4. Natural Sciences
5. Social Sciences and Management

Spanish universities show a particularly strong presence among the world's top 100 institutions across all five subject areas in the QS rankings.



The university with the highest position across all subject areas is the Universitat de Barcelona, ranked 55th worldwide in Life Sciences and Medicine. The institutions with the greatest number of top-100 placements are the Universitat de Barcelona and the Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

Spanish universities ranked in the QS top 100 by subject area

<p>SOCIAL SCIENCES AND MANAGEMENT</p> <p>14 Spanish universities</p> <p>Top 100:</p> <p>Universitat de Barcelona (79) Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (88)</p>	<p>ARTS AND HUMANITIES</p> <p>19 Spanish universities</p> <p>Top 100:</p> <p>Universidad Complutense de Madrid (60) Universitat de Barcelona (83)</p>
<p>NATURAL SCIENCES</p> <p>14 Spanish universities</p> <p>Top 100:</p> <p>Universitat de Barcelona (79) Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (88)</p>	<p>ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY</p> <p>14 Spanish universities</p> <p>Top 100:</p> <p>Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (86) Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (97)</p>
<p>LIFE SCIENCES AND MEDICINE</p> <p>17 Spanish universities</p> <p>Top 100:</p> <p>Universitat de Barcelona (55)</p>	



● 7.4. THE World University Rankings by Subject 2025 (THE-WURS)

The THE World University Rankings by Subject 2025 (THE-WURS) identifies **11 broad subject areas**, grouping **33 subjects**:

1. Arts and Humanities
2. Business and Economics
3. Education
4. Law
5. Social Sciences
6. Computer Science
7. Engineering
8. Clinical and Health
9. Life Sciences
10. Physical Sciences
11. Psychology

In the 2025 edition, the ranking uses a set of **18 performance indicators**, organised into the same five broad pillars as the THE World University Rankings: Teaching, Research Environment, Research Quality, International Outlook, and Industry (knowledge transfer).

However, although the overall structure of indicators remains consistent, the methodology is specifically recalibrated for each subject area. The weightings of the indicators are adjusted to better reflect the particular characteristics of each subject. In particular, the weights assigned to research-related indicators are adapted to account for different publication and citation cultures.

For example, in fields such as Arts and Humanities, where research outputs are not limited to articles published in indexed academic journals, the weighting of the citation indicator is significantly reduced, while other indicators — such as academic reputation — are strengthened. In subjects such as Social Sciences and Law, the weight of citations is also reduced. By contrast, in fields with a strong tradition of publishing in scientific journals — such as Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, Psychology, and Clinical and Health Sciences — the weighting of citation impact is increased.

This approach enables THE's subject rankings to provide a more accurate and context-sensitive comparison of university performance, taking into account the structural differences across academic fields.



Spanish universities are ranked among the top 100 worldwide in 4 of the 11 broad subject areas.

<p>BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS 43 Spanish universities included Top 100:</p> <p>Universitat Pompeu Fabra (82) Universidad de Navarra (84)</p>	<p>ARTS AND HUMANITIES 43 Spanish universities included Top 100:</p> <p>Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (68) Universidad Complutense de Madrid (72) Universitat de Barcelona (77)</p>
<p>CLINICAL AND HEALTH 43 Spanish universities included Top 100:</p> <p>Universitat de Barcelona (73)</p>	<p>LAW 33 Spanish universities included Top 100:</p> <p>Universidad Complutense de Madrid (80)</p>
<p>ENGINEERING 44 Spanish universities SOCIAL SCIENCES 44 Spanish universities EDUCATIONAL STUDIES 45 Spanish universities LIFE SCIENCES 41 Spanish universities PHYSICAL SCIENCES 38 Spanish universities COMPUTER SCIENCE 41 Spanish universities PSYCHOLOGY 36 Spanish universities</p>	



7.5. Comparative analysis of Spanish universities' positioning across the three subject-based rankings

The presence of Spanish universities in subject-based rankings is more pronounced than in the global rankings (Shanghai-ARWU 2025, QS-WUR 2026 and THE-WUR 2026), with 25 Spanish universities ranked among the world's top 100 in at least one subject.

In three subjects, Spanish universities are ranked among the top 20 worldwide in Shanghai-GRAS and QS World University Rankings by Subject:

- Remote Sensing (Shanghai-GRAS): University of Extremadura (12)
- Food Science & Technology (Shanghai-GRAS): University of Vigo (17)
- Dentistry (QS-WURS): Universidad Complutense de Madrid (14)

RANKINGS BY SUBJECT AREA

Top 100
25 Spanish universities

- Top 20**
- Remote Sensing (Shanghai)
 - Food Science & Technology (Shanghai)
 - Dentistry (QS)

Subjects with more than three Spanish universities in the top 100

Arts and Humanities

- Arts and Humanities (THE-WURS): Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (68), Universidad Complutense de Madrid (72), Universitat de Barcelona (77)
- Archaeology (QS-WURS): Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Universitat de Barcelona (all 51–100)
- Classics and Ancient History (QS-WURS): Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, University of Salamanca (51–150)
- Modern Languages (QS-WURS): Universidad Complutense de Madrid (48), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (72), Universitat de Barcelona (84), Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (85), University of Salamanca (85)

