

## Appendix E Q2: U.K. University Performance

Three tables look at different aspects of the rankings' performance of U.K. universities.

Table Q2 – E 1a – Comparing QS rankings over time

Table Q2 – E 1b- Comparing QS rankings with local U.K. rankings

Table Q2 – E 2 – Comparing changes In U.K. and U.S. rankings

### Table Q2-E 1a: Comparing QS 2021, 2020, and THE-QS 2004; ARWU 2019 and 2004

Academic Ranking of World Universities , ARWU, issued the first global ranking in 2003. It was followed in 2004 by a joint venture between Times Higher Education and QS, Quacquarelli Symonds. The initial THE-QS ranking of 200 universities used Peer Review, International students, faculty/ student ratio and a citation metric. A decade ago, THE and QS went their separate ways. Today they both use citation data from Elsevier, conduct their own reputation surveys (peer review) , and include metrics on international students and staff. I decided to see if these really were the worst U.K. rankings (Hall),by going back to 2004. More U.K. universities are in the top 100 today than in 2004 in the QS rankings and overall, more universities in the top 200 increased their rankings between 2004 and 2019 in ARWU.

**Table Q2 - E 1a- U.K. Universities Rankings: Change over time**

**Sample of rankings: QS 2021, 2020 and QS-THE 2004; ARWU 2019, 2004**

QS 2021	QS 2021	QS 2020		THE- QS 2004	2004	ARWU 2019	2004		
UK	World Ranks	1	World	UK	World	World			
84	# UK Universities	84	84	200	30	61	42		
<b>1</b>	<b>U Oxford</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	↓	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	↑
<b>2</b>	<b>U Cambridge</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	
3	Imperial U	8	9		14	4	23	23	
4	U College London -UCL	10	8	↓	34	5	15	25	↑
5	U Edinburgh	20	20		48	8	31	47	↑
6	U Manchester	27	27		43	6	33	78	↑
7	King's College London	31	33	↑	96	13	51	77	↑
8	London S of Economics & Poly Sci -LSE	49	44	↓	11	3	151	202	↑
9	U Bristol	58	49	↓	91	12	64	60	↓
10	U Warwick	62	62		80	11	101	202	↑

- See full results in Attached Table Q2-E-1a (PDF).

For Background see [RR 5](#) THE and QS (Quacquarelli Symonds) and [RR 6](#) Scholarly Rankings from the Asian Perspective

## Table Q2 – E 1b- Comparing QS and THE U.K. rankings with local U.K. ranking

Given the uncertainties in our current world, with both Brexit and the Corona virus, looking at the performance of the U.K.'s local universities may be more relevant than focusing on adjustments in the global academic playing field. There are three prominent U.K. rankings which are compared to the QS and THE rankings.

- QS 2021 and THE 2020; The same universities are in the top 11 and 17 of the top 20 are the same
- The three local rankings: Seven of the top 10 are the same as are 15 out of the top 20.
- All rankings – Nine of the top 20 were the same. 25 different universities are in the list.

	QS	THE	Times Good U	Complete UG	Guardian
	2021	2020	2020	2021	2020
# UK Universities	84	100	129	130	121
Oxford	1	1	2	2	3
Cambridge	2	2	1	1	1
<b>Imperial</b>	3	3	4	5	7
UCL	4	4	7	10	22
U Edinburgh	5	6	24	15	25
U Manchester	6	8	25	17	40
Kings College London	7	7	28	20	63
<b>LSE</b>	8	5	11	4	19
U Bristol	9	10	16	14	23
<b>U Warwick</b>	10	9	9	11	9

See full results in **Attached Table Q2-E-1b (PDF)**

The [Guardian University League Tables](#) started in 1999, predating the other rankings. 2020 has 121 universities with Cambridge, St. Andrews and Oxford at the top. There are nine indicators and re-ranking is available. Additional information is in university profiles [How to use the guide](#) includes methodology It is student-centric with emphasis on specific subjects. The 2020 Ranking were published in early June 2019. The 2021 are not available. Registration is required for complete information, but not rankings.

[The Complete University Guide](#) has been creating League Tables since 2006. [Methodology](#) is available, along with ability to download the tables and re-rank. In *2021 rankings*, 130 universities are ranked. Cambridge, Oxford, and St. Andrews are the top three.

The Times [Good University Guide](#), published since 2004, has 129 universities in 2020. Criteria are listed. Access to the full guide is by subscription.

## Table Q2 – E 2 – Comparing changes In U.K. and U.S. rankings

The U.K. is not alone in seeing the relative rankings of its universities falling. The U.S. still dominates most of the rankings in terms of number of institutions and top 100 spots. New institutions and countries enter the rankings each year, changing the global academic map. QS provides relative scores, based on the highest scoring institution receiving 100. It is possible for a university to increase its performance year-on-year but still go down in the rankings. This table uses data from CWTS Leiden rankings to measure the publication output and performance (documents in the top 10% of their field) . These are NOT metrics used by QS, but they are metrics that measure a university's scholarly performance.

### U.K. Example

United Kingdom Rankings: and change from 2020							
CWTS Change between publications from 2015-2018 from 201							
QS	2021	QS	1	CWTS	2	CWTS	3
UK		World		Output		Quality	10%
		84					
<b>1</b>	<b>Oxford</b>	<b>5</b>	↓	<b>16</b>	↓	<b>11</b>	↑
2	Cambridge	7		26	↓	14	↑
3	Imperial	8	↑	41	↓	21	↑
<b>4</b>	<b>UCL</b>	<b>10</b>	↓	<b>19</b>	↑	<b>20</b>	↑
5	U Edinburgh	20		109	↓	48	↓
6	U Manchester	27		74	↓	55	↓

Reference:

Hall, R. (10 June 2020). UK universities suffer worst-ever rankings in world league tables. *The Guardian*. Accessed at <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2020/jun/10/uk-universities-suffer-worst-ever-rankings-in-world-league-table>