



# World University Rankings 2025

## French universities declining in Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025

**Strictly embargoed: 01:01 France time, Wednesday 9 October**

- Ten of France's 50 ranked universities achieved their lowest ever rank.
- Nineteen French universities dropped down the ranking since last year, including the top two institutions: **Paris Sciences et Lettres – PSL Research University Paris** and **Université Paris-Saclay**
- Cuts to research funding are beginning to impact research quality
- France has unprecedented representation in this year's world rankings with a record 50 universities ranked.
- The University of Oxford is the world's best university – coming first for a record breaking ninth year in a row.
- United States has a new leader, Massachusetts Institute of Technology in second place
- Three new countries join the top 200 of the rankings, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates, bringing the total to 30 countries
- More universities are ranked than ever before – over 2,000.
- THE's World University Rankings are the most comprehensive, rigorous and balanced global ranking assessing research-intensive universities across 18 performance indicators.

Ten French universities achieved their **worst ever rank** in this year's Times Higher Education's (*THE*) World University Rankings. Out of the total 50 universities ranked, 19 dropped down the rankings since last year, including four of France's five top universities. Twenty-one stayed at the same position and just three improved their ranking position (seven were not ranked last year).

France's highest ranked university - **PSL Research University Paris** - moved down two places, from 40th last year to 42nd this year. **Université Paris-Saclay**, the second highest ranked university in France, is now 64th, down six places from 58th last year.

In June the president of **PSL Research University Paris** resigned with immediate effect, eight months before his term was due to end. **Université Paris-Saclay** struggled to establish a governing board earlier this year and experienced a turbulent presidential election. Some experts have pointed to ongoing difficulties in governance since the mergers of several institutions into mega-universities in France.

### **Worst rank ever**

Despite a small increase in French universities' average overall score (of 0.21 points), ten of France's 50 ranked universities achieved their worst performance this year:

- Université Paris Cité – joint 183rd from joint 152nd
- Aix-Marseille University – 401–500 from 351–400

- École des Ponts ParisTech – 501–600 from 401–500
- Sciences Po – 601–800 from 501–600
- Université Côte d'Azur – 601–800 from 501–600
- Université de Poitiers – 1001–1200 from 801–1000
- University of Tours – 1001–1200 from 801–1000
- University of Technology of Troyes – 1201–1500 from 1001–1200
- Université Sorbonne Nouvelle – 1501+ from 1201–1500
- University of Pau and Pays de l'Adour – 1501+ from 1201–1500

French universities' relatively weak performance (especially compared with their performance last year) is mostly driven by **drops in the two research quality metrics** that measure the average quality of research output – citation impact and research strength. There are also significant decreases in teaching reputation and research reputation.

French universities have faced **significant funding cuts**, particularly in research, with almost €1 billion cut to France's research and higher education budget.

On the bright side, three universities improved their rank: **IMT Atlantique** and **Institut Agro** both rose from the 401–500 band to the 351–400 band; and University of Rennes 1 rose from band 801-1000 to 601-800.

**Institut Polytechnique de Paris**, which moved up significantly last year from joint 95th to 71st has maintained its 71st position this year. **Sorbonne University** moved from 75th last year, down one place, to 76th this year.

In the *THE* World University Rankings 2025 France has one university in the top 50, four in the top 100, five in the top 200 and 10 in the top 400.

The 21st edition of the ranking has 2,092 universities ranked – up from 1,907 last year – from 115 countries and regions. Ranked universities significantly increased, by 9.7 per cent this year, making it the biggest rise in the past five years and compares to a 6 per cent growth last year.

