

DEVELOPMENT ROADMAP

King Saud University



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INTRODUCTION

The QS Stars Development Roadmap builds upon many years of experience collecting institutional data and compiling the QS World University Rankings®. The objective is to provide institutions with a broader range of criteria that allow them to stand out in their particular area(s) of excellence. The QS Stars system evaluates universities against a range of important performance indicators based on a rating method. It awards Stars to an institution according to a range of criteria and can include universities not traditionally well-placed in rankings.

A QS Stars rating can visually signal additional complexity beneath ranking results. It can encourage users and readers to accept that ranking results ought to be understood rather than simply accepted. It can also provide additional important information that is involved in the early stage of the university application decision-making process.

Ratings are not dependent on the performance of other institutions, but relate to an individual institution’s performance, which is measured against pre-set thresholds.

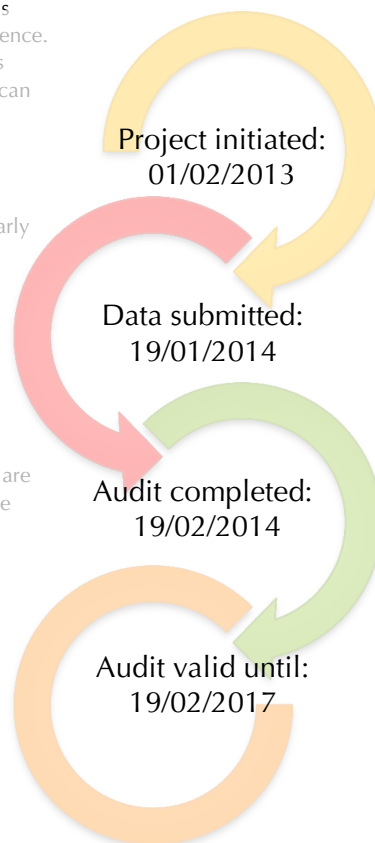
Further Assistance

If you need any further help interpreting the content of this report, have any questions or have discovered any anomalies, please contact QS. Detailed feedback and ideas for improvements are also very welcome: if there is any data of interest that could be collected in the future, it can be considered and potentially added to the project.

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CORE CRITERIA

The following section of the report contains the results obtained by King Saud University in each category of the Core Criteria. These criteria feature the key building blocks of a university whether focused globally, domestically or locally.

TEACHING



A key role of a university is the nurture of tomorrow's finest minds, inspiring the next generation of potential research academics. Typical indicators here are domestic teaching quality assessments, collation of student feedback, national student surveys and student faculty ratios. Indicators for the Teaching category are:

- T1 Faculty student ratio**
The ratio of faculty to students

- T2 Overall student satisfaction / Completion**
Proportion of students expressing satisfaction with overall experience in student survey / Proportion of students scheduled to graduate succeeding in doing so

- T3 Faculty with PhD**
Proportion of students expressing satisfaction with teaching through student survey / Proportion of faculty with PhD or equivalent terminal degree

- T4 Further study**
Proportion of students pursuing further study within 12 months of graduation

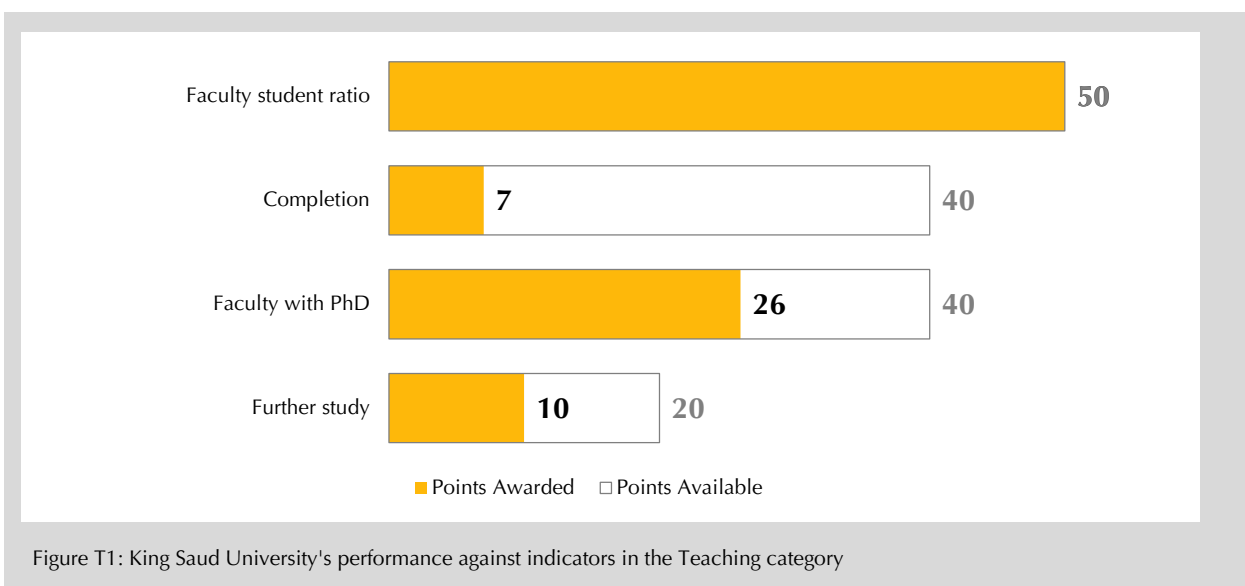


Figure T1: King Saud University's performance against indicators in the Teaching category

The above figures outline the performance of King Saud University for the Teaching category. KSU has exceeded the minimum scoring level in all of the indicators in this category, its best result is in Faculty Student Ratio with 100% of the 50 available points. King Saud University has scored a total of 93 points taking it to four stars for this category. The indicator that may most benefit from additional focus is Completion.

