

“FAQ”



Frequently Asked Questions Guide

**for the Saudi Global
Ranking of Higher
Education Institutions**

2nd Edition

2026

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General Administration of Ranking Programs
Education and Training Evaluation Commission (ETEC)

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Introduction

The Saudi Ranking Project "SGR" is one of the Kingdom's leading strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing the quality of higher education in Saudi Arabia. This ranking system provides a comprehensive evaluation of higher education institutions based on a set of standardized indicators that reflect academic performance, research output, and educational services. Its core objective is to promote academic and institutional excellence, thereby raising the standards of education and research across the Kingdom.

Through the ranking, quality and excellence in the educational process are reinforced by elevating academic standards and aligning with the latest pedagogical practices. The project also supports institutional distinction by fostering improvements in teaching and learning environments, which enhances the global competitiveness of Saudi higher education institutions.


Furthermore, the ranking aims to increase efficiency and effectiveness within educational institutions while ensuring long-term sustainability. This is achieved by promoting better resource utilization and implementing innovative solutions across academic and administrative operations. It also seeks to align educational outcomes with labor market needs, thereby strengthening the role of higher education institutions in empowering local communities and supporting sustainable development. In addition, the ranking encourages research, development, and innovation within academic institutions, contributing to the Kingdom's competitive edge in scientific research and innovation.

This guide presents frequently asked questions related to the indicators of the Saudi Ranking "SGR", It is version V02.2025, where (V02) refers to the second edition of the Saudi Global Ranking of Higher Education Institutions "SGR".

It provides comprehensive answers that clarify how indicators are calculated and how institutional data are utilized by educational institutions, guiding institutions toward achieving the highest levels of academic and administrative performance.

The guide presents a set of anticipated questions along with appropriate answers, aiming to enable users to access the required information without the need to consult additional sources.

No.	Question	Answer
1.	What is the Saudi Ranking for Higher Education Institutions?	<p>Ranking is a mechanism for ranking higher education institutions based on measuring their performance, using a scientific methodology according to fixed criteria and indicators, and through announced procedures. It highlights the strengths of the educational institution as well as opportunities for improvement, depending on its ranking level. The ranking is divided into specific categories, aiming to emphasize the factors that impact the enhancement of education quality, capabilities, and outcomes, in order to increase competitiveness and improve the institution's standing nationally and globally, while developing its capacities in line with Saudi Vision 2030.</p>
2.	What are the objectives of the Saudi Ranking for Higher Education Institutions?	<p>The Saudi Ranking for Higher Education Institutions aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance the quality of the educational process and promote academic excellence. 2. Stimulate research, development, innovation, and positive competition. 3. Align with labor market needs, empower society, and promote sustainable development. 4. Support institutional excellence and improve efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of higher education institutions.
3.	What is the methodology of the Saudi Ranking for Higher Education Institutions?	<p>A scientific methodology has been developed for ranking higher education institutions, drawing on national and international benchmarking and the analysis of relevant programs and strategies. This approach was used to design the framework of matrices, domains, and ranking indicators.</p> <p>The second edition of the ranking includes two categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educational Category: Includes educational performance indicators and applies to all higher education institutions. ▪ Comprehensive Category: Includes educational and research performance indicators and other domains, and is applied to universities with research activity, according to criteria defined by the Ranking.

No.	Question	Answer										
		Each classification category comprises a number of domains and subdomains, each containing indicators designed to accurately measure the performance of higher education institutions.										
4.	What are the outcomes of ranking?	<p>Based on the defined ranking indicators outlined in the category matrix and the assigned weight of each indicator, each institution receives an overall score out of 100.</p> <p>Each institution is then ranked according to its overall score within one of four ranking levels, which are:</p>  <table border="1" data-bbox="598 1624 1436 1848"> <thead> <tr> <th>Level</th> <th>Readiness Level</th> <th>Baseline Level</th> <th>Progress Level</th> <th>Excellence Level</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <th>Score</th> <td>Less than 50</td> <td>50–74.99</td> <td>75–89.99</td> <td>90–100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Level	Readiness Level	Baseline Level	Progress Level	Excellence Level	Score	Less than 50	50–74.99	75–89.99	90–100
Level	Readiness Level	Baseline Level	Progress Level	Excellence Level								
Score	Less than 50	50–74.99	75–89.99	90–100								