Life Sciences and Medicine

- Dentistry (QS-WURS): Universidad Complutense de Madrid (14), Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (50), University of Santiago de Compostela, Universitat de Barcelona, University of Granada (51–120)
- Veterinary Sciences (Shanghai-GRAS): Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (23), University of Córdoba (40), Universidad Complutense de Madrid (49), University of Murcia (50), University of León, University of Zaragoza (76–100)



Natural Sciences

- Mathematics (Shanghai-GRAS): Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, University of Granada (51–75), Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Universitat de Barcelona (76–100)

Social Sciences and Management

- Hospitality & Tourism Management (Shanghai-GRAS): University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (34), University of Alicante (45), Universitat Rovira i Virgili (51–75), University of Granada, Universitat de València (76–100)
- Hospitality and Leisure Management (QS-WURS): Sant Pol de Mar School of Hospitality and Tourism (14), Universitat de Barcelona, Universitat Ramon Llull (51–100)
- Accounting and Finance (QS-WURS): University of Navarra (64), Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (84), IE University (96)
- Anthropology (QS-WURS): Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Universitat de Barcelona (51–100)
- Business and Management Studies (QS-WURS): ESADE Business School – Universitat Ramon Llull (24), IE University (32), IESE Business School – University of Navarra (42)
- Development Studies (QS-WURS): Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Universitat de Barcelona (51–100)
- Economics and Econometrics (QS-WURS): Universitat Pompeu Fabra (33), Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (77), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (91)
- Library and Information Management (QS-WURS): Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, University of León, University of Zaragoza, Universitat de Barcelona, Universitat Politècnica de València (51–100)
- Marketing (QS-WURS): Universitat Ramon Llull (23), IE University (47), University of Navarra (50)
- Sports-related Subjects (QS-WURS): Universitat de Barcelona, Universitat de València, University of Granada (51–100)



8. SUSTAINABILITY RANKINGS

In recent years, sustainability has become a key strategic dimension in higher education, in which universities play a fundamental role not only as generators of knowledge, but also as agents of social, economic and environmental transformation. In this context, international sustainability rankings constitute a relevant tool for analysing and comparing the level of institutional commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as for highlighting the contribution of universities in areas that go beyond teaching and research.

QS and Times Higher Education (THE) publish specific rankings that assess university performance in terms of sustainability, understood in a broad sense encompassing environmental, social and governance (ESG) dimensions. These rankings therefore complement the general classifications focused primarily on teaching and research.

	QS Sustainability Rankings 2026	THE Impact Rankings 2025
Total universities	>2,000	> 2,000
Spanish universities	58	52
Top 300	9	11

8.1. QS Sustainability Rankings 2026

The QS Sustainability Rankings was first published in 2023 and has since become an established classification specifically designed to assess institutional performance in sustainability. The 2026 edition ranks **2,022 universities worldwide**.

This ranking employs a methodology based on a set of indicators designed to measure the capacity of higher education institutions to address major environmental, social and governance (ESG) challenges. The indicators are structured around two broad areas: Environmental sustainability, which includes aspects related to sustainable institutions, sustainable education and sustainable research; and Social impact, which incorporates dimensions such as equality, knowledge exchange, educational impact, employability and opportunities, and quality of life.

In the 2026 edition, Lund University (Sweden) tops the global ranking, followed by the University of Toronto (Canada) and UCL (United Kingdom).

The presence of Spanish universities in this ranking is significant, with **58 institutions** represented — approximately 60% of the Spanish university system — of which nine are ranked among the top 300 worldwide.

The highest-ranked Spanish university is the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, placed 83rd globally. This is followed by the Universitat de Barcelona (139) and the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (197).






8.2. THE Impact Rankings 2025












The THE Impact Rankings, produced by Times Higher Education (THE), aims to measure the contribution of universities to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).




The 2025 edition of the THE Impact Rankings includes **2,318 universities worldwide**. Universities receive a score and a ranking based on their activities related to each SDG for which they submit data, and individual rankings are published for each of the 17 SDGs. In order to be included in the overall ranking, universities must submit data for at least four SDGs, with SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) being mandatory.

In the 2025 edition, a total of **52 Spanish universities** participates in the THE Impact Rankings. Several Spanish institutions are positioned in the upper bands of the overall ranking, including the Universitat Politècnica de València, the Universitat de Barcelona and the University of Jaén, all of which are ranked in the 101–200 band, together with a further eight Spanish universities placed in the 201–300 band.

The following table provides a synthetic overview of the participation and positioning of Spanish universities in the THE Impact Rankings 2025 sub-rankings corresponding to each of the 17 SDGs. For each goal, the table presents the total number of universities ranked worldwide, the number of participating Spanish universities, and the highest-ranked Spanish institution. This allows for a comparative identification of the areas in which the Spanish university system shows greater presence and stronger relative performance across the different SDGs.

