

# University Rankings

October 2023

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# International Rankings

Rankings can be controversial, but they are important to stakeholders and can benefit the University. They:

- Enable the recruitment of outstanding faculty, students, post-docs, and staff.
- Expand opportunities for international collaboration and partnership.
- Amplify growth in philanthropic support and industry sponsored research.

# Which rankings and why?

- There are many global, regional, national, subject, and mission-specific rankings are published every year.
- The University tracks those that are relatively robust and important to the stakeholders:
  - Times Higher Education (THE) – World University Rankings
  - QS – World University Rankings
  - ShanghaiRanking – Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU)
  - U.S. News – Best Global Universities
  - National Taiwan University (NTU) - Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities

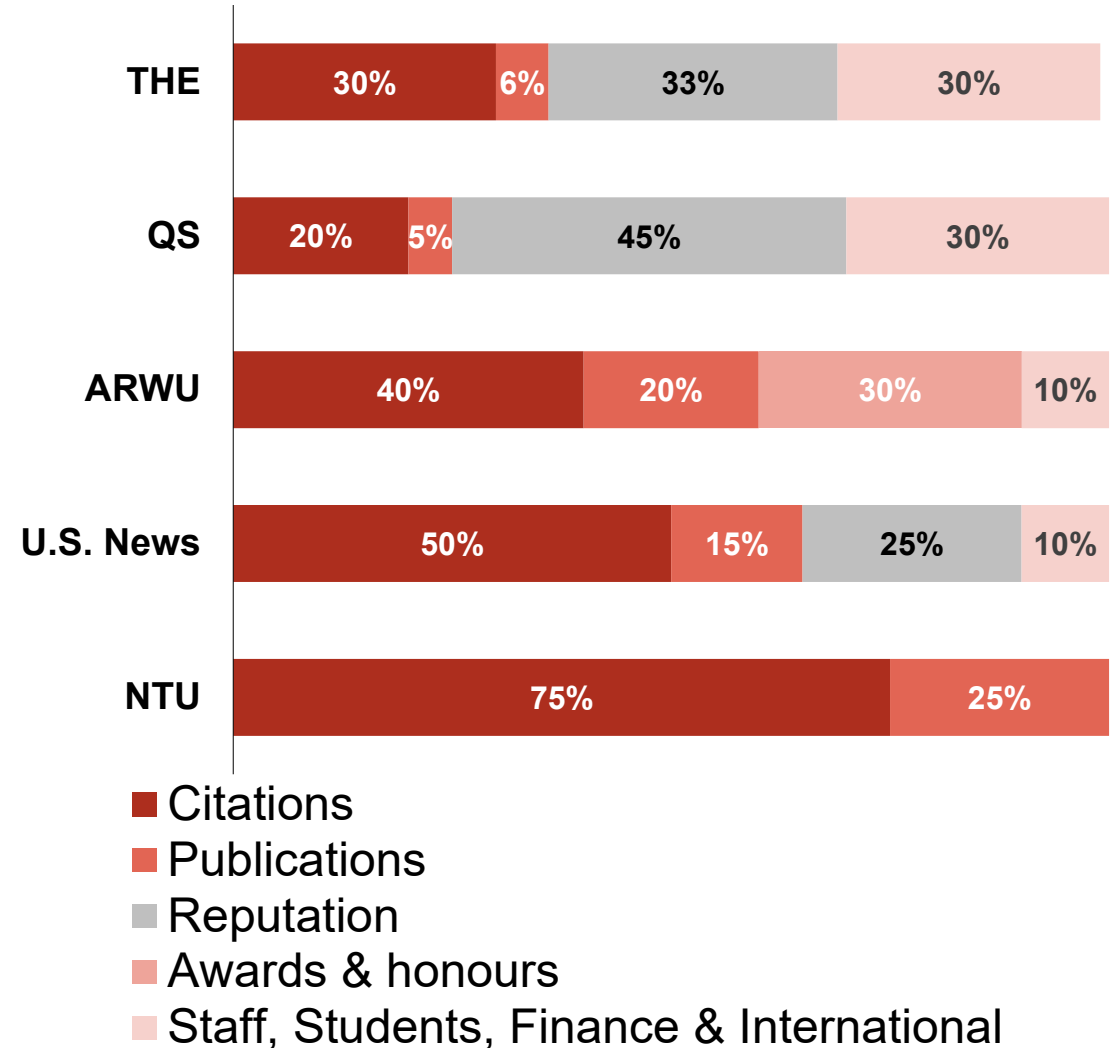
# Major Components of Rankings

Each ranking uses a different methodology with some measures in common.