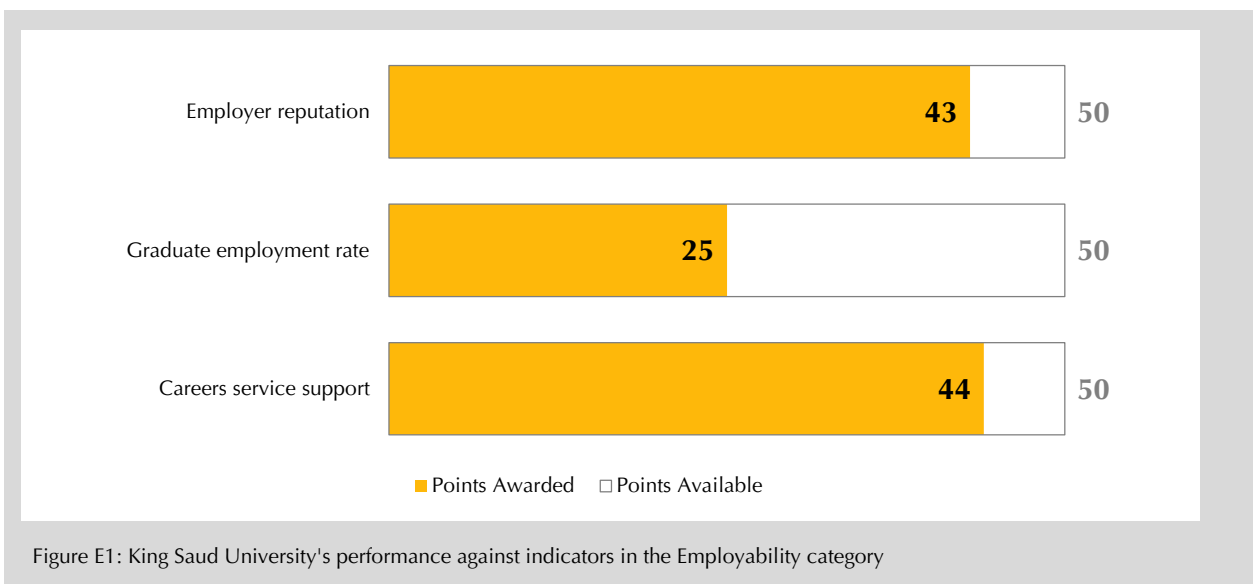
CORE CRITERIA

EMPLOYABILITY



Graduate employability encompasses more than academic strength, focusing on ‘work-readiness’ - the ability to work effectively in a multi-cultural team, to deliver presentations, to manage people and projects. Common indicators in this area are surveys of employers, graduate employment rates and level of career service support. Indicators for the Employability category are:

- E1 Employer reputation**
Number of employer referees endorsing institution in QS Global Employer Survey
- E2 Graduate employment rate**
Proportion of students employed within 12 months of graduation (excluding those not actively seeking work e.g. pursuing further study)
- E3 Careers service support**
Number of full-time careers advisors or staff in careers department



This page describes the performance of King Saud University for each indicator in the Employability category. King Saud University has met the minimum threshold in all of the indicators in this category, its strongest performance is in Careers Service Support with 88% of the 50 available points. King Saud University has scored a total of 112 points qualifying it for five stars in this category. The indicator most open to development is Graduate employment rate.

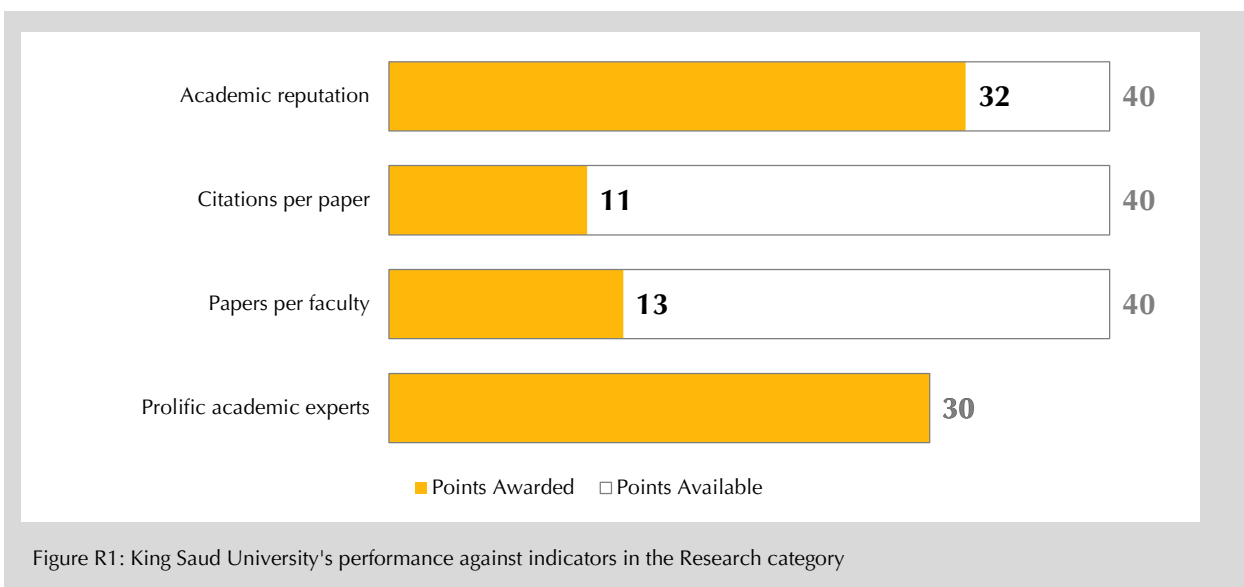
CORE CRITERIA

RESEARCH



Indicators considered here include domestic assessments of research quality, productivity (i.e. number of papers published), citations (i.e. how recognised and referred to those papers are by other academics), awards (e.g. Nobel Prizes or Fields Medals). Indicators for the Research category are:

- R1 Academic reputation**
Number of academic referees endorsing institution in QS Global Academic Survey
- R2 Citations per paper**
Citations per paper – adjusted for institutions with negligible activity in medicine, science and technology
- R3 Papers per faculty / Arts-related outputs**
Research papers (Scopus) per faculty member / Recognition of academic outputs in disciplines where journal articles are not pervasive
- R4 Prolific academic experts**
Number of faculty members achieving international recognition through awards (e.g. Nobel Prizes or equivalent awards)



The above chart displays the performance of King Saud University against the maximum number of points available in each Research indicator. King Saud University has met the minimum threshold in all of the indicators in this category, its strongest performance is in Prolific Academic Experts with 30 of the available 30 points. Overall King Saud University has scored 86 points in this category qualifying it for four stars herein. The aspect with the best potential for further improvement is Citations per paper.

CORE CRITERIA

INTERNATIONALIZATION



Students are studying outside their home countries at higher volumes than ever, and this mobility is accelerating. Universities are changing to meet this demand and leading institutions are at the forefront. For prospective international students, seeing a track-record of an institution for looking after international aspects as well as getting a sense for the international nature of the experience they can expect is increasingly important. Indicators identified to provide this insight are:

- I1 Institutional research collaborations**
University research collaborations or joint degree programs with QS top 500 universities in previous 3 years published rankings
- I2 International faculty**
Proportion of international faculty
- I3 International students**
Proportion of international students
- I4 Inbound exchange students**
Proportion of inbound exchange students
- I5 Outbound exchange students**
Proportion of outbound exchange students
- I6 Religious facilities**
Provision of appropriate facilities for international students of different religions
- I7 International diversity**
Number of nationalities represented in student body

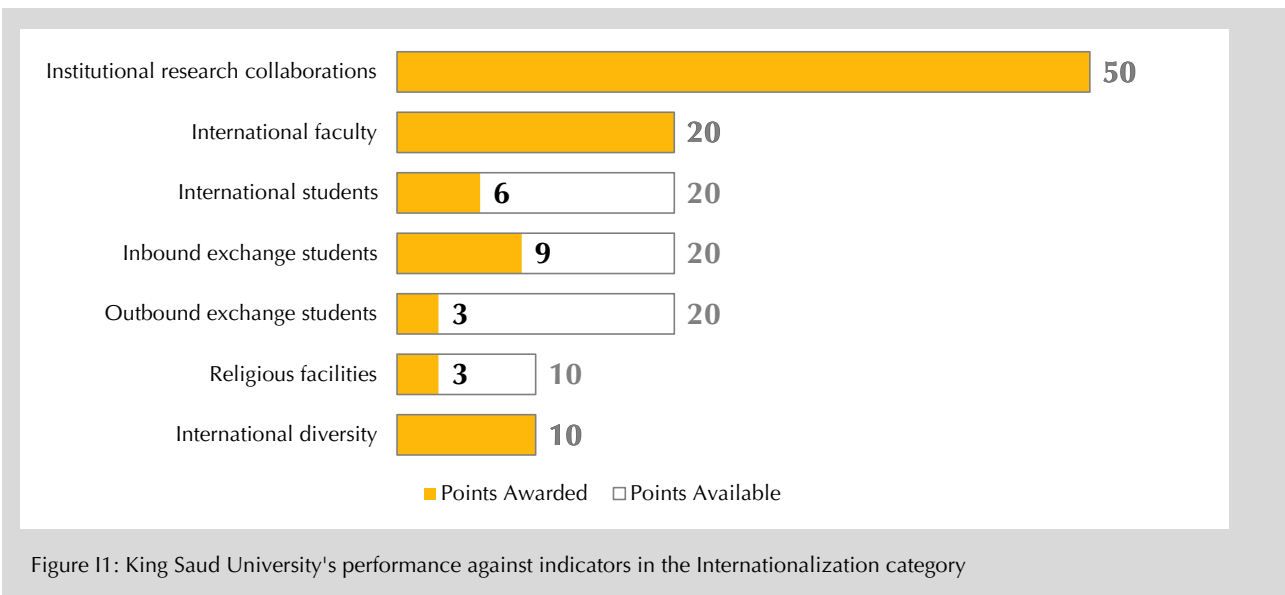
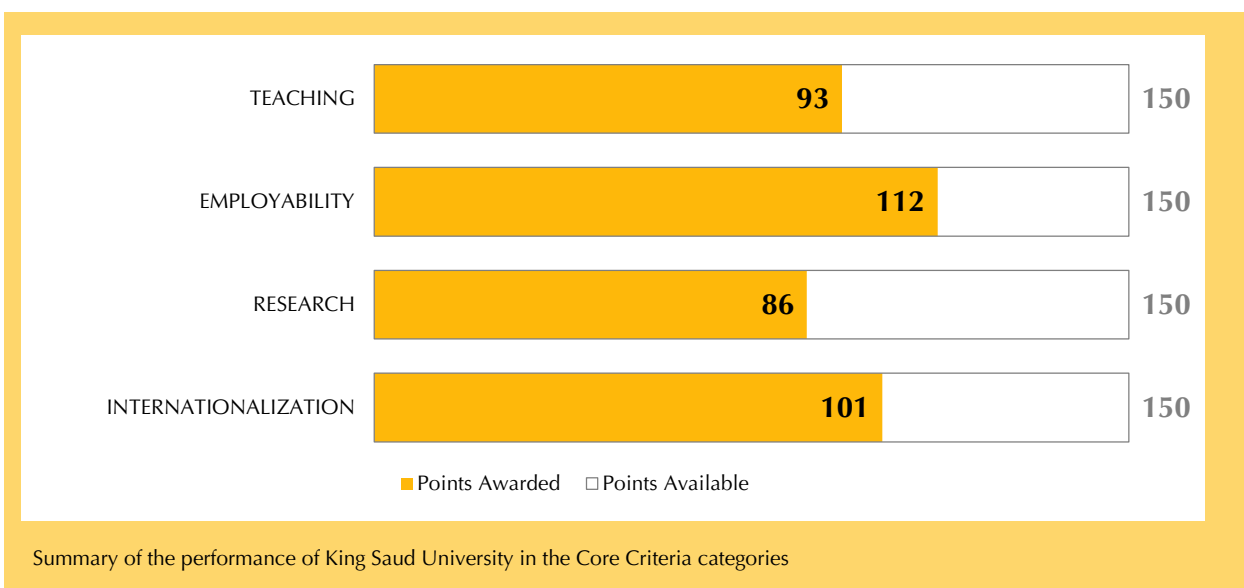