	Total universities	Total Spanish universities	Highest-ranked Spanish universities
	1.267	24	UMH (101-200)
	955	21	U. Pública de Navarra (21)
	1.788	39	U. de Granada (62)

4 EDUCACIÓN DE CALIDAD 	1.975	46	U. de Barcelona (27)
5 IGUALDAD DE GÉNERO 	1.559	45	U. Rovira i Virgili (44)
6 AGUA LIMPIA Y SANEAMIENTO 	1.042	25	U. de Jaén (64)
7 ENERGÍA ASEQUIBLE Y NO CONTAMINANTE 	1.181	32	U. de Jaén (46)
8 TRABAJO DECENTE Y CRECIMIENTO ECONÓMICO 	1.350	37	UMH (42)
9 INDUSTRIA, INNOVACIÓN E INFRAESTRUCTURA 	1.156	29	UPV (101-200)
10 REDUCCIÓN DE LAS DESIGUALDADES 	1.261	34	U. de València (81)
11 CIUDADES Y COMUNIDADES SOSTENIBLES 	1.154	27	UMH (101-200)
12 PRODUCCIÓN Y CONSUMO RESPONSABLES 	973	30	URJC (55)
13 ACCIÓN POR EL CLIMA 	1.089	35	U. Barcelona (57)
14 VIDA SUBMARINA 	711	18	U. Málaga (100)

15 VIDA DE ECOSISTEMAS TERRESTRES 	854	21	URJC (101-200)
16 PAZ, JUSTICIA E INSTITUCIONES SÓLIDAS 	1.214	35	U. Pompeu Fabra (13)
17 ALIANZAS PARA LOGRAR LOS OBJETIVOS 	2.389	52	UPV (101-200)

Analysis by Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)

The analysis of results by SDG in the THE Impact Rankings 2025 reveals relevant differences in the participation and performance of Spanish universities depending on the goal considered.

In absolute terms, SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) is the goal with the highest participation of Spanish universities, with 52 institutions included. This is consistent with the transversal nature of this goal and with its mandatory status for inclusion in the overall ranking.

In relative terms, considering the total number of universities ranked worldwide for each SDG, the highest relative Spanish participation is observed in SDG 13 (Climate Action), where 35 Spanish universities represent the largest proportion of institutions relative to the total evaluated in this sub-ranking.

Finally, with regard to individual best performance, the highest position achieved by a Spanish university in the SDG rankings corresponds to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), in which the Universitat Pompeu Fabra is ranked 13th worldwide, reflecting a particularly strong performance in this specific area.

9. THE – WORLD REPUTATION RANKINGS

9.1. General characteristics

The THE World Reputation Rankings, produced by Times Higher Education (THE), provides a specific classification focused exclusively on the global academic reputation of universities. Unlike the overall world university ranking, this classification is based solely on the results of the **Academic Reputation Survey** conducted annually by THE among academics worldwide, without incorporating bibliometric indicators or institutional data.

The 2025 edition of the THE World Reputation Rankings includes a limited number of universities globally, selected from among those receiving the highest levels of recognition from their academic peers. Institutions are grouped into ranking bands, and no detailed numerical scores are published.

9.2. Position of Spanish universities in THE World Reputation Rankings 2025

In the 2025 edition, a total of **seven Spanish universities** are included in the THE World Reputation Rankings. The Spanish institutions featured in this classification are as follows:

- Universitat de Barcelona, ranked in the 101–150 band
- Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Universidad Complutense de Madrid and Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, all ranked in the 151–200 band
- University of Granada and Universitat de València, included in the 201–300 band

The presence of Spanish universities in this ranking highlight that a small group of institutions within the Spanish university system has achieved sufficient levels of international visibility and academic recognition to be included in a classification based exclusively on reputational perception. These reputational standing complements the results observed in the overall and subject-based rankings analysed throughout this report.



10. CONCLUSIONS

The analysis presented in this report shows that Spanish universities have a broad and solid presence in the main international higher education rankings published in 2025.

The favourable positioning of Spanish higher education institutions in these classifications entails international recognition and enhances their capacity to attract international students, academic staff and researchers, thereby strengthening diversity and academic quality. Moreover, this positioning acts as an indicator of prestige that reinforces the international reputation of universities and can have a significant impact on areas such as talent attraction, the development of academic and scientific collaborations, and the ability to compete at a global level.

It should be emphasised that the mere presence of a university in the listings published by the main international rankings already implies compliance with demanding eligibility criteria. In this respect, the participation of a significant number of Spanish universities in these classifications should be interpreted as a positive indicator of visibility and academic activity, beyond the specific position occupied in the ranking.

From this perspective, it is worth recalling some of the quantitative results presented in this report for the Shanghai, QS and THE rankings. Across the **global rankings** as a whole, 61 Spanish universities — more than 60% of the Spanish university system — are ranked in at least one of the three main international rankings analysed. In Shanghai-ARWU 2025, 36 Spanish universities are included, two of them among the top 300; in QS-WUR 2026, 38 universities are ranked, with six among the top 300; and in THE-WUR 2026, 57 Spanish universities appear, of which two are ranked among the top 200 and eight among the top 500.

In subject rankings, Spanish participation is even more significant in certain fields. By way of example, three Spanish universities are ranked among the world's top 20 in three subjects, and 35 universities are positioned within the top 100 worldwide in at least one subject.

