



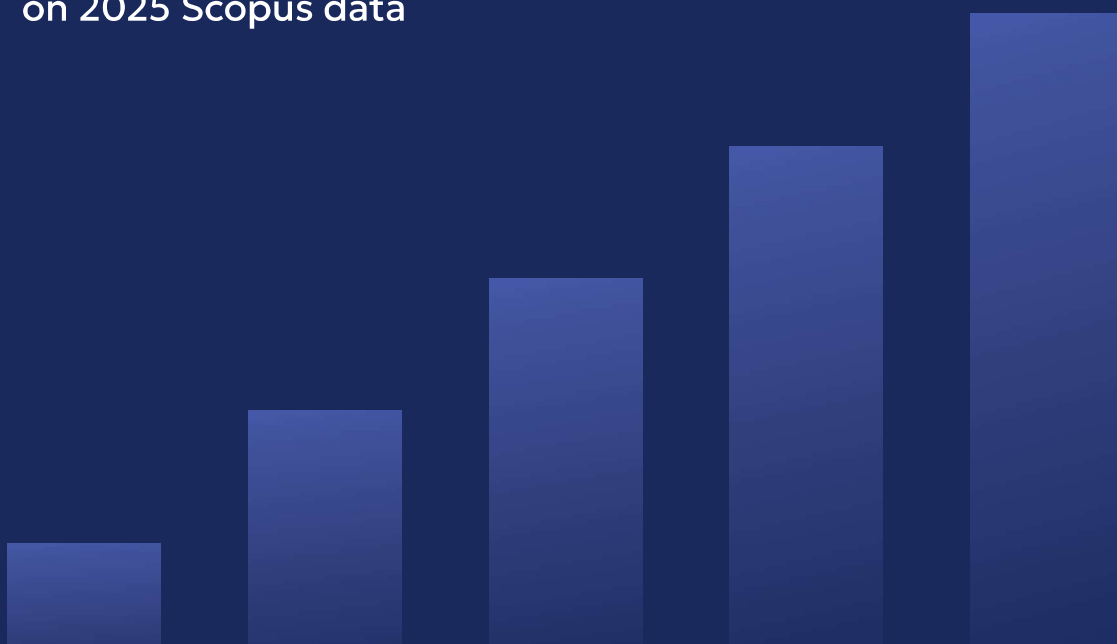
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RESEARCH PUBLICATION ACTIVITY AND INTERNATIONAL CITATION IMPACT

OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

An analytical review based
on 2025 Scopus data



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Tashkent - 2026

ABBREVIATIONS, KEY TERMS AND SYMBOLS

HEI – Higher Education Institution.

TOP 1000 – the category of universities ranked within the top 1,000 positions in international rankings.

Scopus – an abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed scholarly literature.

Scopus Institution Profile – a profile that consolidates an HEI's name and affiliation variants and brings together its associated research publications and citation indicators.

Scopus Affiliation Identifier – a unique numerical identifier assigned to an institution profile in Scopus.

CiteScore – the average number of citations received by scholarly materials published in a journal over a specified four-year period.

CiteScore Percentile – an indicator expressing a journal's position relative to other journals in the relevant subject area, based on its CiteScore, on a 0–99 percentile scale.

Citation Percentiles – an indicator that groups research publications into percentiles according to citation performance, taking account of subject area, year of publication and document type.

Q1 – first quartile; journals in the 75th–99th CiteScore Percentile range, representing the top 25 per cent of journals in the relevant subject area.

Q2 – second quartile; journals in the 50th–74th CiteScore Percentile range.

Q3 – third quartile; journals in the 25th–49th CiteScore Percentile range.

Q4 – fourth quartile; journals in the 0–24th CiteScore Percentile range.

Top 10% – the top 10 per cent of the most highly cited research publications within the relevant subject area, year of publication and document type.

Top 1% – the top 1 per cent of the most highly cited research publications within the relevant subject area, year of publication and document type.

SciVal – Elsevier's platform for analysing research performance, collaboration and citation impact.

REF – Research Excellence Framework, the United Kingdom's system for assessing the quality of research.

COPE – Committee on Publication Ethics.

DOI – Digital Object Identifier, a persistent digital identifier for a research publication or other digital object.

ORCID – Open Researcher and Contributor ID, a unique digital identifier for researchers and authors.

Crossref-Retract Watch – a metadata database covering retractions, corrections, expressions of concern and reinstatements of publications.

Retraction – the formal withdrawal of a research publication from the scholarly record where concerns arise regarding its reliability or research integrity.

Academic staff – professors and teaching staff.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Rationale for the analysis

In contemporary higher education, research performance is a key factor shaping an HEI's academic capacity, international competitiveness and level of integration into the global research landscape.

The publication of research findings in reputable international journals, their recognition by the scholarly community and their citation performance are important dimensions in the assessment of higher education institutions.

Assessing an HEI's research publication activity solely by publication volume is insufficient.

The analysis also takes account of the quartiles of the journals in which outputs are published, publications in the Top 10% and Top 1% citation categories, and performance relative to the number of academic staff.

Taken together, these indicators allow publication volume, composition and citation impact to be assessed in an integrated manner.

Analysis based on Scopus data enables the number of research publications, journal quartiles, highly cited outputs and overall citation impact of HEIs to be assessed within a consistent analytical framework.

This provides an evidence base both for identifying national-level trends and for comparatively examining performance differences among individual HEIs and across institutional categories.

Ongoing efforts to strengthen research in higher education, increase the share of high-quality publications and expand international research collaboration are reinforcing the need for regular and systematic assessment of HEI research performance.

At the same time, differences in institutional specialisation, research fields, academic staff numbers and research infrastructure require results to be analysed by category.

Accordingly, a comprehensive assessment of HEIs' Scopus-indexed research publication activity and citation impact is important for establishing the current state of research performance, identifying leading institutions, revealing systemic disparities and developing evidence-based measures to strengthen research activity.

1.2. Aim and objectives of the analysis

The aim of the analysis is to assess the publication activity and citation impact recorded in Scopus for HEIs. It also examines changes over 2023–2025, differences between HEI categories and category-level ranking positions based on 2025 results.

Data for 2023–2024 are used to comparatively analyse changes and structural trends in research publication activity.

HEIs' national ranking scores and final positions within the relevant category are determined solely on the basis of 2025 indicators and are published as the results of the national ranking.

To achieve this aim, the following objectives were set:

- to systematise the principal concepts and research indicators used to assess research publication activity;

- to explain the methodological features of using Scopus, establishing an institution profile, and calculating results at national and HEI level;

- to define the criteria for classifying HEIs and the general principles of comparative assessment;

- to analyse the trend in the total number of research publications in Uzbekistan during 2023–2025;

- to assess changes in the quality profile of research outputs through publications in Q1–Q4 journals and in the Top 10% and Top 1% citation categories;

- to comparatively analyse HEIs' research publication activity, publication quality and citation impact by institutional category;

- to assess research publication productivity relative to academic staff numbers and identify leading HEIs;

- to calculate the Research Publication Activity Index and ranking scores, and determine final positions within each HEI category;

- to identify systemic disparities associated with the concentration of research publication activity in particular HEIs, institutions with limited performance, and HEIs without a Scopus Institution Profile;

- to develop practical recommendations to improve publication quality, strengthen citation impact and develop the research capacity of HEIs.

The stated aim and objectives enable research publication activity to be assessed comprehensively, not only through quantitative measures but also in terms of publication quality, citation impact, relative research performance and position in the national ranking.

1.3. Scope and coverage of the analysis

The analysis examines HEIs' research publication activity and citation indicators in Scopus.

It considers the number of research publications, their distribution by journal quartile, highly cited publications, research productivity relative to academic staff and comparative position in the national ranking.

The main analytical sample comprises 105 HEIs that participate in the national ranking and have a Scopus Institution Profile.

Their 2025 research publication activity forms the basis for calculating ranking indicators and determining final positions within the relevant category.

To identify overall trends, changes in research publication activity over 2023–2025 were analysed.

However, HEIs' national ranking scores and positions are based exclusively on 2025 indicators.

To assess the full scope of coverage, data on 63 HEIs without a Scopus Institution Profile and 32 HEIs that do not participate in the national ranking are considered separately. These institutions are not included in the principal ranking calculations, but are taken into account when describing coverage limitations in the assessment of research publication activity.

The analysis is conducted at national, HEI-category and individual-institution level, and assesses publication volume, quality profile, citation impact and relative research performance in an integrated manner.

1.4. Data sources and period of analysis

The primary source of information is the Scopus database. It was used to compile data on research publications affiliated with the Republic of Uzbekistan and individual HEIs, journal quartiles, highly cited research outputs and citation performance.

HEI research publication activity was analysed using Scopus data retrieved as at 30 June 2026. These data were used to calculate the 2025 national ranking results.

Scopus data for 2023–2025 were also analysed comparatively in order to assess changes in research publication activity at national level.

HEI categories, participation status in the national ranking and academic staff figures were drawn from data compiled as part of the national ranking process.

The regulatory basis for the analysis is the Regulation on the National Ranking of Higher Education Institutions, approved by an order of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education under the Administration of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter, the National Agency), registered by the Ministry of Justice on 28 February 2026 under No. 3783.

Research publication activity is assessed under the indicator “articles published in journals indexed in the Scopus database” provided for in that Regulation.

Thus, while the analytical period covers overall trends in 2023–2025, HEI ranking scores and final positions in the published national ranking are determined on the basis of 2025 results.

II. METHODOLOGY FOR ASSESSING RESEARCH PUBLICATION ACTIVITY

2.1. Indicators used to assess research publication activity

The principal concepts and research indicators used in this analysis are defined as follows.

Research publication in Scopus – a scholarly output indexed in the Scopus database. The term covers articles, review papers, conference papers and other types of scholarly publication recognised by Scopus.

Research publication activity – an overarching concept describing the volume of publications recorded in Scopus over a specified period and their composition by journal quartile and citation indicators.

Number of research publications – the total number of scholarly outputs indexed in Scopus during a specified period and affiliated with the relevant HEI. While this indicator reflects the scale of research activity, it should be interpreted alongside publication quality and citation impact to provide a fuller assessment of an institution's research performance.

Academic staff – the number of professors and teaching staff employed at their primary place of work or on an internal part-time basis.

Citation indicator – reflects the extent to which research publications are cited by other scholarly works indexed in Scopus. Citation counts provide an indication of the influence of publications within the scholarly community and the extent to which their findings are used in subsequent research.

Journal quartile – an indicator of a journal's relative position within the relevant subject area, dividing journals into four groups:

Q1 – first quartile. Journals in the 75th–99th CiteScore Percentile range, representing the top 25 per cent in the relevant subject area;

Q2 – second quartile. Journals in the 50th–74th CiteScore Percentile range, representing an above-median group;

Q3 – third quartile. Journals in the 25th–49th CiteScore Percentile range, representing a below-median group;

Q4 – fourth quartile. Journals in the 0–24th CiteScore Percentile range, representing the lowest-ranked group within the subject area.

