



The best university in the world? What ranking can and can't tell us

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Times Higher Education



Times Higher Education

- 1971 First issue of supplement
- 2004 World University Rankings launched
- 2005 THE becomes standalone publication independent of The Times
- 2008 THE relaunched in magazine format
- 2010 World University Rankings production moved to Thomson Reuters
- 2015 World University Rankings brought in-house

What is the best university in the world?

- US News
- QS
- Shanghai
- CWRU
- Fifa
- Webometrics
- Times Higher Education



Why have them at all? My thoughts:

- Education is global, information is local
- Universities are amongst the last great institutions to be held to public account
- Rankings generate (and use) data that can provide insight
- It's too late now

Why the difference?

- Different methodologies
- Different data
- Different ideas of what a world class university should be

	Times Higher Education	QS	Shanghai ARWU
Teaching environment	Faculty-student ratio 4.5%	Faculty-student ratio 20%	Allumni Nobels 10%
	Institutional income 2.25%		
	Doctorates to academic staff ratio 6%		
	Doctorates to bachelor's ratio 2.25%		
	Reputation Survey 15 %		
Research	Citation impact 30%	Citation per faculty 20%	Faculty Nobels 20%
	Reputation survey 18%	Reputation 40%	Papers in Nature and Science 20%
	Research income 6%		Highly cited researchers 20%
	Research productivity 6%		Papers in Science Citation Index 20%
International Outlook	International students 2.5%	International students 5%	
	International faculty 2.5%	International faculty 5%	
	International research papers 2.5%		
Knowledge transfer	Industry income 2.5%		
Employer reputation		Employer reputation 10%	
Productivity			Per capita performance 10%

What are the similarities?

- Research focus
- Reputation - subjective
- Bibliometrics – objective(ish)
- Scope – “top” 1000 universities
 - Global research insititutions

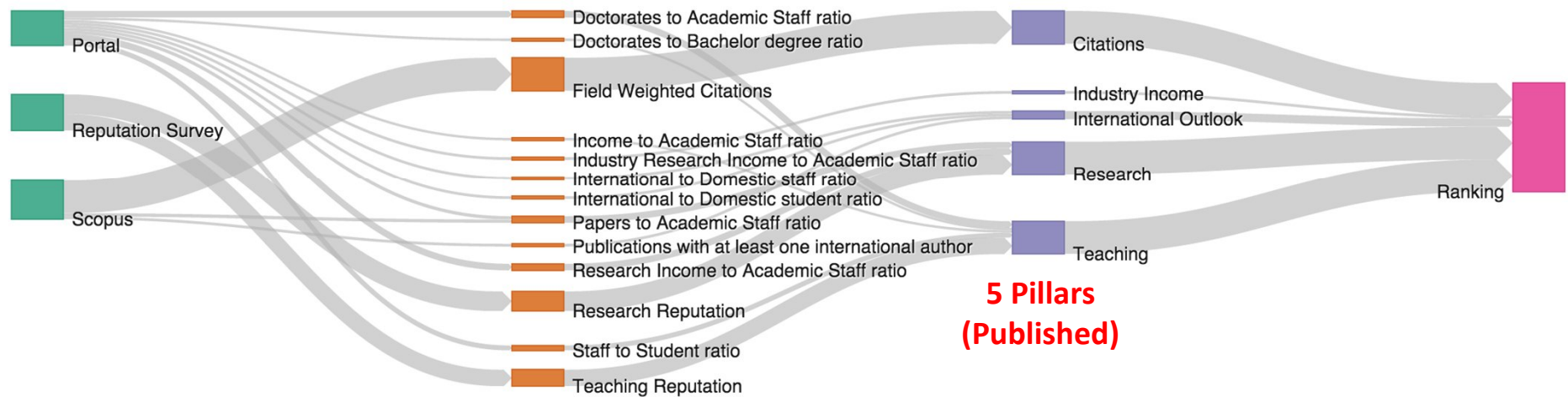


THE Methodology and data

A brief overview of THE methodology

Data Sources

13 Metrics (Not published)



Criteria for entry: have more than 1000 scholarly articles

- From Elsevier's Scopus database
- Articles, reviews, conference papers, books
- 200 per year (some scope for movement)
- 2011-2015 (for this year)
 - Data collated in July

Criteria for entry: be universal

- We require activity in more than one of the subject areas

Criteria for entry: teach at undergraduate level

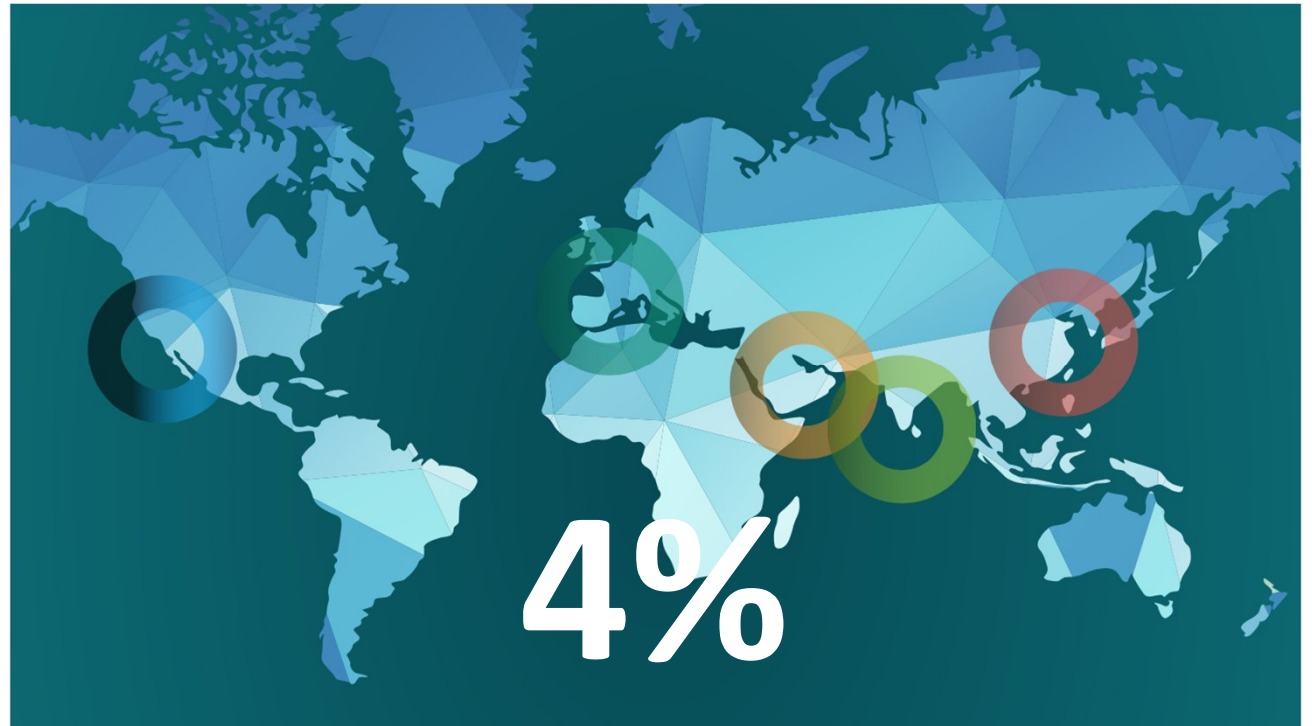
- Evidence of significant number of undergraduate students

Thirteen metrics

	Doctorates to academic staff	Doctorates to bachelor's degrees awarded	Teaching reputation	Income to academic staff	Staff to student ratio	Papers to academic staff	Research income to academic staff	Research reputation	Field Weighted Citations	Industry research income to academic staff	International to domestic staff	International to domestic student	Publications with international author
%	6	2.25	15	2.25	4.5	6	6	18	30	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Relative	Staff	Student body		Staff	Staff	Staff	Staff		Papers	Staff	Staff	Student body	
Norm	Z	Z	Exp	Z	Z	Z	Z	Exp	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z
Subject weight	Yes					Yes	Yes		Yes*				Yes
PPP				Yes			Yes			Yes			

Coverage

- 2004 - 200 Universities
- 2010 - 400
- 2015 - 800
- 2016 - 980



Our subjects 2016

- Physical Sciences
- Life Sciences
- Clinical and Medical
- Social Sciences
- **NEW SUBJECT: Business**
- Arts and humanities
- Engineering and Technology
- **NEW SUBJECT: Information Technology**

