## QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS®

**2016-2017**
# COUNTRY REPORT

# IRELAND

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CONTENTS

**VERIFIED DATA**



Map data ©2014 Google

| CAPITAL | Dublin |
| --- | --- |
| REGION | Europe & Central Asia |
| INCOME GROUP | High income: OECD |
| CURRENCY | Euro |

| INSTITUTIONS SURVEYED / RANKED | 27 / 8 |
| --- | --- |
| AVG INSTITUTION AGE | 157 |
| AVG INSTITUTION SIZE | 13,195 students |
| AVG INST OUTPUT | 6,663 papers |

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# DEMOGRAPHICS & ECONOMICS

**POPULATION**

1960 — 2015 — **4.6m**

**POPULATION DENSITY** (PER KM$^2$)

1960 — 2015 — **66.6**

**POPULATION AGE**

1960 — 2015

■ 65+

■ 0-14

**GDP GROWTH**

1980 — 2015 — **0.2%**

**GDP PER CAPITA**

1991 — 2015 — **$46,063**

**R&D EXPENDITURE** (%GDP)

1998 — 2015 — **1.6%**

**EDUCATION EXPENDITURE (%GDP)**

1998 — 2015 — **5.8%**

**EXPENDITURE PER TERTIARY STUDENT** (%GDP per capita)

1998 — 2015 — **29.4%**

**TERTIARY ENROLLMENT** (%gross)

1971 — 2015 — **68%**

**RATIO FEMALE TO MALE TERTIARY**

1971 — 2015

■ % male

■ % female

**DEMOGRAPHICS & ECONOMICS**

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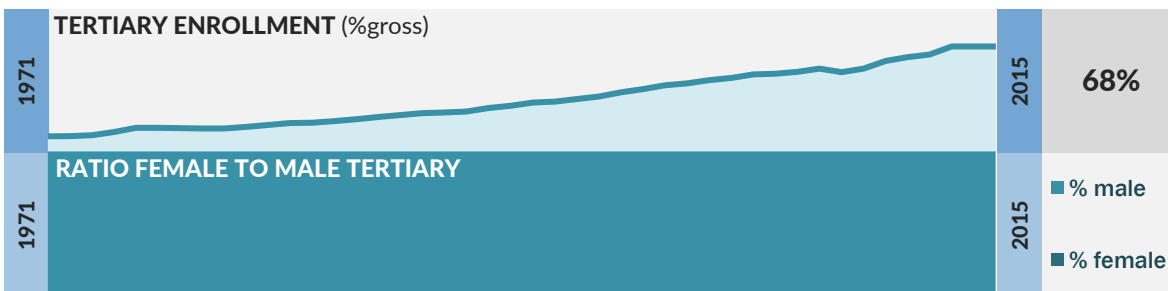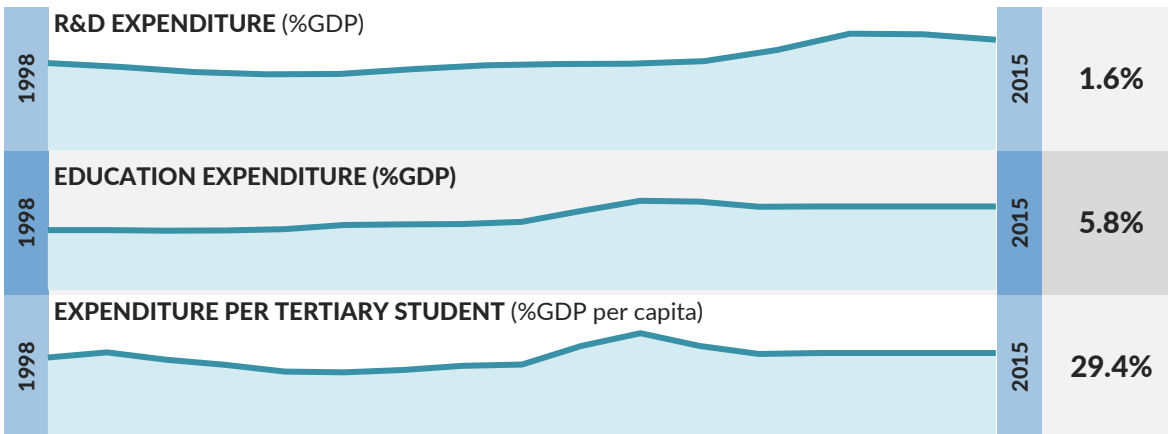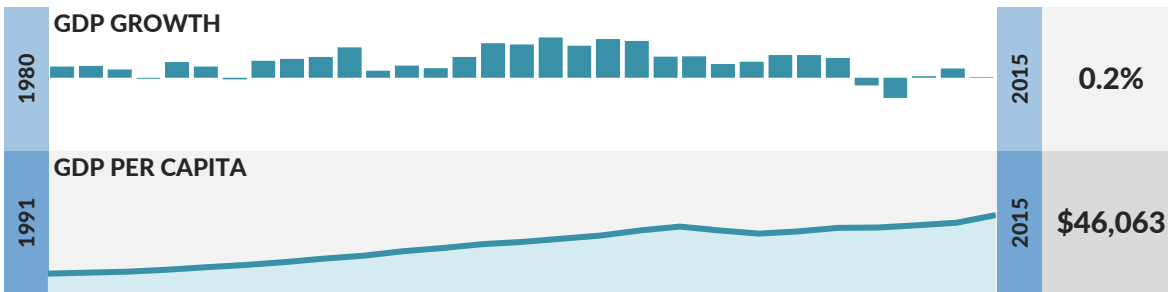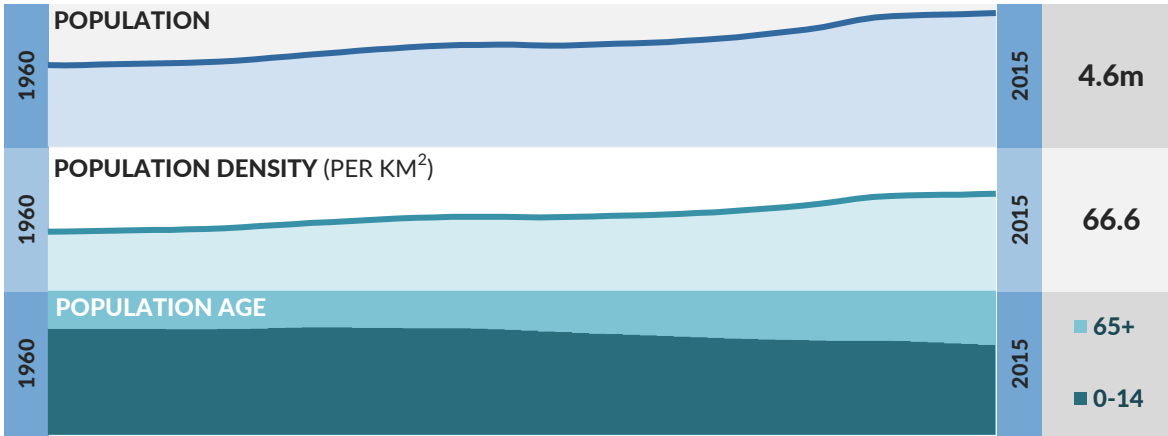
# QS SURVEY PERFORMANCE

| QS GLOBAL ACADEMIC SURVEY | |
|---|---|
| Response Count | 911 |
| % Global | 1.1% |
| Rank by response | 23 |
| Average seniority | Assistant Professor |
| Dept head or higher | 335 |
| Avg. yrs in academia | 20 |

| QS GLOBAL EMPLOYER SURVEY | |
|---|---|
| Response Count | 913 |
| % Global | 2.0% |
| Rank by response | 35 |
| Average seniority | Manager / Executive |
| Top responding sector | HR |

