

# Newsflash!

Issued: 11 October 2024



## SMU breaks into top 10 of THE World University Rankings

In a groundbreaking achievement coinciding with its 10th anniversary, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University (SMU) has solidified its position as one of South Africa's leading higher education institutions by securing the 10th spot in the prestigious Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2025. This accomplishment marks a new era for SMU, showcasing its rapid ascent within the competitive field of health sciences, signalling its growing influence on the global stage, and cementing the university's status as a health science powerhouse.

SMU's rise in the rankings comes hot on the heels of its impressive performance in the 2024 Webometrics Rankings, where it placed 18th nationally. Now, having cracked the top 10 in the most prestigious and competitive university rankings, SMU is positioned as a dynamic and influential force in higher education. This remarkable achievement is especially notable as SMU competes against long-established institutions, further underscoring the impact the university is making within a relatively short time.

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Celebrating 10 Years of Academic Excellence

SEFAKO MAKGATHO  
HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY



The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025 evaluated more than 2,000 institutions from 115 countries, employing a comprehensive methodology that includes 18 finely tuned performance indicators. These criteria assess universities across key areas such as teaching, research quality, industry engagement, and international outlook, making the rankings one of the most respected measures of global academic performance.

Professor Bassie Marvey, SMU's Director of Institutional Planning, attributes this success to the university's strategic focus on raising its local and global visibility and reputation. "This remarkable achievement, coinciding with our 10th anniversary, reflects the collective dedication of our staff and students. Their commitment has propelled SMU into the ranks of the nation's best universities. We are also grateful for the dedication of our Institutional Researcher, Ben Ntshabele, whose ongoing collaboration with ranking bodies contributes to such accomplishments," says Marvey.

SMU's success extends beyond the general university rankings, with standout performances in subject-specific rankings. Nationally, SMU ranks 7th in Medicine and

Dentistry and other health-related subjects and 8th in Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Computer Science, and Psychology. On the global stage, SMU is placed in the 1201-1500 band, sharing the spotlight with leading institutions such as the University of South Africa and the Durban University of Technology.

The university's rise in the rankings was further celebrated by Dr Nobuhle Nkabane, the Minister of Higher Education, who praised SMU for its exceptional progress during a speech delivered at the 3rd Higher Education Conference, organised by Universities South Africa (USAf). "I am delighted to see two newcomers in the rankings—Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University, led by Professor Peter Mbati, and the University of Fort Hare under Professor Sakhela Buhlungu. Congratulations to both institutions for their remarkable achievements," said Nkabane.

As SMU continues to grow its reputation in health sciences, this milestone reflects its commitment to pioneering innovation in healthcare education and research. With a student-centred approach and a focus on global excellence, SMU is rapidly carving out its place among the world's most respected universities, a point of pride for its students, staff, and alumni.