Sustainability rankings also present noteworthy results. Spain's participation in the QS Sustainability Rankings 2026 is particularly significant, with 58 Spanish universities included, nine of which are ranked among the top 300. In the THE Impact Rankings 2025, 52 Spanish universities are ranked, and 11 of them are placed among the top 200 worldwide.

In light of these results, it can be concluded that the performance of Spanish universities in international rankings is satisfactory, particularly in subject- and subject-based rankings. In addition, sustainability rankings highlight the growing role of universities in the sustainable development agenda and underline the usefulness of these classifications for measuring and showcasing their contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Nevertheless, although the overall results are positive, the information gathered in this report makes it possible to identify **areas of opportunity** and points for reflection that may contribute to improving positioning in international rankings and strengthening institutional competitiveness, with the aim of continuing to enhance the international standing of Spanish universities.

In this regard, understanding the differences between rankings and their methodologies is essential for higher education institutions to align their strategies with those classifications that best reflect their institutional profile. For example, volume-based rankings such as *Shanghai-*



ARWU or global rankings tend to be more suitable for large institutions, while subject-based rankings are better able to capture the performance of universities with different characteristics.

With respect to the indicators that determine positioning in global rankings, the data show that bibliometric indicators related to research output contribute most strongly to the performance of Spanish universities in Shanghai-ARWU and THE-WUR, while in QS-WUR particular weight is placed on international research networks and academic reputation. By contrast, room for improvement is identified in other areas, such as the concentration of Highly Cited Researchers (Shanghai-ARWU), knowledge transfer (THE-WUR), or international faculty (QS-WUR).

In conclusion, the position of Spanish universities in the main international rankings constitutes a relevant element for the Spanish higher education system, with potential effects on talent attraction, the strengthening of academic and scientific cooperation, and the international projection of Spanish higher education. In a dynamic and highly competitive global context, it is essential to continue conducting systematic and critical monitoring of international rankings and their methodologies, using instruments such as the PRISUE report to provide up-to-date information that supports analysis, strategic reflection and informed decision-making.



11. ANNEXES

Annex 1. Position of Spanish universities in SHANGHAI-ARWU 2025

WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS (SHANGHAI-ARWU) 2025									
SPANISH UNIVERSITIES									
Nº	World Ranking	Universities	National ranking	Alumni	Award	HiCi	N&S	PUB	PCP
1	151-200	Universitat de Barcelona	1	0,0	0,0	18,6	15,2	49,2	27,4
1	201-300	Universitat de Valencia	2	0,0	0,0	11,4	11,0	44,0	17,8
1	301-400	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona	3-8	0,0	0,0	0,0	11,0	44,3	26,4
1	301-400	Universidad Autónoma de Madrid	3-8	0,0	0,0	6,6	10,5	38,2	20,6
1	301-400	Universidad Complutense de Madrid	3-8	16,1	0,0	0,0	11,7	45,2	16,5
1	301-400	Universitat Pompeu Fabra	3-8	0,0	0,0	6,6	18,5	26,8	31,3
1	301-400	Universidad de Granada	3-8	0,0	0,0	11,4	7,9	40,4	14,9
1	301-400	Universidad del País Vasco	3-8	0,0	0,0	6,6	13,6	36,5	19,6
1	401-500	Universitat Politècnica de Valencia	9-10	0,0	0,0	13,2	9,3	31,0	14,9
1	401-500	Universidad de Sevilla	9-10	0,0	0,0	6,6	6,5	37,1	13,1
1	501-600	Universidad de Navarra	11-14	0,0	0,0	14,7	5,4	24,2	20,7
1	501-600	Universidad de Salamanca	11-14	0,0	0,0	6,6	7,7	27,0	15,9
1	501-600	Universidade de Santiago Compostela	11-14	0,0	0,0	6,6	9,4	30,5	16,2
1	501-600	Universidad de Zaragoza	11-14	0,0	0,0	6,6	6,5	31,8	14,5
1	601-700	Universidad Politécnica de Madrid	15-19	0,0	0,0	0,0	7,3	30,4	14,4
1	601-700	Universidad de Alicante	15-19	0,0	0,0	6,6	7,7	24,6	14,4
1	601-700	Universidad de Murcia	15-19	0,0	0,0	6,6	3,6	26,9	13,9
1	601-700	Universidad de Oviedo	15-19	0,0	0,0	6,6	5,8	26,8	13,8
1	601-700	Universitat Rovira i Virgili	15-19	0,0	0,0	9,3	5,2	22,1	23,1
1	701-800	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	20-25	0,0	0,0	0,0	4,4	27,5	17,1
1	701-800	Universidad de Alcalá	20-25	0,0	0,0	0,0	8,2	25,3	16,9
1	701-800	Universidad de Cantabria	20-25	0,0	0,0	6,6	5,3	20,0	16,7
1	701-800	Universidad de Extremadura	20-25	0,0	0,0	9,3	4,0	21,9	14,1
1	701-800	Universidad de La Laguna	20-25	0,0	0,0	0,0	11,1	24,5	16,4
1	701-800	Universidad de las Islas Baleares	20-25	0,0	0,0	6,6	4,5	21,6	17,8
1	801-900	Universidad de Jaén	26-29	0,0	0,0	6,6	2,1	20,9	14,7
1	801-900	Universitat de Lleida	26-29	0,0	0,0	9,3	3,9	17,4	18,9
1	801-900	Universidad de Málaga	26-29	0,0	0,0	0,0	5,3	27,4	13,1
1	801-900	Universidade de Vigo	26-29	0,0	0,0	0,0	4,4	24,4	14,4
1	901-1000	Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	30-36	0,0	0,0	0,0	4,4	22,4	14,2
1	901-1000	Universidad Jaume I	30-36	0,0	0,0	6,6	2,5	19,2	14,7
1	901-1000	Universidad de Cádiz	30-36	0,0	0,0	0,0	5,5	21,1	13,8
1	901-1000	Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha	30-36	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,5	25,6	12,9
1	901-1000	Universidad de Córdoba	30-36	0,0	0,0	0,0	2,9	23,8	15,5
1	901-1000	Universitat de Girona	30-36	0,0	0,0	0,0	3,6	21,9	20,9
1	901-1000	Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	30-36	0,0	0,0	6,6	2,5	18,4	13,2
36			Media	0,45	0,00	5,45	6,97	28,34	17,08