Publications, citations, and reputation are the most important (heavily weighted) measures.

ARWU uses Awards & Honours for faculty and alumni; related to a university's reputation.

Most of the data are collected independently but the THE and QS rankings also use data supplied by universities such as the number of staff, students, and financial data.



# Publications & Citations

- Citation counts are heavily weighted indicators.
- The ranking publishers use third party citation databases such as the *Web of Science* or *Scopus* to count the number of papers affiliated with each university (including affiliated institutions) and the citations to those papers.
- Coverage of the sciences and medicine is comprehensive; social sciences and engineering are less thorough; arts and humanities are poor.
- The ranking agencies use a five-year window for publications; it is not easy to improve these indicators in the short term, but they are the most weighted indicators.

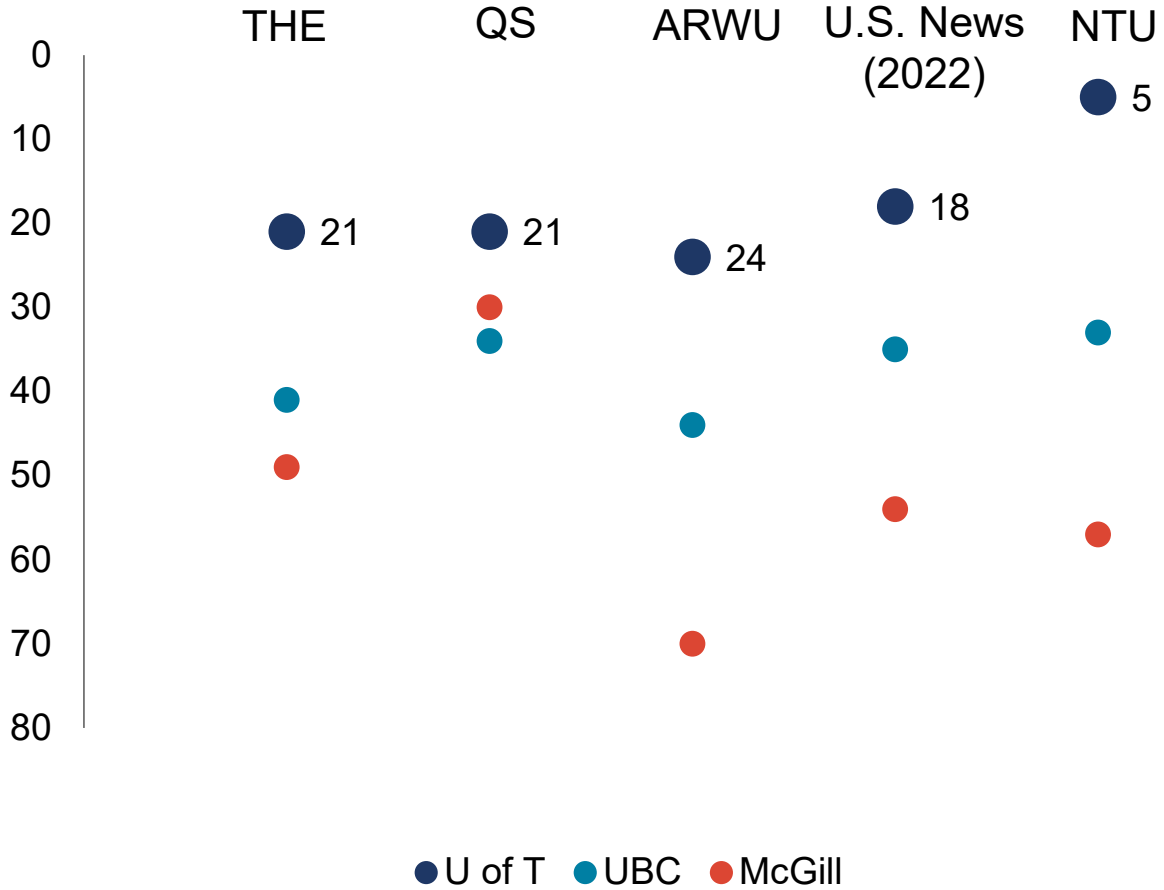
# Reputation surveys

- QS, THE, and U.S. News rely on reputation surveys.
- The three surveys are similar and ask academics around the world to self-declare their subject area and choose up to 15 universities that they consider to be the best. A kind of “voting” system.
- The participants are not asked to rank or rate the institutions.
- General reputation and brand recognition are important.
- The University’s interactions with the survey participants may inform their opinions; research partnerships and collaborations are influential.

# International connections

- Rankings publishers use various indicators related to the University's international connections. These include:
  - Proportion of international students and faculty that are international.
  - The proportion of scholarly papers that include an international author.
- International collaborations and partnerships directly influence the rankings indicators, but also indirectly impact citations and reputation.
  - Provide access to networks of scholars in different regions.
  - Internationally co-authored papers are cited more frequently.