Research published in Q1 and Q2 journals represents a comparatively higher-ranked segment of publication activity.

However, a journal quartile does not directly determine the scientific quality of an individual article; rather, it indicates the relative standing of the journal in the relevant subject area.

Top 10% (Citation Percentiles) – publications that fall within the world's top 10 per cent most cited scholarly outputs, normalised by subject area, year of publication and document type. This indicator characterises the international influence and relative visibility of research outcomes.

Top 1% (Citation Percentiles) – publications that fall within the world's top 1 per cent most cited scholarly outputs, normalised by subject area, year of publication and document type. It is among the indicators used to identify research outputs with the highest citation impact.

Using these indicators in combination enables a more comprehensive assessment of HEI research activity in terms of publication volume, quality profile and citation impact.

2.2. Scopus and the concept of an institution profile

Scopus is an international abstracting and research-metrics database that indexes scholarly literature, structures publication activity by authors and institutions, and provides citation indicators.

In this analysis, Scopus data are used to assess HEIs' number of research publications, journal quartiles, highly cited outputs and overall citation performance.

Scopus Institution Profile – a data record created algorithmically and through expert review on the basis of affiliation information contained in publications.

It consolidates affiliated authors, research publications, citation indicators and other research-metrics information associated with an institution.

A Scopus Institution Profile consolidates an HEI's results across years and research fields in a single institutional record.

When identifying publications attributable to an HEI, the institutional affiliation stated by the author in the publication is central. The accurate representation of publications and citation indicators in a Scopus Institution Profile depends on the correct consolidation of the HEI's name and affiliation data within Scopus.

A complete and well-maintained Scopus Institution Profile is therefore an important condition for an objective assessment of an HEI's research performance.

For this analysis and the ranking calculations, the existence of a Scopus Institution Profile is treated as a core criterion. HEIs without such a profile are excluded from the ranking calculations because their research publications cannot be compiled comprehensively and reliably at institutional level.

The results of a branch of a foreign university are counted separately only where a Scopus Institution Profile specifically attributable to that branch has been identified; the parent institution's profile is not treated as the branch profile.

This approach enables their research publication activity and citation impact to be compared with other HEIs on a consistent methodological basis.

Accordingly, the Scopus Institution Profile serves in this analysis as the principal unit of account that consolidates an HEI's research publications and citation indicators.

2.3. Methodological features of calculations at national and HEI level

Research publication indicators at national and HEI level are compiled using different counting methods. Accordingly, when comparing data at these two levels, it is necessary to take account of differences in the way publications are counted.

National statistics are based on the number of unique research publications affiliated with the Republic of Uzbekistan and indexed in Scopus. Each publication is counted once in the national indicator, irrespective of the number of authors or institutions involved.

At HEI level, the analysis counts publications assigned to the relevant Scopus Institution Profile. Where a publication includes affiliations to more than one HEI, it is counted separately for each relevant institution.

As a result, the sum of publications calculated across HEIs may exceed the number of unique publications recorded at national level.

In 2025, for example, 10,771 unique research publications were recorded nationally, while the sum of publications counted across HEIs was 18,424.

This difference does not indicate a data error or unjustified duplication.

It reflects the use of different counting methods: a publication is counted once in the national indicator, but is counted for each HEI affiliation when institutional totals are aggregated.

Accordingly, the analysis of national trends over 2023–2025 uses the number of unique research publications. By contrast, HEI-level indicators are used to calculate the 2025 Research Publication Activity Index and ranking scores.

This methodological distinction should be taken into account when interpreting overall national trends and the research publication activity of individual HEIs.

2.4. Criteria for classifying HEIs

A comparative assessment of HEI research publication activity needs to take account of institutional specialisation, fields of study and the characteristics of research activity.

Research, publication and citation practices differ across subject areas. Comparing all HEIs within a single undifferentiated group may therefore lead to misleading interpretations.

HEIs participating in the national ranking are classified into the following categories, taking account of fields of education, the composition of the student body and the characteristics of the programmes delivered:

domestic universities ranked within the TOP 1000 in international rankings (hereinafter, TOP 1000 universities);

HEIs in the applied category;

HEIs in the medical category;

HEIs in the social sciences and humanities category;

HEIs in the creative arts (sport) category.

Classifying HEIs in this way enables institutions with broadly comparable education and research profiles to be assessed against one another, takes account of field-specific publication practices, and supports more appropriate interpretation of ranking results.

For this reason, HEI ranking scores are calculated separately within each category, and ranking positions are likewise determined within the relevant category.

2.5. Methodology for calculating the Research Publication Activity Index

An HEI's Research Publication Activity Index is calculated in accordance with the procedure set out in the Regulation on the National Ranking of Higher Education Institutions.

The calculation weights publications by journal quartile and citation-impact indicators. The resulting weighted value is then expressed relative to the number of academic staff at the HEI.

The Research Publication Activity Index for HEIs, based on 2025 results, is calculated using the following formula:

$$K = (12T_1 + 10T_2 + 8T_3 + 6T_4 + 4T_5 + T_6) / T_p$$

where:

K – the HEI's Research Publication Activity Index;

T₁ – number of publications in the Top 1% category;

T₂ – number of publications in the Top 10% category;

T₃ – number of publications in Q1 journals;

T₄ – number of publications in Q2 journals;

T₅ – number of publications in Q3 journals;

T₆ – number of publications in Q4 journals;

T_p – total number of academic staff employed at their primary place of work or on an internal part-time basis.

The numerator of the formula is the weighted sum of six indicators. Weights of 12, 10, 8, 6, 4 and 1 are applied respectively to Top 1%, Top 10%, Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4.

Top 1%, Top 10% and Q1–Q4 are not mutually exclusive categories. A publication in the Top 1% also falls within the Top 10%. In addition, every publication for which a journal quartile is identified is assigned to one of Q1–Q4. A single publication may therefore contribute to more than one component of the formula.

For example, a publication that falls within the Top 1% and appears in a Q1 journal is counted under Top 1%, Top 10% and Q1. It therefore contributes a total weight of 30 units to the numerator through the coefficients 12, 10 and 8. This reflects the cumulative weighting approach built into the formula.

The numerator therefore does not represent a count of unique publications; it represents a publication-performance value weighted by journal quartile and citation impact. Publications that do not fall within any of the categories included in the formula do not contribute to the numerator.

The weighted result is divided by the number of academic staff at the HEI. This partly reduces the effect of institutional scale when comparing HEIs of different sizes. A large HEI with more academic staff may, for example, have a high absolute number of publications while recording a lower weighted result relative to staff numbers.

The index does not indicate how many publications an individual member of academic staff has personally produced. It is an institution-level comparative indicator expressing weighted research publication performance relative to the number of academic staff.

A higher K value indicates stronger weighted publication performance relative to academic staff. However, it does not provide a complete measure of the scientific quality of individual articles or the overall effectiveness of the HEI.

The K index is not the final ranking score. An HEI's ranking score is calculated by normalising its index value within the relevant category.

2.6. Procedure for calculating the ranking score

The K index calculated for an HEI's research publication activity is the initial value for the indicator. K values are not used directly as ranking scores across HEIs.

First, the HEI with the highest K index in each category is identified. Its index value is taken as the highest result for that category, K_m . The ranking scores of the remaining HEIs are calculated on the basis of the ratio of their K index to the highest K value.

The ranking score is calculated using the following formula:

$$B_i = (K_i / K_m) \times B_t$$

where:

B_i – the score awarded to the education institution being assessed for the indicator;

K_i – the K index of the HEI being assessed;

K_m – the highest index value recorded in the relevant category;

B_t – the maximum score established for the relevant category.

If the K index is zero for every HEI in a category, all HEIs in that category receive a score of 0 for this indicator.

The following maximum scores are established for the categories:

5 points for HEIs in the applied and medical categories;

3 points for HEIs in the social sciences and humanities category;

2 points for HEIs in the creative arts (sport) category.

For HEIs without a Scopus Institution Profile, or without other data required to calculate the index, neither the K index nor a ranking score is calculated and the ranking position is recorded as a zero result.

III. TRENDS IN RESEARCH PUBLICATION ACTIVITY IN UZBEKISTAN, 2023–2025

3.1. Change in the total number of research publications

Scopus data show sustained growth in the number of research publications affiliated with the Republic of Uzbekistan between 2023 and 2025. The number of unique research publications indexed in Scopus was 7,151 in 2023, 8,822 in 2024 and 10,771 in 2025.

Publication numbers increased in both year-on-year intervals covered by the analysis. The growth recorded in 2024 continued in 2025, when the highest result of the analytical period was reached.

Overall, the number of research publications indexed in Scopus increased by 3,620, or 50.6 per cent, between 2023 and 2025. In other words, within two years the total volume of national research publications rose to more than 1.5 times the 2023 level. This sustained growth is illustrated in Figure 1.

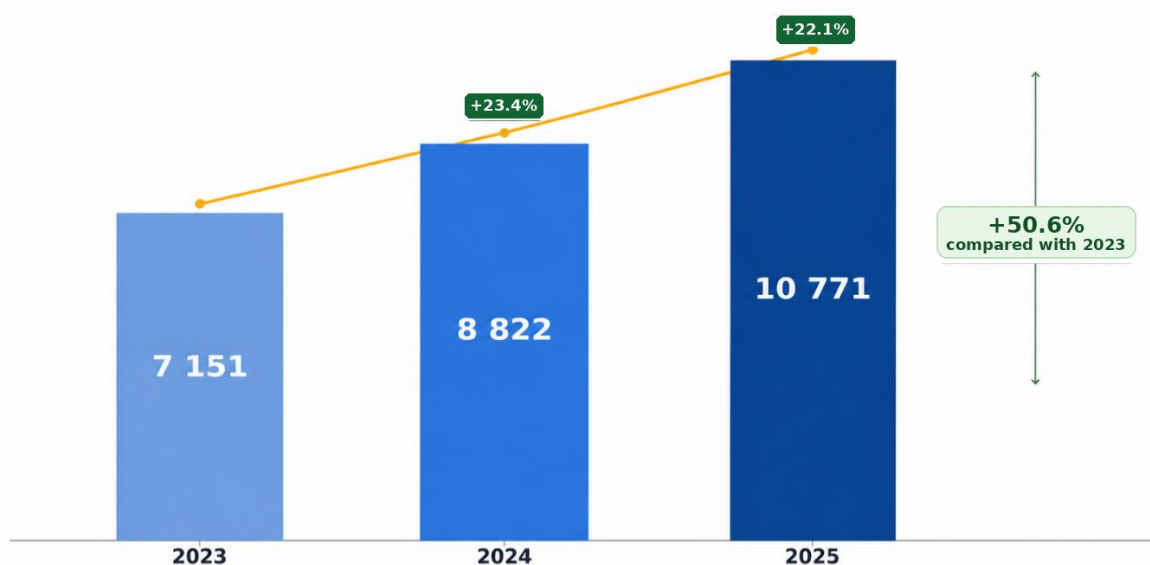


Figure 1. Trend in the number of Scopus-indexed research publications in the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2023–2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

The observed growth points to an expansion in the publication activity and international research visibility of researchers affiliated with Uzbekistan in Scopus. At the same time, an increase in publication volume does not in itself imply an automatic improvement in research quality.

