

MEDIA RELEASE

UP soars in 2022 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings

PRETORIA – According to the latest Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings (2022), released recently, the University of Pretoria (UP) has been named South Africa’s second-best (joint second) and Africa’s third-best (joint third) university.

The rankings are based on the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are designed to address the most serious and critical global challenges in the world. The SDGs offer an integrated framework for ensuring that global development balances social, economic and environmental sustainability.

UP also featured among the global top 50 and top 100 universities in terms of the SDGs.

This year, a record number of 1 406 universities (up from 1 240 in 2021) from 106 countries/regions featured in the Impact Rankings, which offer a way to gauge a higher education institution’s performance on the international stage in terms of the widely adopted SDGs. A university’s overall score – and thus rank – is determined by its combined performance in its top three SDGs (each weighting 26%, with SDG 17 weighting 22%). Using calibrated metrics and indicators across four key areas – research, teaching, outreach and stewardship – the rankings assess hundreds of quantitative and qualitative evidence that tangibly measure the impact of higher education institutions in addressing urgent global challenges.

UP Vice-Chancellor and Principal Professor Tawana Kupe congratulated the University community for achieving these remarkable results. “I am incredibly proud of the UP community for this outstanding performance,” he said. “The ranking recognises the sustained impact we are having in our local and global communities, but also serves to inspire future action, fuelled by our collective intellectual curiosity.”

UP is ranked among the top 50 universities in the world in terms of SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth: position 44) and SDG 15 (Life on Land: position 30). In addition, the University is ranked among the top 100 universities in the world in SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: position 88) and SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals: position 86).

The University has also retained its position (201 – 300) in SDG 3 (Health and Wellbeing) and SDG 4 (Quality Education), and improved its position in SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: 101 – 200). When it first participated, UP was ranked between 101 and 200 in SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

In addition, UP is ranked first in South Africa in SDGs 9 and 15 and second in SDGs 3, 16 and 17.

SDG	Global rank	Domestic rank
SDG 15: Life on Land	30	1
SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	88	1
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals	86	2
SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	44	3
SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	101 –200	2
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	101–200	3
SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing	201-300	2

SDG 4: Quality Education	201–300	3
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Eighty African universities in 10 countries featured in the Impact Rankings. Commenting on the performance of African universities, Phil Baty, Chief Knowledge Officer at the THE World University Rankings stated: “As the Impact Rankings focus on social and economic impact, through universities’ contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals, we can recognise niche strengths and uncover real pockets of excellence across the African continent.” It is clear that African universities are taking a lead in improving social realities and UP takes pride in its contribution towards this.

Prof Kupe said that UP launched the Sustainable Development Solutions Network this year, the objective of which is to mobilise and support South African universities and other leading research institutions to promote the SDGs in South Africa as well as South Africa’s contribution to the SDGs globally. “The impressive outcomes for UP from this ranking demonstrate that our strategic plan to achieve greater societal impact by addressing pressing local and global challenges is working. I am proud of our University community for actively participating in creating sustainable better futures for our country and continent and the world. We will redouble our efforts not just to score on the ranking but to make a decisive difference in defeating the challenges we face to earn the bright futures we deserve.”

Caption: Prof Tawana Kupe

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About the University of Pretoria

The University of Pretoria (UP) is one of the largest contact and residential universities in South Africa, with its administration offices located on the Hatfield Campus, Pretoria. This 114-year-old institution is also the largest producer of research in South Africa.

Spread over seven campuses, it has nine faculties and a business school, the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS). It is the only University in the country with a Faculty of Veterinary Science, which is ranked top in Africa. UP has 120 academic departments and 92 centres and institutes, accommodating more than 56 000 students and offering about 1 100 study programmes.

UP is one of the top five universities in South Africa, according to the 2019-2020 rankings by the Center for World University Rankings. The QS World University Rankings also placed UP among the top 100 universities worldwide in three fields of study (veterinary science, theology and law), and UP is in the top 1% in eight fields of study (agricultural sciences, clinical medicine, engineering, environment/ecology, immunology, microbiology, plant and animal sciences and social sciences), according to the Web of Science Essential Indicators.

For more information, go to www.up.ac.za