



Encouraging your university to sign up to **More Than Our Rank**

The International Network of Research Management Societies (INORMS) [Research Evaluation Group](#) (REG) was established in 2018 to promote fairer and more responsible assessment of academic research and institutions. To support this ambition, the INORMS [More Than Our Rank](#) initiative was launched in October 2022.

More Than Our Rank is an opportunity to redefine what institutional success looks like, by enabling universities to celebrate their many and varied activities, achievements and ambitions that are not captured by global university rankings.

Participation in **More Than Our Rank** is for institutions rather than individuals, and therefore requires agreement from institutional leaders. As brokering conversations about public commitments can be difficult, the REG have drafted the following guidance to help you to leverage support for **More Than Our Rank** within your organisation.

Why should your institution participate?

1. You get to describe your ambitions, activities, and achievements in full

Signatories to **More Than Our Rank** get to define their successes on their own terms in line with their own institutional missions and ambitions. This opportunity allows institutions to step away from the limited definitions of quality and excellence of national and international rankings and celebrate what is meaningful to you and your communities.

2. It can co-exist with the university rankings

Some institutions are well-served by the global rankings and want to celebrate their ranking successes. There is no requirement that signatories to **More Than Our Rank** stop using the rankings, but only that they also highlight what they have more to offer that is not captured by the rankings – something with which even the rankings would agree! (See our supporting organisations).

3. You get to live up to your principles on:

- **Responsible research assessment:** Many higher education institutions (HEIs) have signed [DORA](#) or adopted other principles of responsible research assessment. These encourage a move away from narrowly-focussed and poorly-constructed indicators of success towards more value-led and qualitative approaches. **More Than Our Rank** is formally supported by DORA, CWTS Leiden, the Latin American Forum on Scientific Evaluation (CLACSO FOLEC) and others, as a way of delivering on institutional principles of responsible research assessment.
- **Equity, diversity & inclusion (EDI):** Rankings use a model of institutional success that favours large, old, wealthy, [English-speaking](#), research-intensive institutions in the global north. Whilst these institutions are great, they are not

the only 'flavour' of higher education. Such a model tends to exclude whole regions (e.g., Latin America, Africa) from ranking highly and as such cannot be seen to be inclusive. **More Than Our Rank** seeks to provide a much broader and inclusive definition of institutional success and by participating institutions are celebrating diversity and promoting inclusivity.

- **Collaboration:** Many HEIs prize collaboration with other institutions as a key way of delivering on their research ambitions. However, rankings are inherently competitive. They are a zero-sum game. When an institution celebrates breaking into the top 100, they are actually celebrating another institution dropping out. **More Than Our Rank** is inherently collaborative rather than competitive. All institutions have an equal opportunity to highlight their strengths and to join collaboratively with others doing the same.

4. You will get recognition for your commitment

The INORMS Research Evaluation Group regularly promotes new signatories on social media and through other channels. This helps both to celebrate that institution's achievements as listed in their statement but also provides recognition to institutions for living out their commitment to responsible research assessment, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

5. You will be proactive in meeting expectations of funding agencies

Many research funding organisations including the Global Research Council, the European Commission, and UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) are developing approaches to evaluating research more responsibly, and they are expecting the organisations they fund to do the same. A good number of [research funders](#) have signed up to the [Coalition on Advancing Research Assessment \(CoARA\)](#) Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment which has as one of its four core commitments the need to avoid using rankings in the assessment of researchers. The [independent review of priorities in UK research assessment](#) listed as one of its ten recommendations the need for institutions to engage more responsibly with university rankings, including considering signing up to **More Than Our Rank**.

6. You'll be in good company

More institutions are signing up to **More Than Our Rank** every week from all over the world. And a wide range of organisations have endorsed the initiative, such as the European University Association, Latin American Forum on Scientific Evaluation, Science Europe, and the European Consortium of Innovative Universities.

7. It's free!

There is no cost to signing up to **More Than Our Rank**.

8. It's simple

- a) Sign up via the [INORMS More Than Our Rank web page](#);
- b) Write a statement describing how you are more than your rank;
- c) Add this statement and the MTOR [logo](#) to your web page.

That's it!

Addressing institution concerns

- **Does this mean we'd have to stop promoting our ranking position?**
 - No. Institutions are free to promote their ranking successes. **More Than Our Rank** just highlights how much more institutions have to offer, whether they do well in the rankings or not.

- **Isn't this just for those who have a "poor" or no ranking?**
 - No. **More Than Our Rank** is for all institutions and highly ranked, mid-ranked and yet-to-rank organisations are signing up.

- **Will there be pushback from ranking organisations?**
 - Most ranking agencies are open about the limited dimensions of university activity that they represent and how their rankings only provide one view of an institution. Indeed, some provide links out to institutional websites to provide context for their ranking scores. Two ranking agencies, CWTS Leiden and UMultirank, are official supporters of **More Than Our Rank** as they see no conflict of ambition.

- **What if we want to change our statement?**
 - That's absolutely fine. Universities are dynamic organisations and so their **More Than Our Rank** statements can be updated with new ambitions, activities, and achievements at any time.

INORMS Research Evaluation Group

February 2023