Figure I1: King Saud University's performance against indicators in the Internationalization category

In Internationalization King Saud University scores 101 of the available 150 points exceeding the minimum in all of the indicators in this category and has achieved maximum results in 3. The aspect within Internationalization with the largest points shortfall is Outbound exchange students.

CORE CRITERIA

CORE CRITERIA SUMMARY



#	Indicator	Points Awarded	Points Available	Stars Awarded
T	TEACHING	93	150	4 Stars
E	EMPLOYABILITY	112	150	5 Stars
R	RESEARCH	86	150	4 Stars
I	INTERNATIONALIZATION	101	150	4 Stars
		392	600	

The above summarizes the performance of King Saud University for each category of the Core Criteria. The total number of points that can be achieved within each category is displayed against the number of points achieved by the university. The coloured bars display King Saud University's individual points: an overall 392 were achieved from the total number of points available.

King Saud University has exceeded 57% in all areas. The best category results are in Employability with 75% of the 150 available points. King Saud University has scored a total of 392 points forming a significant foundation for the overall rating. The category that may most benefit from additional focus is Research.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

FACILITIES



The Facilities category talks about the physical infrastructure of a university, providing students with some insight into the environment they can expect for their university experience. Indicators for the Facilities category are:

- F1 Sporting facilities**
Provision of key, popular sporting facilities (e.g. swimming pool, gym, track, sports court etc...)
- F2 Students accommodation**
Number of student rooms relative to size of student body
- F3 IT infrastructure**
Number of computers on campus; proportion of wired student rooms or campus Wi-Fi coverage
- F4 Library facilities**
Value or number of acquisitions with the past 12 months
- F5 Medical facilities**
Provision of medical facilities appropriate to the size of the student body
- F6 Student societies**
Number of student administered organizations

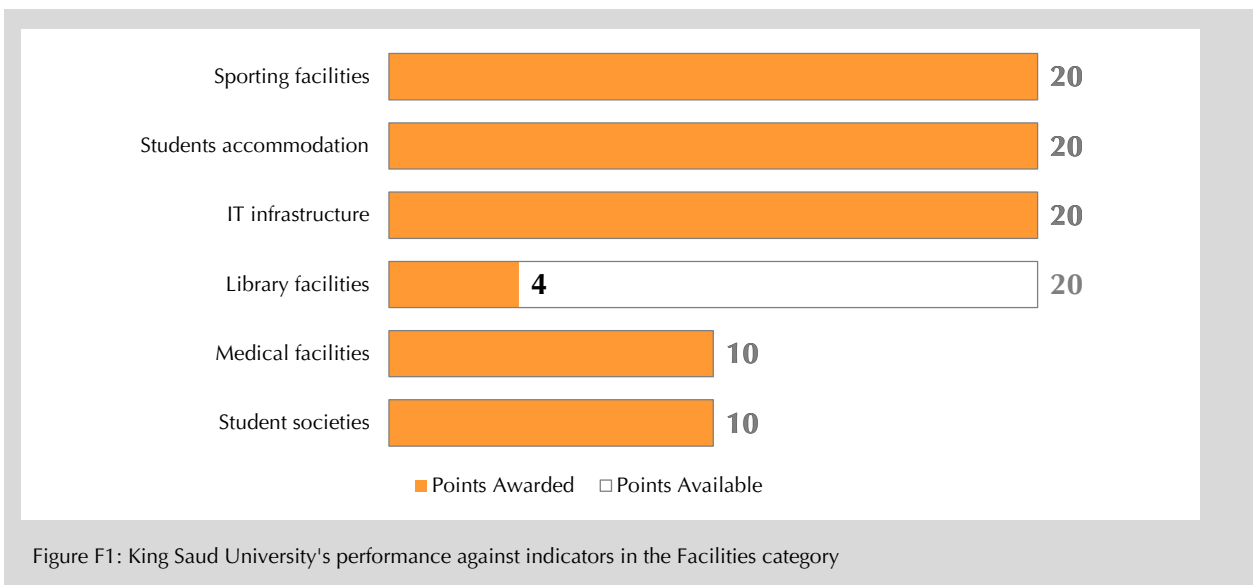


Figure F1: King Saud University's performance against indicators in the Facilities category

These are the results for the King Saud University Facilities audit. King Saud University has exceeded the minimum in all of the indicators in this category and has achieved maximum results in 5. King Saud University has scored a total of 84 points taking it to five stars for this category. The area meriting most attention is Library facilities.

ADVANCED CRITERIA

For a university to aspire to being truly world-class, its mission and its impact must extend further than the basics. This selection of criteria looks at important factors that a university with a solid foundation in the core criteria might target to advance to a higher level of performance and recognition.