Subject groupings

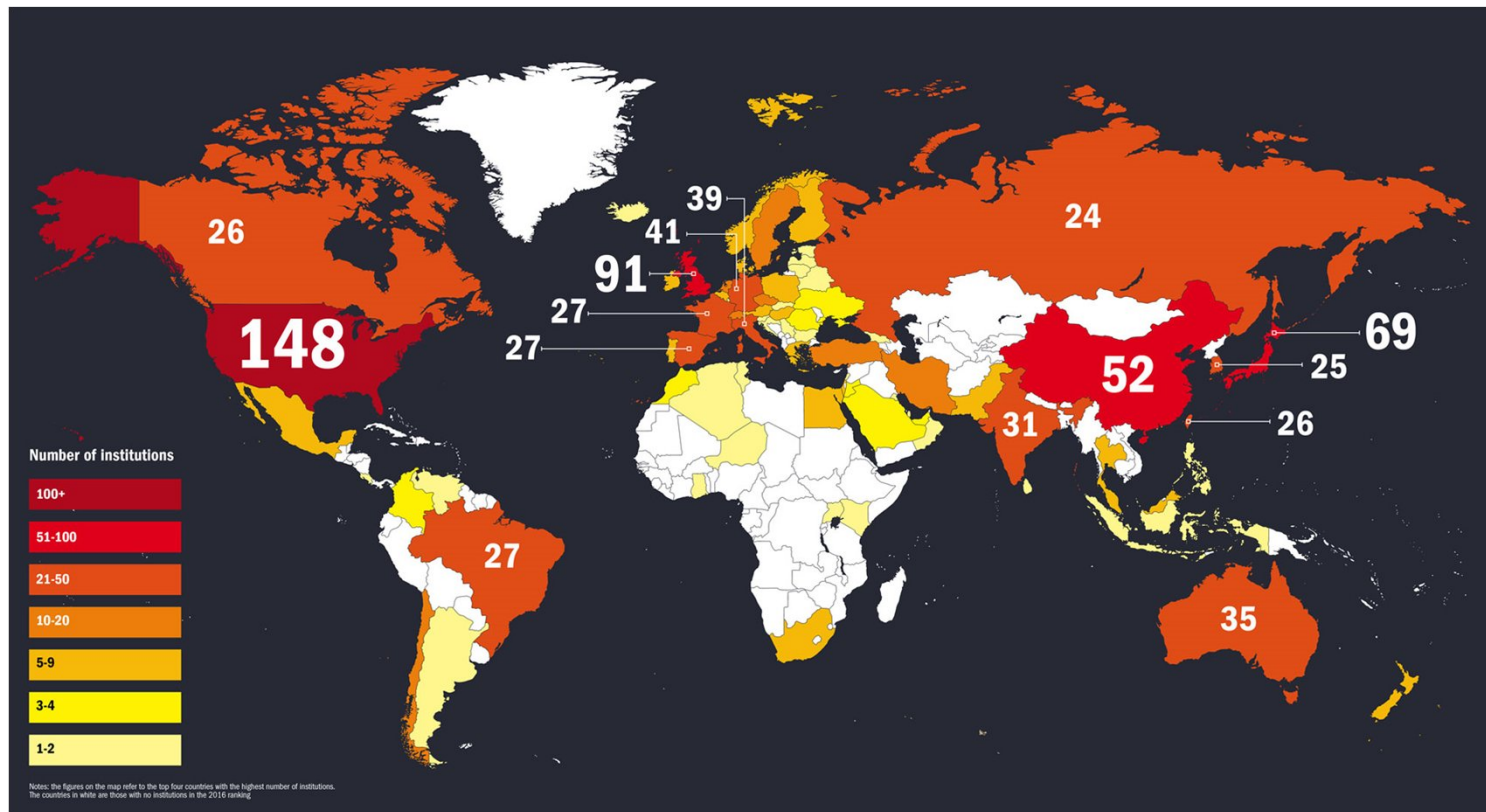
ARTS AND HUMANITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art, Performing Arts & Design (inc. Creative Arts)• Languages, Literature & Linguistics• History, Philosophy & Theology (inc. Classics)• Architecture• Archaeology	ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Engineering• Electrical and Electronic Engineering• Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering• Civil Engineering (inc. Construction & Materials Science)• Chemical Engineering COMPUTER SCIENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computer Science	SOCIAL SCIENCES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication & Media Studies• Education• Law• Politics & International Studies (inc. Development Studies)• Sociology (inc. cultural studies, population & anthropology)• Psychology• Geography BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business & Management• Accounting & Finance• Economics & Econometrics
PHYSICAL SCIENCES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mathematics & Statistics• Physics & Astronomy• Chemistry• Geology, Environmental, Earth & Marine Sciences	LIFE SCIENCES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agriculture & Forestry (inc. food)• Biological Sciences (inc. biochemistry)• Veterinary Science (inc. zoology)• Sports Science	CLINICAL, PRE-CLINICAL AND HEALTH <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medicine & Dentistry• Other Health (inc. Nursing & Healthcare Services)