INDICATORS		
Alumni	Alumni with Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals	10%
Award	Staff with Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals	20%
HiCi	Highly cited researchers	20%
N&S	Articles published in Nature and Science*	20%
PUB	Indexed articles	20%
PCP	Per capita academic performance	10%

Reference: <https://www.shanghairanking.com/rankings/arwu/2025>



Annex 2. Position of Spanish universities in QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2026

WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS (QS-WUR) 2026
SPANISH UNIVERSITIES

Nº	World Ranking	Universities	General	Academic reputation	Employer reputation	Citations	Teachers/Students	International	Internal	Internal investiga	Employability	Sustainability
1	160	Universitat de Barcelona	61	84,9	48,9	47,8	19	40,8	39,9	96,4	77	84,7
1	172	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona	59,2	76,4	42,1	76,2	15,2	27,2	26,5	93,7	30,4	90,3
1	187	Universidad Complutense Madrid	57,1	78,5	73,9	12,8	41,6	32,9	18,2	92,7	97,3	80,4
1	206	Universidad Autónoma de Madrid	55	73,1	71,5	26,5	39,7	29,6	22,3	92,5	52,5	72,5
1	262	Universidad de Navarra	49,3	40,8	78,2	25,3	50,6	84	26,8	58,3	80,5	66,1
1	265	Universitat Pompeu Fabra	49	43,7	39,5	70,6	19,1	40	84,7	75,8	23	66,4
1	301	Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	45,4	45,2	65,3	8,1	50,5	75,2	73,8	67,8	26,3	77,3
1	334	Universidad Politécnica de Madrid	42,3	43	67,8	19,6	24,8	45,2	4,3	81,9	69,4	70,7
1	392	Universidad Politécnica de Catalunya	38,2	40,8	32,8	27	42,5	31	16,7	84	35,7	77
1	401	Universidad de Granada	37,4	59,3	24,3	26,3	11,2	31,7	9,9	96,4	13,1	58,4
1	422	Universitat Politècnica de Valencia	36,2	38	27,6	31,2	35,3	41,5	7,7	85,8	22,4	79,5
1	430	Universidad de Valencia	35,7	49,7	17,2	31	17,3	39,4	2,7	91,4	16,5	74,1
1	436	Universitat Ramon Llull	35,2	17,5	72,5	15,5	10,3	68	80,4	31,3	81,2	56,7
1	438	IE University	35,1	12,7	70,4	3,8	47,6	100	94	6,4	70,4	53
1	469	Universidad de Sevilla	33,7	52,7	20,6	15,1	23,4	25,8	5,1	90,8	22,1	66,1
1	526	Universidad de Salamanca	30,9	36,9	23,5	11,8	36,8	25,9	10,2	86,3	33,4	70,8
1	581	Universidad Pontificia Comillas	28,9	12,3	76,7	4,1	48,4	11,2	25,4	10,4	87,1	49,2
1	624	Universidad del País Vasco	27,5	28,6	10,8	27,8	38,4	6,3	3	90,1	31,2	51,5
1	628	Universidade de Santiago de Compostela	27,4	33,9	16	27,6	17,5	11,8	3	77,3	20	62,4
1	638	Universidad de Zaragoza	27,1	29,7	9,9	15,6	54,6	10,2	2,3	89,2	14,8	69,7
1	697	Universidad de Alcalá	25,1	13,8	10,2	10,8	72,5	50,9	11,8	79,4	11,8	72,1
1	771-780	Universitat Rovira i Virgili	N/A	9,5	4,5	48	19,9	28,4	9,8	82,2	1,8	65
1	781-790	Universidad de Alicante	N/A	21,1	11,5	14,2	36	21,4	11,5	79,3	10,4	70,9
1	851-900	Universidade de Vigo	N/A	14	9,1	32,5	15,4	11,4	4,5	81,5	5,1	72,7
1	901-950	Universidad de Oviedo	N/A	18,2	8,4	11,6	34,1	6	5,8	74	11,9	63,7
1	901-950	Universidad de Valladolid	N/A	16,1	6,4	7,1	41,2	7,7	9,6	84,9	20,3	59,2
1	901-950	Universidad Europea de Madrid	N/A	7,7	19,7	3	56,6	96,1	14,4	11,6	10,7	45
1	951-1000	Universidad de Córdoba	N/A	15,5	6,5	18,1	32,8	N/A	N/A	79,5	5,9	46
1	1001-1200	CEU University	N/A	7,3	20,8	3,1	26,5	58,4	8,4	16,5	16,6	35,6
1	1001-1200	Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha	N/A	10,7	4,7	17,9	22	9,7	2,7	70,4	7,9	46,9
1	1001-1200	Universidad de León	N/A	10,4	7,1	9,6	52,1	20,6	3,7	46,6	3,5	60,7
1	1001-1200	Universidad Rey Juan Carlos	N/A	12,5	16,9	9,4	11,5	20,3	24,2	65,3	14,5	64
1	1001-1200	Universidade da Coruña	N/A	8,5	7,1	13,8	29,3	9,4	3,5	61,7	3,6	61,1
1	1001-1200	Universitat de Lleida	N/A	7,4	3,7	21,5	27,5	16,2	7,3	56,4	5,2	59,1
1	1001-1200	Universitat Jaume I	N/A	7,7	3,3	28,4	20,8	24,1	4,8	51,1	1,7	59,6
1	1001-1200	Universidad de Deusto	N/A	8,9	29,8	14,3	7,4	29,9	8,8	29,1	52,2	31,6
1	1001-1200	Universidad de Murcia	N/A	15,3	5,4	14,9	24,9	7	N/A	77,9	4,9	64,4
1	1201-1400	UCAM	N/A	9,6	5,6	7,5	9,9	43,8	14,6	23,9	1,8	41,4
38			Average	29,26	28,16	21,30	31,16	33,49	19,51	67,68	28,79	63,05