No.	Question	Answer
5.	<p>What is the difference between the Saudi National Ranking and global rankings?</p>	<p>The difference between the Saudi National Ranking and global university rankings lies in the priorities and focus of the criteria used, which are tailored to suit the targeted context. The Saudi National Ranking, aligned with Saudi Vision 2030, adopts comprehensive criteria such as the number of published research papers, citations, and the university's impact on scientific innovation, but with a local orientation that emphasizes national development priorities. These include the quality of education, alignment of academic outcomes with local labor market needs, and the university's societal impact within Saudi Arabia. In contrast, global rankings such as QS or THE prioritize internationally oriented criteria, such as global academic reputation, international research collaboration, and the university's influence on global science and innovation. While both rankings share some common metrics, such as research output and citations, the Saudi National Ranking places greater emphasis on achieving local development goals, whereas global rankings aim to assess a university's standing on the international stage.</p>
6.	<p>Is there a need for a national ranking if global rankings are available?</p>	<p>Yes, there is a pressing need for a national ranking despite the existence of global rankings, because the national ranking reflects the local priorities and objectives of higher education that may not be fully addressed by global systems. While global rankings focus on broad, international metrics, the national ranking considers the needs of the local labor market, the quality of academic programs in alignment with Saudi Vision 2030, and the extent to which universities contribute to national development. Accordingly, the national ranking helps guide educational policies toward achieving specific strategic goals that enhance the effectiveness of higher education institutions locally, making it a vital tool alongside global ranking.</p>

No.	Question	Answer
7.	What is the positive impact of the Saudi Ranking on higher education institutions and their various components?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Providing proactive diagnostic indicators that support decision-making and contribute to improved spending efficiency and resource utilization. ▪ Identifying areas of strength as well as aspects requiring development or improvement within higher education institutions. ▪ Fostering a culture of competitiveness and continuous development among higher education institutions. ▪ Enhancing the alignment of educational outcomes with labor market needs. ▪ Offering diverse career opportunities for faculty members. ▪ Promoting collaboration between higher education institutions and the private sector in the fields of scientific research and development.
8.	What does the Saudi Ranking offer to students and parents?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhancing access to high-quality educational opportunities for all segments of society by providing an objective benchmark that enables parents and students to compare higher education institutions and select the most suitable for enrollment. ▪ Contributing to increased post-graduation employment rates. ▪ Encouraging the establishment of partnerships with international exchange programs to promote study abroad opportunities for students. ▪ Promoting parental engagement in the educational process.
9.	What procedures were carried out before launching this year's ranking?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conducting multiple workshops with officials from public and private educational institutions. ▪ Developing and reviewing the indicators and methodology after receiving feedback from the educational institutions.
10.	What is the difference between ranking and academic accreditation?	<p>Academic accreditation focuses on inputs, processes, and outcomes, utilizing the results to develop appropriate improvement plans. It is a fundamental procedure for evaluating the performance of institutions and programs at the global level. In contrast, ranking serves as a measurement of performance levels within specific domains, with the results</p>

No.	Question	Answer
16.	What are the data sources for the Saudi Ranking of Higher Education Institutions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Higher Education Institutions: Through the electronic Ranking data portal, whereby each institution submits its data directly. ▪ Other relevant entities that hold data related to higher education institutions, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saudi Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority (SDAIA). • National Labor Observatory. • Social Insurance. • National Volunteer Portal. • Health Volunteering Platform. • Volunteer Work Department. • Ministry of Education. • Saudi Commission for Health Specialties. • Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property. • World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). • Global databases. • Research, Development, and Innovation Authority. • Official or governmental reports available through official channels.
17.	How are research-oriented universities and teaching-oriented universities treated?	<p>Two categories of the Saudi Ranking for Higher Education Institutions have been launched:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educational Category: Includes indicators of educational performance and is applied to all higher education institutions. ▪ Comprehensive Category: Includes indicators of educational and research performance, along with other domains, and is applied to universities with research activity according to criteria defined by the ranking. <p>Additional ranking categories will be introduced in future phases, some of which will be specific to research-oriented universities.</p>
18.	Are the ranking outputs available in Arabic Language only?	<p>All ranking outputs, including matrices and explanatory guides, are made available in both Arabic and English.</p>

No.	Question	Answer
19.	How does the ranking consider the specific characteristics of universities, such as their age or whether they are public or private?	The Ranking framework considers the distinct characteristics of higher education institutions by designing Ranking categories with varying focal areas. This approach allows for diversified outputs and enables the presentation of results in a manner that reflects the unique attributes of each institution.
20.	How does the ranking contribute to achieving Vision 2030's third-level national goals by elevating the global standing of Saudi universities?	The Saudi Ranking contributes to strengthening the position of Saudi universities in global rankings by adopting precise standards for evaluating academic and research performance. This drives universities to enhance the quality of their educational and research programs. Additionally, the ranking fosters competitiveness among local universities, encouraging them to meet quality and innovation benchmarks, increase scientific publications in prestigious journals, develop international partnerships, identify strengths and challenges, and work toward improving their score each year. As a result, Saudi universities become better equipped to meet the requirements of leading global rankings, enhancing their academic reputation and enabling them to attain higher positions internationally.
21.	Are universities required to pay fees for the ranking, as is the case with global rankings?	The Saudi Ranking represents a national initiative funded by the Human Capability Development Program and does not require any financial payment during the next five years. At a later stage, certain services may be offered for a fee, such as quantitative and qualitative analysis of university performance levels or consultancy services related to performance assessment and improvement strategies and mechanisms.

