

1. The aims of this readymade ranking

This readymade ranking aims to show how selected U-Multirank institutions are performing in terms of 11 performance indicators in the areas of knowledge transfer and regional engagement. While it is not possible to produce a definitive list of the world's "top performing" universities in these areas, U-Multirank shows top performances in different aspects of them.

2. The selection of institutions to compare

In this comparison the U-Multirank team has opted to compare institutions that have a broad or comprehensive focus in terms of the subject areas they are active in (the principle of comparing "like with like"). We wanted to avoid comparing the economic engagement of institutions specialised in very different subject areas (for example, a Business School with a Music School) where the results would be significantly influenced by the nature of the subject areas. The institutions we have selected are all active in at least three broad subject areas (from the 8 field UNESCO classification). Applying this criterion gives us a group of 1,041 institutions to compare.

3. The selection of indicators

In U-Multirank we have eight knowledge transfer indicators and four regional engagement indicators. For this comparison we have selected seven of the former and four of the latter: co-publications with industrial and with regional partners; income from private sources; patents awarded and the number of these with industrial partners; publications cited in patents; the number of spin-offs; income from continuing professional development activities; Bachelor and Master graduates working in the region; and student internships in the region. (Further information on these indicators can be found by clicking on the indicator titles in the ranking.) Our intention was to select indicators that measure economic engagement across a broad range of different activities. Please note that the ranking is initially sorted by top scores, but that you can change this by selecting a different sorting method or specific indicator.

4. Examples of interesting results

In terms of all-round performance in the areas of knowledge transfer and regional engagement three universities obtained "A" scores (very good) on seven of the eleven indicators (Claud Bernard U Lyon 1 in France, Lomonosow Moscow State U in Russia and Osaka University in Japan). Of the 1,041 universities, 14 received six 'A' scores of which only France, Italy and Japan have more than one university each in this grouping. These six universities are respectively: U Bordeaux and Telekom ParisTech, Polytechnic U Milano and U Pavia, and Keio U and Tokyo Medical & Dental U. Although the overall makeup of the universities ranked are general comprehensive universities, a richness of UAS and universities of technology show top performance in many indicators. Several of the UAS and universities of technology receive some of the highest number of 'A' scores for the first time in this ranking, like UAS & Arts Western Switzerland, and Telekom ParisTech in France, Tech U Hamburg in Germany and PolyTech U Milano in Italy respectively. This illustrates the U-Multirank conclusion that there are many dimensions of university performance and that many high-performing institutions are not captured by the other global university rankings.