# Rankings Results (2022/23)

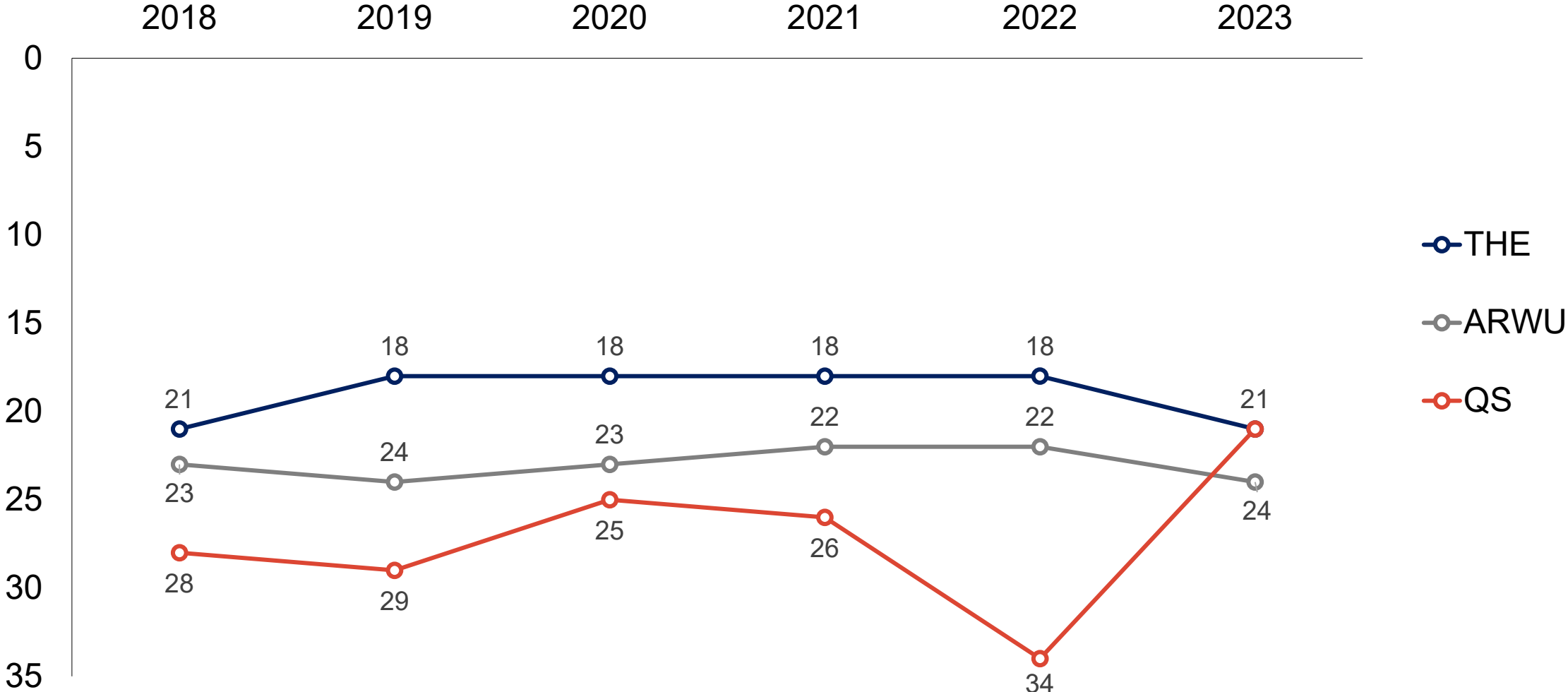


Other highlights include:

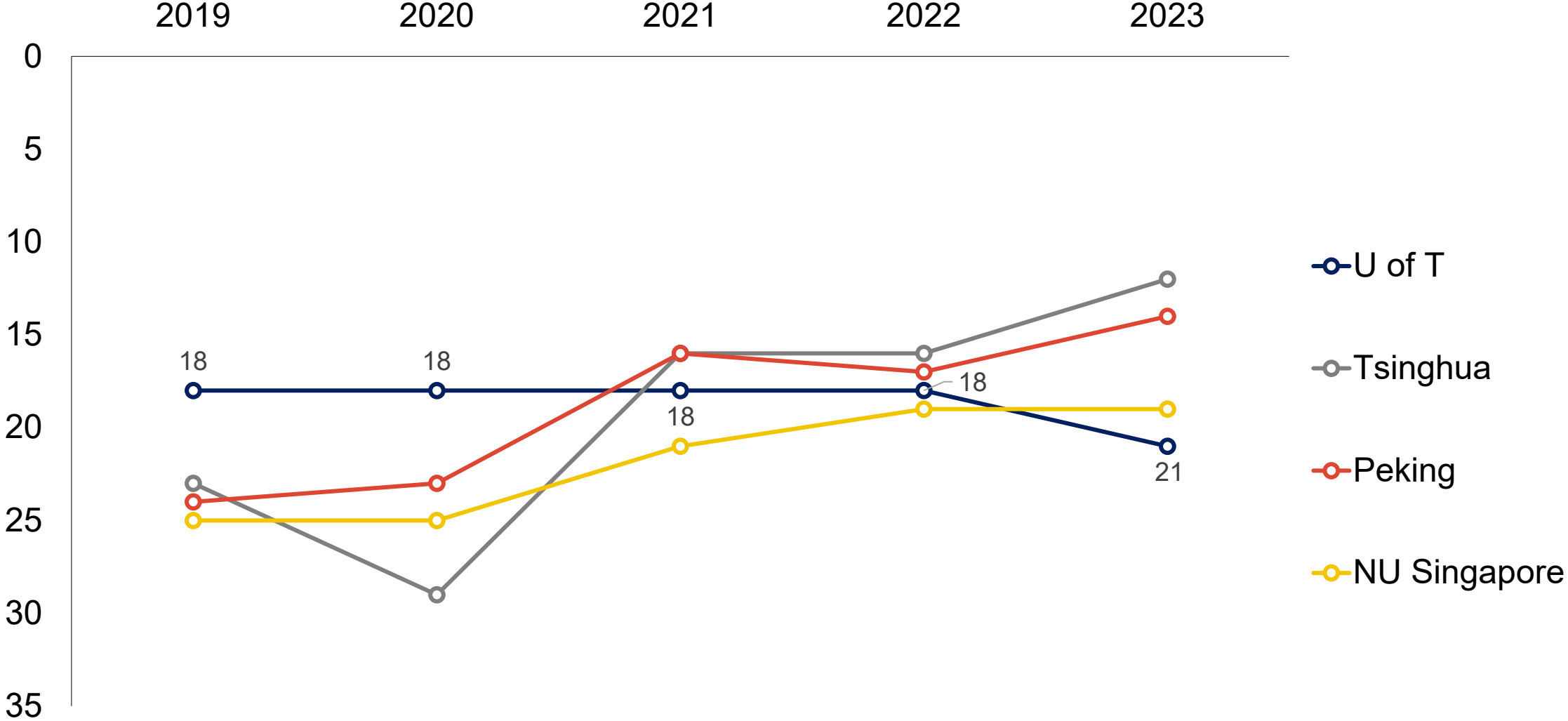
THE Reputation (2022)	21
THE Employability (2022)	11
QS Sustainability (2022)	2