Naturally, we recognize that institutions worldwide can be very different from one another and this section of QS Stars is a key part of its distinction from rankings. Here an institution gets to tailor its evaluation towards the things that is best at. Unlike many ranking systems that apply the same criteria to all institutions, here art schools will not be measured for technology transfer and engineering colleges will not be measured on their contribution to the arts. Specialist institutions will be evaluated on the two advanced categories areas most relevant to them. Comprehensive universities will be evaluated on their two areas of greatest strength and the world's most ambitious institutions may choose to be evaluated in all categories, but the top two areas will be counted towards their overall QS Stars rating. The advanced categories are:

CULTURE

INNOVATION

ENGAGEMENT

ACCESS

The highlighted/shaded categories are those included in the QS Stars evaluation for King Saud University. A full explanation of what is included in the selected categories is included in the following pages, for details of what is featured in the other categories please visit the QS Intelligence Unit website (www.iu.qs.com) or contact your QS Stars analyst.

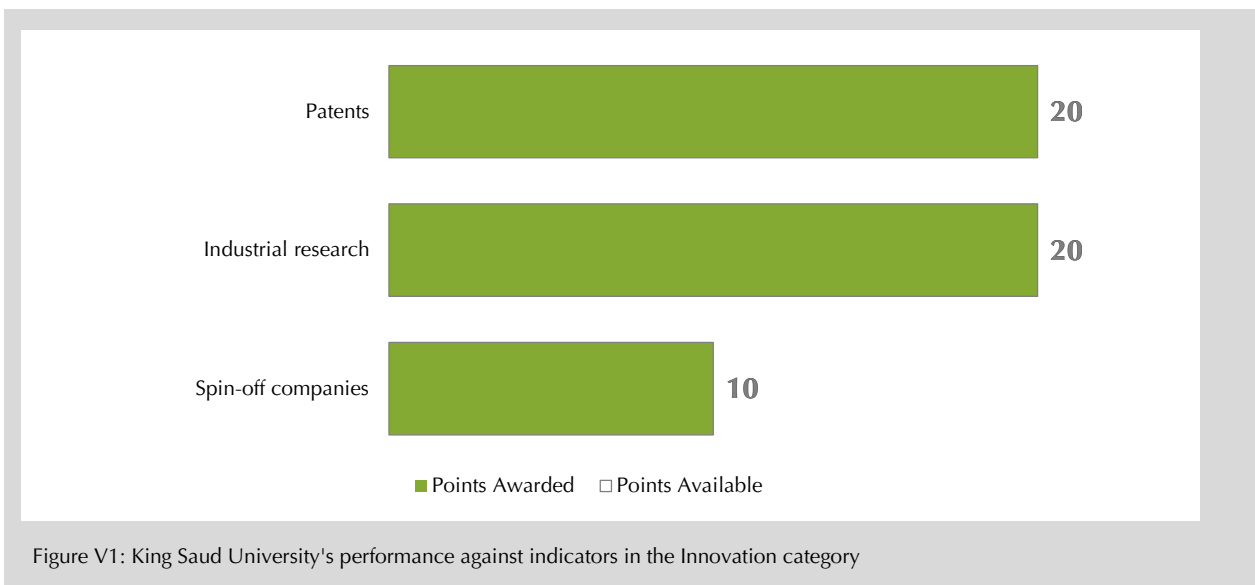
ADVANCED CRITERIA

INNOVATION



Universities are increasingly under pressure to, not only conduct research for its own sake, but to drive that towards its destination. Innovation and knowledge transfer are increasingly important priorities for modern, progressive universities. Indicators for the Innovation category are:

- V1 Patents**
Patents registered with national or international patent offices
- V2 Industrial research**
Joint research projects with distinct corporations (non-university), yielding publications in Scopus in the last 5 years
- V3 Spin-off companies**
Spin-off companies established in the last 5 years still operating and no longer requiring support from the university



For Innovation, King Saud University scores 50 of the 50 points on offer. KSU qualifies for scores in all of the indicators in this category and has been awarded maximum points in 3.

ADVANCED CRITERIA

ACCESS



For a university aspiring to become truly world-class, its mission and its impact must extend further beyond the basics. The indicators considered here include: provision of scholarships and bursaries - particularly relevant in today's global trend of higher tuition fees and student assistance policy -, disabled access, gender equality and outreach effort to students from low-income families.

- S1 Scholarships and bursaries**
Financial value of, or number of students granted access through, scholarships
- S2 Disabled access**
Proportion of campus with wheelchair access
- S3 Gender balance**
Recognition of gender parity
- S4 Low-income outreach**
Proportion of students identified as low-income OR investment in promotion to low-income families