#### French universities in the top 500 of the *THE* World University Rankings 2025

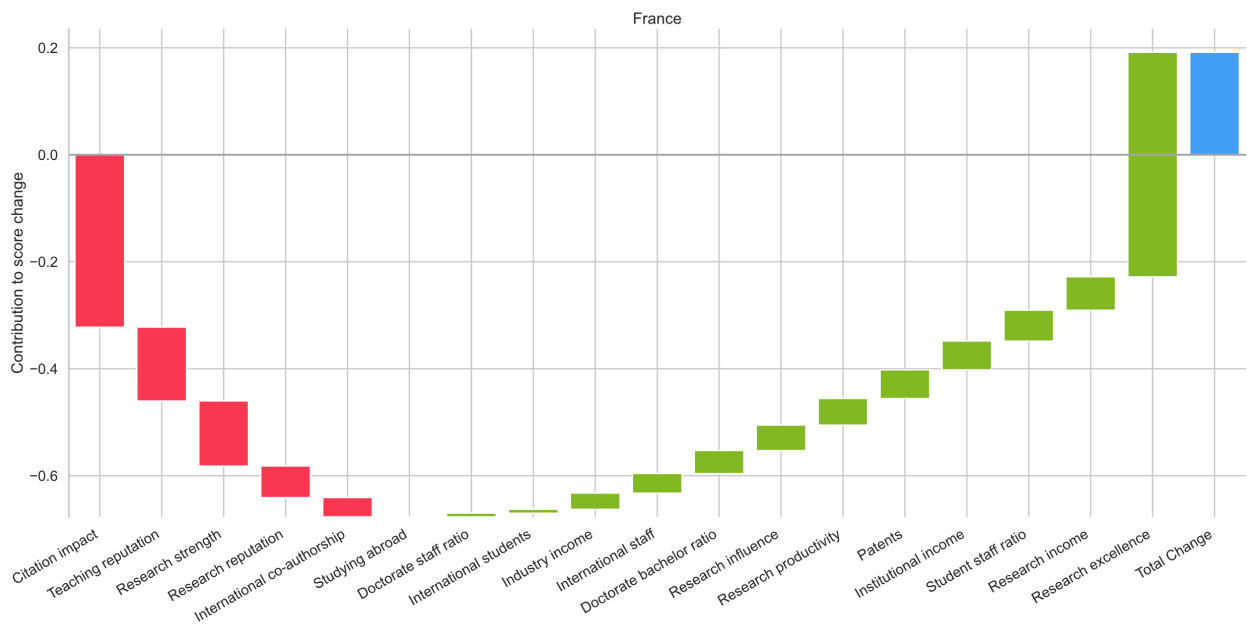
University	Rank 2025	Rank 2024
Paris Sciences et Lettres – PSL Research University Paris	42	40
Université Paris-Saclay	64	58
Institut Polytechnique de Paris	71	71
Sorbonne University	76	75
Université Paris Cité	=183	=152
École Normale Supérieure de Lyon	251–300	251–300
IMT Atlantique	351–400	401–500
Institut Agro	351–400	401–500
Montpellier University	351–400	301–350
Université Grenoble Alpes	351–400	301–350
Aix-Marseille University	401–500	351–400
Claude Bernard University Lyon 1	401–500	401–500
University of Bordeaux	401–500	351–400
University of Toulouse	401–500	401–500

= joint (The list of French universities from 501-1,501+ in the *THE* World University Rankings 2025 is available below, in 'notes to editors')

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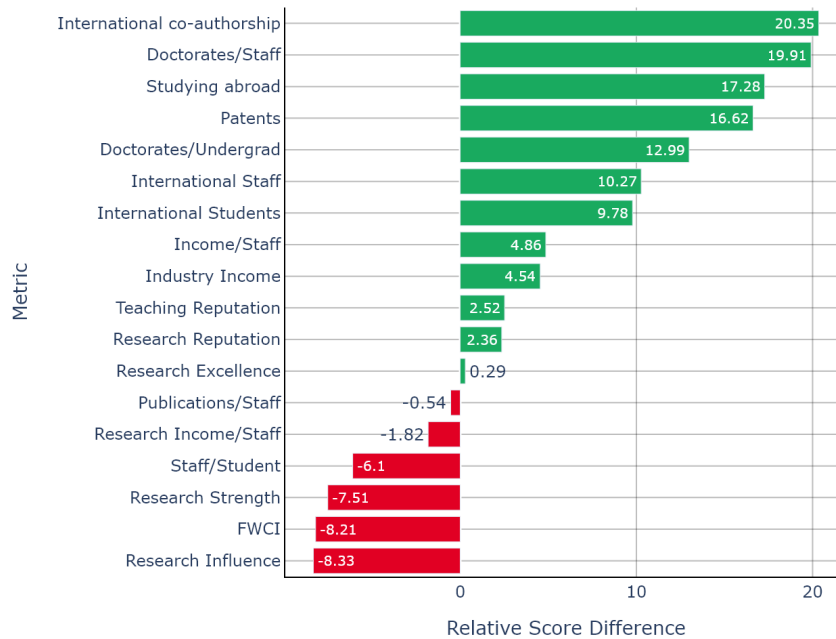
The *THE World University Rankings 2025* are the most comprehensive, rigorous and balanced global ranking assessing research-intensive universities across 18 performance indicators (metrics), which are divided into five pillars, covering their core missions of teaching, research, knowledge transfer and internationalisation.

### Waterfall analysis showing French universities’ performance – this and last year – across the 18 metrics in THE’s World University Rankings



Compared with the rest of Europe, France is behind in three of the four research quality metrics: citation impact, research strength and research influence.