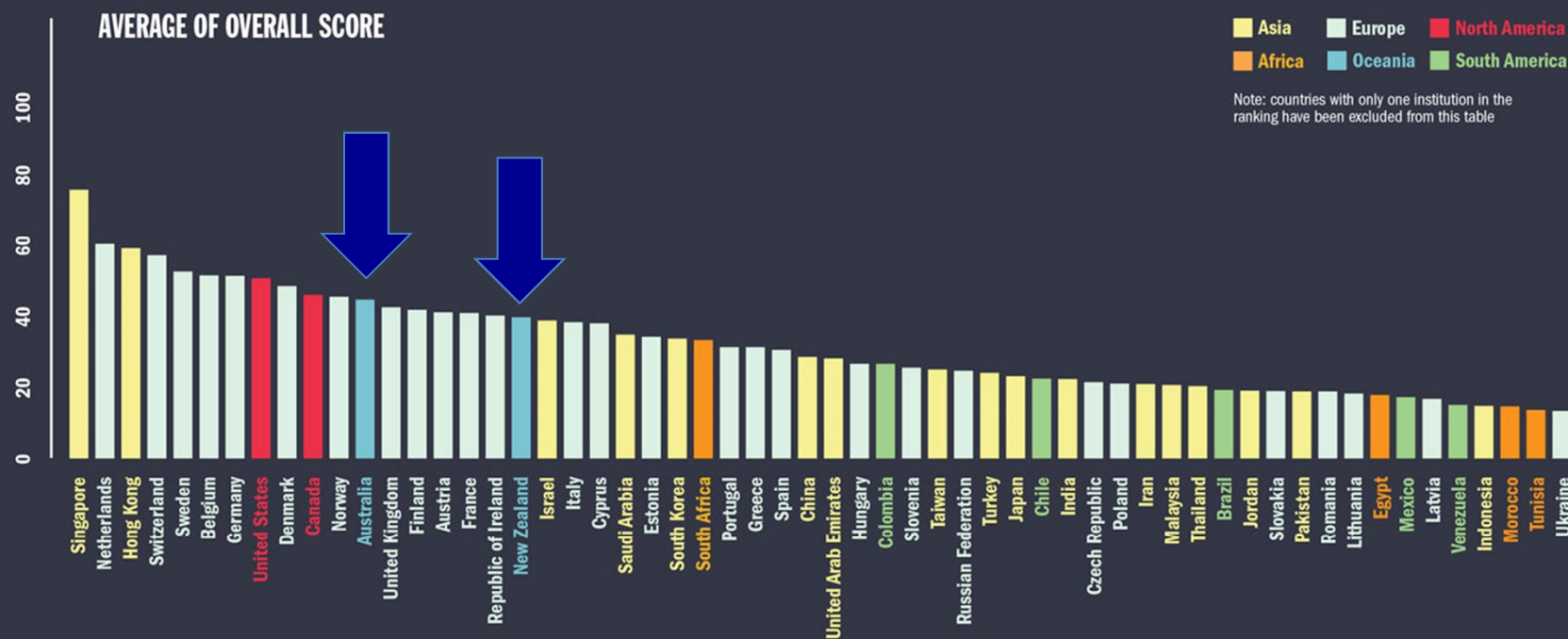
Published Rankings

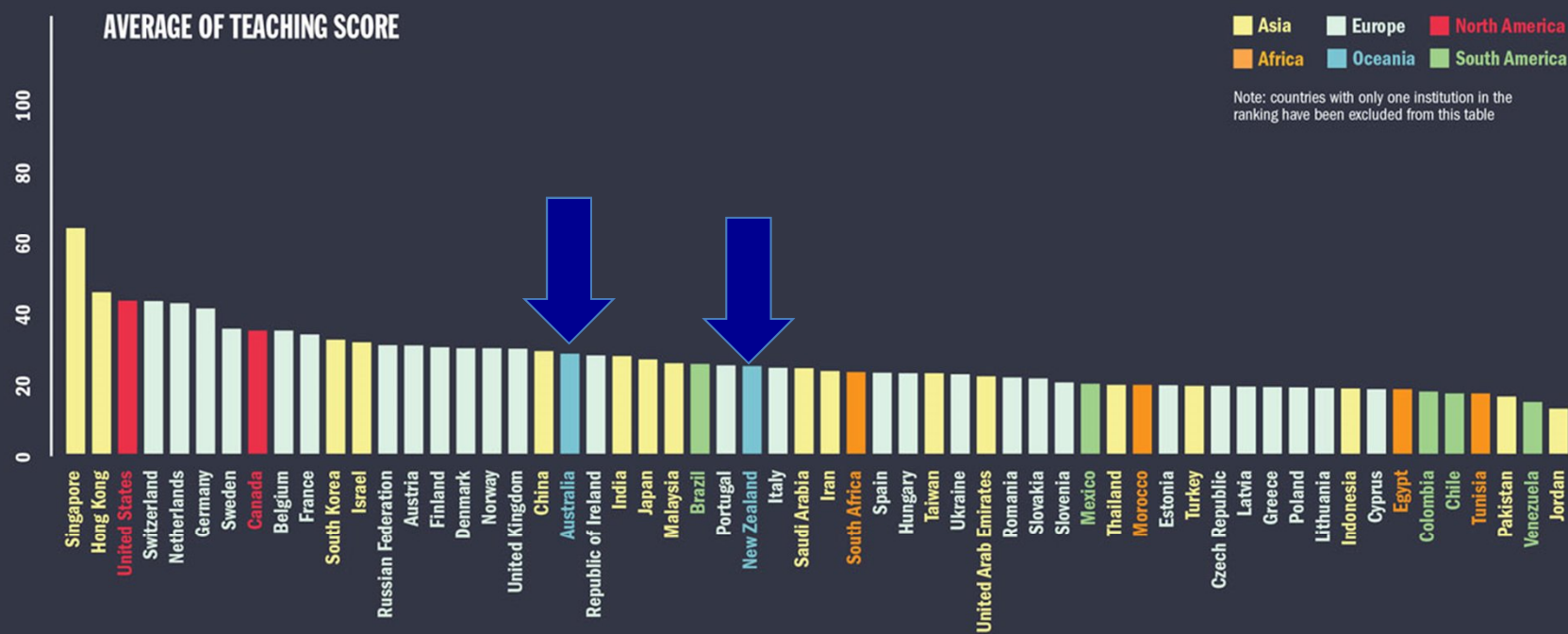
- World University Ranking (October)
 - Subject rankings
 - Regional rankings
 - BRICS and Young rankings
- Reputation Rankings (May)
- *Specialised country rankings (New)*

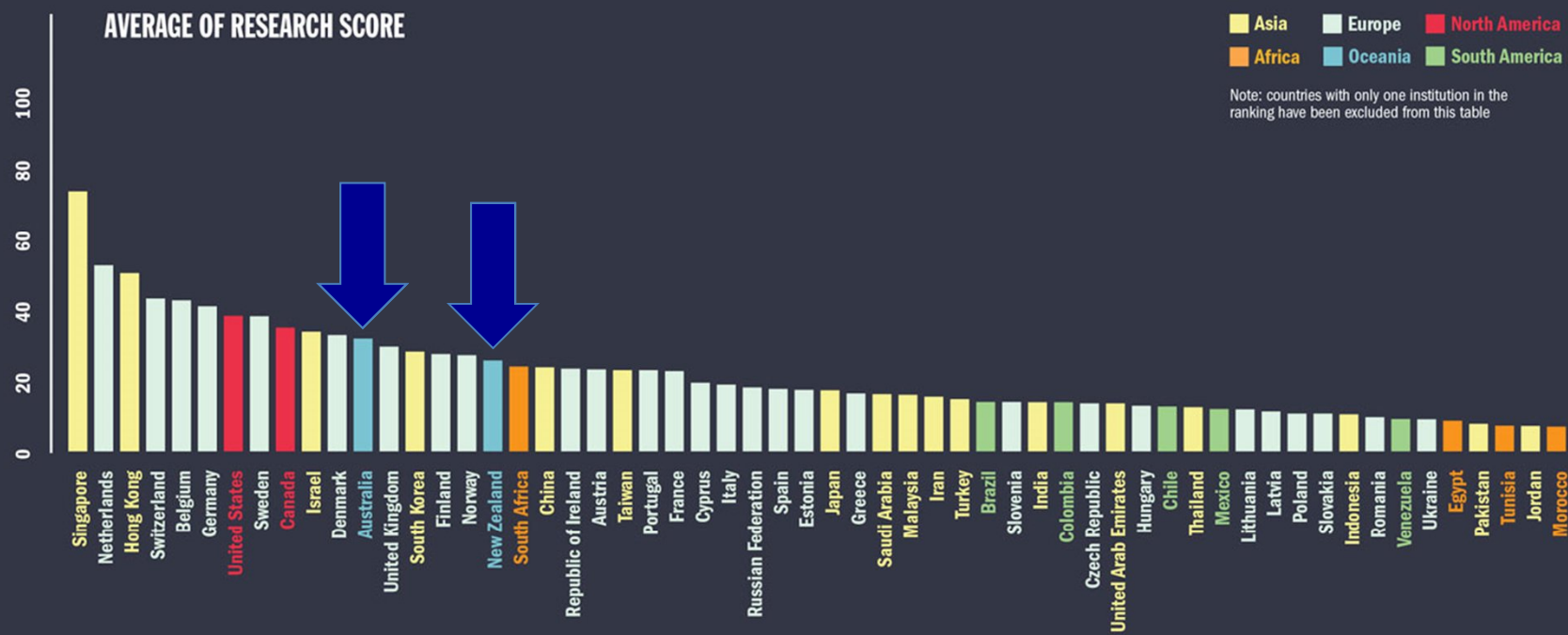


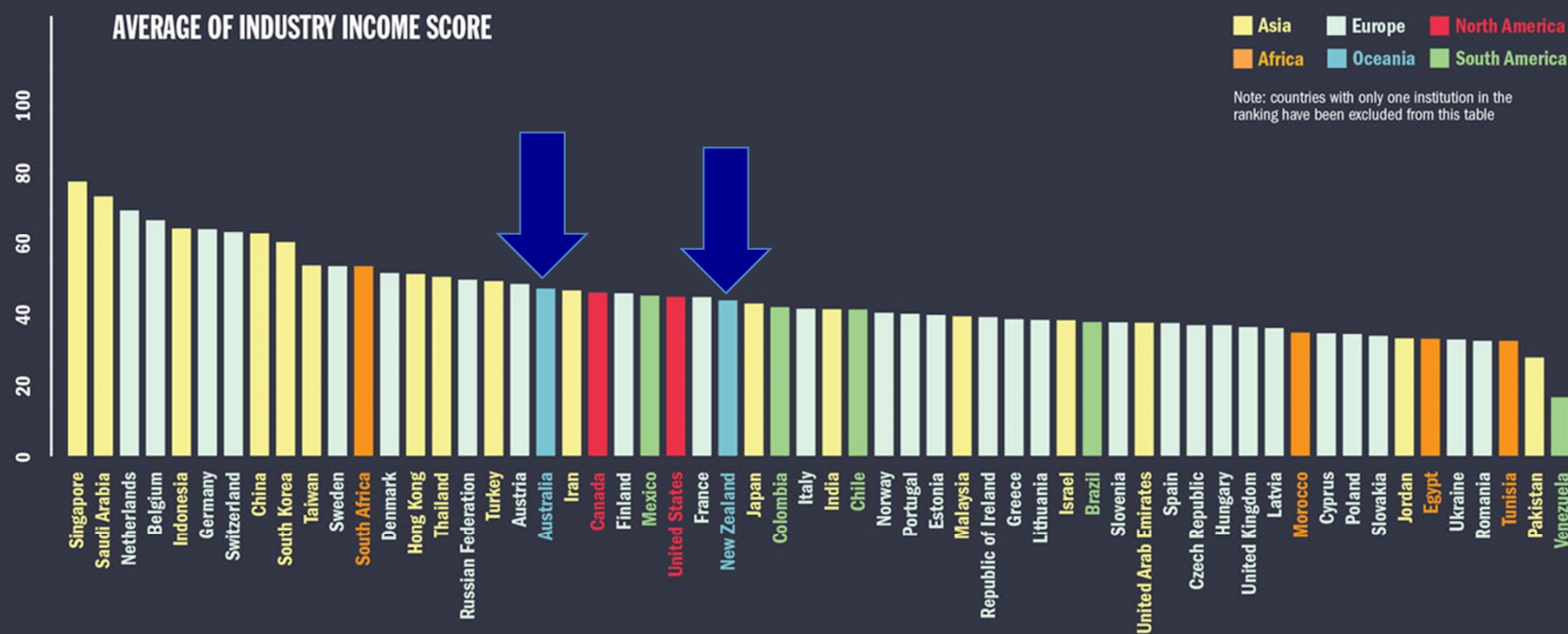
So what can we see?