International ranking practice likewise does not regard absolute publication counts alone as sufficient for assessing research performance.

For example, the Citations per Faculty indicator in the QS World University Rankings methodology assesses the citation impact of a university's research publications relative to the number of academic staff. This enables institutions of different sizes to be compared using a relative measure.¹

In the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025 methodology, the Research Quality pillar comprises Citation Impact, Research Strength, Research Excellence and Research Influence. Citation data are normalised to account for differences between subject areas.²

These approaches underline the need to interpret publication volume, citation impact and institutional scale together when assessing research performance.

Accordingly, overall trends should be analysed alongside changes in journal quartiles and in publications falling within the Top 10% and Top 1% citation categories.

3.2. Trends in research publications in Q1 journals

Journal quartiles are a bibliometric classification describing the relative standing of journals within their respective subject areas. They allow research publications to be analysed according to the field-specific position of the journals in which they appear.

Under the Scopus methodology, a journal's relative position within the relevant subject area is determined using the CiteScore Percentile.

The first quartile, Q1, covers journals in the 75th–99th CiteScore Percentile range. Where a journal is assigned to more than one subject area, its percentile position and quartile may be calculated separately for each area. Journal quartiles should therefore be interpreted with reference to both the relevant subject area and the year to which the indicator applies.³

¹ QS Quacquarelli Symonds. *QS World University Rankings: Methodology*. URL: <https://www.topuniversities.com/world-university-rankings/methodology> (23.07.2026).

² Times Higher Education. *World University Rankings 2025: Methodology*. URL: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/world-university-rankings-2025-methodology> (23.07.2026).

³ Elsevier. *CiteScore Journal Metric — FAQs*. Scopus Support Center. URL: https://service.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/30562/~/%7B%7D/citescore-journal-metric---faqs/ (23.07.2026).

Changes in the number of publications appearing in Q1 journals are important for assessing the role of higher-quartile journals within the national publication profile.

The analysis shows that the number of research publications in Q1 journals grew consistently and rapidly during 2023–2025. The figure rose from 975 in 2023 to 1,653 in 2024 and 2,621 in 2025.

The number of Q1 publications increased by 69.5 per cent in 2024 compared with 2023, and by a further 58.6 per cent in 2025 compared with 2024. Across the full analytical period, the number increased by 168.8 per cent, or almost 2.7-fold.

The annual change in the number of research publications in Q1 journals is shown in Figure 2.

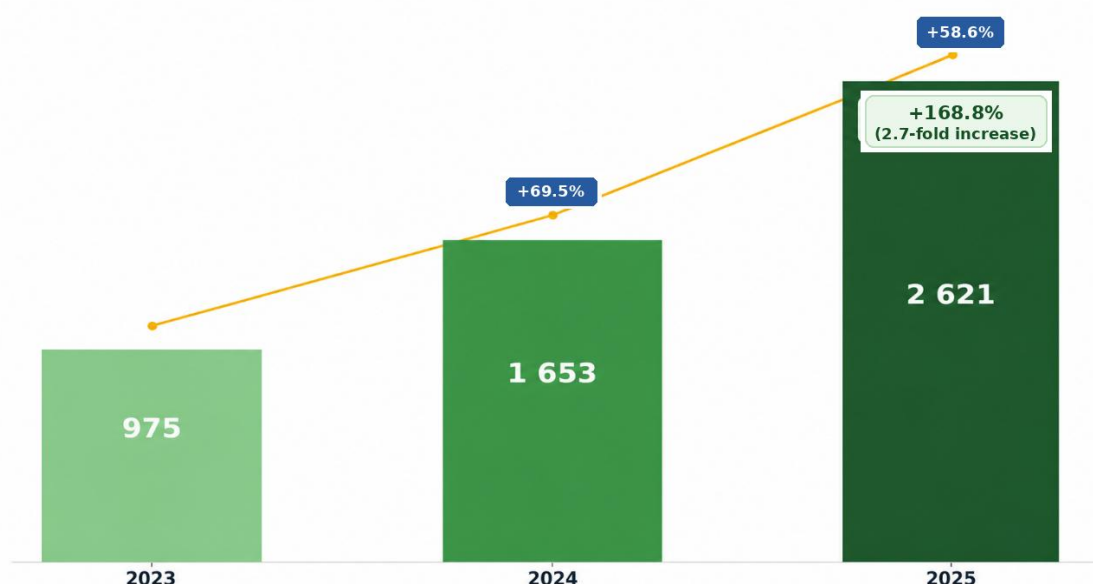


Figure 2. Trend in the number of research publications in Q1 journals in the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2023–2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

The rate of growth in Q1 publications was substantially higher than the growth rate in the total number of national research publications. This indicates that, alongside growth in publication volume, activity in publishing research findings in higher-quartile journals also intensified.

The analysis indicates a marked increase in the activity of researchers affiliated with Uzbekistan in publishing in Q1 journals during 2023–2025. To assess this trend alongside the international influence of research outputs, the following sections examine trends in publications falling within the Top 10% and Top 1% citation categories.

3.3. Trends in Top 10% research publications

The number of publications falling within the Top 10% by citation impact is an important indicator of the influence and visibility of research outcomes within the international scholarly community.

In Elsevier's SciVal methodology, the Outputs in Top Citation Percentiles indicator identifies whether publications fall within the world's top 1, 5, 10 or 25 per cent by citation performance. When field normalisation is applied, the year of publication, document type and differences in citation practices across subject areas are taken into account. The Top 10% indicator therefore provides information not only on publication volume but also on relative citation impact internationally.⁴

The analysis shows a sustained increase during 2023–2025 in the number of Top 10% research publications affiliated with the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The number rose from 452 in 2023 to 779 in 2024, an increase of 327 publications or 72.3 per cent in a single year.

In 2025, the number of Top 10% research publications reached 1,156, an increase of 377 or 48.4 per cent compared with 2024. Although the annual growth rate slowed from 72.3 per cent in 2024 to 48.4 per cent in 2025—a decrease of 23.9 percentage points—the absolute number of highly cited publications continued to rise.

Between 2023 and 2025, the number of publications in this category increased from 452 to 1,156, a rise of 704 or 155.8 per cent. The 2025 result was therefore almost 2.6 times the 2023 level.

This trend indicates an increasing number of research publications affiliated with Uzbekistan that achieve high citation impact internationally.

3.4. Trends in Top 1% research publications

Top 1% publications are research outputs that rank within the highest one per cent by citation performance after taking account of subject area, document type and year of publication.

⁴ Elsevier. *Research Metrics Guidebook: Research Metrics in SciVal — Methods and Use*. URL: https://supportcontent.elsevier.com/RightNow%20Next%20Gen/SciVal/ACAD_RL_ElsevierResearchMetrics_Book_WEB.pdf (23.07.2026).

The indicator therefore provides a measure of the highest levels of international citation impact achieved by a country's research publications.

The analysis shows that the number of Top 1% research publications did not follow a uniform trajectory during 2023–2025.

There were 45 publications in this category in 2023, rising to 91 in 2024. This represented an increase of 46 publications, or 102.2 per cent, within one year.

In 2025, the number of Top 1% research publications was 78, 13 fewer or 14.3 per cent lower than in 2024. Nevertheless, the 2025 figure remained 33 publications, or 73.3 per cent, above the 2023 level.

The pattern points to substantial year-to-year variation in the number of publications with the highest citation impact. This volatility is primarily associated with the high selectivity of the Top 1% category and the relatively small absolute number of publications within it. The indicator may also be influenced by the subject mix of publications, the time available to accumulate citations and the performance of individual high-impact studies.

Overall, despite the decline recorded in 2025, the number of Top 1% publications remained substantially above the 2023 level. However, continued monitoring over subsequent years is required before a sustained growth trend can be established.

Figure 3 provides a comparative view of changes in the number of Top 10% and Top 1% research publications during 2023–2025.

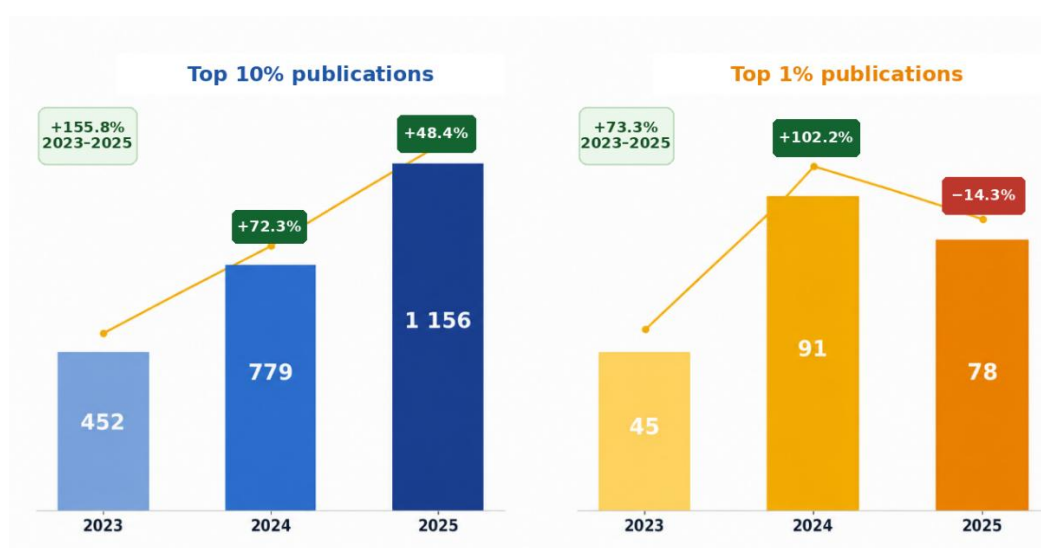


Figure 3. Trend in the number of Top 10% and Top 1% research publications in the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2023–2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

The data show different trajectories within the group of publications with high citation impact.

While the Top 10% category recorded sustained growth, the Top 1% indicator was comparatively more volatile across the years.

3.5. Composition of research publications by journal quartile

Journal quartiles indicate the relative position, by citation metrics, of the journals in which research publications appear within their respective subject areas.

Q1 represents the highest quartile and Q4 the comparatively lowest quartile.

In 2025, a journal quartile was identified for 8,976 research publications.

Of these, 2,621 publications (29.2 per cent) appeared in Q1 journals, 1,559 (17.4 per cent) in Q2, 1,733 (19.3 per cent) in Q3 and 3,063 (34.1 per cent) in Q4 journals.

These data show that Q4 journals accounted for the largest share of publications classified by quartile in 2025. At the same time, Q1 publications represented close to one-third of the total and constituted the second-largest share.

Taken together, Q1 and Q2 publications totalled 4,180, or 46.6 per cent, while Q3 and Q4 publications totalled 4,796, or 53.4 per cent.