France vs Europe Metric Relative Score Difference 2025



**Phil Baty, Times**

**Higher Education’s chief global affairs officer**, said: “French higher education isn’t just competing with institutions in Europe but with universities in the rest of the world, many of which are investing heavily and strengthening rapidly. Despite the French HE sector improving its overall score from last year, competition is so tough that significant improvements must be made just to stand still. France improved on most of our performance pillars improved this year, but the sector’s research quality is in declining relative to the world, with millions of Euros cut from French universities’ research budget not boding well for the future.”

Europe has long had a good showing in THE’s World University Rankings with 684 ranked institutions this year – the second most represented continent after Asia. Within Europe, the best represented countries are nearly all in Western Europe. The UK has 107 ranked universities, Italy and Spain have 55, France and Germany have 50.

However, Europe’s representation in the elite end of the rankings has been shrinking over time. It now has 91 of the top 200 universities, a drop of 8 universities, from 99, in 2019.

On average, when comparing the top 10 European countries with the most ranked universities, Germany, UK, and Italy have the best research quality scores on the continent. The UK leads the continent in international outlook, followed by France and Germany. France, Germany and Italy all beat the UK in industry score, reflecting stronger collaboration between their higher education sectors and industry.

The world’s best higher education institution is the University of Oxford, which has maintained the top spot for a record nine years in a row. Massachusetts Institute of Technology is the second highest ranked university in the world and in third place is Harvard University.

## The top 10 universities in the *THE* World University Rankings 2025

University	Country	Rank 2025	Rank 2024
University of Oxford	United Kingdom	1	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	United States	2	3
Harvard University	United States	3	4
Princeton University	United States	4	6
University of Cambridge	United Kingdom	5	5
Stanford University	United States	6	2
California Institute of Technology	United States	7	7
University of California, Berkeley	United States	8	9
Imperial College London	United Kingdom	9	8
Yale University	United States	10	10

This year 2,860 institutions submitted data, up 6.9 per cent on last year (last year it was 2,674) from 133 countries and territories. The remaining 768 institutions gained ‘reporter’ status, which means, although they submitted data, they did not meet THE’s eligibility criteria to receive a ranking.

THE’s World University Rankings started with 200 universities and now has more than 2,000 making it the most global and inclusive university ranking in the world.

View the full [World University Rankings 2025 results](#) (link live 01:01 France time, Wednesday 9 October) and see [World University Rankings 2025 methodology](#).

\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*

### Notes to editors

- To find out more about the ranking, including the full list, or to interview Phil Baty, please email [communications@timeshighereducation.com](mailto:communications@timeshighereducation.com) and/or contact Claire Baumforth, THE’s Director of Corporate Communications, [claire.baumforth@timeshighereducation.com](mailto:claire.baumforth@timeshighereducation.com) or call +44 7833 234 133
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- French universities’ position – from 501-1,501+ – in THE’s World University Rankings 2025**

University	Rank 2025	Rank 2024
Centrale Nantes	501–600	401–500
École des Ponts ParisTech	501–600	401–500
ENSTA Bretagne	501–600	501–600
École Centrale de Lyon	601–800	601–800
École des Mines de Saint-Étienne	601–800	601–800
École Nationale des Travaux Publics de l’État (ENTPE)	601–800	601–800
Nantes Université	601–800	501–600
National Institute of Applied Sciences of Lyon (INSA Lyon)	601–800	601–800
Sciences Po	601–800	501–600

Université Côte d'Azur	601–800	501–600
University of Lille	601–800	601–800
University of Lorraine	601–800	601–800
University of Rennes 1	601–800	801–1000
Arts et Métiers	801–1000	801–1000
CY Cergy Paris University	801–1000	801–1000
National Veterinary School of Alfort (EnvA)	801–1000	NR
Panthéon-Sorbonne University – Paris 1	801–1000	801–1000
Université de Bretagne Occidentale	801–1000	801–1000
University of Clermont Auvergne	801–1000	801–1000
University of Savoie Mont Blanc	801–1000	NR
IMT Nord Europe	1001–1200	1001–1200
Université de Poitiers	1001–1200	801–1000
Université d'Orléans	1001–1200	NR
University of Tours	1001–1200	801–1000
National Institute of Applied Sciences, Strasbourg (INSA Strasbourg)	1201–1500	NR
Paris Nanterre University	1201–1500	1201–1500
Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France	1201–1500	1201–1500
University of Angers	1201–1500	NR
University of Franche-Comté	1201–1500	1001–1200
University of La Rochelle	1201–1500	NR
University of Rouen Normandie	1201–1500	NR
University of Technology of Compiègne	1201–1500	1201–1500
University of Technology of Troyes	1201–1500	1001–1200
Jean Moulin University – Lyon 3	1501+	1501+
Université Sorbonne Nouvelle	1501+	1201–1500
University of Pau and Pays de l'Adour	1501+	1201–1500