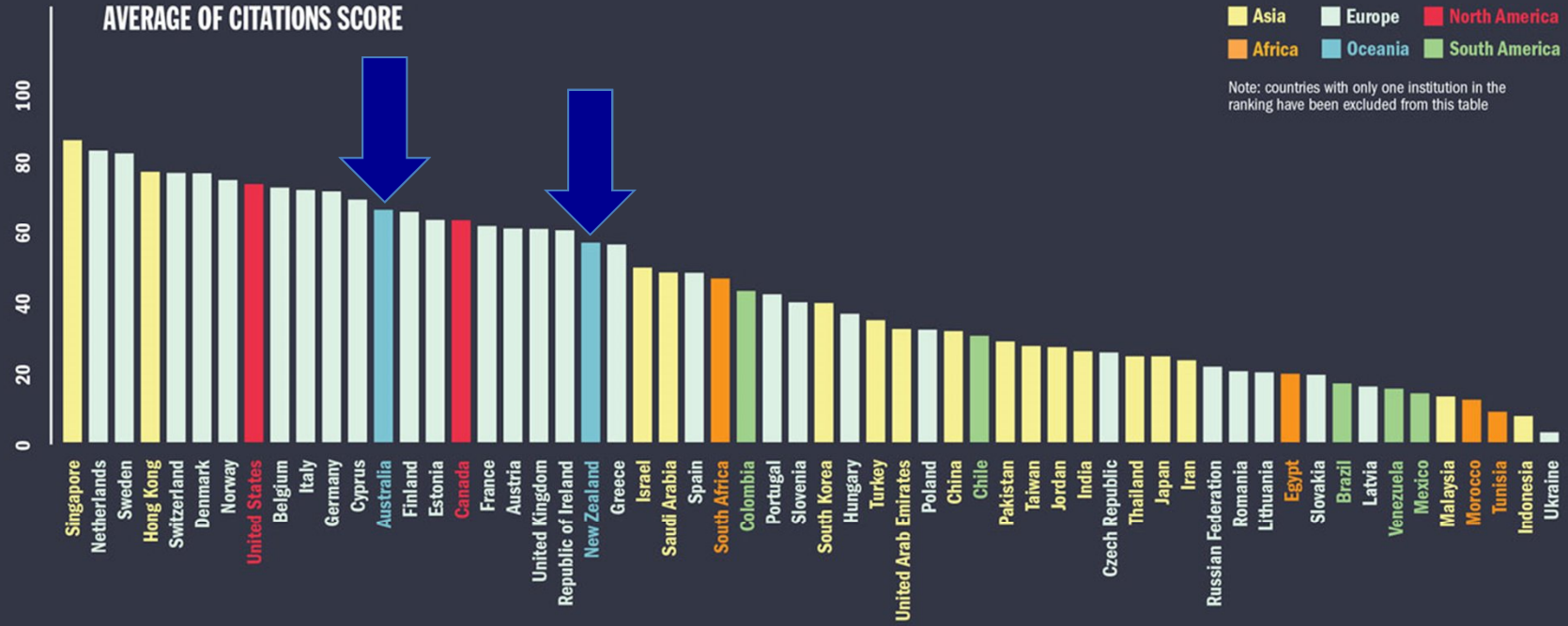


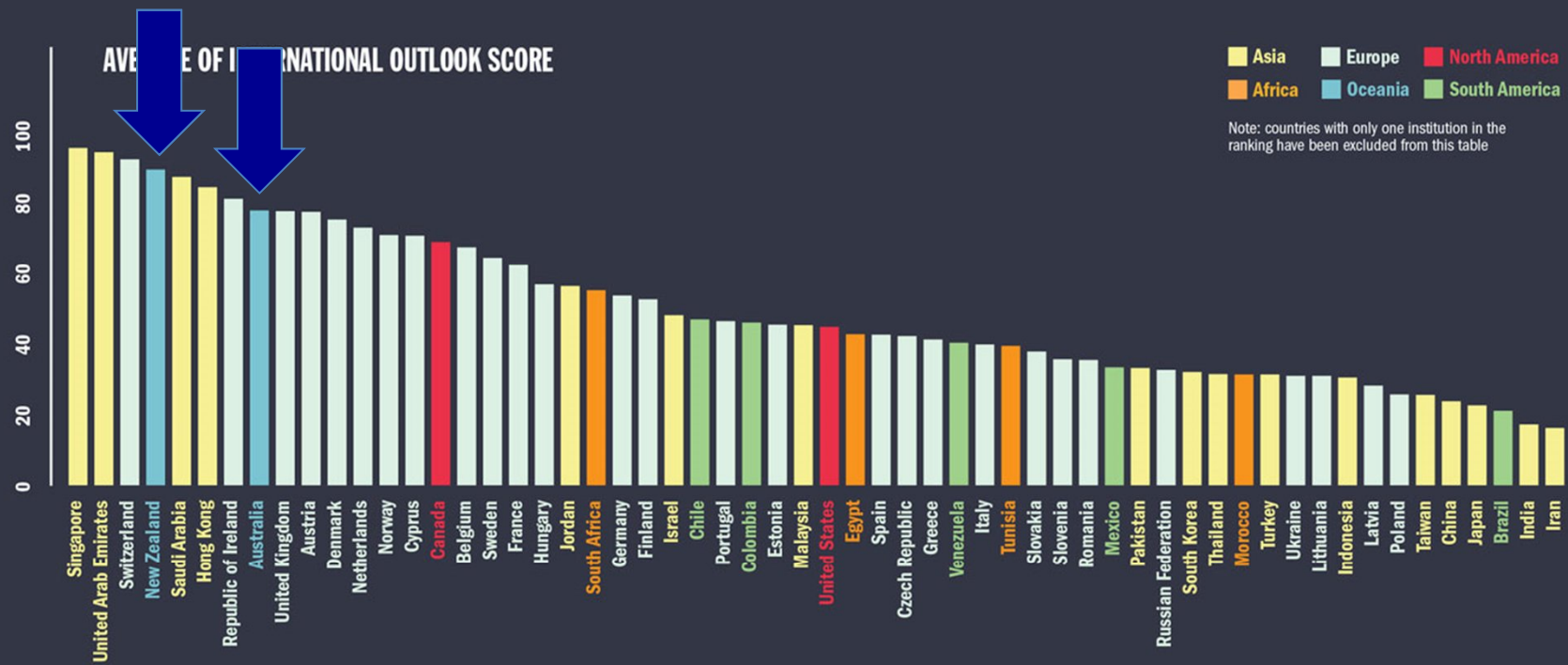




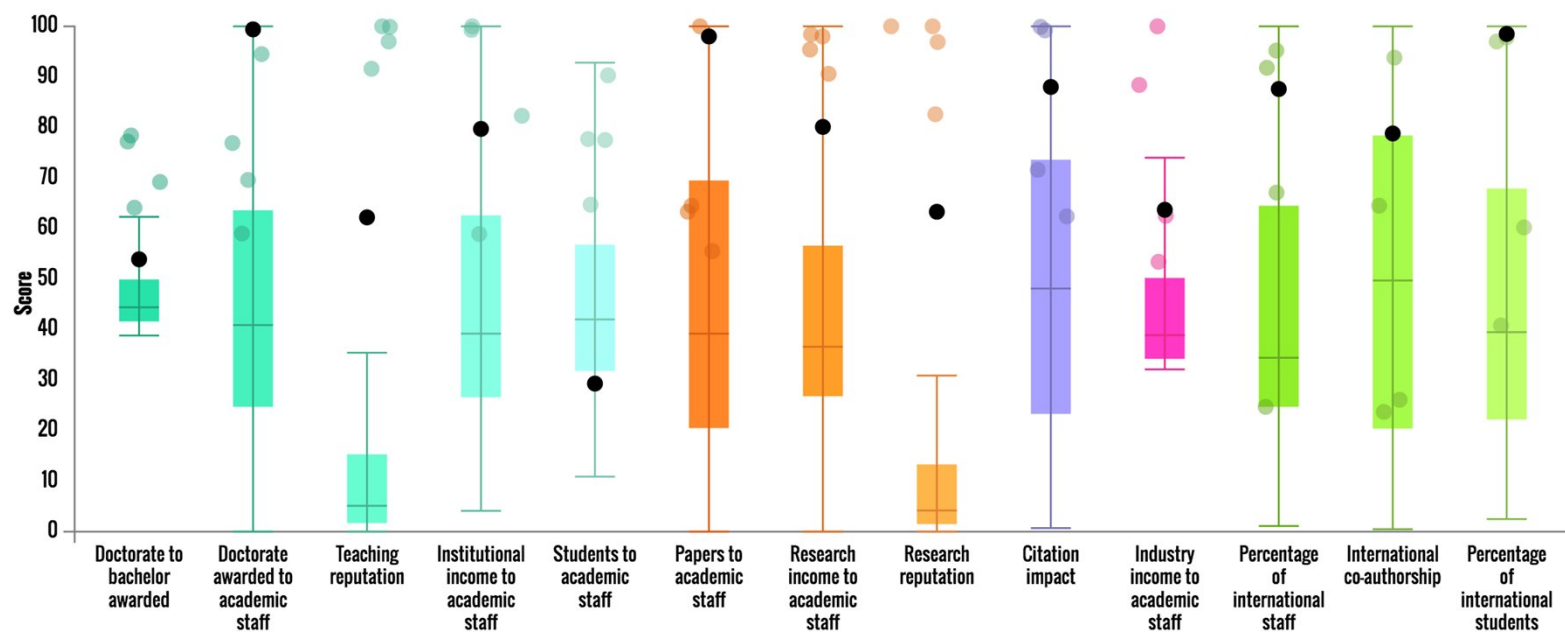


AVERAGE OF CITATIONS SCORE

