QS Stars™ draw upon a much broader range of indicators than international rankings are able to do. These are split into four major areas, each organized into a number of categories.
Core Criteria

These criteria feature the key building blocks of a university whether focused globally, domestically or locally – All categories in this section are mandatory for the evaluation.

TEACHING

Overall student satisfaction OR Completion
Proportion of students expressing satisfaction with overall experience in student survey
Proportion of students scheduled to graduate succeeding in doing so

Satisfaction with teaching OR Faculty with PhD
Proportion of students expressing satisfaction with teaching through student survey
Proportion of faculty with PhD or equivalent terminal degree

Further study
Proportion of students pursuing further study within 12 months of graduation

Faculty student ratio

EMPLOYABILITY

Employer reputation
Number of employer referees endorsing institution in QS Global Employer Survey

Graduate employment rate
Proportion of students employed within 12 months of graduation (excluding those not actively seeking work e.g. pursuing further study)

Career service support
Number of full-time careers advisors

RESEARCH

Papers per faculty OR Arts-related outputs
Research papers (Scopus) per faculty member
Recognition of academic outputs in disciplines where journal articles are not pervasive
Core Criteria

Citations per paper

Citations per paper – adjusted for institutions with negligible activity in medicine, science and technology

Academic reputation

Number of academic referees endorsing institution in QS Global Academic Survey

Prolific academic experts

Number of faculty members achieving international recognition through awards (e.g. Nobel)

INTERNATIONALIZATION

International faculty

Proportion of international faculty

International collaboration

University research collaborations or joint degree programs with QS top 500 universities in previous three years published rankings

International students

Proportion of international students

Religious facilities

Provision of appropriate facilities for international students of different religions

Inbound exchange students

Proportion of inbound exchange students

Outbound exchange students

Proportion of inbound exchange students

International diversity

Number of nationalities represented in student body
Learning environment

Universities are able select two of the categories in this area as part of the QS Stars™ evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facilities</th>
<th>100</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sporting Facilities</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Facilities</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student societies</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student accommodation</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT infrastructure</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Facilities</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Sporting Facilities**: Provision of key, popular sporting facilities (e.g. swimming pool, gym, track, sports courts etc…)
- **Medical Facilities**: Provision of medical facilities appropriate to the size of the student body
- **Student societies**: Number of student administered organizations
- **Student accommodation**: Number of student rooms relative to size of student body
- **IT infrastructure**: Number of computers on campus; proportion of wired student rooms or campus Wi-Fi coverage
- **Library Facilities**: Value or number of acquisitions with the past 12 months
Learning environment

Online/ Distance Learning

Latest technology
Use of new technology for program deployment

Track record
Length of time the institution had been operating successful online programs

Student faculty engagement
Regular access to faculty for one on one support

Student interaction
Opportunities to meet and interact with fellow students

Commitment to online
Number/proportion of programs made available online

Reputation
Number of organizations using programs and technology for staff training
**Advanced criteria**

*For a university to aspire to being truly world-class, its mission and its impact must extend further than the basics. This selection of criteria looks at important factors that a university with a solid foundation in the core criteria might target to advance to a higher level of performance and recognition.*

Recognising that institutions vary in specialisation, this section gives universities the option to select two of the categories in this area that showcases their strengths.

### CULTURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Concerts and exhibitions</strong></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerts and exhibitions featuring the work or performances of students and faculty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Credits and cultural awards</strong></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credits or cultural awards for students, faculty members or the institution as a whole publically accessible works</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cultural investment</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial contribution to arts projects outside the university OR investment in cultural preservation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### INNOVATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Patents</strong></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active patents registered with national or international patent offices</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spin-off companies</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spin-off companies established in the last five years still operating and no longer requiring support from the university</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Industrial research</strong></td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint research projects with distinct research corporations (non-university), yielding publications in Scopus in the last 5 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Advanced criteria

#### ENGAGEMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community investment and development</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial or in-kind contributions to community projects within 200km of any campus or affiliated facility</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charity work and disaster relief</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial or in-kind contributions to national or international causes and charities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional human capital development</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of graduates employed in the region OR proportion of students from the region</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental impact</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance against a checklist of environmental indicators</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### ACCESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships and bursaries</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial value of, or number of students granted access through, scholarships</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled access</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of campus with wheelchair access</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender balance</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognition of gender parity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-income outreach</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of students identified as low-income OR investment in promotion to low-income families</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Universities will only be evaluated in two of the sections in this area as part of the QS Stars Evaluation. A maximum of 100 points can be scored.
Specialist criteria

Excellence in a narrow field is as valid a claim to world-class status as competence in the round. These criteria are designed to extend credit where it's due. – All categories in this section are mandatory for the evaluation.

**DISCIPLINE RANKING**

- Faculty area ranking
  - Ranking performance in any one of five broad faculty areas conducted

- Specific subject ranking
  - Ranking performance in specific disciplines in rankings conducted by QS or respected alternate publisher

**ACREDITATION**

- Internationally recognized accreditations
  - Programs accredited by internationally recognized and applicable standards

- Nationally recognized accreditations
  - Programs accredited by internationally recognized and applicable standards

**THRESHOLDS & PRE-REQUISITES**

1 Star (100 / 1000)
- Must have the authority to grant valid degree level programs in its own name

2 Stars (250 / 1000)

3 Stars (400 / 1000)

4 Stars (550 / 1000)
- Must have at least 75 academic referees or must have at least 2 citations per faculty member (for any institution not focused exclusively in two or fewer of our broad faculty areas)
- Must have at least 20 employer referees
- Must have at least 1% international students

5 Stars (700 / 1000)
- Must have at least 150 academic referees or 3 citations per faculty member (for any institution not focused exclusively in two or fewer of our broad faculty areas)
- Must have at least 5% international faculty
- Must have at least 5% international students
- Must have at least 20 employer referees
- Must have a minimum of 80 points in Infrastructure category within Core Criteria

5 Stars Plus (900/1000)
- Must have 5 star rating in all categories