This distribution indicates that publications in higher-quartile journals accounted for almost half of the classified total, while the combined share of Q3 and Q4 publications remained somewhat higher.

The distribution of research publications by journal quartile is presented in Figure 4.

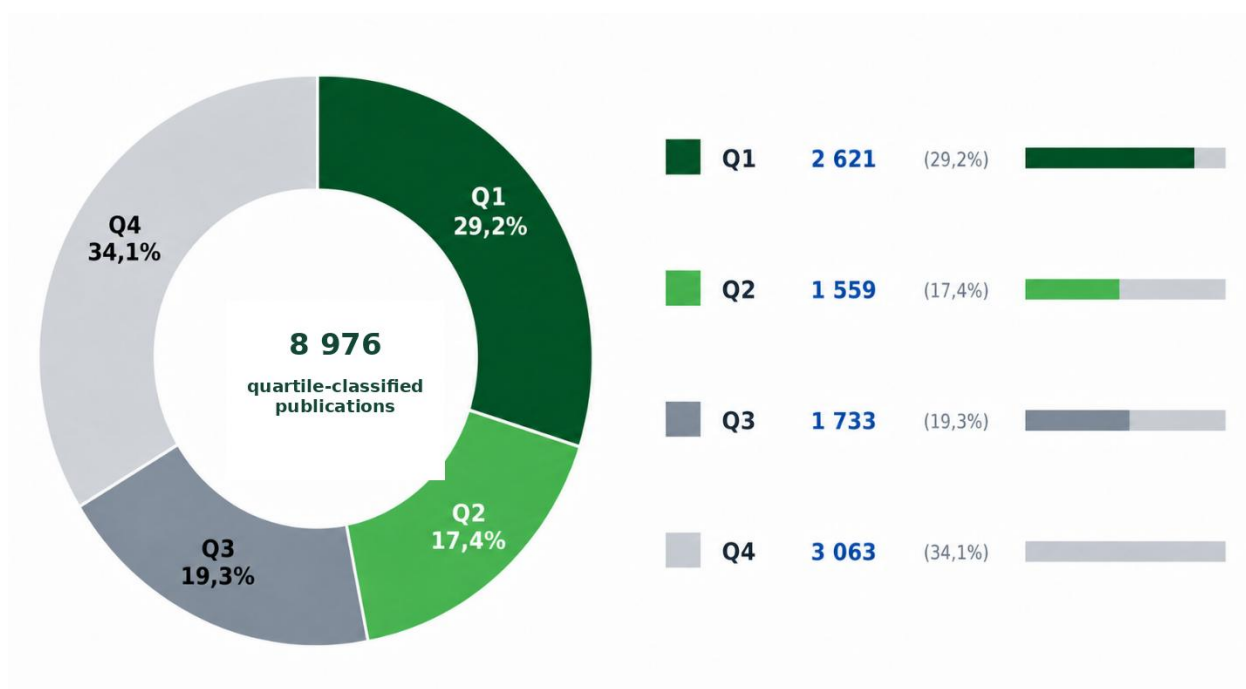


Figure 4. Composition of Scopus-indexed research publications in the Republic of Uzbekistan by journal quartile, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

The quartile analysis does not cover all 10,771 research publications recorded in 2025; it covers the 8,976 publications for which a journal quartile was identified.

It is therefore methodologically appropriate to interpret quartile shares against the total number of publications with an identified quartile, rather than against the overall publication count.

Internationally recognised principles of responsible research assessment should also be taken into account when interpreting results based on journal quartiles.

The Leiden Manifesto stresses that quantitative indicators should support and complement qualitative expert assessment, and should be applied with due regard to differences between research fields.⁵

The San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) recommends that journal-level metrics should not be used as the sole criterion for assessing the scientific quality of an individual article or the research performance of a researcher.⁶

⁵ Hicks, D. et al. *Bibliometrics: The Leiden Manifesto for Research Metrics*. Nature, 520, 429–431 (2015). URL: <https://www.nature.com/articles/520429a> (23.07.2026).

⁶ San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment. *Read the Declaration*.

Accordingly, this review interprets Q1–Q4 quartiles not as an absolute assessment of the quality of each research publication, but as indicators of the relative standing of the journals in the relevant subject area and of the composition of the publication portfolio.

The analysis shows that publications in Q1 and Q2 journals account for a substantial share of research publications affiliated with Uzbekistan.

At the same time, the somewhat higher combined share of Q3 and Q4 publications indicates further scope to increase consistently the proportion of research outputs published in higher-quartile journals.

3.6. Key findings

First, the number of Scopus-indexed research publications affiliated with Uzbekistan followed a sustained upward trend during 2023–2025.

Publication volume increased from 7,151 to 10,771, a rise of 50.6 per cent over the analytical period. This indicates growing publication activity and international research visibility among researchers affiliated with the country.

Second, the number of publications in Q1 journals grew faster than the overall number of research publications.

The figure rose from 975 in 2023 to 2,621 in 2025, an increase of 168.8 per cent. This points to stronger activity in publishing research findings in higher-quartile journals.

Third, there was also sustained growth in the number of research publications falling within the Top 10% by citation impact.

Their number increased from 452 to 1,156, a rise of 155.8 per cent over the three-year period. This indicates growth in the number of research outputs achieving high citation impact.

Fourth, the trajectory of Top 1% research publications was comparatively volatile.

The figure reached 91 in 2024 before declining to 78 in 2025. Nevertheless, the 2025 result remained 73.3 per cent above the 2023 level. This suggests positive growth potential in the category, although a stable trend has not yet been fully established.

Fifth, of the 8,976 research publications classified by quartile in 2025, 46.6 per cent were published in Q1 and Q2 journals, while 53.4 per cent appeared in Q3 and Q4 journals.

Q4 journals accounted for the largest share, at 34.1 per cent, while Q1 journals accounted for the second-largest share, at 29.2 per cent. This indicates a substantial presence in higher-quartile journals while also pointing to further scope to increase their share.

Overall, the findings show that growth in research publication volume during 2023–2025 was accompanied by positive movement in higher-quartile and highly cited publications.

At the same time, volatility in Top 1% publications and the somewhat higher combined share of Q3 and Q4 outputs indicate the need to continue systematic measures aimed at sustaining growth in international research impact and increasing the share of publications in Q1 and Q2 journals.

IV. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH PUBLICATION ACTIVITY ACROSS HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

4.1. Overview of the HEIs included in the analysis

This chapter provides a comparative analysis of research publication activity across 105 HEIs participating in the national ranking, based on 2025 results.

The analysis is conducted by institutional category, taking account of the different profiles and characteristics of HEI activity.

Of the HEIs included, 62 are in the social sciences and humanities category, 28 in the applied category, nine in the medical category, three in the creative arts (sport) category and three in the TOP 1000 universities category.

This grouping enables field-specific characteristics to be taken into account when comparing HEIs specialising in different areas of education and research.

The HEIs included in the analysis employ a total of 51,357 academic staff at their primary place of work or on an internal part-time basis.

The aggregate number of research publications recorded across their Scopus Institution Profiles is 18,424.

The 18,424 publications recorded across Scopus Institution Profiles cannot be directly equated with the 10,771 unique research publications recorded nationally in 2025.

A single publication produced collaboratively by authors from several HEIs is recorded separately in the Scopus Institution Profile of each participating institution.

Accordingly, 18,424 represents the aggregate count across Scopus Institution Profiles, while 10,771 represents the number of unique research publications affiliated with the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Taking account of this methodological distinction is important for interpreting national trends and HEI-level results correctly.

The following sections compare publication volume, journal quartiles, highly cited publications and research productivity relative to academic staff across institutional categories.

4.2. Number of research publications by HEI category

In 2025, the aggregate number of research publications recorded across the Scopus Institution Profiles of HEIs included in the analysis was 18,424. The distribution by institutional category reveals substantial differences in publication volume.

HEIs in the social sciences and humanities category recorded the highest total, with 10,423 research publications. They were followed by applied-category HEIs with 3,720, TOP 1000 universities with 2,771 and medical-category HEIs with 1,494. HEIs in the creative arts (sport) category recorded 16 research publications.

The total number of research publications by HEI category is shown in Figure 5.

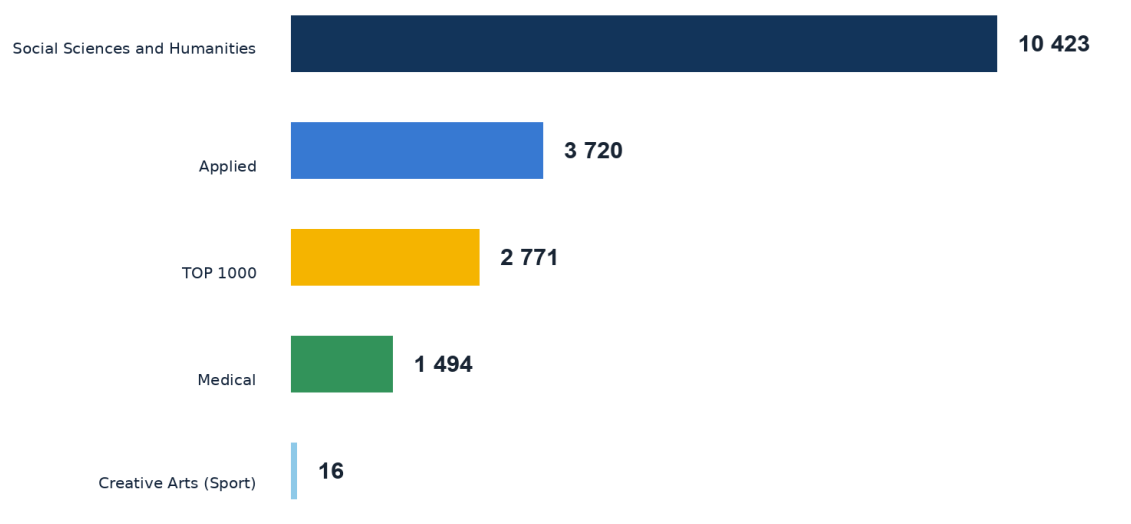


Figure 5. Total number of Scopus research publications by HEI category, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

When interpreting the high aggregate publication count in the social sciences and humanities category, it is important to note that the category contains 62 HEIs.

Consequently, comparing categories solely on the basis of total publication volume does not fully account for differences in the number of institutions. The analysis therefore also considers the average number of publications per HEI.

TOP 1000 universities recorded the highest average number of publications per HEI, at 923.7.

The corresponding average was 168.1 in the social sciences and humanities category, 166.0 in the medical category, 132.9 in the applied category and 5.3 in the creative arts (sport) category.

The average number of research publications per HEI by institutional category is shown in Figure 6.

