

Global Rankings of Australia's Universities 2025

Analysis from Times Higher Education World University Rankings

In the **Times Higher Education World University Rankings** for 2025, released in 2024,

Australia has

- 6 universities in the world's top 100
- 10 universities in the world's top 200
- 33 universities in the world's top 500
- 9 universities outside the world's top 500

UK has

- 12 universities in the world's top 100
- 24 universities in the world's top 200
- 51 universities in the world's top 500
- 90 universities outside the world's top 500

USA has

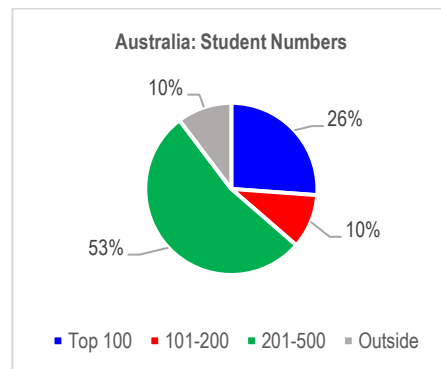
- 37 universities in the world's top 100
- 53 universities in the world's top 200
- 102 universities in the world's top 500
- 2,526 (four-year) universities outside the world's top 500 (another 1,268 two-year universities are beyond the scope of this analysis).

Measures of numbers and proportions of universities in the world rankings are important. But measures of numbers and proportions of students in world ranked universities may provide more insight.

Student Numbers

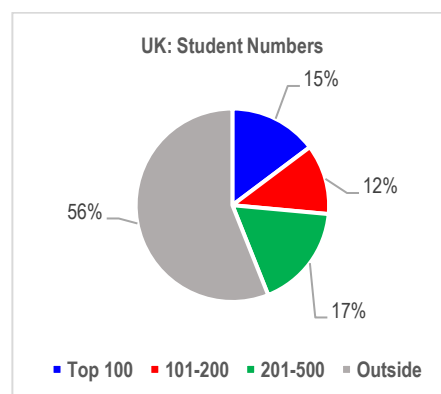
In Australia

- 26% of students are at universities in the world's top 100
- 36% of students are at universities in the world's top 200
- 90% of students are at universities in the world's top 500
- 10% of students are at universities outside the world's top 500



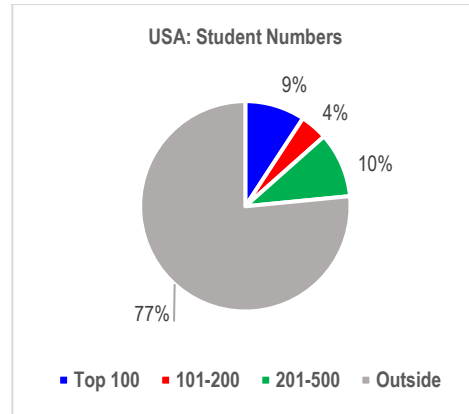
In UK

- 15% of students are at universities in the world's top 100
- 26% of students are at universities in the world's top 200
- 44% of students are at universities in the world's top 500
- 56% of students are at universities outside the world's top 500



In USA

9% of students are at universities in the world's top 100
13% of students are at universities in the world's top 200
23% of students are at universities in the world's top 500
77% of students are at universities outside the world's top 500



The finding that does not beat about the bush

26% of students in Australian universities are at universities in the world's top **100**
26% of students in UK universities are at universities in the world's top **200**
23% of students in US universities are at universities in the world's top **500**.

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The **Times Higher Education World University Rankings** describes itself as the only global performance tables that judge research-intensive universities across all their core missions:

Teaching (the learning environment); Research environment (volume, income and reputation); Research quality (citation impact, research strength, research excellence and research influence); International outlook (staff, students and research); and Industry (income and patents).

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025, released in 2024, are at <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/latest/world-ranking>

Australia: The Australian Department of Education provides a list for 2023 of Australia's 42 universities, including Australia's 37 public universities plus 5 private universities. Student enrolment in the 42 universities aggregated to 1.462 million.

Student enrolment in the 33 universities in the world's top 500 aggregated to 1.312 million, 89.7% of the total enrolment.

Student enrolment in the 10 universities in the world's top 200 aggregated to 0.532 million, 36.4% of the total enrolment.

Student enrolment in the 6 universities in the world's top 100 aggregated to 0.382 million, 26.2% of the total enrolment.

At <https://www.education.gov.au/higher-education-statistics/student-data> go to Selected Higher Education Statistics – 2023 Student Data, go to Full Year Data, go to Information and Excel Tables, go to 2023 Section 2 - All students and download Table 2.10: All Students by State, Higher Education Institution, Citizenship and Residence Status, Full Year 2023 .

UK: Universities UK reports that there are 260 higher education institutions in the UK. Universities UK lists 141 of these institutions as members of Universities UK. Go to

<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/latest/insights-and-analysis/higher-education-numbers>.

The UK Higher Education Statistics Agency provides a list for 2022/23 of higher education providers and their student enrolment, aggregating to 2.937 million in the 260 higher education providers, including 2.757 million students in the 141 universities.

Student enrolment in the 51 universities in the world's top 500 aggregated to 1.212 million, 44.0% of the total enrolment in universities.

Student enrolment in the 24 universities in the world's top 200 aggregated to 0.730 million, 26.5% of the total enrolment in universities.

Student enrolment in the 12 universities in the world's top 100 aggregated to 0.407 million, 14.8% of the total enrolment in universities.

Go to <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/students/table-1> HE student enrolments by HE provider 2014/15 to 2022/23.

US: The National Center for Education Statistics in its Digest of Education Statistics reports that there were 2,628 four year institutions (degree-granting postsecondary institutions) in US in 2022/23. Go to Table 317.10 Degree-granting postsecondary institutions, by control and level of institution: Selected years, 1949-50 through 2022-23 at

https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d23/tables/dt23_317.10.asp

The Digest of Education Statistics reports that there were 13.977 million students in four year institutions in fall 2021. Go to Table 303.30 Total fall enrollment in degree-granting postsecondary institutions, by level and control of institution, attendance status, and sex of student: Selected years, 1970 through 2031 at

https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d22/tables/dt22_303.30.asp?current=yes.

The National Center for Education Statistics College Navigator at

<http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/> provides the student population in Fall 2023 for each of the 102 US universities in the world's top 500.

Student populations in the 102 universities in the world's top 500 aggregated to 3.278 million, 23.5% of the total student population.

Student populations in the 53 universities in the world's top 200 aggregated to 1.879 million, 13.4% of the total student population.

Student populations in the 37 universities in the world's top 100 aggregated to 1.290 million, 9.2% of the total student population.

(Another 4.683 million students in 1,268 two year institutions in USA are beyond this analysis.)