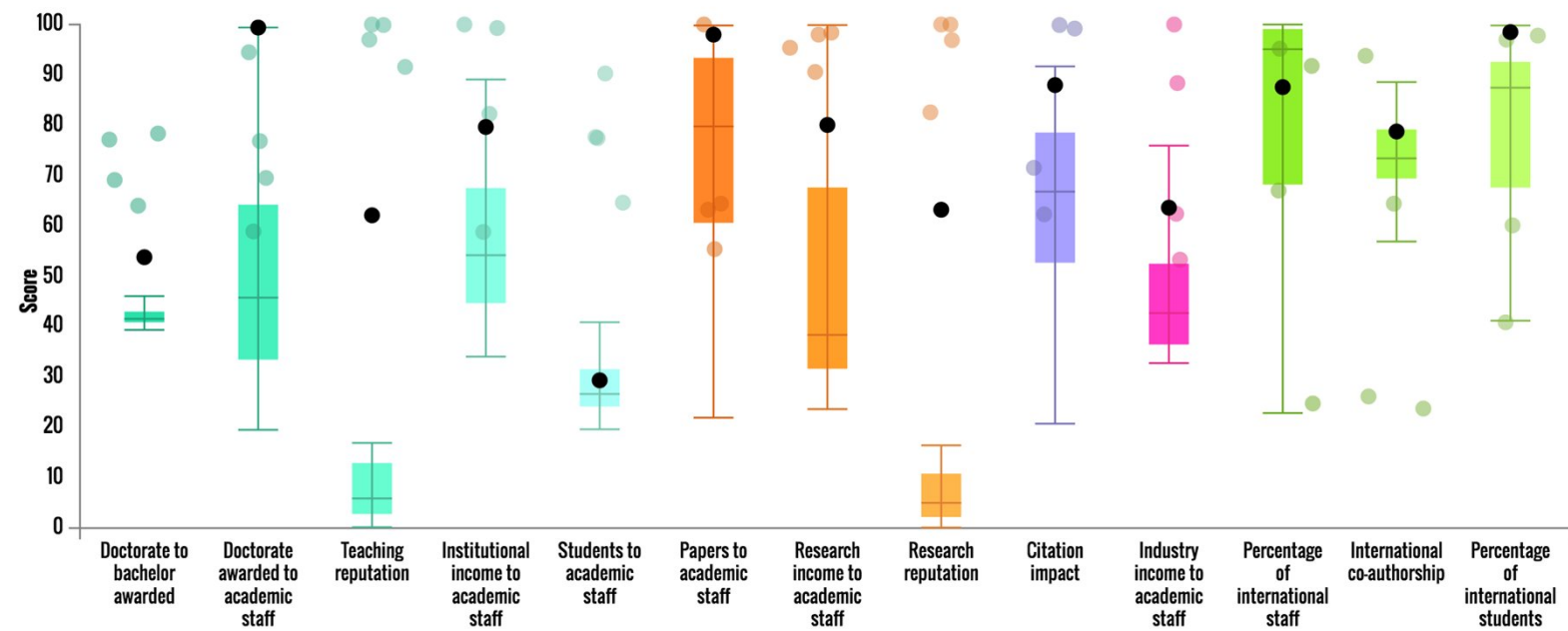




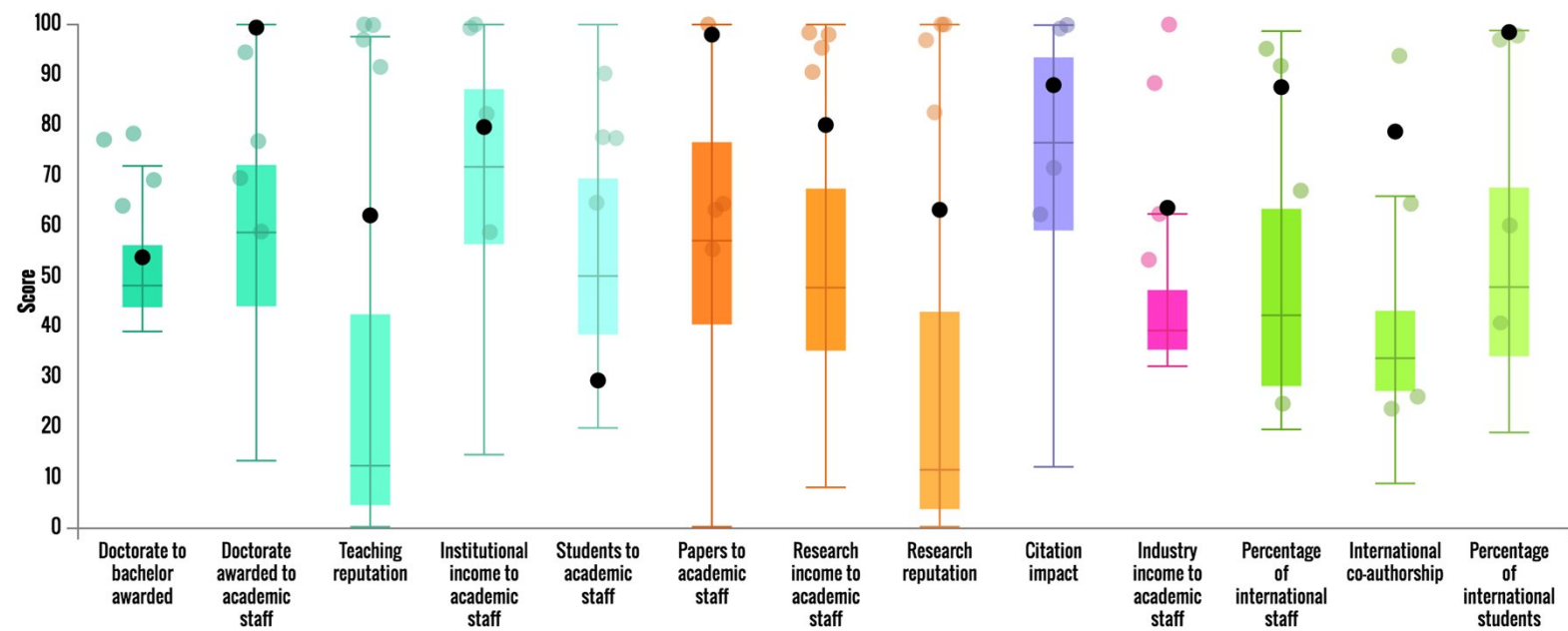
Worldwide



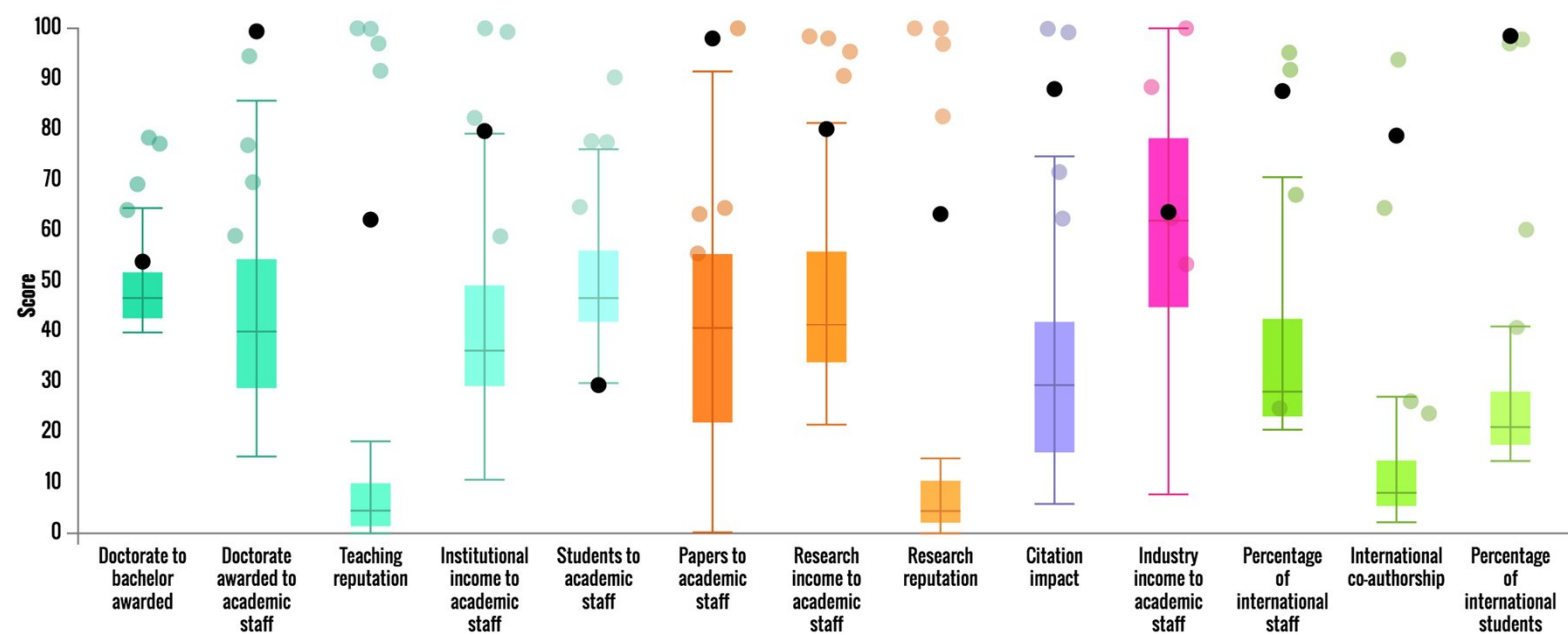
Australia



USA



China