# U of T - Rankings Results (2018-2023)



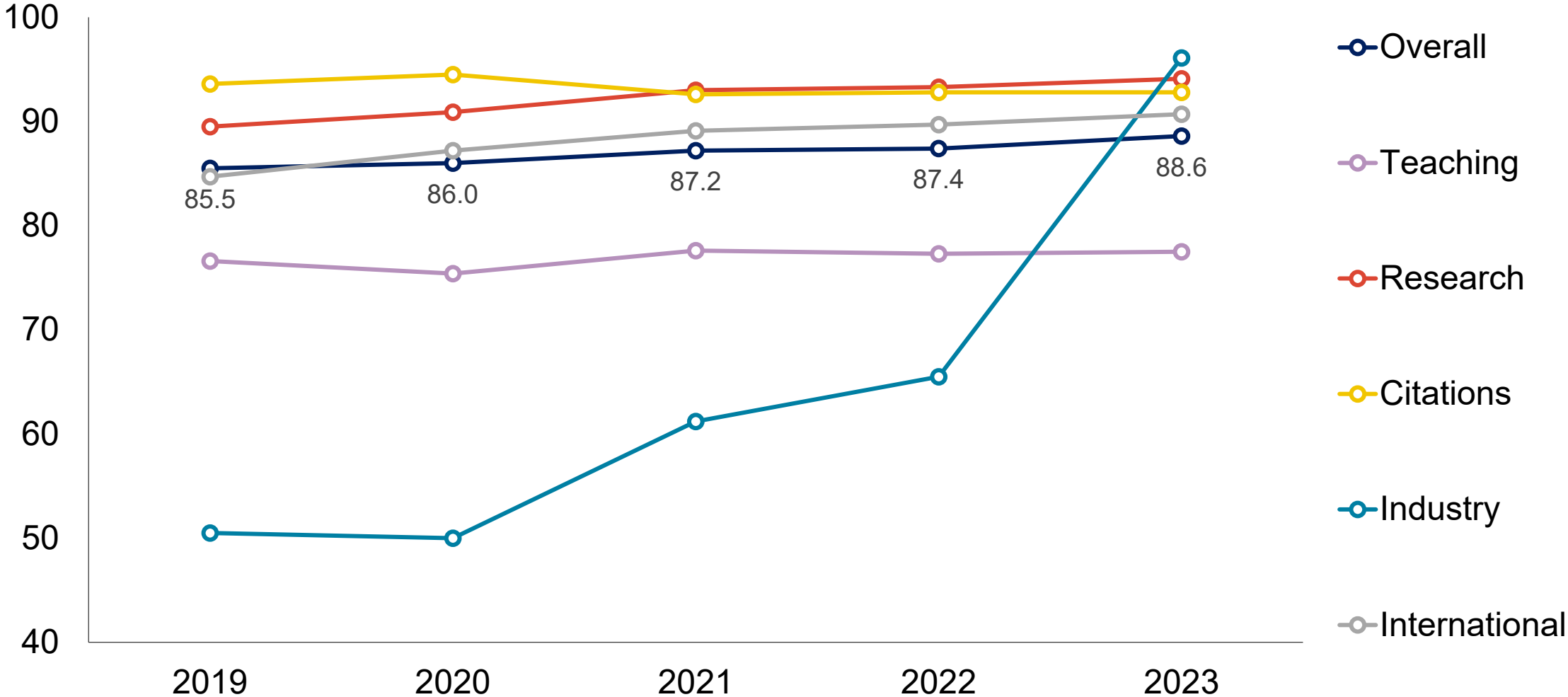
# Times Higher Education - Results (2018-2023)



# Times Higher Education – revised methodology in 2023

- THE changed its methodology in 2023 by adding four new indicators.
- Reduced the weighting of the “Citation” indicator from 30% to 15% and added three complementary indicators, each weighted at 5%:
  - **Research strength**: a revision of the “Citations” indicator that aims to overcome the influence of outlying papers.
  - **Research excellence**: the volume of papers that are among the top 10% most cited.
  - **Research influence**: a modification to the total number of citations based on how well cited the citing papers are.
- Added a new indicator “**Patents**” based on the number of times patents cited scholarly research at the University; weighted at 2% and combined with the Research Income from Industry indicator to create a new pillar called “Industry”.