# QS CLASSIFICATIONS



SIZE

Ireland
Global
■ Very Large  ■ Large  ■ Medium  ■ Small

FOCUS

Ireland
Global
■ Comprehensive+  ■ Comprehensive  ■ Focused  ■ Specialist

RESEARCH

Ireland
Global
■ Very High  ■ High  ■ Moderate  ■ Limited or None

AGE

Ireland
Global
■ Historic  ■ Mature  ■ Established  ■ Young  ■ New

STATUS

Ireland
Global
■ Public  ■ Private not for profit  ■ Private for profit
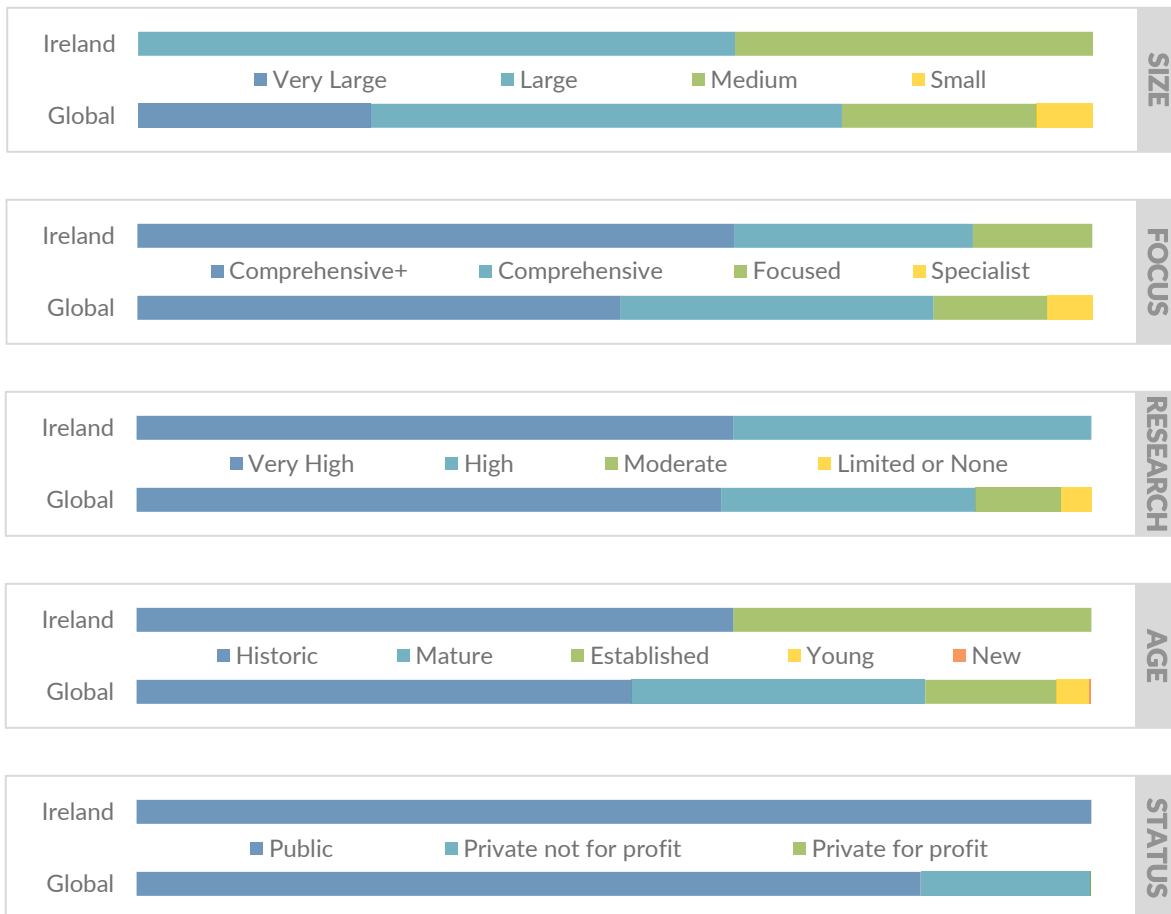
**FIGURE 1**  QS Classifications by institution count: Ireland vs. Global

SURVEY PERFORMANCE & CLASSIFICATIONS

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# OVERALL RANKINGS RESULTS

| RANGE | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2016 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1-100 | 1 | 🟡 | 1 | 🟡 | 1 | 🟡 | 1 |
| 101-200 | 1 | 🟡 | 1 | 🟡 | 1 | 🟡 | 1 |
| 201-300 | 2 | 🟡 | 2 | 🟡 | 2 | 🟡 | 2 |
| 301-400 | 1 | 🟡 | 1 | 🟡 | 1 | 🟡 | 1 |
| 401-500 | 0 | | 0 | 🟢 | 1 | 🔴 | 0 |
| 501-600 | 3 | 🔴 | 2 | 🔴 | 1 | 🟡 | 1 |
| 601-700 | 0 | 🟢 | 1 | 🟡 | 1 | 🟢 | 2 |
| 701-800 | 0 | | 0 | | 0 | | 0 |
| OVERALL | 8 | | 8 | | 8 | | 8 |