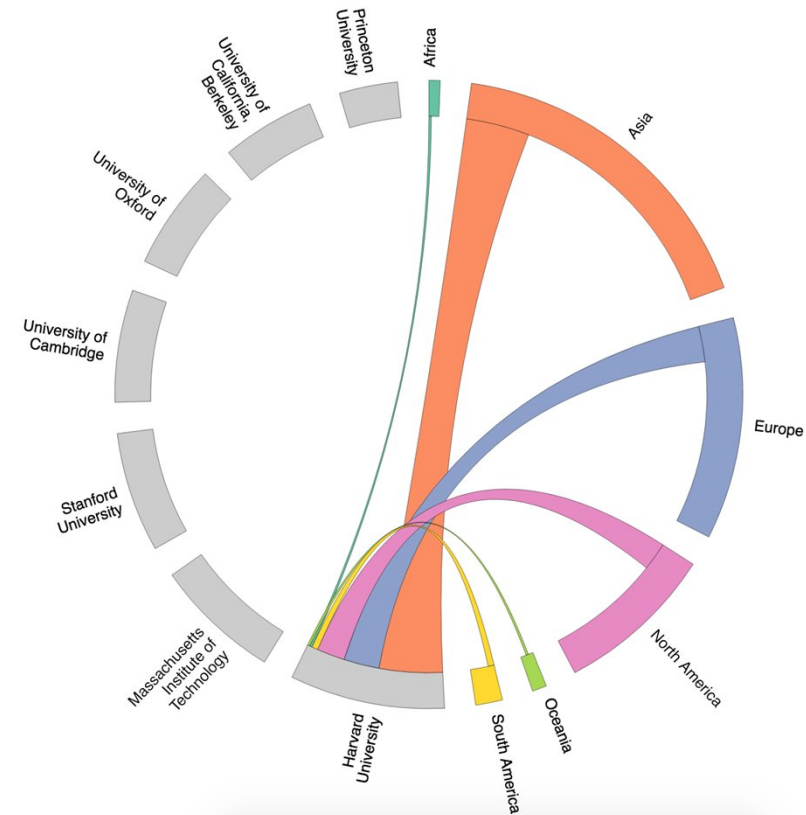




Going a bit deeper: Reputation

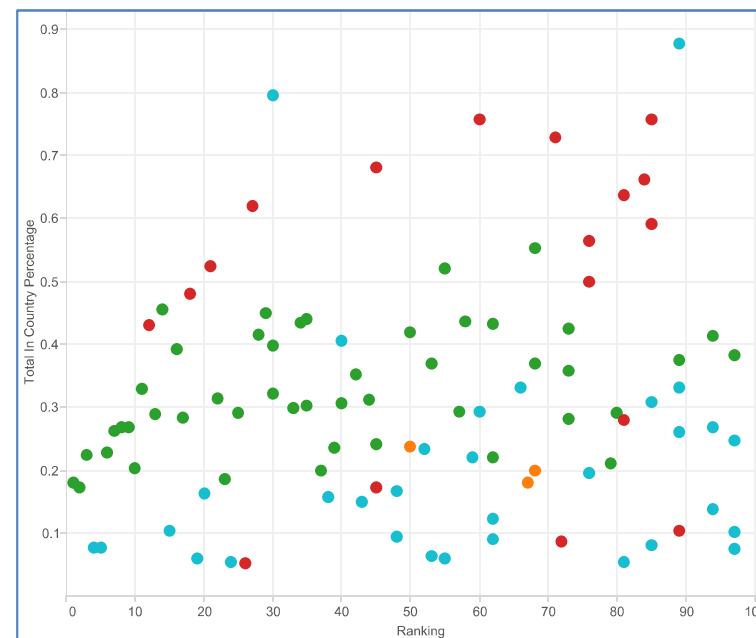
Superbrands: where do they get support?