No.	Question	Answer
22.	<p>What are the conditions for submitting ranking data?</p>	<p>It is required for universities to meet the following conditions in order to be included in the ranking:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To have graduated at least one cohort of undergraduate students. 2. Registration and updating of the higher education institution's profile on the digital platform. 3. Appointment of an authorized ranking Data Approver (delegate) responsible for managing tasks and procedures related to the ranking, in accordance with the forms specified on The Accreditation and Ranking digital platform.
23.	<p>What should a higher education institution do after its request to submit ranking data is accepted?</p>	<p>Upon acceptance of the ranking data submission request, the higher education institution must undertake the following actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upload all required information, data (both direct and indirect), and supporting evidence to the digital platform after verifying their accuracy. Indirect data must be submitted to the Commission through the official entities designated by the Commission, and the higher education institution bears full responsibility for the accuracy of its indirect data with those entities. 2. Adhere to the timeline specified on the digital platform for ranking and academic accreditation. 3. Do not disclose any information or data resulting from participation in the Saudi Global Ranking without written authorization from the Commission, unless such information is by nature non-confidential. 4. Retain all documents and records related to the Saudi Global Ranking processes and provide them to the Commission upon request. 5. Accept follow-up and monitoring procedures conducted by the Commission during field visits to verify the information and data related to the Saudi Global Ranking. 6. Comply with all relevant instructions and decisions.

No.	Question	Answer
24.	What documents and evidence must be reviewed before entering the data?	<p>Documents and evidence that must be reviewed prior to data entry:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Document of Regulations and Rules of the Saudi Ranking for Higher Education Institutions. 2. Glossary of Terms. 3. Matrices of Domains and Indicators for Educational and Comprehensive Ranking Categories. 4. Indicator Cards Guide for Both Educational and Comprehensive Categories. 5. Timeline and Evidence Guide for Data Fields in the Saudi Ranking for Higher Education Institutions. 6. User Guide for the E-Services of The Accreditation and Ranking digital platform. 7. Visual Guide for the E-Services of The Accreditation and Ranking digital platform. 8. Procedural Flowchart for Requesting Direct and Indirect Ranking Data from Higher Education Institutions. 9. Data Quality Elements Card for Ranking. 10. FAQ Guide for the Saudi Ranking.
25.	What is meant by evidence?	<p>Attached documents that verify the accuracy of the data entered into the digital platform and are certified by the relevant authority (e.g., a report on the number of students printable from the academic system or administrative systems of the educational institution, or a report on the number of faculty members printable from the Human Resources Department, etc.), or prepared according to the templates approved by General Department of Ranking Programs.</p>
26.	What conditions must be met in the attached evidence file?	<p>Requirements that must be met in the attached supporting evidence file:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compliance with the standards specified in the Timeline and Evidence Guide. 2. The file must be in PDF format. 3. The file must be clear and legible.

No.	Question	Answer
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The file must be closely related to the information entered in the data field. 5. The file must be certified with the official stamp of the higher education institution.
27.	What are the elements of data quality?	<p>Elements of Ranking data quality:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accurate: Data must be entered correctly and free from errors. 2. Complete: Ensure there are no missing values in the data. 3. Digital: Data must be submitted in a digital format. 4. Time-Framed: Data must be entered within the specified time frame. 5. Time-Specific: Required data must be submitted by the specified deadlines. 6. Verified: Data must be checked for accuracy, completeness, and confidentiality. 7. Approved: Data must be approved in accordance with the governance of roles and responsibilities. 8. Documented with Evidence: Supporting evidence must be provided for all data fields entered.
28.	What is the document identifying those responsible for ranking data?	<p>An approved regulatory document under which the authorized ranking Data Approver (delegate) appoints both the data verifier and the data entry officer as responsible parties for providing the Education and Training Evaluation Commission with the ranking data of the higher education institution. Based on this, access permissions are granted to the designated individuals for the electronic ranking data portal.</p>
29.	Who is responsible for requesting to submit ranking data on the digital platform?	<p>Data Approver representative (designated official) at the higher education institution is responsible for submitting the Ranking data request through the digital platform.</p>