INDICATORS		
Academic Reput.	Academic reputation	30%
Employer Reput.	Employer reputation	15%
Citations	Citations by faculty	20%
Faculty/Students	Teacher-to-pupil ratio	10%
Int. Faculty	Proportion of international teachers	5%
Int. Students	Percentage of international students	5%
Int. Research	International Research Network	5%
Employment	Employability	5%
Sustainability	Sustainability	5%

Reference: <https://www.topuniversities.com/world-university-rankings>



Annex 3. Position of Spanish universities in THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2026




WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS (THE-WUR) 2026								
SPANISH UNIVERSITIES								
Nº	World ranking	Universities	General	Teaching	Research	Citations	Industry income. Knowledge	International perspective
1	145	Universitat de Barcelona	62.0	44.0	47.8	88,5	92,4	64,6
1	183	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona	59.8	44.9	44.8	84,6	73,3	69,5
1	187	Universitat Pompeu Fabra	59.5	36,6	45,3	87,5	81,6	80,1
1	251-300	Universidad de Navarra	54.3-56.3	37,2	34,1	81,9	90,7	74,4
1	351-400	Universidad Autónoma de Madrid	49.9-51.5	41,8	31,3	73,4	66,5	56,2
1	501-600	Universidad Complutense de Madrid	43.6-46.1	43,7	34,5	57,6	56,6	49,1
1	501-600	Universitat de Valencia	43.6-46.1	31,8	27,7	70,9	68,5	52,6
1	601-800	Universitat Politècnica de Valencia	39.0-43.5	32,3	26,2	50,4	86,8	57,2
1	601-800	Universitat Rovira i Virgili	39.0-43.5	28,2	25,1	62,5	57,5	57,6
1	601-800	Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	39.0-43.5	34,2	22,6	58,7	75,8	61,7
1	601-800	Universidad de Granada	39.0-43.5	31,3	29,7	60,9	60,7	53,4
1	601-800	Universidade de Santiago de Compostela	39.0-43.5	30,8	23,1	60,9	48,2	48,4
1	601-800	Universidad del País Vasco	39.0-43.5	31,1	21,9	63,3	61,5	45,0
1	801-1000	Universidad Carlos III Madrid	35.5-38.9	32,6	21,7	45,7	66,7	62,6
1	801-1000	Universitat Oberta de Catalunya	35.5-38.9	18,5	20,5	68,3	32,8	50,0
1	801-1000	Universidad Pablo de Olavide	35.5-38.9	23,2	19,4	57,3	55,8	52,2
1	801-1000	Universitat Ramon Llull	35.5-38.9	20,8	17,6	63,2	36,5	73,7
1	801-1000	Universidad de Alcalá	35.5-38.9	29,2	17,0	54,3	47,8	59,6
1	801-1000	Universidad de Córdoba	35.5-38.9	27,4	20,7	60,4	45,8	50,6
1	801-1000	Universidad de Jaén	35.5-38.9	23,9	20,7	67,0	39,2	50,2
1	801-1000	Universitat de Lleida	35.5-38.9	23,2	20,3	59,6	61,4	43,3
1	801-1000	Universidad de Salamanca	35.5-38.9	32,0	24,8	47,9	46,6	54,5
1	801-1000	Universidad de Sevilla	35.5-38.9	24,9	27,9	55,8	60,4	47,4
1	801-1000	Universidad de las Islas Baleares	35.5-38.9	27,9	16,9	56,6	38,4	52,1
1	801-1000	Universitat de Vic - Central University of Catalonia	35.5-38.9	21,4	14,1	70,8	23,6	55,8
