

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

RANKING IN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY RANKING SCHEMES

EXTRACT of the INTERIM REPORT OF ACADEMIC SENATE'S UNIVERSITY RANKINGS WORKING PARTY

The Working Party presented an interim report to Academic Senate in October. The report included an analysis of the *Shanghai Jiao Tong University* and the *Times Higher Education Supplement* rankings, as well as the *Melbourne Index of the International Standing of Australian Universities*. The purpose of the interim report is to provide an initial discussion on the various international university ranking schemes and the University's performance on them, as well as to begin to identify strategies to improve our rankings.

The Working Party continues to analyse both improved performance and where there has been slippage in our rankings.

TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

The Times Higher Education Supplement's World University Rankings¹ began in 2004. The methodology has changed almost continually since it was first published but is based on a mixture of research and education criteria weighted approximately (65%/35%). UTAS moved downwards from position 161 to 291 over the last five years.

Information related to the various criteria for the rankings is collected largely from universities themselves and combined with the opinions of academics, large international recruiters and citation data to determine institutional rankings.

The changes in weighting of criteria and calculation method mean it is difficult to ascribe changes in ranking position to variations in performance.

MELBOURNE INSTITUTE INDEX OF THE INTERNATIONAL STANDING OF AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

Williams and Van Dyke of the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research produced international rankings of Australian Universities in 2004 and 2005². Six criteria each with a number of sub criteria were used to calculate the rank of Australian Universities. The Index attempts to give a greater weighting to undergraduate and postgraduate education, but is still dominated by research performance (approximately 75% emphasis on research). Data for each criterion is compiled from external sources.

¹ Times Higher Education QS World University Rankings, October 2008,
<http://www.topuniversities.com/home/>

² Williams, R. and Van Dyke, N., "The International Standing of Australian Universities:", *Melbourne Institute Report No. 4*, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, 24 November 2004,
www.melbourneinstitute.com

Williams, R. and Van Dyke, N., "Melbourne Institute Index of the International Standing of Australian Universities:", Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research, 9 November 2005,
www.melbourneinstitute.com

As with the THES World Rankings, the changes in criteria make it difficult to meaningfully compare UTAS position over time in these rankings.

SHANGHAI JIAO TONG UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC RANKING OF WORLD UNIVERSITIES RANKING SCHEME

The *Shanghai Jiao Tong* scheme is the most recognised scheme and ranks the top 500 Universities. This scheme is based totally on research, with no weighting for teaching.³ UTAS slipped from the 301 to 400 band in 2004 and 2005 to the 401 to 500 band for 2005 to 2007. In 2008 UTAS moved up the rankings to the 301-400 band, with an overall increase in its score of 11.1%, the best improvement since the ranking scheme started in 2003. By contrast Macquarie had an increase of 6.2% (201-300 band) and Newcastle dropped by 1.9% (301-400 band), but remains ahead of UTAS.

A major Institutional Goal of the EDGE2 Agenda is for UTAS to be ranked in the top 250 of the *Shanghai Jiao Tong* scheme. Six separate criteria are measured and weighted to arrive at the ranking. Focusing on these criteria, some initial suggestions which may assist in improving our ranking were provided in the interim report to Academic Senate. These pointers are reflected in the selection criteria for the New Stars recruitment scheme.

³ Shanghai Jiao Tong University Academic Ranking of World Universities, last accessed September 2008, www.arwu.org