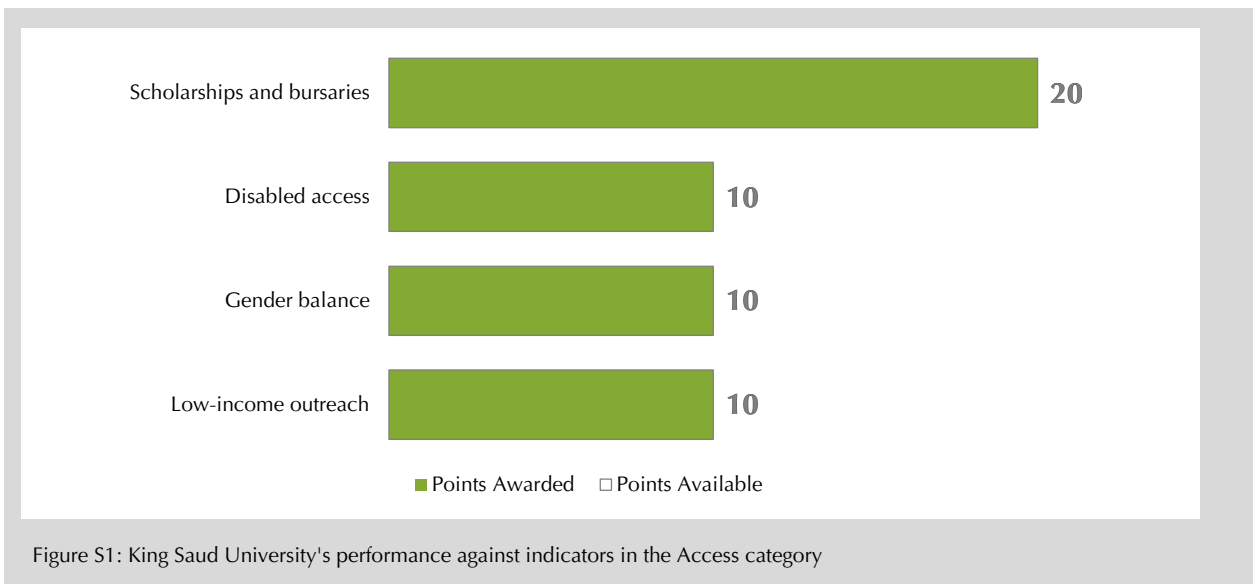
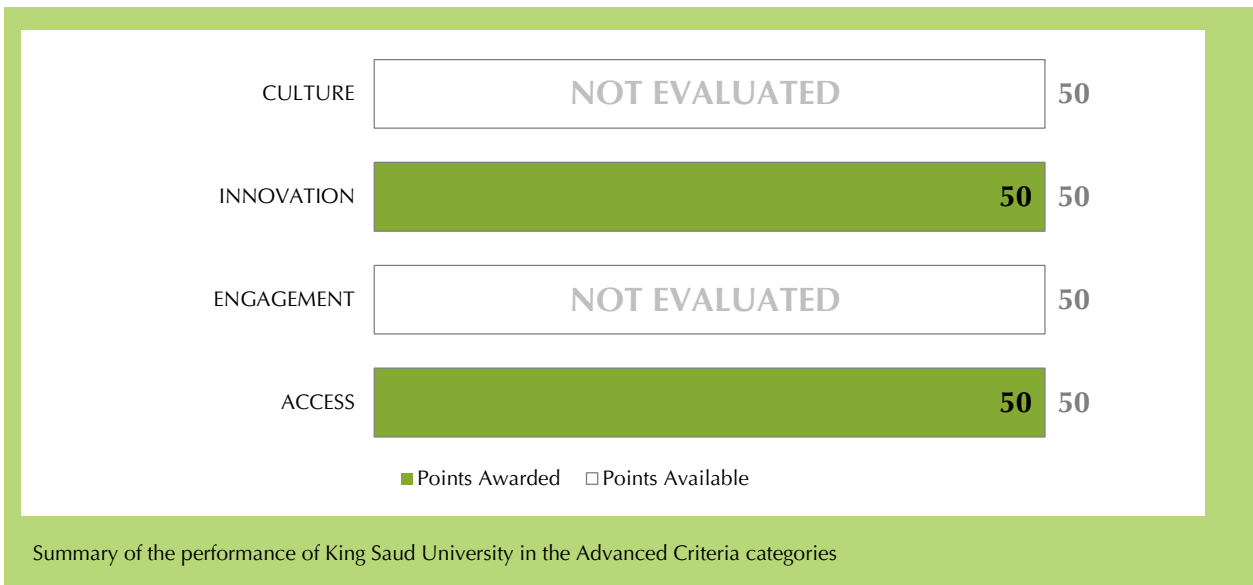


Figure S1: King Saud University's performance against indicators in the Access category

For Access, King Saud University scores 50 of the 50 points on offer. KSU qualifies for scores in all of the indicators in this category and has achieved maximum points in 4.

ADVANCED CRITERIA

ADVANCED CRITERIA SUMMARY



#	Indicator	Points Awarded	Points Available	Stars Awarded
C	CULTURE	N/A	50	
V	INNOVATION	50	50	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
G	ENGAGEMENT	N/A	50	
S	ACCESS	50	50	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
		100	100	

The performance of King Saud University for each category of our Advanced Criteria are outlined in the above table and chart. The total number of points that can be achieved within each category is displayed alongside the number of points awarded to the institution. The coloured bars reflect KSU’s individual points: an overall 100 were achieved from the 100 points available.

KSU has surpassed 100% in all evaluated areas. The best category results are in Innovation And Access with 100% of the 50 available points. KSU's total of 100 points represents an exemplary contribution to the overall rating.

SPECIALIST CRITERIA

DISCIPLINE RANKINGS & ACCREDITATIONS



In conventional public rankings, specialist institutions tend to be underrated in favour of comprehensive institutions, yet in their given field they often fully deserve the "world-class" label. Part of the objective of QS Stars is to draw out some of these strengths and enable specialist institutions to rub shoulders with those that perennially find themselves at the top of league tables. As a result the specialist criteria carry a full 20% of the overall system.

D1 Discipline ranking

Ranking performance in any one of five broad faculty areas conducted annually by QS or narrower fields by QS or third-party

A1 Accreditations

Programs accredited by internationally or domestically recognized and applicable standards

