



2016-17 University of Crete still makes the grade

The University of Crete (UoC) has not only maintained its position among the leading universities worldwide but has actually risen in the 2016-17 edition of the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings to 301-50 (compared with 351-400 last year), and continues to rank first in Greece.

The [THE results](#) appear to completely contradict the recently published 2016-17 QS rankings, which showed a fall in the UoC's position in the QS league tables and provoked much despondent commentary on the plight of Greek Universities in general and UoC in particular. On closer inspection, however, it becomes clear that this contradiction is more apparent than real. While the ever-increasing number of ranking agencies all claim to measure excellence in University performance, each uses a different range of indicators, scoring methods, and weightings, and methodologies of varying rigor, to arrive at the final rankings. The indicators and weighting chosen by a particular agency depend to a large degree on its target audience and 'market': prospective students &/or academics &/or the decision-makers in universities, enterprises and government.

The THE-WUR focuses on 'research-intensive universities' and in 2016-17 ranks 980 institutions from a selected frame of 1,313 of the world's leading research universities. Heavy weighting (30%) is given to citations on the grounds that *"citations help to show us how much each university is contributing to the sum of human knowledge: they tell us whose research has stood out, has been picked up and built on by other scholars and, most importantly, has been shared around the global scholarly community to expand the boundaries of our understanding, irrespective of discipline."*¹

In terms of this measure of research influence and impact, UoC ranks 146 worldwide.

There is no doubt that Greek Universities have suffered reputational damage associated with the effects of prolonged austerity policies on the academy and the 'brain drain' of research talent. In this context it is even more remarkable that the strengths of the UoC in terms of [research influence and impact](#) are shown in one form or another in all the major rankings and league tables: an achievement of UoC scholars and scientists, young and old, to be celebrated.

¹ <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/methodology-world-university-rankings-2016-2017>