# Times Higher Education – Scores (2018-2023)



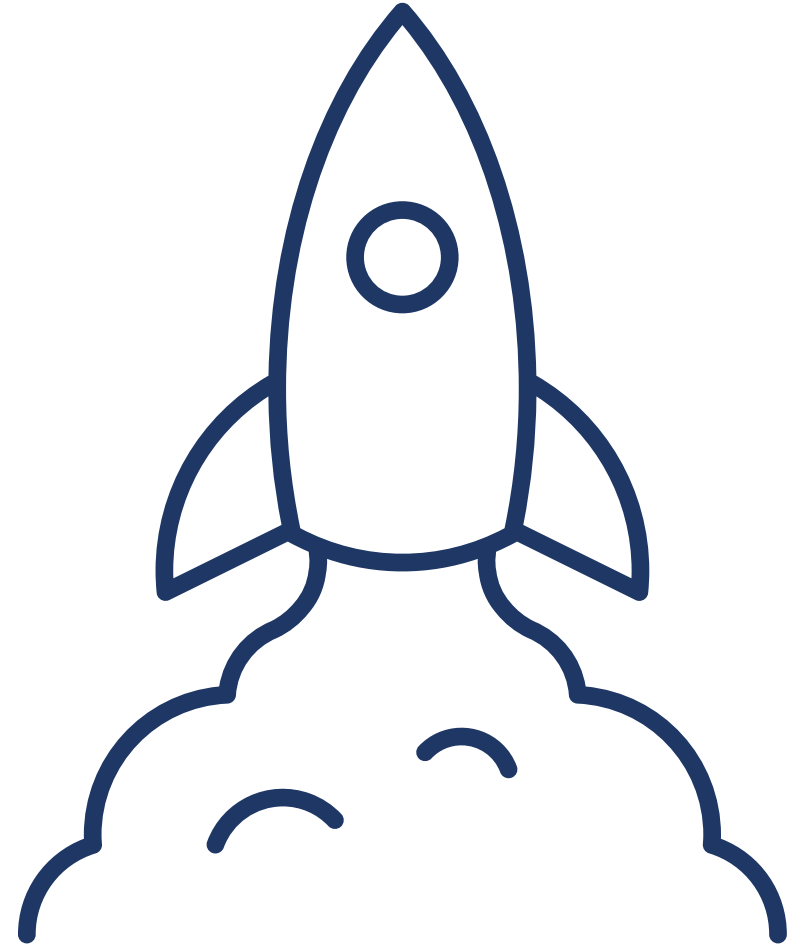
# Subject Rankings

- The ranking publishers also produce subject rankings
- The subject scope is primarily determined by categorizing journals and the subjects only partially reflect our divisions and departments
- Overall, the University of Toronto performs exceptionally well, a reflection of our breadth and depth of excellence
- ShanghaiRanking:
  - Top 100 in 46 subjects, more than any other university
  - Top 50 in 32 subjects, only five universities have more
- QS
  - Top 50 in 48 subjects, more than any other university
  - Top 25 in 34 subjects, only seven universities have more

# Rankings Strategy

Our current strategy with regards to rankings is as follows:

- 1. Maximise underlying performance.*
- 2. Enhance the university's reputational standing.*
- 3. Ensure accuracy of data submissions and adhere to the criteria.*



# Rankings Strategy

## ***1. Maximise our underlying performance.***

Hiring and retaining exceptional faculty is essential to the University's success and will enhance both citation and reputation indicators.