**4. Top 100 universities in THE's World University Rankings 2025 – for the full list email [communications@timeshighereducation.com](mailto:communications@timeshighereducation.com)**

University	Country	Rank 2025	Rank 2024
University of Oxford	United Kingdom	1	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	United States	2	3
Harvard University	United States	3	4
Princeton University	United States	4	6
University of Cambridge	United Kingdom	5	5
Stanford University	United States	6	2
California Institute of Technology	United States	7	7
University of California, Berkeley	United States	8	9
Imperial College London	United Kingdom	9	8
Yale University	United States	10	10
ETH Zurich	Switzerland	11	11
Tsinghua University	China	12	12

Peking University	China	13	14
The University of Chicago	United States	=14	13
University of Pennsylvania	United States	=14	16
Johns Hopkins University	United States	16	15
National University of Singapore	Singapore	17	19
Columbia University	United States	=18	17
University of California, Los Angeles	United States	=18	18
Cornell University	United States	20	20
University of Toronto	Canada	21	21
UCL	United Kingdom	=22	22
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	United States	=22	23
Carnegie Mellon University	United States	24	24
University of Washington	United States	25	25
Technical University of Munich	Germany	26	=30
Duke University	United States	27	26
The University of Tokyo	Japan	28	29
University of Edinburgh	United Kingdom	29	=30
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore	Singapore	30	32
Northwestern University	United States	31	28
École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne	Switzerland	32	33
New York University	United States	33	27
University of California, San Diego	United States	34	34
University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong	35	35
Fudan University	China	=36	44
King's College London	United Kingdom	=36	=38
LMU Munich	Germany	38	=38
University of Melbourne	Australia	39	37
Georgia Institute of Technology	United States	40	36
University of British Columbia	Canada	41	41
Paris Sciences et Lettres – PSL Research University Paris	France	42	40
KU Leuven	Belgium	43	45
The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong	44	53
McGill University	Canada	45	49
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	United States	46	42
Universität Heidelberg	Germany	=47	47
Zhejiang University	China	=47	=55
Karolinska Institute	Sweden	49	50
London School of Economics and Political Science	United Kingdom	=50	46
University of Texas at Austin	United States	=50	52
Shanghai Jiao Tong University	China	52	43
University of Manchester	United Kingdom	=53	51
University of Science and Technology of China	China	=53	57
Kyoto University	Japan	55	=55
Delft University of Technology	Netherlands	=56	48
University of Wisconsin-Madison	United States	=56	63

Brown University	United States	=58	=64
Monash University	Australia	=58	54
University of Amsterdam	Netherlands	=58	61
The University of Sydney	Australia	61	60
Seoul National University	South Korea	=62	62
University of California, Davis	United States	=62	59
Université Paris-Saclay	France	64	58
Nanjing University	China	65	73
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Hong Kong	66	=64
University of California, Santa Barbara	United States	=67	69
Wageningen University & Research	Netherlands	=67	=64
Washington University in St Louis	United States	69	68
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	United States	70	72
Institut Polytechnique de Paris	France	71	71
University of Southern California	United States	72	74
Australian National University	Australia	=73	67
Leiden University	Netherlands	=73	77
Boston University	United States	75	78
Sorbonne University	France	76	75
The University of Queensland	Australia	77	70
University of Bristol	United Kingdom	78	81
Purdue University West Lafayette	United States	79	86
City University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong	=80	82
University of Groningen	Netherlands	=80	79
Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)	South Korea	82	83
UNSW Sydney	Australia	83	84
Humboldt University of Berlin	Germany	=84	=87
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Hong Kong	=84	=87
University of Massachusetts	United States	=84	=123
University of Glasgow	United Kingdom	=87	=87
University of Minnesota	United States	=87	85
University of Bonn	Germany	89	91
University of California, Irvine	United States	=90	=92
Vanderbilt University	United States	=90	=92
RWTH Aachen University	Germany	92	90
Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin	Germany	=93	94
University of Birmingham	United Kingdom	=93	101
KTH Royal Institute of Technology	Sweden	=95	=97
Lund University	Sweden	=95	=106
University of Copenhagen	Denmark	97	=103
Emory University	United States	=98	=106
University of Sheffield	United Kingdom	=98	105
Penn State (Main campus)	United States	=100	122
University of Tübingen	Germany	=100	=95



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