- One of the features of the superbrand Universities is the breadth of their support
- All receive large votes from every region
- Harvard receives stronger recognition from Asia than from North America



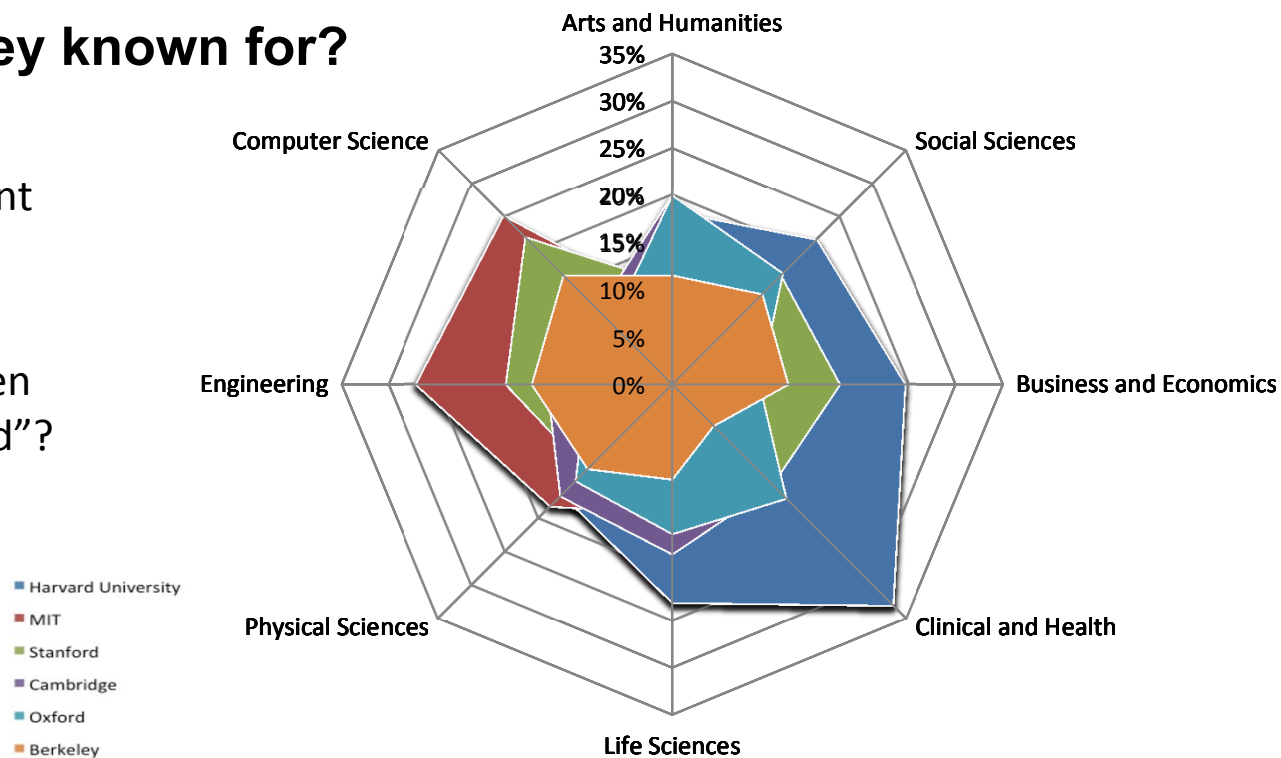
The Eurovision Effect: Do countries vote for themselves?

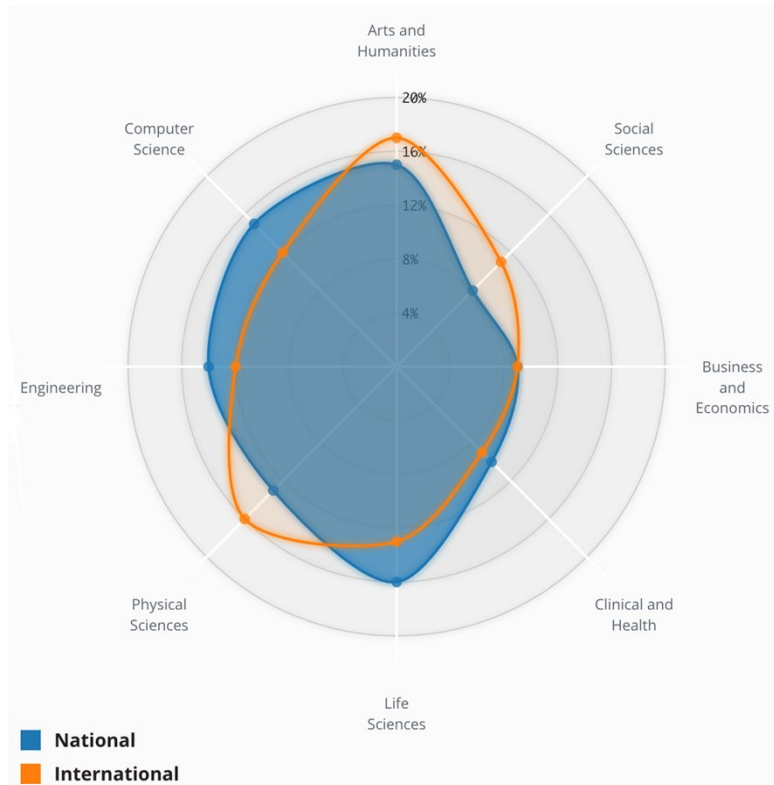
- There is some evidence that academics vote for universities in their country or region
- Some countries rely heavily on this
- Others are hugely international



What subjects are they known for?

- We see some very different styles of reputation
- Which universities are seen as the most “well rounded”?





The view from out there...

- How you are seen in your home country is not always how you are seen elsewhere

2017 COLLEGE RANKINGS

WSJ

T
H
E
TIMES
HIGHER
EDUCATION



A new US college ranking

The challenge

Reward colleges that **educate** students better, not just

- Those that do research
- Those that are the most selective – “colleges that educate better students”



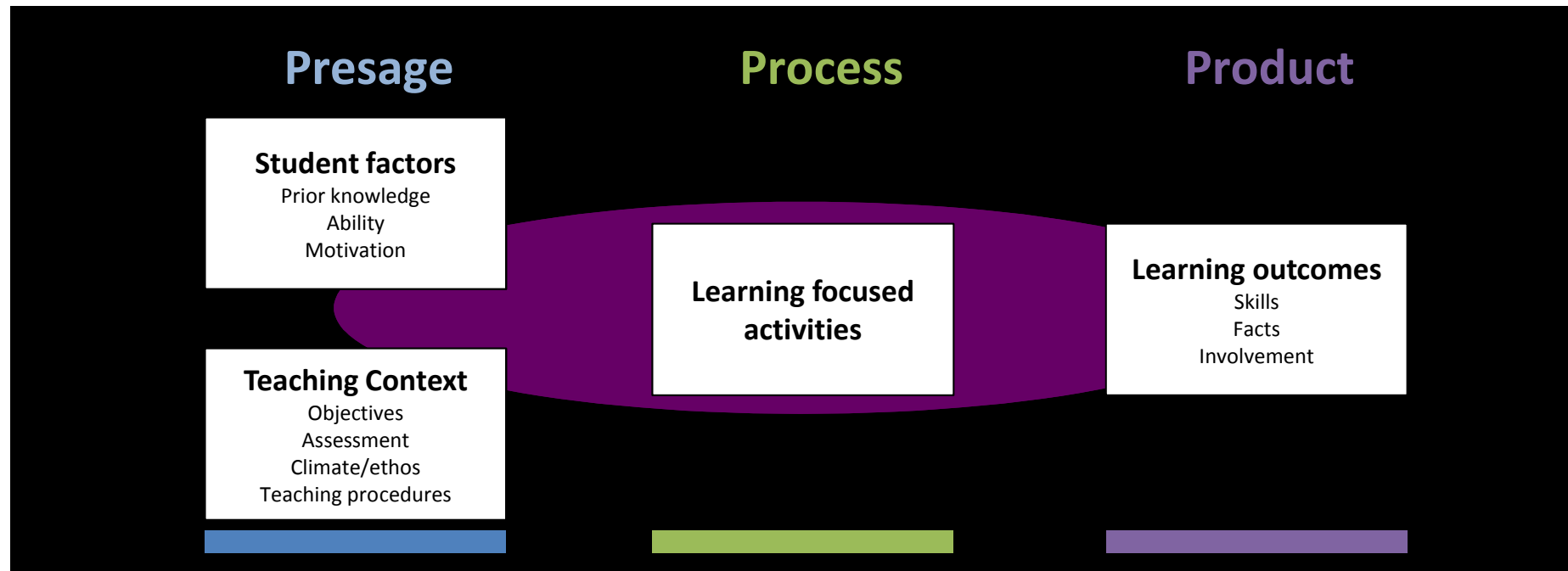
A new approach to understanding US colleges