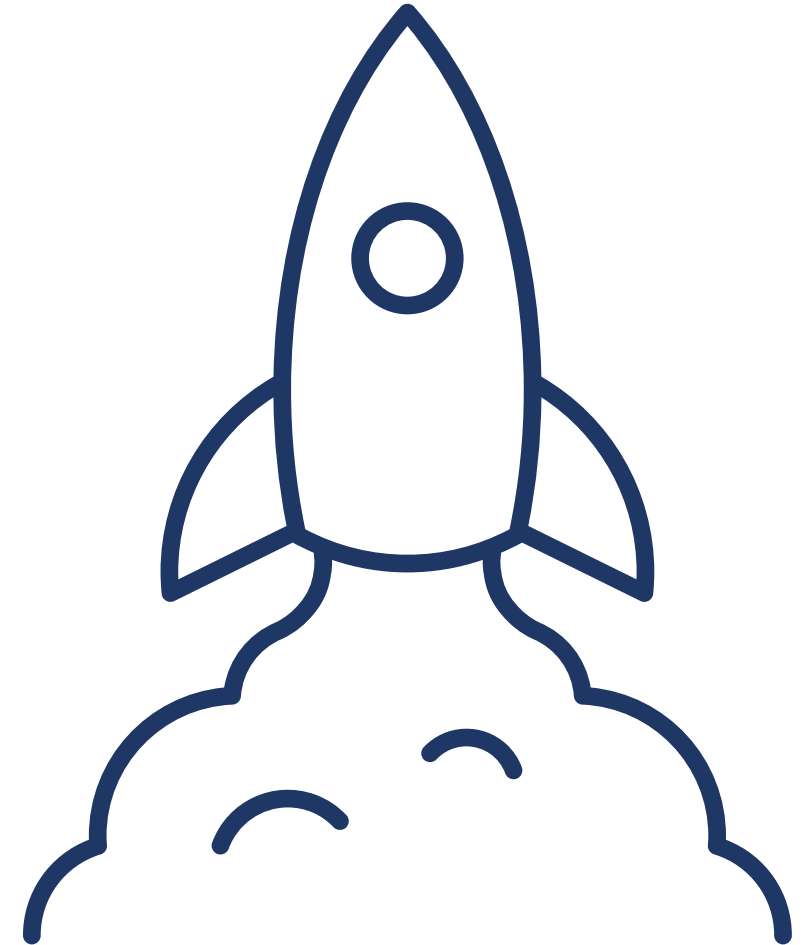
Attracting research funding from new and traditional sources enables ongoing success.

International and industry collaborations are important.

Better understanding of rankings methodologies throughout the university helps to inform decisions.

Center for Research & Innovation Support (CRIS) is instrumental:

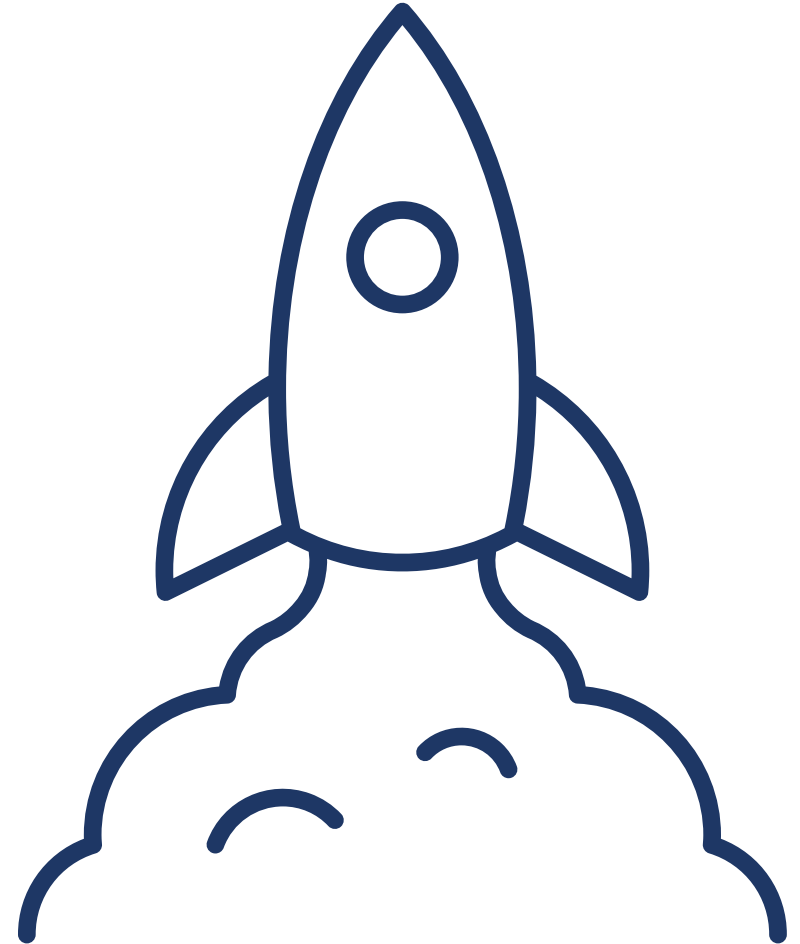
<http://cris.utoronto.ca/spotlight/citations/>



