

Appendix A. [Times Higher Education “Best” Small Universities](#)

In looking for something different to discuss along with THE's 2021 World Rankings I came upon the ranking of small universities, first released in 2016 (Minsky). It uses those institutions in THE's World rankings with fewer than 5000 students. 20 of the 35 universities with under 5000 students in 2016 are listed in THE today. 11 of the original 20 are on this year's Small list of 57. Six now have more than 5000 students. Institutions that do not teach undergraduate students are not ranked. This list has no metrics except Small rank, World rank and overall size of the student body. California Institute of Technology is first and École Polytechnique, France, is second.

How many undergraduate students does a university have? Where else can you find this data attached to other university metrics?

THE World rankings can be sorted by number of students, without going to a different interface. The composite pillar scores are then available for each institution. Number of students alone does not tell you how many are undergraduate and how many are international. Higher ranked schools with a higher percent of international students may be primarily graduate institutions. Language of instruction is not provided.

QS World rankings does not list number of students as an indicator. It has the percentages of total graduate and undergraduate students and international graduate and undergraduate students for each university. According to QS, École Polytechnique has 2850 students. 790 are undergraduates with 205 international undergraduates. Some of THE's schools are not ranked. From cross-referencing QS with THE Small I can conclude that Australia's Bond University and New Zealand's Lincoln University have more undergraduates than graduates and they do teach in English.

U.S. News Global and Best U.S. provide filters by size. Only 18 of their global universities have fewer than 5000 students and eight have graduate students only. Total numbers of students are listed. Readers interested in U.S. universities can create their own lists from U.S. News best colleges. This lists includes the top liberal arts colleges in the U.S. which are not in THE world or QS. It also uses undergraduate student body figures.

See Table A.1 for the list of 2020 small universities with World ranks of 2 – 800.

Minsky, C. (Jan 2016). The world's best small universities 2016,

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/news/worlds-best-small-universities-2016>