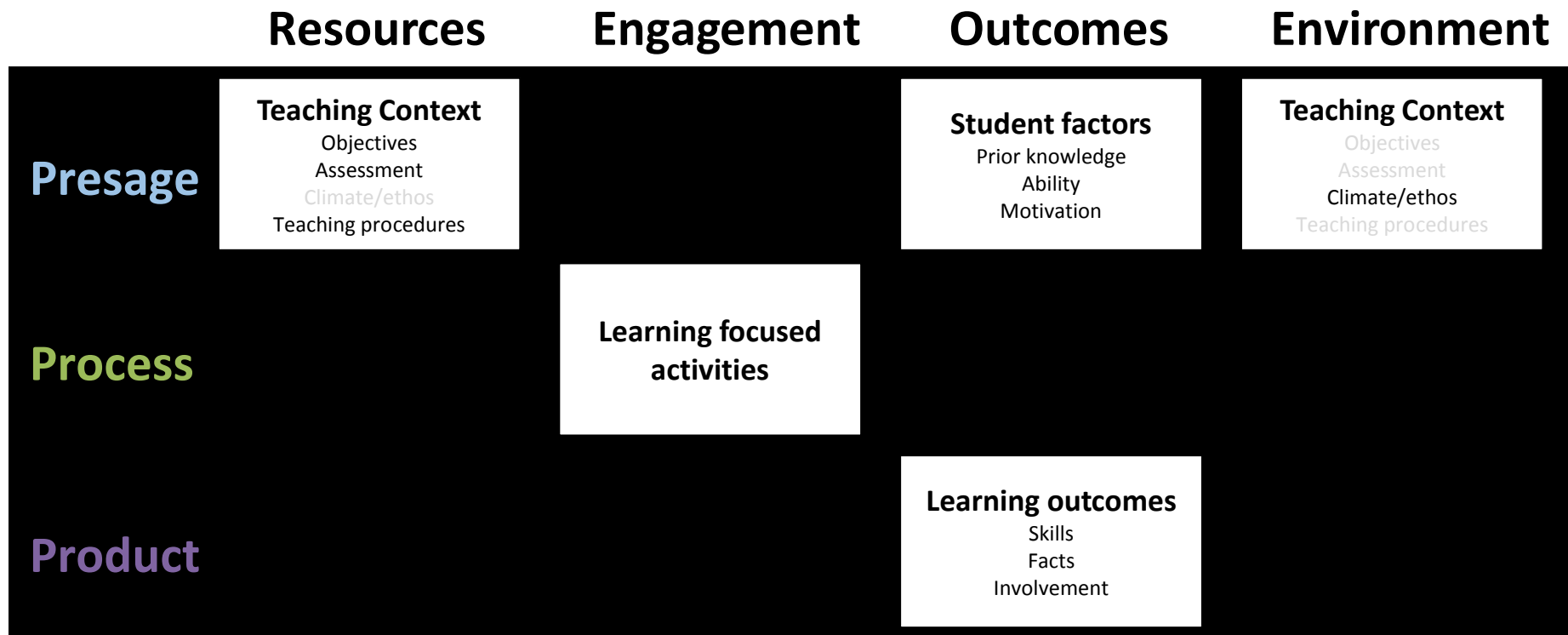
Focused on measuring **teaching** performance

- Title IV Colleges
- Over 1000 students
- Public and Private
- No more than 20% distance learning



3Ps of the learning process – Biggs, Gibbs et al



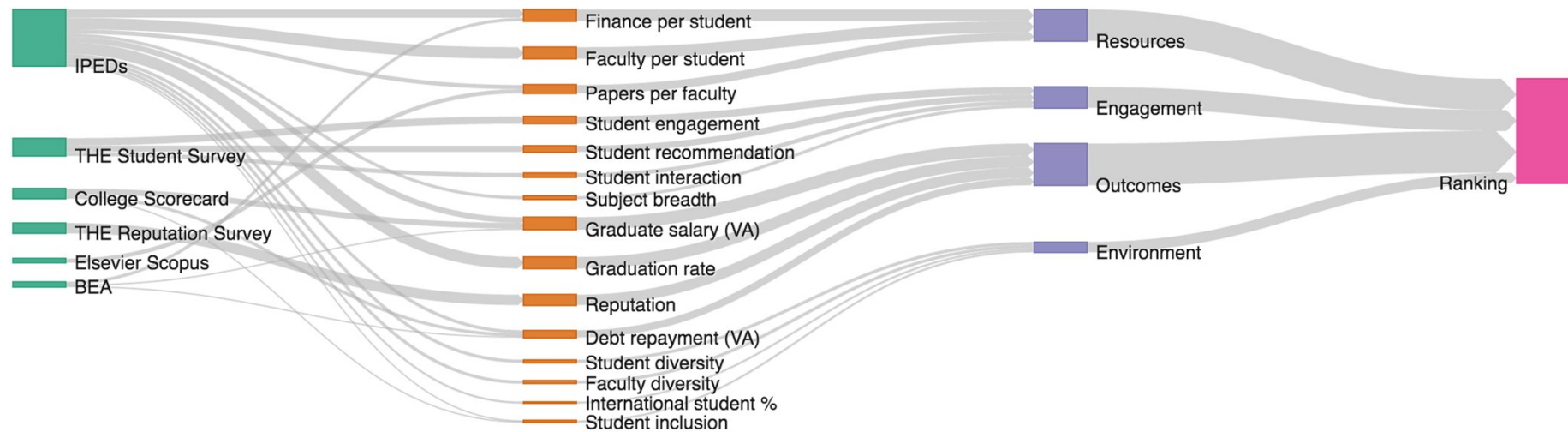


WSJ/THE College Rankings Methodology

6 Sources

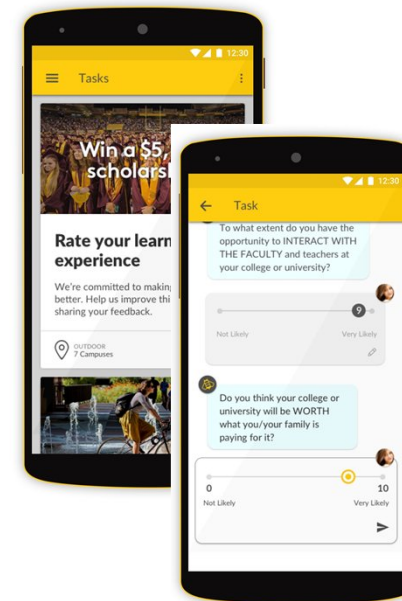
15 Metrics

4 Pillars



***THE* US Student Survey**

- Current students in taught courses
- Around 1,300 colleges targeted
- Focused samples
- Engagement managed by established market research organizations

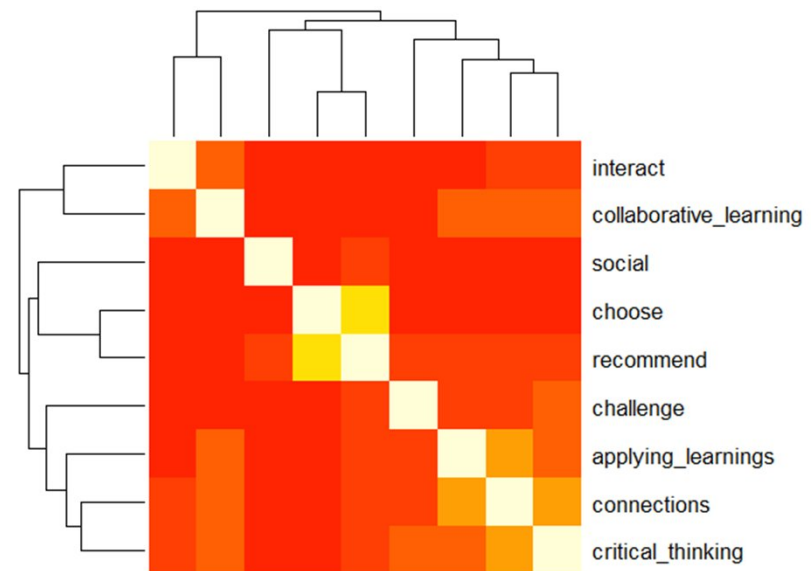


The result: 100,000 students in over 1,111 colleges



THE US Student Survey – creating indicators

- Measures used in the ranking
 - Faculty interaction
 - Collaborative learning
 - **Recommendation**
 - Practical application
 - Reflection / connection
 - Critical thinking
 - Challenging classes
- Other measures
 - Choice, career impact, value
 - Social engagement



Top 10 to 6

5

Yale University

4

University of Pennsylvania

3

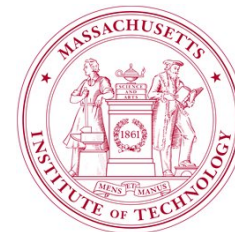
Columbia University

2

MIT

1

Stanford





Thank you