🟢 improved          🟡 unchanged          🔴 declined

**FIGURE 2**   Number of institutions featured in the given range over the past four years



### Ireland vs. Global Average

+15.0
+47.0
-5.3
-6.7
-11.5
-2.0

### Ireland - 2016 vs. 2015

-3.3
+1.1
-5.9
-7.5
-11.3
-12.9

■ ACADEMIC REPUTATION     ■ EMPLOYER REPUTATION     ■ FACULTY STUDENT
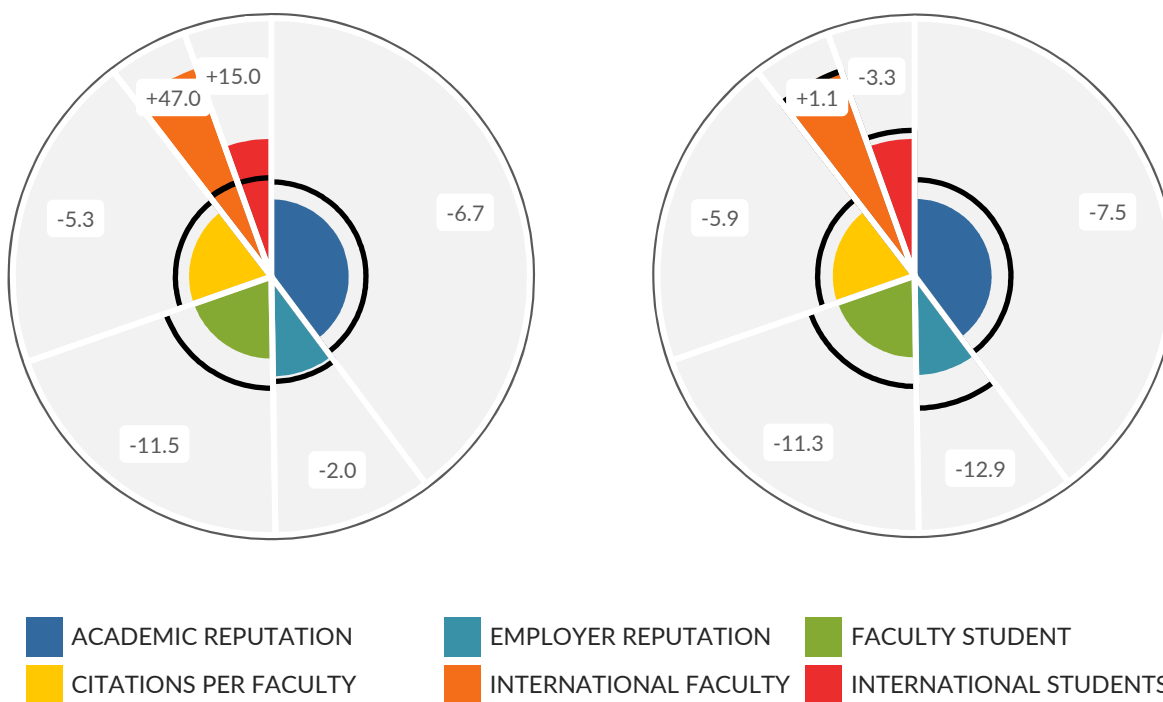■ CITATIONS PER FACULTY     ■ INTERNATIONAL FACULTY     ■ INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