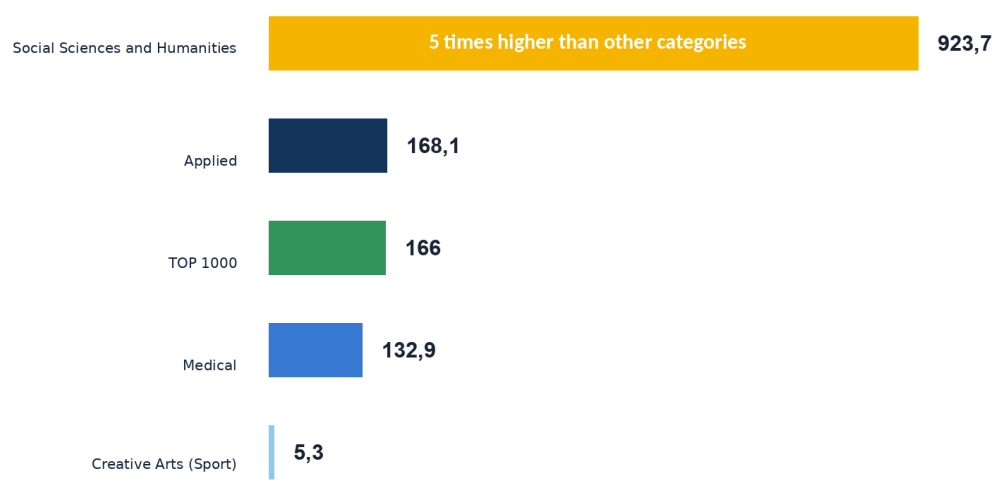


Figure 6. Average number of research publications per HEI by institutional category, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

The results show a clear distinction between leadership in total publication volume and performance measured by the average number of publications per HEI.

In particular, while the social sciences and humanities category led in total publication volume, TOP 1000 universities recorded the highest average per institution.

However, the average number of publications per HEI does not fully account for differences in institutional scale or academic staff numbers.

A more precise comparison of research productivity across HEI categories therefore requires publication numbers to be assessed relative to academic staff.

4.3. Comparative analysis of journal quartiles by HEI category

The distribution of research publications by journal quartile across HEI categories allows the relative standing of the journals in which outputs are published to be compared within their respective subject areas.

For each category, percentage shares are calculated against the total number of research publications for which a quartile was identified.

In the social sciences and humanities category, Q1 publications accounted for 33 per cent, the highest share among all categories. Q2 accounted for 26 per cent, Q3 for 16 per cent and Q4 for 25 per cent. This shows that Q1 and Q2 publications make up a substantial part of the quartile-classified publication profile in this category.

Among TOP 1000 universities, Q1 publications accounted for 26 per cent, Q2 for 20 per cent, Q3 for 18 per cent and Q4 for 36 per cent.

In the applied category, Q1 publications accounted for 22 per cent, Q2 for 15 per cent, Q3 for 21 per cent and Q4 for 42 per cent.

In the medical category, Q1 publications accounted for 17 per cent, Q2 for 23 per cent, Q3 for 21 per cent and Q4 for 38 per cent. Q4 therefore represented the largest share in this category as well.

In the creative arts (sport) category, Q2 publications accounted for 47 per cent and Q3 for 40 per cent. The rounded shares for Q1 and Q4 were 7 per cent each.

The composition of research publications by journal quartile and HEI category is presented in Figure 7.

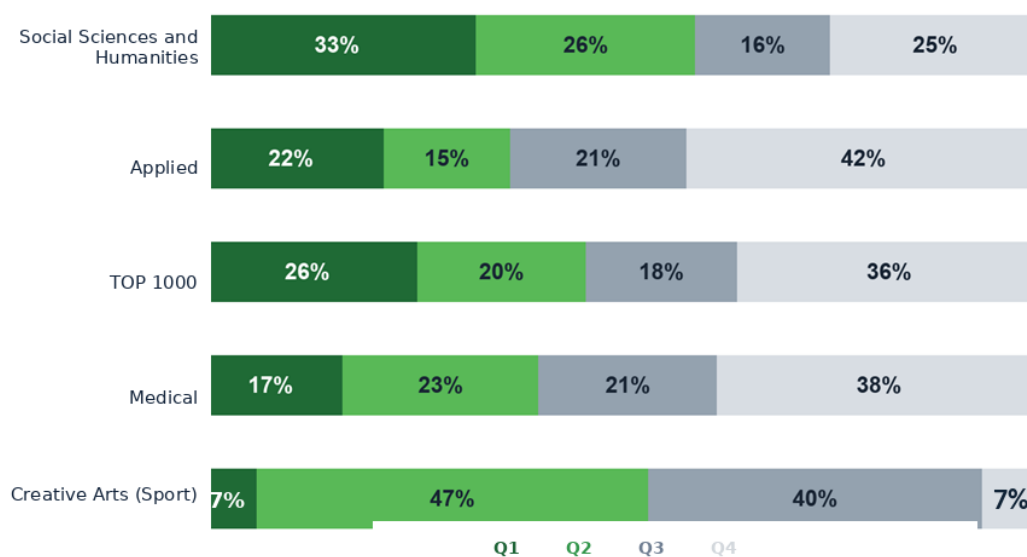


Figure 7. Composition of research publications by journal quartile and HEI category, 2025 (%)

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

The comparative analysis shows that the share of Q1 publications is higher in the social sciences and humanities and TOP 1000 categories. In the applied and medical categories, Q4 publications account for the largest share.

When interpreting these differences, account should be taken of field-specific publication practices, the coverage of journals in Scopus and differences in publication volume between institutional categories.

Journal quartiles also do not capture every dimension of citation impact. The following section therefore compares international citation impact across HEI categories using the Top 10% and Top 1% indicators.

4.4. Comparative analysis by Top 10% and Top 1% indicators

The number of research publications falling within the Top 10% and Top 1% citation categories is an important indicator of the international citation impact of HEI research outcomes.

The Top 10% indicator covers publications with high citation performance globally, while the Top 1% represents a more selective group with the highest citation impact.

The analysis identified 1,542 Top 10% publications and 249 Top 1% publications among HEIs in the social sciences and humanities category. In absolute terms, this category recorded the highest publication count for both indicators.

Applied-category HEIs recorded 377 Top 10% and 40 Top 1% publications. Among TOP 1000 universities, the corresponding figures were 327 and 34.

Medical-category HEIs recorded 131 Top 10% and 10 Top 1% publications. According to the 2025 data, no publications in either citation category were recorded for HEIs in the creative arts (sport) category.

Top 10% and Top 1% results by HEI category are shown in Figure 8.

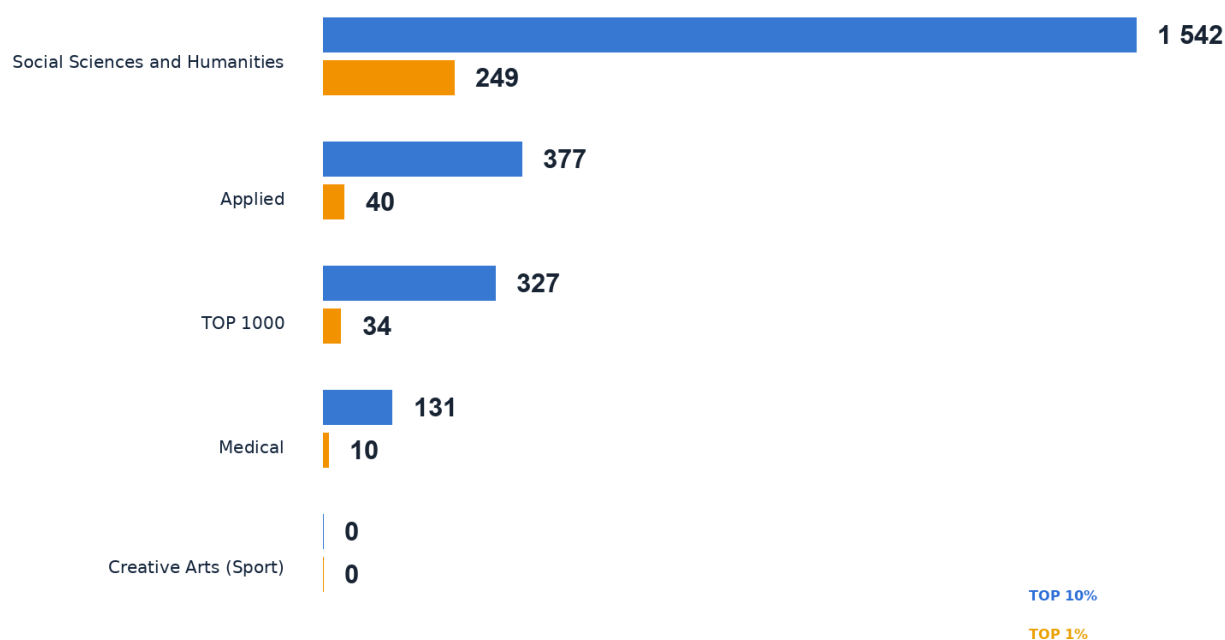


Figure 8. Number of Top 10% and Top 1% research publications by HEI category, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

When interpreting the social sciences and humanities category's lead in absolute terms, it is important to recognise that the category includes more HEIs and a larger overall publication base than the other categories.

The absolute number of Top 10% and Top 1% publications should therefore not be treated as the sole measure of HEI research performance.

Although the TOP 1000 category comprises only three universities, it records a substantial number of Top 10% and Top 1% publications. This indicates a degree of concentration of highly cited research outputs within these universities.

The absence of Top 10% and Top 1% publications in the creative arts (sport) category does not mean that these HEIs have no research activity. The result should be interpreted in the context of the small overall publication volume in the category and the distinctive publication and citation practices of the relevant fields.

Taken together, the Top 10% and Top 1% indicators show substantial differences in international citation impact across HEI categories.

To account for differences in category size and academic staff numbers, the following section analyses research productivity relative to academic staff.

4.5. Research productivity relative to academic staff

When comparing research publication activity across HEI categories, it is necessary to consider not only absolute publication counts but also an indicator calculated relative to academic staff. HEIs and institutional categories differ substantially in both staff numbers and scale of activity.

For this purpose, the total number of research publications recorded in each category was divided by the number of academic staff employed at their primary place of work or on an internal part-time basis and multiplied by 100. The resulting indicator represents the number of research publications per 100 academic staff.

The highest result was recorded by TOP 1000 universities, with 71.4 research publications per 100 academic staff. This indicates that publication activity in the TOP 1000 category is also high when adjusted for academic staff numbers.

HEIs in the social sciences and humanities category recorded 37.5 research publications per 100 academic staff, compared with 33.2 in the applied category. Although the difference between the two categories is relatively modest, publication intensity was somewhat higher in the social sciences and humanities category.

Medical-category HEIs recorded 20.5 research publications per 100 academic staff. This shows that, despite a relatively high average number of publications per institution in the medical category, the staff-adjusted result is lower than in the other main categories.

HEIs in the creative arts (sport) category recorded 1.3 research publications per 100 academic staff.

The number of research publications per 100 academic staff by HEI category is presented in Figure 9.