No.	Question	Answer
30.	<p>What are the responsibilities of the ranking data approver?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attending workshops offered by the Education and Training Evaluation Commission related to the ranking. 2. Receiving and responding to all correspondence and requests related to the ranking. 3. Receiving the data request for the ranking from General Department of Ranking Programs at the Education and Training Evaluation Commission and creating an institutional account on the electronic portal for ranking data. 4. Instructing the data verifier to begin the data collection process. 5. Committing to submitting the data within the specified deadlines. 6. Ensuring the quality of the entered data so that it is: accurate, complete, digital, within the specified timeframe, verified, approved, and supported with evidence. 7. Final approval of the entered data by the data entry officer after preliminary approval by the data verifier. 8. Endorsing the Data Approval Document for the ranking, acknowledging commitment to the quality and confidentiality of the submitted data after completing the data entry process. 9. Uploading the approved data to the Education and Training Evaluation Commission according to the timeline.

No.	Question	Answer
31.	<p>What are the responsibilities of the ranking data verifier?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attending the workshops provided by the Education and Training Evaluation Commission related to the ranking. 2. Approving the Data Quality and Confidentiality Commitment Document after verifying the data and prior to beginning the data entry process, ensuring full adherence to its contents. 3. Overseeing the collection and entry of ranking data. 4. Collecting ranking data from relevant departments within the higher education institution. 5. Verifying the accuracy and validity of the entered data against the available information. 6. Ensuring that all required evidence is uploaded. 7. Adhering to the timeline for data entry and verification and ensure timely submission of all required materials. 8. Reviewing and verifying the quality of the entered data according to the standards: accurate, complete, digital, timely, validated, approved, and supported by evidence. 9. Submitting the verified data to the designated ranking data approver for final approval.
32.	<p>What are the responsibilities of the ranking data entry person?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Attending the workshops provided by the Education and Training Evaluation Commission related to the ranking and the use of the electronic portal for ranking data. 2. Approving the Data Quality and Confidentiality Commitment Document after reviewing and verifying the data, and before starting the data entry process, while adhering to its contents. 3. Compiling and verifying the quality of the data before starting the entry process to ensure it is accurate, complete, digitized, within the specified timeframe, validated, approved, and supported by evidence, paying close attention to accuracy and precision due to the sensitivity of the data. 4. Adhering to the timeline for the ranking data entry process. 5. Entering the data. 6. Submitting the entered data to the data verifier after completing the entry process.

No.	Question	Answer
33.	Is it possible to nominate more than one data approver or more than one data verifier?	It is not permitted to nominate more than one data authorizer; only one data approver and one data verifier are allowed.
34.	How can the ranking results be accessed?	The annual ranking results are announced through the official media channels of the Education and Training Evaluation Commission, following their approval by the relevant authorities.
35.	What is the duration for data entry?	The specified timeframe is 44 working days, as announced by the Education and Training Evaluation Commission.
36.	How can the status of a request be tracked on the Accreditation and Ranking digital platform?	The status of the request and its associated data can be reviewed through the following steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Log in to The Accreditation and Ranking digital platform. ▪ Navigate to "My Requests". ▪ Enter the request number provided by The General Department of Ranking Programs.
37.	How can the password be recovered on The Accreditation and Ranking digital platform?	Steps to Reset Your Password on The Accreditation and Ranking digital platform: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that the email associated with the Digital Platform is open on the same device and browser used to access the platform. 2. Click on the "Forgot Password" option on The Accreditation and Ranking digital platform. 3. Enter your username and click "Submit". 4. Check your inbox or spam folder for an email containing a link to reset your password. 5. Click on the link (note that the link is valid for only five minutes) to open the Digital Platform. 6. Click on the account icon, then select "Welcome (username)". 7. Click on the lock icon to change your password.

No.	Question	Answer
38.	What is the timeframe for the data required to be submitted?	<p>Please review the timeframe and Evidence Guide by following these steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Register on The Accreditation and Ranking digital platform. ▪ Access your institution's data. ▪ Go to the Supportive Guides section. ▪ Open the timeframe and Evidence Guide.
39.	Can a higher education institution submit ranking data if its institutional accreditation is expired or inactive?	<p>The educational institution may provide ranking data if it has graduated at least one cohort of bachelor's degree students.</p>
40.	Can a higher education institution request to submit ranking data if it is not registered on The Accreditation and Ranking digital platform?	<p>No, it cannot. Registration on the Digital Platform is a fundamental requirement.</p>
41.	How can technical or IT support be obtained?	<p>In case of any technical inquiries or challenges, please follow the steps below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submit a request through the Beneficiary Support Platform: https://support.etc.gov.sa 2. Access the Technical Support Room (via Microsoft Teams) at the link: https://bit.ly/3XZTKeR 3. Contact us via email: SGR.Data@etc.gov.sa 4. Call the unified number: 19925 <p>Support is available during the data collection period from Sunday to Thursday, 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM.</p>

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