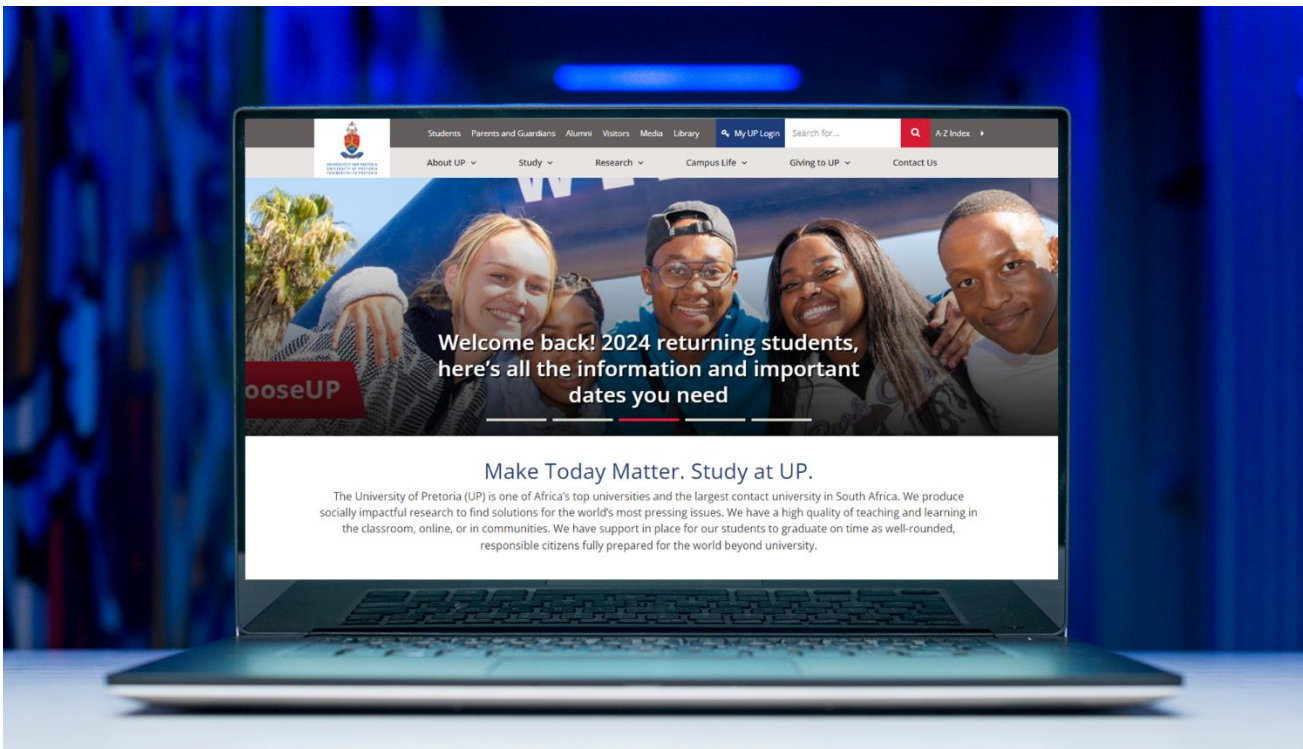




NEWS RELEASE

Webometrics world rankings: UP placed among top four in SA and ranked 447th globally



University of Pretoria's main website: up.ac.za

PRETORIA - The University of Pretoria (UP) has once again cemented its position as a global leader in tertiary education by securing the fourth spot in South Africa and Africa, and an impressive 447th position globally out of 12 000 ranked universities in the recent Webometrics Ranking of World Universities.

Conducted by Cybermetrics Lab, the largest public research body in Spain, the ranking takes into account the quality and quantity of university web content, and the visibility and impact of these web publications. The primary goal of the ranking is to enhance academic web presence and support open-access initiatives. This would substantially boost the dissemination of scientific and cultural knowledge produced by universities.

“The University of Pretoria takes great pride in being recognised among the top four leading universities in Africa and South Africa, and 447th globally in these rankings,” said Professor Sunil Maharaj, UP Vice-Principal for Research, Innovation and Postgraduate Education. “This achievement is a testament to our unwavering commitment to providing top-tier education and fostering a culture of research excellence. We are dedicated to advancing knowledge and making a meaningful impact on the global academic landscape within the African landscape.”

The Webometrics ranking, now in its 20th year, utilises a unique methodology focusing on webometric and bibliometric indicators. Webometrics endeavours to rank more than 31 000 higher education institutions from more than 200 countries. The rankings are compiled by scientists at a world-class public research institution, ensuring a metrics-guided evaluation that reflects the global landscape of higher education.

UP excelled in the three core indicators: Visibility, Transparency/Openness, and Excellence. Visibility, which contributes 50% to the ranking, measures the number of external networks linking to the institution's web pages. Transparency/Openness, accounting for 10%, evaluates the number of citations from the top 310 authors, excluding outliers. Excellence, with a significant 40% weightage, assesses the number of papers among the top 10% most cited in each of the 27 disciplines over the past five years (2018 – 2022). For Visibility (Impact), UP holds the 659th position globally; for Openness, it ranks 492nd and for Excellence, it is placed 499th. Across all these metrics, UP was ranked fourth both in Africa and South Africa.

“At UP, we believe in the transformative power of research, and this ranking reaffirms our standing as a research-intensive institution dedicated to advancing the frontiers of knowledge and contributing meaningfully to global scholarship,” Prof Maharaj said.

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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 its Hatfield Campus in Pretoria. This 115-year-old institution is also one of the largest producers 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 the best 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. It has the most academic staff with PhDs (70%), NRF-rated researchers (613).

The [2024 Times Higher Education subject rankings](#) placed UP first in South Africa in the fields of Law, Veterinary Science, Accounting and Finance; Agriculture and Forestry and Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) ranked the University among the top five in Africa, as part of their [2024 World University Rankings \(WUR\)](#). UP was the only South African university featured in the [2023 World University Rankings for Innovation \(WURI\)](#), falling within in the 101-200 range of innovative universities.

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