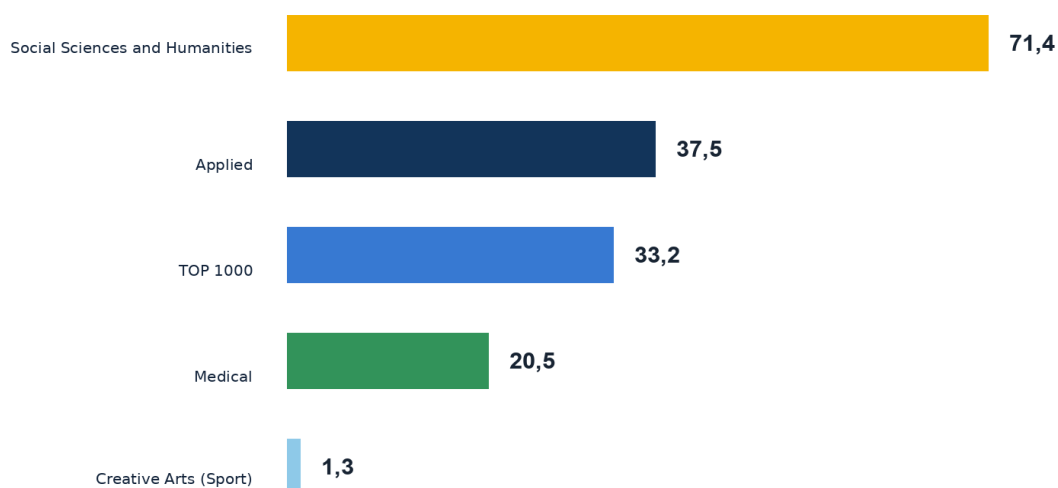


Figure 9. Number of research publications per 100 academic staff by HEI category, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

In methodological purpose, this approach is comparable to the Citations per Faculty indicator used in the QS World University Rankings methodology and discussed in Section 3.1.

However, the two indicators are not identical: QS assesses citations relative to faculty numbers, whereas this analysis measures the number of research publications relative to academic staff.⁷

Moreover, publications per 100 academic staff reflects the quantitative intensity of research activity and does not fully capture publication quality or citation impact.

The final national ranking index therefore considers publication numbers together with Q1–Q4, Top 10% and Top 1% indicators and academic staff numbers.

The findings reveal different patterns of disparity across HEI categories in terms of the scale, intensity and international impact of research activity. These differences are synthesised in the following section.

4.6. Key differences in research activity across HEI categories

The comparative analysis shows substantial differences between HEI categories in publication volume, research intensity, journal-quartile composition and international citation impact.

⁷ QS Quacquarelli Symonds. *QS World University Rankings: Methodology*.
URL: <https://www.topuniversities.com/world-university-rankings/methodology> (23.07.2026).

These differences require the calculation basis and interpretative characteristics of each indicator to be considered separately.

In absolute terms, HEIs in the social sciences and humanities category led with 10,423 publications.

However, because the category includes 62 HEIs, this result should not be attributed solely to research efficiency; it also reflects the category's broader coverage and larger scale.

By average publications per HEI, TOP 1000 universities were well ahead at 923.7 publications. The social sciences and humanities and medical categories recorded similar averages of 168.1 and 166 respectively.

TOP 1000 universities also recorded the highest number of publications per 100 academic staff, at 71.4. They were followed by the social sciences and humanities category at 37.5 and the applied category at 33.2; the medical category recorded 20.5. This demonstrates that average publications per HEI and staff-adjusted publication performance do not measure the same aspect of performance.

In terms of journal-quartile composition, the highest Q1 share was recorded in the social sciences and humanities category, at 33 per cent, followed by TOP 1000 universities at 26 per cent.

The high share of Q4 publications in the applied and medical categories indicates scope to increase the proportion of outputs published in higher-quartile journals.

The social sciences and humanities category also led in the absolute number of Top 10% and Top 1% publications. At the same time, the TOP 1000 category, comprising only three universities, recorded 327 Top 10% and 34 Top 1% publications, indicating that highly cited research outputs are relatively concentrated within these universities.

The comparatively low quantitative indicators for HEIs in the creative arts (sport) category should be interpreted in light of the fact that outputs in these fields may take forms other than conventional publications indexed in Scopus.

The comparative analysis confirms that a single indicator is insufficient for assessing research activity across HEI categories. Publication volume, journal quartiles, international citation impact and research productivity relative to academic staff should be interpreted together.

4.7. Key findings

First, research publication activity across the 105 HEIs included in the analysis is unevenly distributed between categories. Absolute publication counts, average publications per HEI and staff-adjusted indicators produce different patterns across the categories.

Second, HEIs in the social sciences and humanities category led in total publication volume, the share of Q1 publications and the absolute number of Top 10% and Top 1% publications.

However, these results should be interpreted with recognition that the category contains more HEIs and operates at a larger overall scale than the other categories.

Third, TOP 1000 universities recorded the highest results for both average publications per institution and publications per 100 academic staff.

The concentration of highly cited publications in this category also reflects the intensity of research activity and the international research engagement of these HEIs.

Fourth, applied-category HEIs recorded a relatively high total publication volume, but Q4 journals accounted for the largest share of their quartile-classified outputs.

Medical-category HEIs recorded a relatively high average number of publications per institution, but their staff-adjusted result was lower than those of the social sciences and humanities and applied categories.

Fifth, HEIs in the creative arts (sport) category recorded comparatively low Scopus publication and international citation-impact indicators.

These indicators should be interpreted with the recognition that research, creative and professional outputs in these fields are not fully captured by international bibliometric databases.

Sixth, the comparative analysis confirms that absolute publication counts alone are insufficient for assessing HEI research activity.

An approach that considers publication quality, journal quartiles, international citation impact and research productivity relative to academic staff provides a more balanced and comprehensive assessment of institutional performance.

The comparative analysis in Chapter IV identifies the principal differences between HEI categories and provides an analytical basis for examining separately the universities that lead in research publication activity and international citation impact.

The following chapter therefore provides a detailed analysis of universities in the TOP 1000 category and national research leaders.

V. TOP 1000 UNIVERSITIES AND NATIONAL RESEARCH LEADERS

5.1. Overview of universities in the TOP 1000 category

The TOP 1000 category comprises three HEIs: National Research University "TIIAME", National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek and Tashkent State Technical University named after Islam Karimov.

Together, these universities employed 3,882 academic staff. Their Scopus Institution Profiles recorded an aggregate total of 2,771 research publications.

Although the TOP 1000 category is one of the smallest groups in the analysis by number of institutions, research publication activity is comparatively concentrated within it.

This requires the research performance of these universities to be assessed comprehensively, considering not only publication volume but also journal quartiles, highly cited publications and research productivity relative to academic staff.

The following sections examine separately the publication volume and quality profile, international citation impact, relative research productivity and category position of these HEIs.

5.2. Number and quality profile of research publications

A total of 2,771 research publications were recorded in the Scopus Institution Profiles of TOP 1000 universities.

The highest result was recorded by National Research University "TIIAME", whose Scopus Institution Profile contained 1,017 research publications.

The corresponding figure was 966 for the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek and 788 for Tashkent State Technical University named after Islam Karimov.

Of the research publications recorded in the TOP 1000 category, 2,535 were classified by journal quartile, while 236 had no quartile indicator.

Among quartile-classified publications, 654 appeared in Q1 journals, 512 in Q2, 458 in Q3 and 911 in Q4.

Table 1. Research publication activity and journal-quartile indicators of TOP 1000 universities, 2025

No.	HEI name	Academic staff	Number of research publications	Top 1%	Top 10%	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	No quartile indicator available
1	National Research University "TIAME"	753	1 017	17	127	264	198	140	314	101
2	National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek	2 053	966	9	119	238	218	139	267	104
3	Tashkent State Technical University named after Islam Karimov	1 076	788	8	81	152	96	179	330	31
Total		3 882	2 771	34	327	654	512	458	911	236

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

5.3. International citation impact

The international citation impact of TOP 1000 universities was assessed on the basis of the number of publications falling within the Top 10% and Top 1% citation categories. These indicators reflect the position of research publications among the world's most highly cited outputs after accounting for subject area, document type and year of publication.

In 2025, universities in this category recorded 327 Top 10% publications and 34 Top 1% publications. Top 1% publications form part of the Top 10% group; the two indicators are therefore not added together and are interpreted as distinct levels of citation impact.

The highest result was recorded by National Research University "TIAME". Of its research publications, 127 fell within the Top 10%, including 17 within the Top 1%.

The National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek recorded 119 Top 10% and nine Top 1% publications. At Tashkent State Technical University named after Islam Karimov, the corresponding figures were 81 and eight.

The analysis shows that National Research University "TIAME" led the category not only in total publication volume but also in the number of highly cited publications.

The National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek recorded a Top 10% publication count close to that of the category leader, while Tashkent State Technical University named after Islam Karimov had a comparatively lower absolute number of highly cited publications.

Differences in academic staff numbers and institutional scale should be taken into account when interpreting these results. The absolute number of highly cited publications should therefore not be treated as the sole measure of university research performance.

5.4. Relative indicators of research productivity

This section examines the number of research publications per 100 academic staff and the results of the weighted index.

According to the calculations, National Research University "TIAME" recorded 135.1 research publications per 100 academic staff.

The corresponding indicator was 73.2 at Tashkent State Technical University named after Islam Karimov and 47.1 at the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek.

Table 2. Relative research-productivity indicators of universities in the TOP 1000 category, 2025

Rank	HEI name	Research publications per 100 academic staff	Weighted Research Publication Index (K)
1	National Research University "TIAME"	135,1	7,50
2	Tashkent State Technical University named after Islam Karimov	73,2	3,48
3	National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek	47,1	2,60

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

National Research University "TIAME" also recorded the highest weighted index.

Its index value was 7.500664.

Tashkent State Technical University named after Islam Karimov followed with an index of 3.479554, and the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek with 2.597662.

Although the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek ranked second in absolute publication volume, Tashkent State Technical University named after Islam Karimov achieved the higher weighted index when performance was calculated relative to academic staff.

This difference reflects the larger academic staff base at the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek, as well as the different weights assigned in the index to Top 1%, Top 10% and Q1–Q4 publications.

The results reinforce the need to interpret absolute publication volume, the quality profile of publications and staff-adjusted performance together.

5.5. National research leaders

Comparing the results of TOP 1000 universities with those of other HEIs makes it possible to identify national leaders in research publication activity and citation impact.

Leaders are identified separately by total research publication volume and by the number of Top 10% and Top 1% publications.

Accordingly, the institutions leading on each indicator may differ.

Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Biruni recorded the highest total number of research publications nationally, with 1,218.

It was followed by National Research University "TIAME" with 1,017 publications, Tashkent State University of Economics with 989, the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek with 966 and Mamun University with 908.

Tashkent State Technical University named after Islam Karimov recorded 788 research publications and Samarkand State University named after Sharof Rashidov 745.

