When considering universities, what is the difference between rankings and ratings?

**RANKINGS**

Who’s the best?

The QS World University Rankings® compare universities to one another and put them in order. Based on how the institutions perform across six indicators, QS produces rankings that are designed to assess universities in four areas:

- Research
- Teaching
- Employability
- Internationalization

Rankings often include only the top 100 or top 1000 universities across the globe, meaning that smaller or newer universities have a difficult time competing with the Harvards and Oxfords.

**RATINGS**

Who’s good at what?

A rating assesses universities on how they perform in several areas, similar to the areas considered in rankings. But rather than comparing institutions against one another, they are judged on how they perform against a set standard. QS Stars is an audit on the strengths and weaknesses of a university. The university provides QS with evidence across dozens of indicators. This evidence is verified and the university is given an overall score (“5 Stars”), as well as a score for each category. There is no limit to the amount of universities that can achieve the highest score overall or in any category.