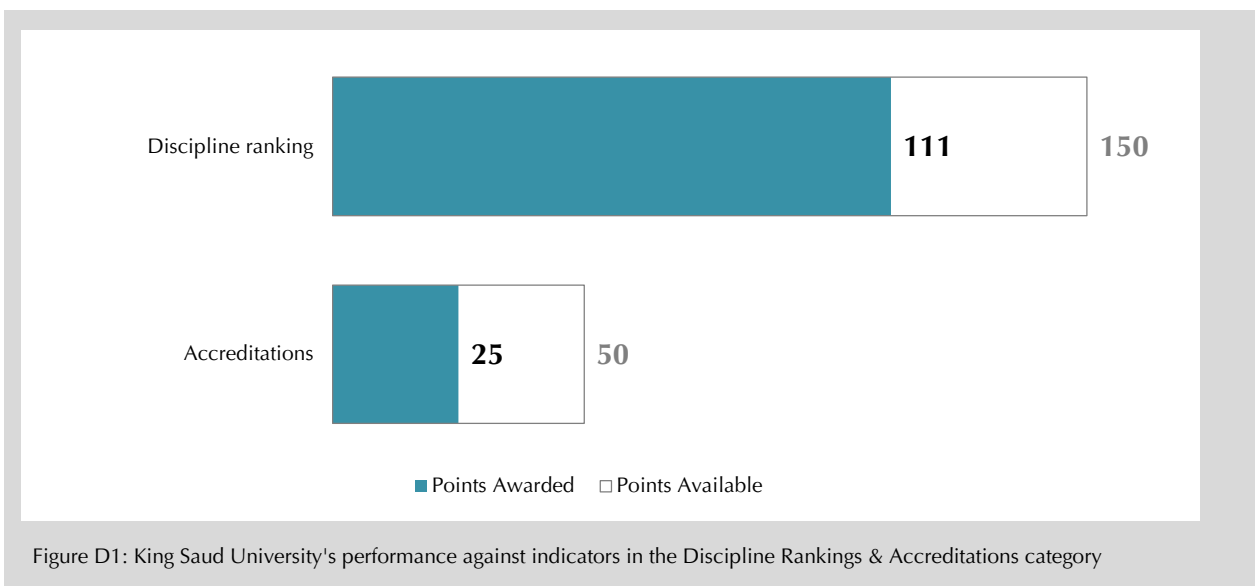
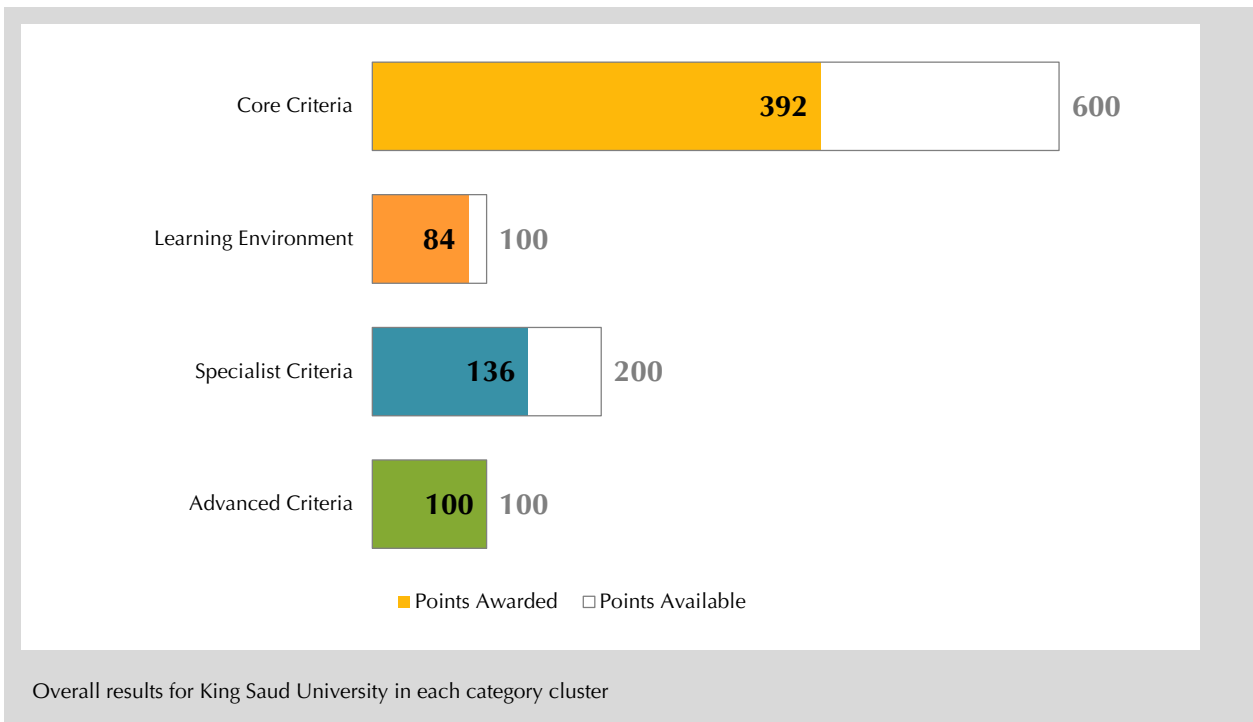


Figure D1: King Saud University's performance against indicators in the Discipline Rankings & Accreditations category

The specialist criteria operate a little different from earlier categories in this methodology. Here, we look at an institution's reputation in broad faculty areas and specific disciplines as well as achievements in accreditations. The performance of King Saud University here is driven by its excellence in Education. The total number of points that can be achieved within each category is displayed alongside the number of points awarded to the institution. The coloured bars reflect KSU's individual points: an overall 136 were achieved from the 200 points available.