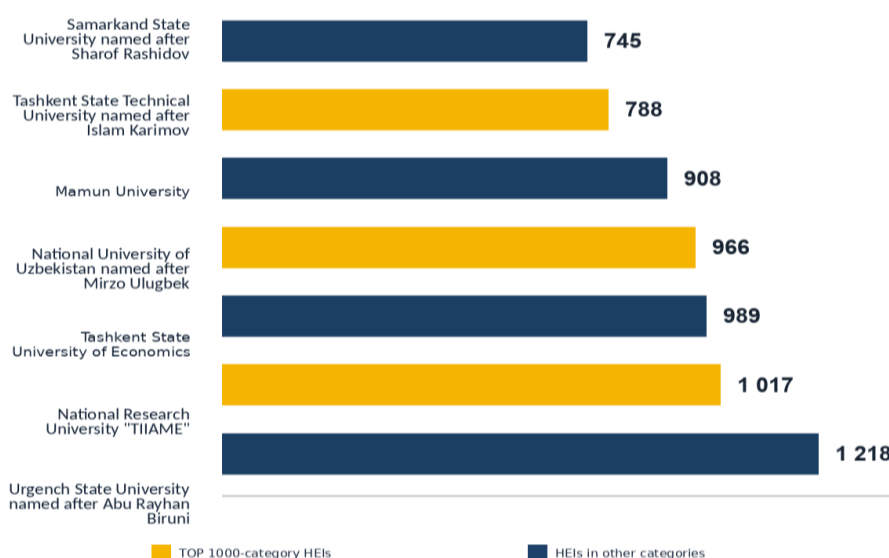


Figure 10. Total research publications of TOP 1000 universities and leading HEIs in other categories, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

Tashkent State University of Economics recorded the highest number of Top 10% research publications, with 227.

Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Biruni recorded 206, New Uzbekistan University 173, National Pedagogical University of Uzbekistan Named after Nizami 167 and Mamun University 143 Top 10% publications.

Among TOP 1000 universities, National Research University "TIAME" led on this indicator with 127 publications.

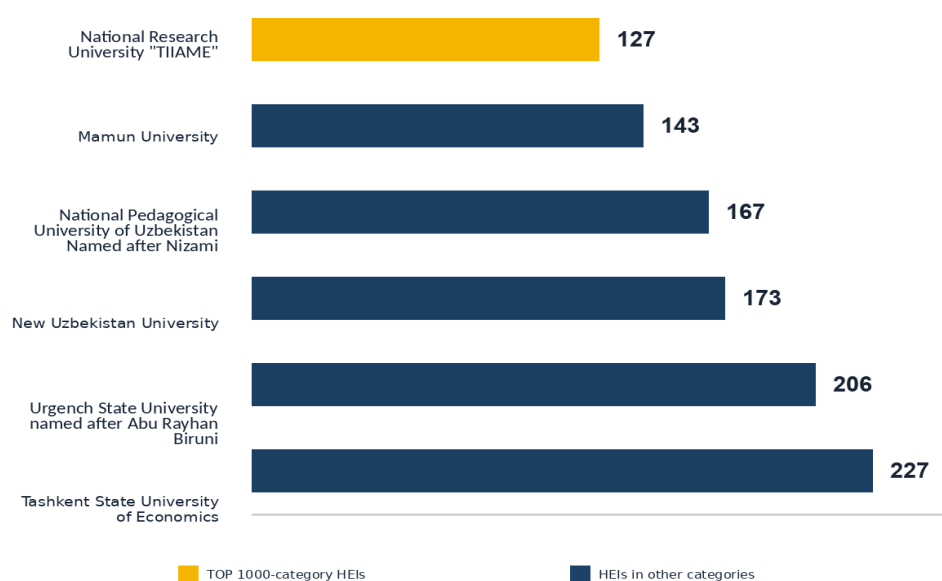


Figure 11. Comparative Top 10% results of national leaders among TOP 1000 universities and HEIs in other categories, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

Tashkent State University of Economics also led in the number of Top 1% research publications, with 54.

Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Biruni recorded 32, Mamun University 31, Alfraganus University 29 and Termez University of Economics and Service 26 Top 1% publications. National Research University "TIAME" recorded 17.

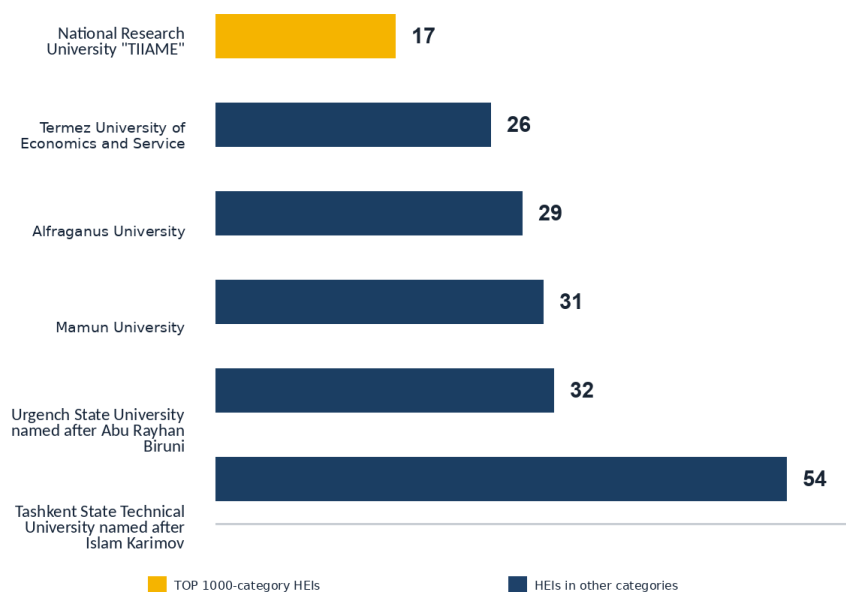


Figure 12. Comparative Top 1% results of national leaders among TOP 1000 universities and HEIs in other categories, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

The comparative results show that leadership in research publication activity and highly cited outputs is not confined to TOP 1000 universities.

In particular, Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Biruni recorded the highest total publication volume nationally, while Tashkent State University of Economics recorded the highest number of Top 10% and Top 1% publications.

It should also be recognised that this comparison is based on absolute indicators.

Relative research performance may differ once variation in academic staff, institutional scale and subject mix is taken into account.

These results therefore indicate research leadership on individual indicators rather than the overall ranking position of the HEIs.

5.6. Key findings

The analysis shows that TOP 1000 universities occupy an important position in the country's higher education system in terms of research publication activity and research performance.

Their Scopus Institution Profiles contain 2,771 research publications, a substantial proportion of which are in higher-quartile journals or achieve high citation impact.

National Research University "TIIAME" led in total publication volume, Top 10% and Top 1% publications, and the weighted index.

Institutional positions are not identical across absolute and relative indicators.

For example, while the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek ranked second by total publication volume, Tashkent State Technical University named after Islam Karimov ranked second by weighted index.

This confirms that assessment of HEI research activity should consider not only publication volume, but also quartile and citation composition and performance relative to academic staff.

The comparative analysis also shows that national research leadership is not limited to TOP 1000 universities.

Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Biruni recorded the highest total publication count nationally, while Tashkent State University of Economics recorded the highest number of Top 10% and Top 1% publications.

New Uzbekistan University, National Pedagogical University of Uzbekistan Named after Nizami, Mamun University, Alfraganus University and a number of other HEIs also recorded strong results on individual indicators.

The findings indicate that the group of HEIs with the potential to strengthen their position in the international research landscape extends beyond the TOP 1000 universities.

However, such potential should be assessed through an integrated interpretation of research quality, citation impact, subject-specific characteristics and performance relative to academic staff, rather than absolute publication counts alone.

VI. HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN THE APPLIED CATEGORY

6.1. Overview of research publication activity

The analysis of the applied category covers 28 HEIs that participate in the national ranking and have a Scopus Institution Profile.

These HEIs employed 11,188 academic staff.

Their Scopus Institution Profiles contained a total of 3,720 research publications. This equates to an average of 132.9 publications per HEI and 33.2 publications per 100 academic staff.

The cross-category comparison shows that applied-category HEIs ranked second, after the social sciences and humanities category, in total publication volume.

However, because HEIs in this category differ in number, academic staff and institutional scale, total publication volume alone is insufficient to assess research performance.

Assessment of applied-category HEIs should therefore consider publication volume alongside journal-quartile composition, the number of Top 10% and Top 1% publications, and the weighted index calculated relative to academic staff.

The following section examines the leading applied-category HEIs in research publication activity.

6.2. Leaders in research publication activity

Tashkent State Transport University recorded the highest total number of research publications among applied-category HEIs, with 558 publications in its Scopus Institution Profile.

It was followed by New Uzbekistan University with 507 publications and Tashkent University of Information Technologies with 442.

Namangan State Technical University recorded 250 research publications and Fergana State Technical University 205.

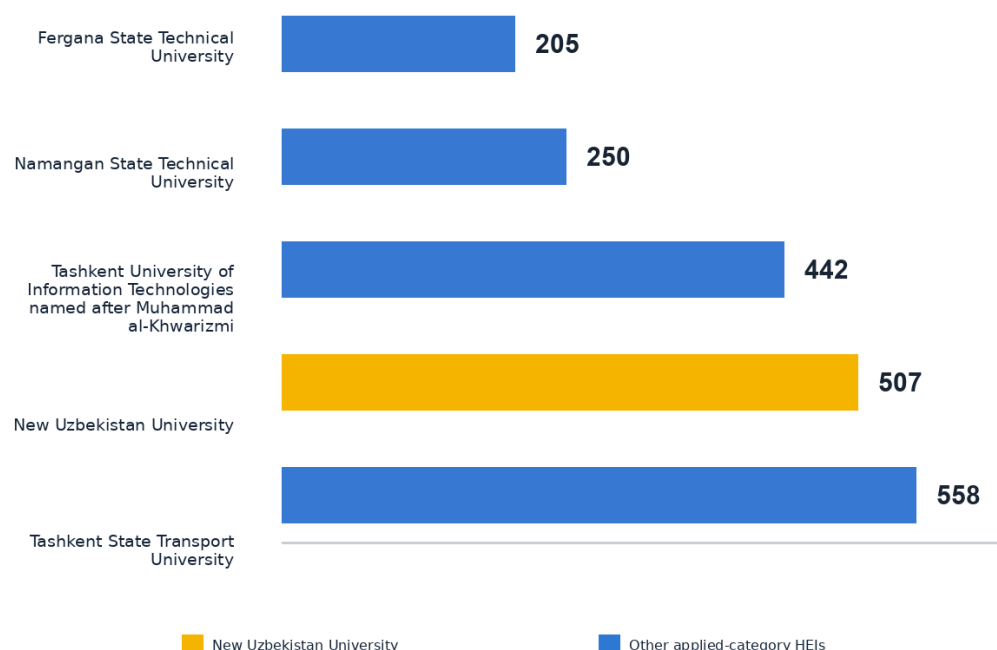


Figure 13. Leading applied-category HEIs by total number of research publications, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

The Scopus Institution Profiles of these five HEIs contained 1,962 research publications, representing 52.7 per cent of all publications in the category.