**FIGURE 3**   Indicator variances from global averages and last year's performance (denoted by the black ring)

# TOP UNIVERSITIES - IRELAND

| | INSTITUTION | 2016 GLOBAL | 2015 GLOBAL | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **#1** | Trinity College Dublin (TCD) | **98=** | **78** | |
| **#2** | University College Dublin (UCD) | **176** | **154** | |
| **#3** | National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG) | **249=** | **271=** | |
| **#4** | University College Cork (UCC) | **283=** | **233=** | |
| **#5** | Dublin City University (DCU) | **380=** | **353** | |
| **#6** | University of Limerick (UL) | **501-550** | **471-480** | |
| **#7** | Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) | **651-700** | **601-650** | |
| **#7** | Maynooth University | **651-700** | **551-600** | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

# NATIONAL SYSTEM STRENGTH - QS SAFE

Since 2008, QS has blended the ranking results with other country data to compile a ranking of higher education systems. It uses four indicators:
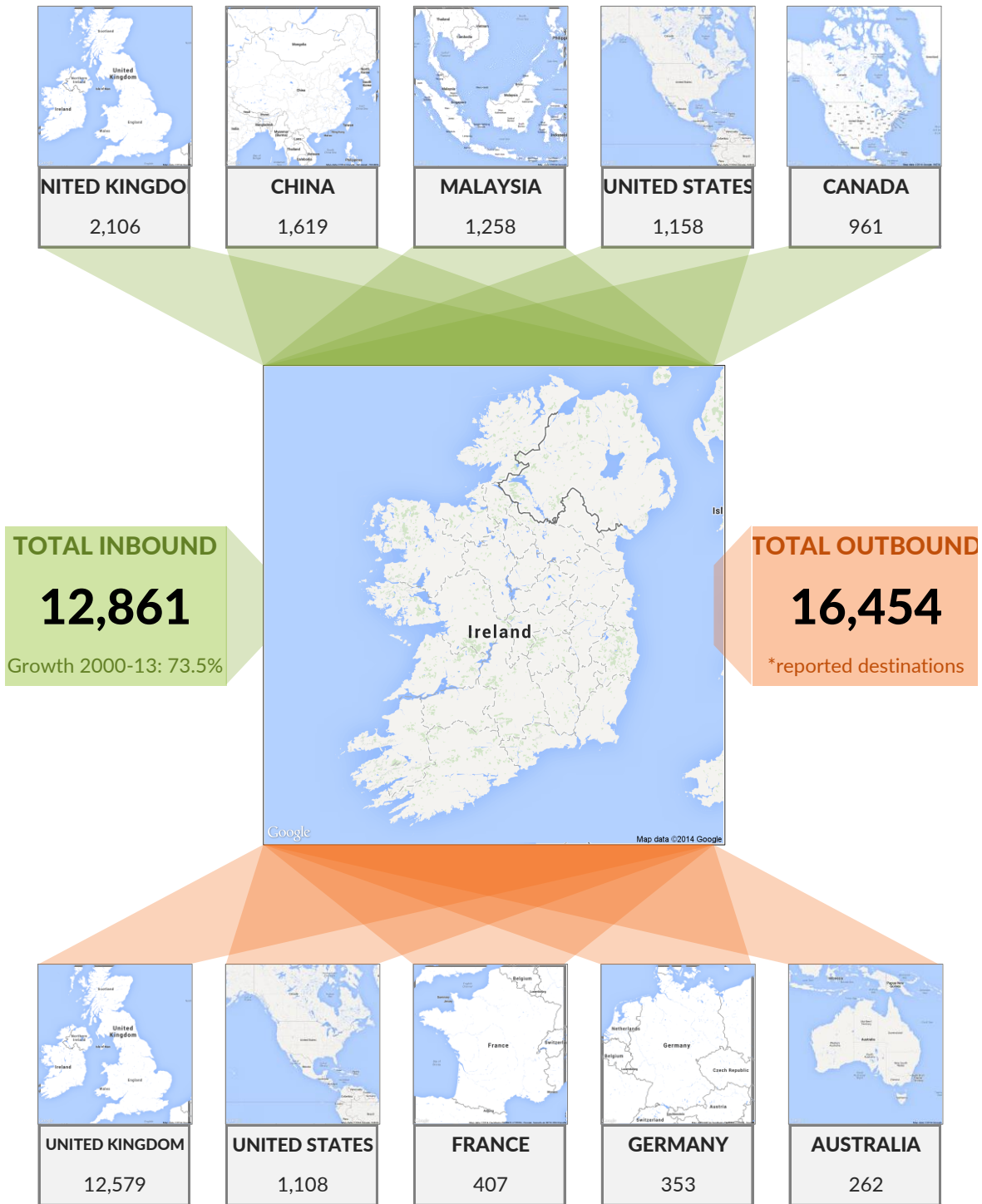
**S** **SYSTEM**
Indexed score based on the collective performance of institutions in the QS World University Rankings®