# Rankings Strategy

## 2. Enhance the university's reputational standing.

- Leverage research partnerships and alumni networks especially international ones
- Continue to garner prestigious awards and honours.
- Raise awareness of the University's excellence:
  - Targeted campaigns in *Nature* and *The Guardian*
  - Strategic storytelling to local and global audiences
  - Initiatives are tied to University events, such as the *Insulin 100* anniversary and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering.

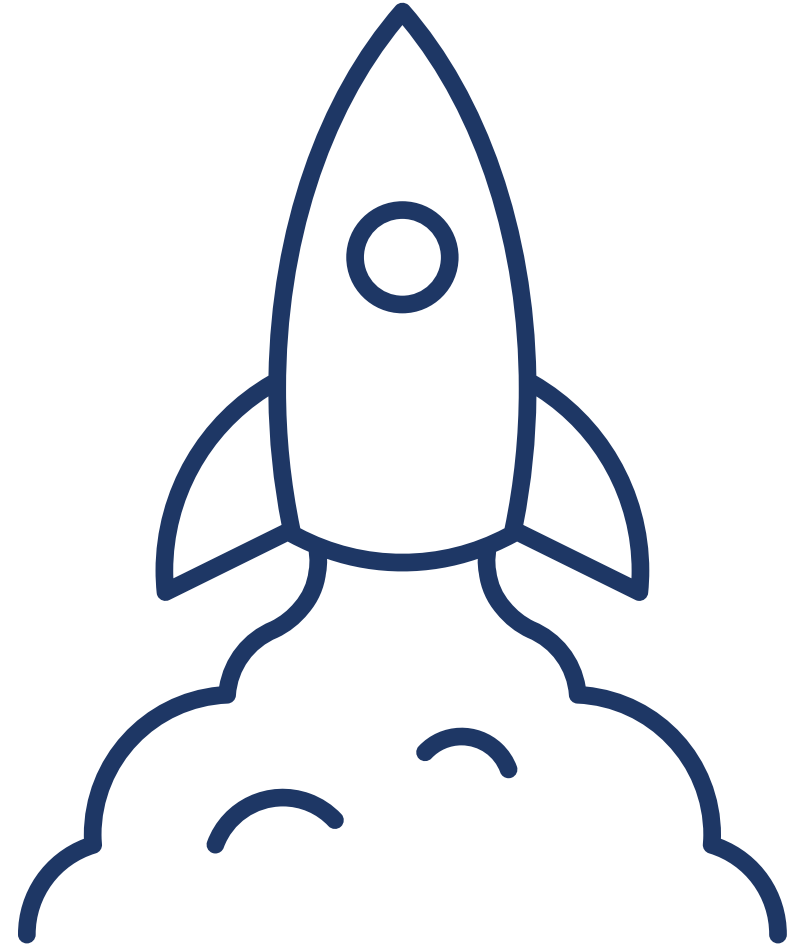




# Rankings Strategy

## ***3. Maximise our data submissions while adhering to the criteria.***

- a) Enhance internal accounting practice to identify and allocate data in an informed way.
- b) Continue to advocate for the University's position with rankings providers. For example: the University is represented on the Advisory Boards of both THE and QS.



Thank you!