

## **Introduction to WURI Ranking 2021**

The WURI Ranking which is dedicated to producing a more meaningful way to rank universities globally. This program was launched by the Hanseatic League of Universities (HLU) which is a university alliance with the mandate to revive the noble objectives of openness, practicality and cooperation among the approximately 190 city states of the original Hanseatic League that prospered in Europe from the twelfth century through to the seventeenth century.

We believe that the existing university rankings have a number of limitations due to the fact that they weigh too heavily on measuring the number of academic research papers and traditional methods of knowledge-transfer. In this regard, the members of HLU have decided to develop this alternative system for university rankings which examines the innovative programs implemented by universities. Such an approach helps emphasize more the real impacts upon society such as industrial application of sciences and technologies, entrepreneurial spirits, ethical values, and student mobility and openness. Its final outcome will be our university rankings entitled the “Global Top 100 WURI 2021.”

Although the inaugural WURI 2020 ranked Stanford, MIT, and Harvard at the top of the list, it also included many lesser known yet remarkably innovative higher educational institutions which had not appeared before in other traditional university rankings. These included Minerva Schools at Keck Graduate Institute (USA), Ecole 42 (France), Abdullah Gül University (Turkey), and IEDC-Bled School of Management (Slovenia). Their emergence highlights the way in which the WURI Ranking is not based on tradition, reputation, or popularity, but rather is focused on new concepts such as innovativeness, entrepreneurship, responsibility, and openness. For 2021, the WURI Ranking adds a new category to its assessment: crisis management. The Five Categories of Application for WURI 2021 is as follows.

### **Five Categories of Application for WURI 2021**

- 1) Industrial applications rather than the traditional ways of counting research papers and lecture-type teaching.
- 2) Value-creating startups and entrepreneurship as opposed to the common practice of measuring the number of jobs filled.
- 3) Social responsibility, ethics, and integrity as compared to those that only consider the knowledge and skills required for material success.
- 4) Student mobility and openness for exchange and collaboration between schools and across national borders, which is more encompassing than an independent yet closed system.
- 5) Crisis management of dealing with external shocks such as the Covid-19 pandemic and technological breakthroughs (e.g., artificial intelligence) to thrive rather than just to survive.

\*The fifth factor has been added for 2021 rankings.

For further details, please visit our website ([www.wuri.world](http://www.wuri.world)).

## Evaluation Guidelines for WURI 2021

- **Evaluation Process**

The WURI Ranking is a not-for-profit program, so there are no fees nor any hidden costs for this application and evaluation process. There are also no marketing activities involved with this program or its participants. The following is an outline of our evaluation process.

1. **Evaluation:** By April 25, 2021, the presidents or the school's evaluation team designated by the president, who have submitted their applications, will evaluate all applications in a blind review process and send their evaluation scores of all the submitted applications to the WURI Ranking.
2. **Judgment:** By May 15, 2021, the representatives of the university leagues (e.g., AAC&U) and higher education-related media (e.g., newspapers, magazines), who accept WURI's invitation, and the members of the WURI Evaluation Board will review the Evaluators' evaluation scores and send to the WURI office their recommended list of universities for the global top 100 rankings.
3. **Final Check:** By May 25, 2021, the WURI Evaluation Board aggregates the recommendations of the Judges, checks the reliability of the contents in the submitted applications, and finalizes the entries in the "Global Top 100 WURI 2021."
4. **Publication of the WURI Ranking:** The final WURI Ranking and selected innovative programs which are ranked will be published on June 10, 2021.

- **Evaluation Criteria**

There are five categories for evaluation: industrial application, entrepreneurial spirit, ethical value, student mobility and openness, and crisis management. Each of these five categories should be then evaluated based on the following **three criteria**.

1. **Innovativeness:** Evaluators should first look at how innovative the program is. This could be with the content of the program itself or with the process the institution has demonstrated in making their program more effective. The evaluators may consider one of these aspects or both.
2. **Implementability:** Although the program may be innovative, evaluators should also examine its implementability or doability. This can be assessed by measuring the costs and benefits in initiating the program.
3. **Impact:** Evaluators should consider both the scope and intensity of the program. In terms of scope, it should be judged whether the impact has been limited to only one department, for example or whether it has been wide across the entire university. Additionally, the impact of the program can have a varying degree of intensity which must be weighed up carefully.

Based on these three criteria and to the best of your assessment, evaluators will select the **ten best programs** for each of the five categories (fifty candidates in total) from the list of applicants of the evaluation sheet.

## Appendix 1: Guidelines for Application for WURI 2021

1. **No fees or expenses:** WURI is a not-for-profit program, so there are no fees nor any hidden costs for this application and evaluation process. There are also no marketing activities involved with this program or its participants.
2. **Innovative cases for evaluation:** We are not interested in the statistical data which reflects the past, rather we are more interested in cases of innovative programs that can help evaluate future prospects through a standard template.
3. **Multiple categories for application:** Applicants can apply for one or more of the following categories: (i) industrial application, (ii) entrepreneurial spirit, (iii) ethical value, (iv) student mobility and openness, and (v) crisis management. An applicant can be ranked in more than one or all of the five categories if it enters more than one category.
4. **Multiple submissions for each category:** Applicants can submit more than one program for each category.
5. **Joint application:** Two or more applicants can jointly submit applications if the programs have been jointly developed and/or implemented in such cases of double-degree programs, research consortia, or other similar collaborative projects. If the joint programs are selected, all of the applicants will be co-ranked.
6. **Use of template:** If applicants submit more than one program, they should only use one template per program.
7. **Addendum to the template:** Applicants may freely add exhibits, tables, diagrams, charts, or written descriptions to the templates so long as they are electronically submitted.