**A** **ACCESS**
Score based on the number of places at ranked universities factored against the size of the population

**F** **FLAGSHIP**
Score based on the position of the top performing university in the country in the QS World University Rankings®

**E** **ECONOMIC**
An index based on the number of ranked universities factored against economic strength (GDP per capita)

|   |  | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |   |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| **S** | SCORE | 57.8 | 41 | 41.4 | 48.1 | 42.9 | **25** |
|   | RANK | 23 | 26 | 25 | 25 | 25 |   |
| **A** | SCORE | 74.9 | 61.5 | 61.9 | 68.3 | 65.8 | **20** |
|   | RANK | 15 | 18 | 20 | 16 | 20 |   |
| **F** | SCORE | 93.6 | 94.7 | 94.8 | 89.4 | 81.9 | **21** |
|   | RANK | 15 | 15 | 17 | 17 | 21 |   |
| **E** | SCORE | 41.5 | 29.4 | 29.8 | 37.7 | 30.6 | **34** |
|   | RANK | 36 | 36 | 33 | 33 | 34 |   |
| **SAFE** | SCORE | 67 | 56.7 | 57 | 60.9 | 55.3 |   |
|   | RANK | 20 | 23 | 24 | 25 |  |   |

More information on: www.iu.qs.com

**SYSTEM STRENGTH**

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FLOWS

| NITED KINGDO | CHINA | MALAYSIA | UNITED STATES | CANADA |
|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|
| 2,106 | 1,619 | 1,258 | 1,158 | 961 |

**TOTAL INBOUND**

## 12,861

Growth 2000-13: 73.5%

Ireland

**TOTAL OUTBOUND**

## 16,454

*reported destinations

| UNITED KINGDOM | UNITED STATES | FRANCE | GERMANY | AUSTRALIA |
|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|:---:|
| 12,579 | 1,108 | 407 | 353 | 262 |

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT FLOWS**

# TREND INDICATORS

## RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY & QUALITY

**5.4%**   Average change in five-year count of papers published

**9.6%**   Average change in five-year count of citations acquired (excluding self-citations)

**19.7%**   Average change in citations per faculty

**-6.5%**   Average change in proportion of self-citations
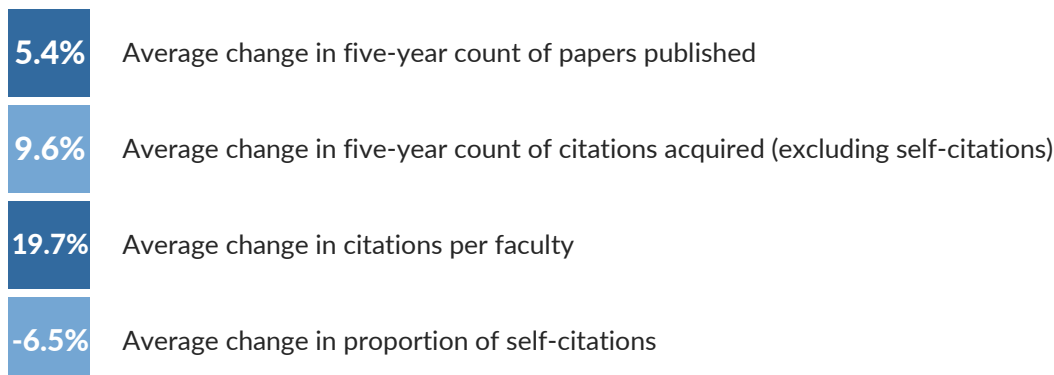
## STUDENT NUMBERS & DEMOGRAPHICS

