



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Definitions in World University Rankings (interpretation and data submission)

Hugo Mouton and Herman Visser



Outline



- **QS World University Rankings**
- **Times Higher Education World University Rankings (THE)**
- **Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU)**



QS data definitions

- **Full time equivalent** - is the total number of full time personnel it would take to meet commitments currently met by both the full time and part time personnel. **If there are no part time personnel, then FTE figure is equal to the headcount figure.**
Note: $FTE = full\ time + (part\ time/3)$
- **Faculty Staff** - total number of academic faculty staff who are responsible for planning, directing and undertaking teaching only, research only or both teaching and research.
- **International Faculty Staff** - number of academic faculty staff who contributes to teaching or research or both for a minimum period of at least three months and **who are of foreign nationality**. In case of dual citizenship, the 'deciding' criteria should be 'citizenship obtained through birth', basically first passport obtained.
- **Undergraduate students** - number of students pursuing a Bachelor's level or equivalent degree, this excludes certificates/diplomas and associate's degrees

3



QS data definitions (2)

- **Graduate/ Postgraduate student** - students pursuing a higher-level degree (Master and Doctorate), including both taught and research postgraduates (e.g. PhD students)
- **International undergraduate students** - number of undergraduate students **who are foreign nationals** and who spend at least three months at the university, **the term 'international' is hereby determined by citizenship**. All exchange students are excluded.
- **International Graduate/ Postgraduate student** - number of graduate / postgraduate students who are foreign nationals and who spend at least three months at the university, the term 'international' is hereby determined by citizenship. **In case of dual citizenship, the 'deciding' criteria should be 'citizenship obtained through birth'**, basically first passport obtained. All exchange students are excluded.

4





Times Higher Education World University Rankings (THE)



THE data definitions

- **Number of academic staff** - this is the **FTE number of staff** that are employed for an academic post. Typically they will have a post such as: lecturer, reader, assistant/associate professor or professor. **This should include permanent staff and staff that are employed on a long-term contract basis.**
- **Of which are international/overseas origin** - the **FTE number of academic staff of whose nationality is different from the country in which the institution is based.**
- **Number of research only staff** - this is the FTE number of people who are employed only to perform research. Typically they will not have a permanent post at the University. Often they are contract specifically for purpose of doing research or similar activity

Note :This includes researchers, research fellows and post-doctoral researchers. This will NOT include lecturers, clinicians, technical staff, PhD students, or other students.

6



THE data definitions (2)

- **Number of students** - this is the FTE number of students of all programs that **lead to a degree, certificate, institutional credit or other qualification**. It includes students of all years of study. It includes visiting/exchange students who are studying for programs that result in credits at your institution (i.e. incoming students).

Note : But it does not include exchange students who are currently studying at another institution (i.e. outgoing exchange students, who are not currently studying for credits at your institution). It will NOT include students who are not currently active. It will NOT include post-doctoral students.

- **Of which are international/overseas origin** - the FTE number of students of whose **nationality is different from the country in which your institution is based at**.

7



THE data definitions (3)

- **Undergraduate - new student intake** - this is the FTE number of students entering the institution, or this level of education, for the first time during this year for a taught program that is the first significant stage of your institution's academic program. **This will only include significant programs; typically they will be 3 or more years in length. This will include students for Bachelors and other equivalent degrees.**
- **Master or equivalent – new student intake** - the FTE number of students entering the institution, or the level of education, for the first time during at the level of a master's or equivalent degree program. Master's degrees may be course based or research based. **Research based programs that lead to a doctoral qualification should not be included.**

8



THE data definitions (3)

- **Number of Master's degrees awarded** - this is number of Master's or equivalent degrees awarded during that year. Master's degrees may be course based or research based. **Research based programs that lead to a doctoral qualification should not be included.**
- **Doctoral - new student intake** - the **FTE number of Doctoral (PhD and equivalent) students admitted in that year.** These programmes are devoted to advanced study and original research and will lead to an advanced research qualification. This includes advanced degrees that include a significant taught component such as a Medical Doctorate, Doctor of Law or Doctor of Engineering and equivalents.

9



Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU)



ARWU data definitions cont.

- FTE Number** - numbers of staff or students should be provided in Full Time Equivalents (FTE). The formulas of calculating FTE are: FTE number of academic staff: $[FTE = \text{the number of full-time academic staff} + (\text{the number of part-time academic staff}) * (\text{the FTE conversion factor})]$. The FTE conversion factor is calculated as the total hours worked of part-time staff divided by the number of hours in a full-time schedule. For example, if part-time staff works on average for one-third of the statutory hours of full-time staff, then the FTE conversion factor is 1/3.

FTE number of students: $[FTE = \text{the number of full-time students} + (\text{the number of part-time students}) * (\text{the FTE conversion factor})]$. The FTE conversion factor is calculated as the course load generated by part-time students during reference period divided by the normal course load during reference period.

11



ARWU data definitions cont.

- Total Number (FTE) of Academic Staff - Teaching Related** - this refers to the FTE number of personnel who primarily carry teaching/instructions duties, including those with released time for research, administration or service.
- Total Number (FTE) of Academic Staff - Research Only:** - this refers to the FTE number of personnel who carry research duties with no obligation for teaching. This excludes doctoral students.
- Total Number (FTE) of Students Enrolled at Bachelor's Level/master's level/doctoral level** - this refers to the FTE number of students who are undertaking a bachelors/master's/ doctoral or its equivalent, usually requiring 3 or 4 years (or the equivalent) of full time study.

12





Thank you!

“Rankings are here to stay, so better make the best use of them.”

Dr Kevin Downing (City University of Hong Kong)