



**NKUA moved up 206 places within a year according to the QS World University Rankings 2024**

<https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2024>

A significant distinction lay in store for the **National and Kapodistrian University of Athens**: According to the **anniversary edition** of the **QS World University Rankings**, which have 20 years of uninterrupted presence in the ranking industry, our University **finished 444<sup>th</sup> globally** for **2024**, compared to the 601-650 bracket for 2023, **having risen 206 places from the previous year**. With this impressive rise, NKUA reached its highest-ever spot in the QS World University Rankings.

QS World University Rankings are among the most authoritative and significant. For their **20<sup>th</sup> consecutive annual edition**, they analyzed over **141.6 million citations** identified in more than **17.5 million publications** and drew on the expert opinions of over **240,000 academics and employers**. Based on this data, over **6,000 Universities** were **evaluated** from an original pool of several thousand Institutions. QS then **shortlisted 2,963 Universities** for inclusion in the top 1,500, with **1,497 of them** appearing eventually in the tables. It is important to note that the tables for **2024** feature Universities from 104 countries, including 8 Greek Institutions and 85 new entries.

In this year's global ranking, **MIT** and the **University of Cambridge** were 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, respectively, followed by the **University of Oxford**, which rose to 3<sup>rd</sup>, displacing **Stanford University** (5<sup>th</sup> place overall). It is worth noting that **MIT** broke its own record by placing 1<sup>st</sup> in the QS World University Rankings for the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. **Harvard University** moved up to 4<sup>th</sup>, while **Imperial College London** retained 6<sup>th</sup> place. Another European University, **ETH Zurich**, ranked 7<sup>th</sup> worldwide, followed by the **National University of Singapore** in 8<sup>th</sup> and **UCL** in 9<sup>th</sup> place, respectively. The **University of California, Berkeley**, rounded out the top 10 worldwide.

**This year**, the number of **Greek Higher Educational Institutions** included in the QS World University Rankings **grew from six to eight**. The National Technical University of Athens topped the national ranking, with NKUA, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the University of Crete, the University of Patras, Athens University of Economics and Business, the University of Ioannina, and the Technical University of Crete following (see Table 1).

<b>Table 1: Greek Universities' Overall Rank and Rank/Score by Indicator in the QS World University Rankings 2024</b>													
<b>Institution</b>	<b>World rank 2024</b>	<b>World rank 2023</b>	<b>Overall score</b>	<b>Country rank</b>	<b>Academic reputation rank/score</b>	<b>Employer reputation rank/score</b>	<b>Faculty/student ratio rank/score</b>	<b>Citations per faculty rank/score</b>	<b>International students rank/score</b>	<b>International faculty rank/score</b>	<b>International research network rank/score</b>	<b>Employment outcomes rank/score</b>	<b>Sustainability rank/score</b>
<b>National Technical University of Athens</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>422</b>	31.4	1	425/20.5	215/42.7	701+/4.7	137/72.3	701+/4.3	701+/1.3	447/32	240/31.8	701+/7.8
<b>National and Kapodistrian University of Athens</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>601-650</b>	25.8	2	336/26.3	312/31.6	701+/2	441/29.1	595+/16.2	701+/9.9	182/72.8	276+/28.9	592/16.1
<b>Aristotle University of Thessaloniki</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>651-700</b>	22.1	3	305/28.7	370/25.9	701+/3.8	667+/13.5	701+/4	701+/1.4	169/75.4	532+/15.7	388/36.6
<b>University of Crete</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>591-600</b>	22	4	575/15.1	573/14.3	701+/3	158/67.9	701+/3.8	701+/1.7	619+/13.4	701+/8.9	701+/3.5
<b>University of Patras</b>	<b>791-800</b>	<b>801-1000</b>	-	5	496/17.7	438/21.1	701+/2.7	501/24	701+/5.1	701+/1.5	631/12.4	701+/8.4	358/41.1
<b>Athens University of Economics and Business</b>	<b>901-950</b>	<b>1001-1200</b>	-	6	601+/7.4	296/33.3	701+/1.6	588/17.7	701+/3.3	701+/1.7	701+/1	530+/15.7	701+/4.5
<b>University of Ioannina</b>	<b>1001-1200</b>	-		7	601+/6.9	601+/5.4	701+/1.4	494/24.6	701+/2.7	701+/1.7	596/15.2	701+/8.4	-
<b>Technical University of Crete</b>	<b>1401+</b>	-		8	601+/5.9	601+/3.7	-	-	-	-	701+/2.6	-	-

Source: Web Page of QS World University Rankings <https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2024?&countries=gr>

QS World University Rankings 2024 relied on peer review data from many researchers, academics, and employers. They also considered the international faculty ratio, the international students ratio, the number of citations per faculty member (calculated using data from Scopus), and the faculty/student ratio. **QS incorporated three new indicators into its World University Rankings 2024, i.e., sustainability, international research network, and employment outcomes.** The new metrics led to changes in the overall scores compared to the previous year. The modifications to the QS methodology indicate a slight but significant shift in the focus of its World University Rankings from academic reputation to employment outcomes and sustainability. Following the adjustments to methodology, QS World University Rankings 2024 used the indicators and weightings listed below:

1. **Academic reputation (30%).** This indicator drew from the survey responses of academics from various specialties. Respondents named 30 Universities in their field of expertise, their affiliated Institutions excluded. For 2024 QS collected votes from over 240,000 academics and employers worldwide. Academic reputation was used to reflect the research quality of the Universities evaluated.
2. **Employer reputation (15%).** The score for this indicator also drew from survey responses, but the respondents, in this case, were the employers of University graduates. As mentioned above, for 2024 QS collected votes from over 240,000 academics and employers worldwide.
3. **Citations per faculty (20%).** This indicator was calculated using data from Scopus. The total number of citations received by papers on a subject in question over the period 2017-2022 divided by the total number of faculty members who published those papers yielded the score for this indicator. For 2024, QS analyzed over 141.6 million citations identified in more than 17.5 million publications of the period 2017-2021 to evaluate the research impact of each Institution worldwide.
4. **Faculty/Student ratio (10%).** This indicator served as a proxy of the teaching and learning environment of an Institution.

5. **Global engagement (10%).** Broken into two sub-categories, i.e., the international students ratio, or the proportion of international students (5%), and the international faculty ratio, or the proportion of international faculty members (5%), this indicator served as a proxy measure for the international appeal of a University to international students and international academic staff.
6. **International research network (5%).** This indicator measured each Institution’s ability to diversify the geography of its global research network by forming sustainable research collaborations with other Higher Educational Institutions. It also indicated the efficiency of this by comparing the diversity of partner sites to the work required to attain such diversity.
7. **Employment outcomes (5%).** This indicator reflected the ability of Institutions to ensure a high level of employability for their graduates while also nurturing future leaders who will go on to make an impact and be highly influential in their respective fields. For this, QS combined two metrics, widely known from its Graduate Employability Rankings, i.e., Graduate Employment Rate and Alumni Impact.
8. **Sustainability (5%).** Sustainability has become a crucial component of Universities as they grow increasingly aware of their global impact, and students demand that their Educational Institutions address issues like social justice and climate change. According to the QS International Student Survey 2022, 80% of students believe that Universities might take more action to protect the environment. That is typical of younger students who fervently support social and environmental activism. Having recognized this call to action, QS added a 5% weighted sustainability lens to its World University Rankings 2024 to reflect a University’s role in charting the course and driving change towards a more sustainable future.

**Table 2: NKUA’s rank by indicator**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Ranking this year (2024)</b>	<b>Change on prior year (2023)</b>
<b>International research network</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>New</b>

<b>Employment outcomes</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>New</b>
<b>Academic reputation</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>+6</b>
<b>Employer reputation</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>-8</b>
<b>Citations per faculty</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>+12</b>
<b>Faculty/Student ratio</b>	<b>701+</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>International students</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>+ 6</b>
<b>International faculty</b>	<b>701+</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Sustainability</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>New</b>

Source: QS World University Rankings 2024 Fact File | NKUA

Table 3 presents the ratios utilized for rankings calculations for NKUA, compared against the global median results.

**Table 3: Ratios utilized for rankings calculations for NKUA, compared against the global median results**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>NKUA's Performance</b>	<b>Global Median</b>
<b>Faculty/Student ratio</b> <i>(Faculty members per 100 students)</i>	2.9	8.8
<b>Citations per faculty</b>	120.5	70.9
<b>International students ratio</b>	11.4	12.2
<b>International faculty ratio</b>	7.2	14.4
<b>International research network</b>	60.8	38.9
<b>Employment outcomes</b>	9.3	7.1

Source: QS World University Rankings 2024 Fact File | NKUA

It is important to note that the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens is far above the global median in citations per faculty and international research network and above the global median in employment outcomes (**see Table 3**). The fact that it is less than 50% of the median level in some indicators is due to academic staff reductions as a result of the Greek sovereign debt crisis on the one hand, and Greek Universities' inability to attract international faculty, for they cannot match the incentives, salaries, and working conditions that large foreign Universities offer.

In closing, I would like to make clear that our University's impressive rise by 206 places within a year is not due to the changes in the QS methodology but to the performance and achievements of our Institution as well as its extroversion and internationalization strategy. More specifically:

1. The introduction of two English-taught Undergraduate Programmes, NKUA's membership in the CIVIS alliance, the optimal use of international cooperation mechanisms, partnerships with American Universities, and increased mobility of students and academic staff have all helped the Institution receive a higher ranking and score in the academic reputation indicator.
2. Our University's participation in the Eurograduate Pilot Survey on graduate employment and all other actions implemented by its Career Office (Career Days, Career Guidance & Labour Market Liaison Services, Promotion of Employment Opportunities, Cooperation with Employers) contributed to the Institution receiving a higher ranking and score in the employer reputation and employment outcomes indicators.
3. NKUA's dedication to sustainable development and to addressing social inequalities and gender discrimination, as well as its policy of equal opportunities in education, resulted in a high performance in the sustainability indicator.
4. A host of high-level collaborations between NKUA faculty members and their counterparts at major Institutions abroad led to a strong performance in the international research network indicator of the QS World University Rankings 2024.

We wish to extend our heartfelt congratulations to all members of our academic community and those of other Greek Universities that made it into this year's QS World University Rankings. Greek Public Universities have once again demonstrated their worth, quality, and worldwide standing. Despite many adversities, they still have a role to play in the complex and globalized Higher Education environment.

**Thanos Dimopoulos**

**Rector of NKUA**