**2.3%**   Average change in total student numbers

**-306**   Average change in number of FTE international students

**-11.5%**   Average change in proportion of FTE international students

## FACULTY PROVISION

**-8.5%**   Average change in total faculty numbers

**-10.5%**   Average change in faculty student ratio

**-16**   Average change in number of FTE international faculty

**-4.2%**   Average change in proportion of FTE international faculty
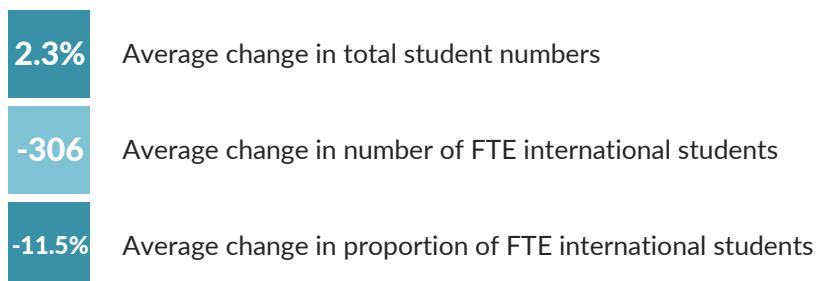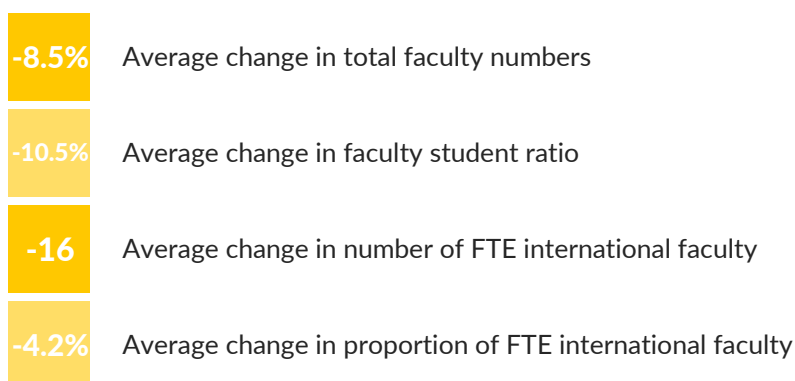
# SUMMARY

The QS World University Rankings® have been published since 2004. Whilst the headline measures have not changed since 2005, the methodology has undergone persistent refinement as reflected in the timeline. This year's refinements to our citation analysis approach are the latest. Furthermore, a number of spin-off evaluations have been added to the QS portfolio over the past ten years.

Whether or not you approve of our methodology or agree with our results, it is clear that rankings are becoming an increasingly influential factor in a diverse range of decisions - from students choosing a university, to institutions selecting partners, from governments setting immigration policy, to scholarship providers shortlisting applicants.

In 2016, over 1.6m distinct people visited topuniversities.com in the first week after launch, over 4.5m in the first month comprising almost 16.5m page views. There is no denying the popularity and impact of rankings - the QS rankings in particular.

Inevitably, there will always be ups and downs in a ranking and we recognize that universities cannot be fully summed up by a single number - which is exactly why QS has evolved a broader range of evaluations designed to highlight excellence in different aspects and contexts. QSIU is always seeking new ideas for further development.

**GET THE QS APP**

Download on the **App Store**

GET IT ON **Google play**

- Explore the full results
- Apply your own weights and;
- Generate your own results
- Find your nearest ranked university
- Blend subject and overall results

## UNDERSTANDING THIS COUNTRY REPORT

Data from multiple sources has gone into creating this country report:

1. World Bank indicators have been selected which have a bearing on higher education
2. Where available OECD data on the migration of students has been included for the top five origin and destination countries
3. The QS World University Rankings(R) have been sliced and diced to give an indication of the collective strength of universities
4. QS SAFE measures are featured to look at the actual vs. expected system strength

Hopefully in the main, the report is self-explanatory, the objective has been clear visuals and a consise tone, but if there are unanswered questions or clarifications, ideas for refinements or you need reproducible graphics, please get in touch and we'll see what we can do.

