

U-Multirank - Key questions and answers

U-Multirank is a new university ranking for higher education institutions of all types, from all parts of Europe and the world. It is user-driven, and examines institutions' performance across a wide range of higher education missions. First results, for 500 institutions, will be published in 2014.

Why another ranking?

- U-Multirank is a very different form of ranking. It compares the performance of universities and colleges not only in research, but also in teaching, knowledge transfer, international orientation and regional engagement; it is a multi-dimensional ranking.
- It presents performance profiles for universities across the five dimensions using a broad range of performance indicators. It provides these performance profiles at two levels: for the institution as a whole; and at the level of different disciplinary fields (initially mechanical and electrical engineering, business and physics).
- U-Multirank was designed in very close consultation with stakeholders to ensure that it meets the diverse information needs of different stakeholders. This information is provided through a user-friendly interactive webtool that can be used flexibly by students, academic staff, higher education institutions, policy makers, business and other users.
- A key feature of the U-Multirank webtool is that it enables users to specify the type of institutions they wish to compare (in terms of the activities they are engaged in). This ensures that institutional comparisons are “like with like” and not “apples and oranges”. Users can then decide which areas of performance to include in the comparison of the selected group of universities; in this way U-Multirank produces personalised rankings.

Why participate in U-Multirank?

Participation in U-Multirank provides significant benefits to higher education institutions.

- It provides visibility in an international ranking that shows your own specific performance profile for your institution as a whole and in the disciplinary fields in which you are active (the coverage of fields will increase each year).
- Your performance profile is accessible via the interactive webtool to a wide range of stakeholders: internationally mobile students (and their parents); academic

staff and other higher education institutions seeking partners; business and industry with particular R&D or professional education needs etc.

- You can compare and benchmark your performance profile on a wide range of indicators with other institutions with similar institutional profiles within the European Higher Education Area and beyond, and can identify potential partners for cooperation.

What does participation entail?

U-Multirank is based on publicly available data from different sources (for example, bibliometric and patent data) as well as self-reported data provided by institutions. The U-Multirank project team is attempting to reduce the amount of self-reported data by obtaining more of this information from national data sources.

Your institution will need to:

- Complete an institutional questionnaire concerning your activity profile and your performance in terms of the thirty indicators we use to cover the five performance dimensions
- Complete a similar questionnaire for each of the disciplinary fields in which you would like to participate
- Invite a selection of your students in each disciplinary field to complete an on-line survey

In the data collection phase you will receive extensive support from the U-Multirank team via glossaries, our FAQ sections and by email. In the feasibility study the 150 participating institutions did not find the work involved in data provision to be excessive.

Higher education institutions will not be charged any fee for participation. (Access to the webtool will also be free of charge to all users.)

What is the time schedule?

The recruitment of institutions started in February 2013.

The first data collection will take place from June to December 2013.

The first ranking will be published on the webtool in early 2014. It will include a minimum of 500 institutions from Europe and beyond and will comprise multi-dimensional institutional rankings and the first four field-based rankings in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, business and physics.

In the following years U-Multirank will be extended progressively in terms of both the number of institutions and the range of disciplinary fields. We plan to include sociology, psychology, social work, computer science and music in the second ranking in 2015.

What is U-Map and (how) is it different to U-Multirank?

U-Map is a project run by CHEPS which shares a number of methodological and design elements with U-Multirank. U-Map is user-driven and multi-dimensional but is not a ranking instrument. It is a *mapping* tool concerned with understanding the mix of different activities an institution is engaged in (*what it does*), while U-Multirank is concerned with an institution's performance in these activities (*how well it does what it does*). Indicators originally developed for U-Map have been incorporated into U-Multirank to enable the creation of user-selected groups of sufficiently comparable institutions that can then be compared in focused institutional or field based rankings.

For more information on U-Map please see www.u-map.eu

How to participate in U-Multirank?

Please visit our website: www.u-multirank.eu

On the contacts page you will find a simple *contact form* to register your institution's interest in participating in U-Multirank

Who is running U-Multirank?

The U-Multirank implementation project is funded by the European Commission for an initial period of two years with the option of an extension for a further two years.

The project is run by a consortium of 15 organisations in which CHE Centre for Higher Education (Germany; www.che.de/en) and the Center for Higher Education Policy Studies (the Netherlands; www.utwente.nl/mb/cheps/) are the lead partners. Partners include research institutes, web designers, national ranking organisations as well as stakeholder organisations.

A full list of partners is provided on the U-Multirank website: www.u-multirank.eu

Where can I find more information?

If you would like to know more about the project or to contact the project team, please send us an email, check our website or contact the project secretary at CHE Centre for Higher Education.

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