1	801-1000	Universidade de Vigo	35.5-38.9	25,2	19,8	60,9	60,1	49,8
1	1001-1200	Universidad Europea de Madrid	32.1-35.4	24,8	10,0	61,2	18,5	65,5
1	1001-1200	Universidad Jaume I	32.1-35.4	25,7	21,9	50,4	46,7	44,3
1	1001-1200	Universidad Politécnica de Madrid	32.1-35.4	27,8	18,1	45,7	71,2	53,8
1	1001-1200	Universitat Internacional Catalunya	32.1-35.4	26,1	11,2	50,2	21,3	69,9
1	1001-1200	Universidad de Alicante	32.1-35.4	27,6	21,2	47,9	56,1	41,7
1	1001-1200	Universidad de Almería	32.1-35.4	22,7	21,2	51,0	34,5	45,0
1	1001-1200	Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha	32.1-35.4	24,0	17,9	52,8	53,5	45,0
1	1001-1200	Universitat de Girona	32.1-35.4	21,2	24,6	51,5	53,4	55,9
1	1001-1200	Universidad de La Laguna	32.1-35.4	23,4	16,1	55,2	36,2	49,3
1	1001-1200	Universidad de Murcia	32.1-35.4	25,6	19,4	55,2	55,1	36,5
1	1001-1200	Universidad de Oviedo	32.1-35.4	30,3	19,8	48,0	48,3	40,6
1	1001-1200	Universidad de Zaragoza	32.1-35.4	29,0	20,6	47,9	71,0	42,3
1	1201-1500	Universidad Miguel Hernández de Elche	27.3-32.0	22,0	18,4	42,9	62,6	42,6
1	1201-1500	Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED)	27.3-32.0	17,2	19,4	41,8	50,2	33,3
1	1201-1500	Universidad Pública de Navarra	27.3-32.0	25,5	15,2	49,2	43,3	47,3
1	1201-1500	Universidad Católica San Antonio de Murcia (UCAM)	27.3-32.0	19,1	18,2	35,1	39,2	57,4
1	1201-1500	Universidad Da Coruña	27.3-32.0	24,1	18,6	46,1	46,6	38,1
1	1201-1500	Universidad de Burgos	27.3-32.0	21,8	16,7	44,9	29,0	36,3
1	1201-1500	Universidad de Cádiz	27.3-32.0	21,2	18,3	42,7	37,4	43,4
1	1201-1500	Universidad de Deusto	27.3-32.0	20,7	20,6	49,3	39,9	46,0
1	1201-1500	Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	27.3-32.0	21,4	26,9	42,7	32,5	41,7
1	1201-1500	Universidad de León	27.3-32.0	24,9	15,9	41,8	61,0	36,8
1	1201-1500	Universidad de Málaga	27.3-32.0	21,1	17,1	42,1	54,0	41,5
1	1201-1500	Universidad de Valladolid	27.3-32.0	24,8	16,7	40,7	44,4	39,5
1	1201-1500	Universidad Rey Juan Carlos	27.3-32.0	18,7	15,3	47,4	46,7	38,4
1	1501+	CEU Universities	10.3-27.2	21,9	11,8	33,9	26,4	49,8
1	1501+	Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena	10.3-27.2	28,6	13,8	31,2	41,0	42,4
1	1501+	Universidad Internacional de La Rioja	10.3-27.2	12,6	15,6	35,9	20,6	57,4
1	1501+	Universidad Francisco de Vitoria	10.3-27.2	15,5	12,7	46,3	18,3	41,3
1	1501+	Universidad Loyola de Andalucía	10.3-27.2	16,2	16,5	41,9	20,2	48,7
1	1501+	Universidad de Huelva	10.3-27.2	23,2	16,6	32,6	28,8	36,2
57				26,4	21,4	53,9	49,9	50,5

INDICATORS		
Teaching	Teaching	30%
Research	Research	30%
Citations	Citations	30%
Industry income	Knowledge transfer	2,5%
Int'l outlook	International perspective	7,5%

Reference: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/latest/world-ranking>