## RANKINGS TIMELINE

**2004 |** QS World University Rankings® launch - 200 institutions featured

**2005 |** Employer Reputation introduced

**2006 |** Fact files dispatched for the first time

**2007 |** Switch to Scopus; FTE as standard; standardization introduced

**2008 |** QS SAFE System Strength analysis first conducted; Domestic and international responses isolated in survey analysis - 604 institutions featured

**2009 |** Qualtrics employed for surveys; Asia ranking launched

**2010 |** Damping introduced; caps applied for international indicators; international advisory board established

**2011 |** Subject rankings launched; self-citations excluded; Latin America ranking begun - 713 institutions featured in world ranking

**2012 |** QS Best Student Cities and QS Top 50 Under 50 launched

**2013 |** BRICS ranking launched; H-index added to subject rankings; subject approach applied to faculty areas - 834 institutions in world ranking

**2014 |** 863 institutions in world ranking; advanced fact files dispatched

**2015 |** 891 institutions ranked; faculty-level normalization applied for citations analysis; survey window extended to five years

2016 | 919 instituitions ranked

**SUMMARY**

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# ABOUT QSIU

The QS Intelligence Unit (QSIU) was formed in 2008 from the team that had been operating the QS World University Rankings® since 2004. The team now numbers more than 30 people from 15 countries. In addition to these rankings, by the end of 2016, QSIU will have published five regional rankings, discipline level rankings in 42 separate subjects, city rankings, various MBA rankings and graduate employability rankings.

Through this experience, QSIU has become a leading authority on performance evaluation, management and improvement in higher education and, perhaps, the foremost independent market intelligence compiler dedicated exclusively to international higher education.

As a private company, our work attracts particular scrutiny and since our business is entirely dependent on the continued good will of higher education institutions worldwide, we recognize that our reputation is vital and we passionately strive to build on it day by day, doing our work responsibly and with integrity. The compilation of rankings is, and will always remain, independent from everything else the company does. The QS Intelligence Unit was the first, and remains the only, compiler of global university rankings to open its practices to external scrutiny and is proud to have had a number of it's rankings "IREG Approved" as of May 2013.

For details of our work, including detailed descriptions of our methodologies, please visit our website on **www.iu.qs.com**.

For more detailed analysis of the performance of your own institution and benchmarking with respect to selected others or national and regional norms, please contact us on **intelligenceunit@qs.com**.

For more information on QSIU, as well as its projects and services, please visit **www.iu.qs.com**

If you have questions or suggestions about this report please contact

**QS Intelligence Unit**
1 Tranley Mews, Fleet Road, London NW3 2DG, UNITED KINGDOM

**Tel:** +44 20 7428 2782
**Email:** rankings@qs.com

# GLOSSARY

| | |
|---|---|
| **Academic Reputation** | A score based on the analysis of responses gathered over a three year period in the QS Global Academic Survey |
| **BRICS** | A collective term for Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa often used in an economic context |
| **Citation** | A reference to one publication in the bibliography of another |
| **Employer Reputation** | A score based on the analysis of responses gathered over a three year period in the QS Global Employer Survey |
| **Faculty Areas** | Five broad subject areas used by QS to segment analysis - Arts & Humanities, Engineering & Technology, Life Sciences & Medicine, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences & Management |
| **Faculty Student** | A score based on the ratio between FTE faculty and student counts |
| **FTE** | Full Time Equivalent - a way to calculate and compare staff and student numbers independently of the balance between full-time and part-time |
| **H** | A score based on the H-index calculated on all papers an institution has published in a given faculty area |
| **Interquartile range** | The range between the 25th and 75th percentiles in any given range |
| **IREG** | IREG (International Ranking Expert Group) Observatory on Academic Rankings and Excellence - www.ireg-observatory.org |
| **Normalization** | A statistical approach designed to make distinct measures more fairly comparable |
| **QS Best Student Cities** | A separate evaluation of the best city destinations for international study |
| **QS SAFE** | System. Access. Flagship. Economic. An evaluation of national HE system strength drawing on rankings and other data inputs. |
| **Qualtrics** | An enterprise-level survey deployment and analysis software platform used by many HE institutions and by QS since 2009 |
| **Scopus** | The world's largest database of abstracts and citations of peer-reviewed literature operated by Elsevier. More on http://info.scopus.com |
| **Self-citation** | A citation referencing the author's own previously published work. These are excluded from all QS analysis |