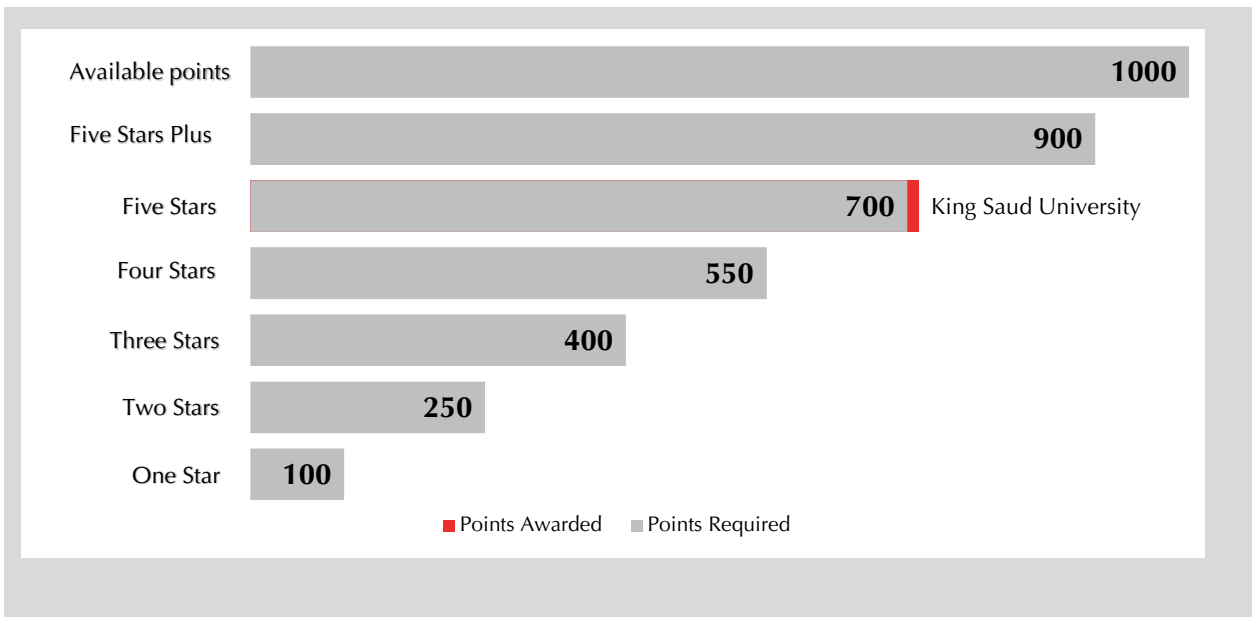
OVERALL SUMMARY



#	Criteria	Points Awarded	Points Available
A	Core Criteria	392	600
B	Learning Environment	84	100
C	Specialist Criteria	136	200
D	Advanced Criteria	100	100
Overall		712	1000

These are the overall results for King Saud University. 712 points were earned from the 1000 points available. As a result, KSU is awarded Five Stars.

OVERALL SUMMARY



The above chart displays the different levels of star ratings available. Each bar indicates the minimum number of points required for the corresponding star level. King Saud University has been awarded with Five Stars (the minimum number of points required to achieve Five Stars is 700 points).

#	Category	Points Awarded	Points Available	Stars Awarded
CORE CRITERIA				
T	TEACHING	93	150	4 Stars
E	EMPLOYABILITY	112	150	5 Stars
R	RESEARCH	86	150	4 Stars
I	INTERNATIONALIZATION	101	150	4 Stars
LEARNING ENVIRONMENT				
F	FACILITIES	84	100	5 Stars
O	ONLINE / DISTANCE	N/A	100	
ADVANCED CRITERIA				
C	CULTURE	N/A	50	
V	INNOVATION	50	50	5 Stars
G	ENGAGEMENT	N/A	50	
S	ACCESS	50	50	5 Stars
SPECIALIST CRITERIA				
D	DISCIPLINE RANKING	111	150	4 Stars
A	ACCREDITATION	25	50	
OVERALL		712	1000	5 Stars

CONCLUSION

The King Saud University (KSU) has performed extremely well across all QS Stars categories, meeting the pre-requisites and achieving Five Stars in 4 areas out of 8:

- Employability
- Facilities
- Innovation
- Access

KSU has achieved a very strong performance in several areas of the audit. KSU is a world-class university with Five Stars when it comes to the Facilities available to its student body. It is possible that more investments in the Libraries are needed. Although faring at Five Star level in Employability, the institution could improve upon its score by recruiting additional and dedicated career advisors and also by regularly engaging with employers in and out of campus, which could help improving KSU's score in the employer reputation component and also the graduate employment rate in the long term. For both the Innovation and the Access category KSU attains Five Stars with a full score signifying its world-class status with respect to these advanced criteria.

KSU could look into improving its score on some categories. These include:

1. Teaching - Four Stars

KSU has a commendable faculty student ratio. The level of faculty with PhD is currently good at 73% but this could be further improved in order to score better in this category. The university could also focus on increasing completion rate and further study percentage. Alternatively, to score more points, a pre and post course student satisfaction survey could be institutionalised to measure retention and satisfaction. If it does not exist already, the introduction of additional incentives for those faculty staff who perform extremely well in teaching could help improve scores in this category.

2. Research - Four Stars

The research volume (papers per faculty) as well as the research quality (citations per paper) indicators for KSU could clearly benefit from additional focus. The university is very well recognised for research in the Arab world and also in Saudi Arabia. However this strength is not being fully translated into academic reputation. It is important for the institution to design a concrete and practical strategy not only for research quality and productivity but also to efficiently disseminate its most outstanding research achievements.

3. Internationalization - Four Stars

Overall, the results in this area have been impressive and depict a strong international profile of the institution. However, the proportion of international students is still very low in comparison to world-class institutions. Attracting more inbound exchange students is necessary for improvement. An international student recruitment plan specifically targeting parts of the world that value Islamic culture could be a good move and may help KSU improve its score in this category.

4. Specialist Criteria - Four Stars

Although Engineering & Technology came across as the strongest broad subject area for KSU, the university exhibits its best performance in Education subject where it ranks at 70th in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2013. In this subject, KSU is also accredited by the Center for Quality Assurance in International Education. Securing an additional international accreditation in Education will help KSU to score better in this category. It would be worth for the institution to focus its resources for the Education subject and also in the Engineering & Technology faculty area, both in terms of reputation and research output.

QS Intelligence Unit has collected data from the King Saud University and evaluated it against the QS Stars criteria; the King Saud University has been awarded Five Stars.