University rankings

Fig. 16: Rankings of ETH Zurich (blue) and EPFL (red) according to the THE, QS, ARWU and CWTS Leiden Rankings in 2018/2019

Fig. 17: Rankings of ETH Zurich (blue) and EPFL (red) according to the THE and QS World Rankings 2009–2018

The universities are assessed and ranked by institutions and businesses using various methods. THE (Times Higher Education World University Rankings) uses 13 key performance indicators for teaching (30% weighting), research (30%), citations (30%), international outlook (7.5%) and funding by industry (2.5%). QS (QS World University Rankings) focuses mainly on reputation (with a 40% weighting on academic reputation and 10% on reputation of graduates among employers), followed by the supervision ratio (20%), citations (20%) and international outlook (10%). ARWU (Academic Ranking of World Universities of ShanghaiRanking Consultancy) makes use of performance indicators for the quality of graduates and teaching staff that are based on the number of prestigious awards received (Nobel Prize, Fields Medal) and the number of frequently-cited researchers. The publication activity is judged on the basis of the number of publications that have appeared in a select group of the most respected journals, and the ratio between the number of publications and the number of researchers at an institution. CWTS Leiden (Centre for Science and Technology Studies Leiden Ranking) is based solely on the publication activity of the universities, using this to calculate the indicators to assess research performance. One commonly used indicator for ranking the universities in the CWTS Leiden ranking is the proportion of publications each university has among the top 10% of the most-cited publications in the relevant discipline (PP(top 10%) (s. box below). The rankings shown for both Federal Institutes of Technology shown (see Fig. 16) are based on this indicator.