

PRESS RELEASE

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DATE: Thursday, 7 April 2016

EMBARGOED: Friday, 9 April 2016 at 14:00 CET

Students' verdicts on university teaching revealed in U-Multirank survey

Friday 8 April: [U-Multirank](#), the largest global university ranking tool, will today give a voice to students by revealing the universities they have rated satisfactory for teaching and learning.

Based on a survey exclusive to U-Multirank (www.umultirank.org) of over 105,000 students around the world who have rated their own study programmes, the announcement will be made at today's Annual General Meeting of the Erasmus Student Network in Warsaw, Poland.

These findings are drawn from the annual student survey conducted by U-Multirank as part of its exhaustive research into 'learning and teaching', just one of the five 'dimensions' or areas of performance by which it measures more than 1,300 universities in over 90 countries around the world.

By splitting performance into these dimensions, U-Multirank can reveal the diverse strengths that different universities offer whether in learning experience, research, internationalisation or social and economic impact. This provides students with a much richer picture of excellence from traditional rankings that focus on research reputation.

Today's results also include a list of participating universities that achieved the highest levels of satisfaction for 'overall learning experience' in three science subjects (mathematics, chemistry and biology). The 20 universities in the list represent nine different countries from the 56 nations with institutions participating in the student satisfaction survey.

Not every one of the 1,300 universities included in U-Multirank participated in the student satisfaction survey and some did not have relevant courses, so, instead of providing a misleading 'league table', the list highlights a selection of institutions where their students have expressed particular satisfaction.

The list is intended to stimulate discussion around the important variations in students' experiences and expectations, and about the diverse approaches to teaching and learning that various countries' higher education systems take. The survey and analysis were carefully designed by U-Multirank to ensure individual universities' scores reflect meaningful differences in what their students think.

These results are being published following last Monday's (4th April) third annual release of data from U-Multirank, the largest yet, featuring 1,304 higher education institutions, from 93 countries, with more than 3,250 faculties and 10,700 study programmes in 13 subject areas: electrical and mechanical engineering, business studies, physics, psychology, computer science and medicine, and new this year, biology, chemistry, mathematics – including the social science and humanities for the first time in: history, sociology and social work/welfare.

Among other innovations this year, U-Multirank has revealed lists of top performers in individual performance indicators and has added a new version of its unique university comparison tool that has been optimised for mobile phones and tablets.

Safi Sabuni, president of the Erasmus Student Network (ESN), welcomed the latest edition of U-Multirank: “With its multi-dimensional approach, U-Multirank gives a voice to students for students. There is a real need for university comparisons that look across all different aspects of performance excellence, whether it’s internationalisation or teaching and learning, especially given the increasing number of mobile students.”

Professors Dr. Frans van Vught and Dr. Frank Ziegele, U-Multirank’s joint project leaders, added: “The opinions of current students are – and should be – influential in helping tomorrow’s students decide where to study. Students want to find the university that’s best for them, according to their own preferences, and often look to their peers to learn from their experiences, especially in an area like learning and teaching where no one knows better than the students themselves. U-Multirank makes it possible for users to rank universities their own way – and that includes taking into consideration other students’ opinions. And now, with U-Multirank’s new mobile version, it’s even easier for users to compare universities around the world, wherever in the world they are.”

Background and further information

U-Multirank is developed and implemented by an independent consortium led by the Centre for Higher Education ([CHE](#)) in Germany, the Center for Higher Education Policy Studies ([CHEPS](#)) at the University of Twente and the Centre for Science and Technology Studies ([CWTS](#)) from Leiden University, both in the Netherlands. The consortium is headed by Professor Dr. Frans van Vught of CHEPS and Professor Dr. Frank Ziegele of CHE. Other partner organisations include the Bertelsmann Foundation, student advice organisation Push and software firm Folge 3, as well as a range of national partners and stakeholder organisations.

U-Multirank’s multi-dimensional approach compares university performance across a range of different activities grading them from “A” (very good) to “E” (weak). It allows users to create personalised rankings and identify a university’s strengths and weaknesses, or the aspects that most interest them. The data included in U-Multirank are drawn from a number of sources, providing users with a comprehensive set of information: data supplied by institutions; from international bibliometric and patent databases; and surveys of more than 105,000 students at participating universities.

The fourth U-Multirank rankings will be released in 2017. Institutions that would like to participate can express their interest on the U-Multirank [website](#).

U-Multirank is supported by the European Commission and receives €4 million in funding from the European Union Erasmus+ programme for the years 2013-2017. The future goal is for an independent non-profit organisation to manage the ranking as an open source for international comparisons serving the needs of various stakeholder groups in higher education.

For more information and contact

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Appendices

- a. [Student satisfaction list](#)
- b. [Q+A memo](#)

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