Annex 4. Methodology of the global rankings SHANGHAI-ARWU, QS-WUR y THE-WUR

METHODOLOGY WORLD RANKINGS PUBLISHED IN 2025					
					
EDUCATION 10%		EDUCATION 10%		EDUCATION 6,5%	
Former students awarded Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals	10%	Teacher-student ratio	10%	Ratio of teaching staff to students	4.5%
				Ratio of PhDs to graduates	2%
RESEARCH 80%		RESEARCH 20%		RESEARCH 30%	
Highly cited researchers	20%	Citations by faculty	20%	Citations	15%
Staff with Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals	20%			Strength in research	5%
Publications in Natural Sciences and Sciences	20%			Research excellence	5%
Publications indexed in SCI and SSCI	20%			Influence of research	5%
REPUTATION 50%		REPUTATION 50%		REPUTATION 33%	
		Academic reputation	30%	Reputation in research	18%
		Employer reputation	15%	Teacher reputation	15%
		Employment outcomes	5%		
INTERNATIONALISATION 15%		INTERNATIONALISATION 15%		INTERNATIONALISATION 18,5%	
		Ratio of international teachers	5%	Ratio of PhDs awarded to academic staff	5,5%
		Ratio of international students	5%	Research income	5,5%
		International Research Network	5%	Ratio of international students	2,5%
				Ratio of international staff	2,5%
				International collaboration	2,5%
OTHERS 10%		OTHERS 5 %		OTHERS 12%	
Per capita academic performance	10%	Sustainability	5%	Research productivity	5,5%
				Institutional income	2,5%
				Industry revenue	2,0%
				Patents	2,0%
TOTAL	100%	TOTAL	100%	TOTAL	100%

Reference:

<https://www.shanghairanking.com/methodology/arwu/2025>

<https://www.topuniversities.com/world-university-rankings/methodology>

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/world-university-rankings-2025-methodology>

In the case of the THE World University Rankings, the indicators have been redistributed to align with the common pillars of the table, for exclusively comparative purposes. This structure does not exactly match the official presentation of THE's methodology.



Annex 5. Position of Spanish universities across SHANGHAI-ARWU 2025, QS-WUR 2026 and THE-WUR 2026

WORLD RANKING 2025 - 2026			
SPANISH UNIVERSITIES			
Universities	2025	2026	2026
	ACADEMIC RANKING OF WORLD UNIVERSITIES	WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS	World University Rankings
Universitat de Barcelona	151-200	160	145
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona	301-400	172	183
Universitat Pompeu Fabra	301-400	265	187
Universidad de Navarra	501-600	262	251-300
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid	301-400	206	351-400
Universidad Complutense de Madrid	301-400	187	501-600
Universitat de València	201-300	430	501-600
Universidad de Granada	301-400	401	601-800
Universitat Rovira Virgili	601-700	771-780	601-800
Universidad del País Vasco	301-400	624	601-800
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya	701-800	392	601-800
Universitat Politècnica de València	401-500	422	601-800
Universidade de Santiago de Compostela	501-600	628	601-800
Universidad de Alcalá	701-800	697	801-1000
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	901-1000	301	801-1000
Universidad de Córdoba	901-1000	951-1000	801-1000
Universitat de Lleida	801-900	1001-1200	801-1000
Universidad de Salamanca	501-600	526	801-1000
Universidad de Sevilla	401-500	469	801-1000
Universidade de Vigo	801-900	851-900	801-1000
Universidad de Alicante	601-700	781-790	1001-2000
Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha	901-1000	1001-1200	1001-2000
Universidad Jaime I	901-1000	1001-1200	1001-2000
Universidad de Oviedo	601-700	901-950	1001-2000
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid	601-700	334	1001-2000
Universidad de Zaragoza	501-600	638	1001-2000
Universidad de Murcia	601-700	1001-1200	1001-2000
Universidad de Jaén	801-900		801-1000
Universidad de las Islas Baleares	701-800		801-1000
Universitat Ramón Llull		436	801-1000
Universidad Europea de Madrid		901-950	1001-2000
Universitat de Girona	901-1000		1001-2000
Universidad de La Laguna	701-800		1001-2000
Universidad de Cádiz	901-1000		1201-1500
Universidad Católica San Antonio de Murcia		1201-1400	1201-1500
Universidad de Deusto		1001-1200	1201-1500
Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	901-1000		1201-1500
Universidad de León		1001-1200	1201-1500
Universidade Da Coruña		1001-1200	1201-1500
Universidad de Málaga	801-900		1201-1500
Universidad Rey Juan Carlos		1001-1200	1201-1500
CEU Universities		1001-1200	15001+
Universitat Oberta de Catalunya			801-1000
Universidad Pablo de Olavide			801-1000
Universitat Internacional Catalunya			1001-2000
Universidad de Almería			1001-2000
Universidad Miguel Hernández de Elche			1201-1500
Universidad de Burgos			1201-1500
Universidad Pública de Navarra			1201-1500
Universidad de Huelva			15001+
Universidad Internacional de la Rioja			15001+
Universidad Francisco de Vitoria			15001+
Universidad Loyola de Andalucía			15001+
Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena			15001+
Instituto Empresa		438	
Universidad Pontificia Comillas		581	
Universidad de Cantabria	701-800		
Universidad de Extremadura	701-800		
Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED)			1201-1500
Universidad de Valladolid		901-950	1201-1500
Universitat de Vic-Central Catalunya			801-1000

Appear in all three rankings (27 universities)

Appears in 2 rankings (15 univ.)

Appear in 1 ranking (19 Univ.)

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Note: All references correspond to the official methodological sources of the rankings analysed and were valid at the time of preparation of the PRISUE 2025 report



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