More than half of the category's publication volume was therefore concentrated in five leading HEIs.

Total publication volume reflects only the quantitative dimension of HEI research performance. A high publication count does not automatically translate into leadership in the ranking; final assessment also considers journal quartiles, highly cited publications and performance relative to academic staff.

6.3. Quality and citation indicators

Of the 3,720 research publications recorded for applied-category HEIs, 3,301 were classified by journal quartile and 419 had no quartile indicator. Among the classified publications, 728 appeared in Q1 journals, 492 in Q2, 699 in Q3 and 1,382 in Q4.

Q1 publications accounted for 22.1 per cent of the classified publication profile, Q2 for 14.9 per cent, Q3 for 21.2 per cent and Q4 for 41.9 per cent.

New Uzbekistan University was the clear leader in Q1 publications, with 328, accounting for 45.1 per cent of all Q1 outputs in the category.

It was followed by Tashkent University of Information Technologies with 53 Q1 publications, Tashkent State Agrarian University and Andijan State University named after Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur with 42 each, and Turin Polytechnic University in Tashkent with 37.

New Uzbekistan University's result was more than six times higher than that of the nearest institution.

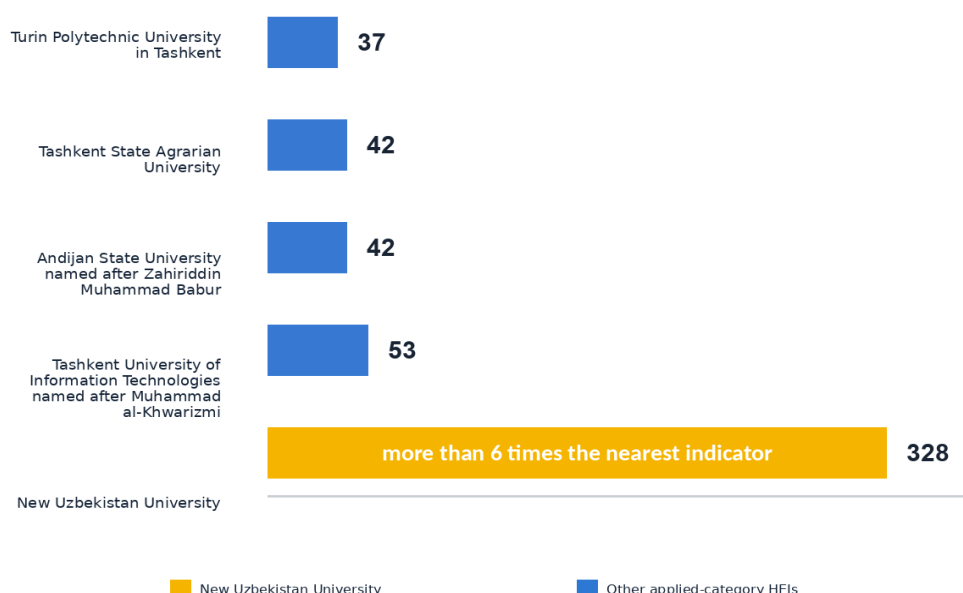


Figure 14. Leading applied-category HEIs by number of research publications in Q1 journals, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

Applied-category HEIs recorded 377 Top 10% research publications. Of these, 173, or 45.9 per cent, were attributable to New Uzbekistan University.

Tashkent University of Information Technologies recorded 32, Andijan State University named after Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur 27, Tashkent State Transport University 24 and Turin Polytechnic University in Tashkent 16 Top 10% publications.

The leading HEI's result was more than five times that of the nearest comparator.

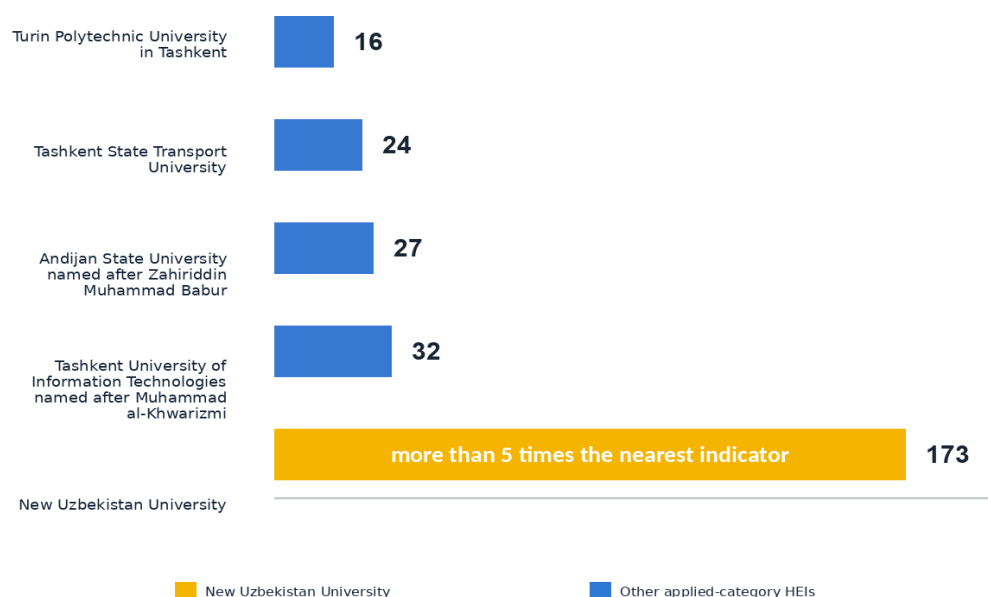


Figure 15. Leading applied-category HEIs by number of Top 10% research publications, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

The category recorded a total of 40 Top 1% publications. Of these, 21, or 52.5 per cent, were recorded by New Uzbekistan University. Tashkent State Transport University recorded five, Tashkent University of Information Technologies and Fergana State Technical University four each, and Turin Polytechnic University in Tashkent two.

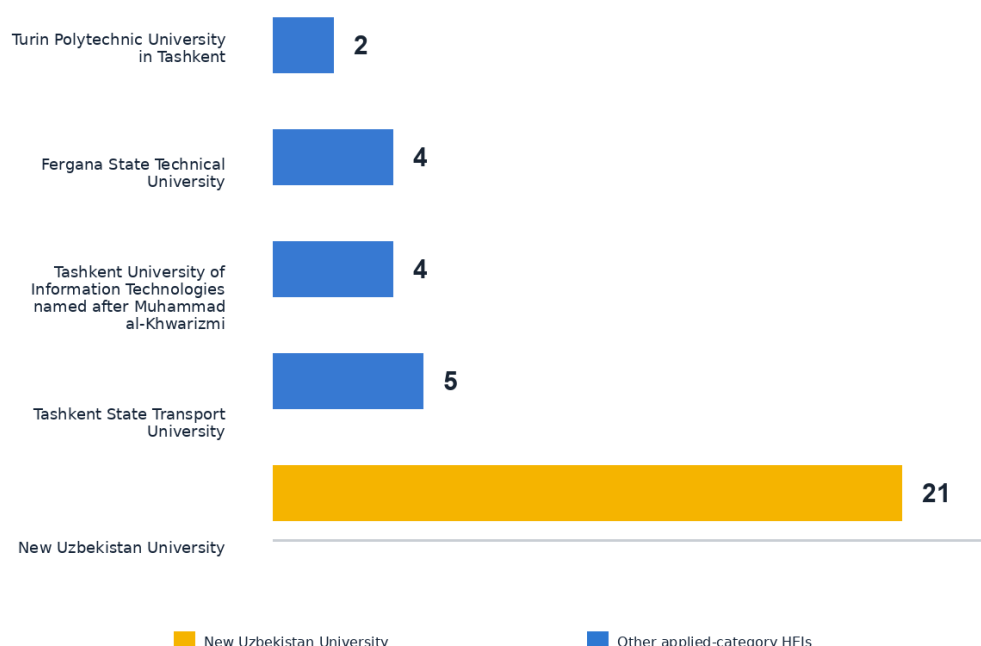


Figure 16. Leading applied-category HEIs by number of Top 1% research publications, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

The results show that, although New Uzbekistan University ranked second by total publication volume, it led the category on all three indicators: Q1, Top 10% and Top 1% publications.

This confirms that absolute publication volume and the quality and citation profile of publications do not produce identical results.

Journal quartiles do not directly determine the absolute scientific quality of an individual article. Q1 performance should therefore be interpreted alongside Top 10%, Top 1% and the weighted staff-adjusted index.

6.4. Ranking results

Ranking results for the Research Publication Activity indicator were calculated for applied-category HEIs on the basis of 2025 results.

The assessment applies the prescribed weights to Top 1%, Top 10% and Q1–Q4 publications and calculates the resulting value relative to academic staff. The maximum ranking score for applied-category HEIs is 5 points.

New Uzbekistan University ranked first in the category with an index of 55.92 and 5 points. Turin Polytechnic University in Tashkent ranked second with an index of 9.18 and a score of 0.821. The leading university's index was more than six times the second-placed institution's result.

The calculation results are presented in Table 3.

Rank	Type of ownership	HEI name	Total academic staff	Total publications	Top 1%	Top 10%	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Index	Score
1	State	New Uzbekistan University	95	507	21	173	328	104	18	10	55.92	5,000
2	Foreign branch	Turin Polytechnic University in Tashkent	76	115	2	16	37	21	18	20	9.18	0,821
3	State	Tashkent University of Information Technologies named after Muhammad al-Khwarizmi	545	442	4	32	53	53	34	166	2.59	0,232
4	Foreign branch	Inha University in Tashkent	61	16	0	4	11	2	2	1	2.44	0,218
5	State	Tashkent Institute of Chemical Technology	379	149	1	16	25	20	44	55	1.91	0,171
6	State	Andijan State University named after Zahiriddin Muhammad Babur	576	166	1	27	42	40	44	32	1.85	0,165
7	State	Navoi State University of Mining and Technology	374	178	0	8	13	31	54	76	1.77	0,158
8	State	Tashkent State Transport University	1 046	558	5	24	22	48	194	232	1.69	0,151
9	State	University of Geological Sciences	122	44	0	2	10	3	8	23	1.42	0,127
10	State	Tashkent State Agrarian University	642	169	0	12	42	41	26	45	1.33	0,119
11	State	Samarkand State University of Veterinary Medicine, Livestock and Biotechnologies	277	62	0	7	13	12	12	24	1.15	0,103
12	State	Tashkent University of Architecture and Civil Engineering	364	93	1	3	9	21	17	37	0.95	0,085
13	State	Samarkand branch of the Tashkent University of Information Technologies named after Muhammad al-Khwarizmi	152	33	0	4	6	1	4	20	0.86	0,076

Rank	Type of ownership	HEI name	Total academic staff	Total publications	Top 1%	Top 10%	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Index	Score
14	State	Namangan State Technical University	828	250	0	6	19	23	40	159	0.81	0,072
15	State	Fergana State Technical University	874	205	4	13	25	18	38	61	0.80	0,072
16	Foreign branch	Joint Belorussian - Uzbek Intersectoral Institute of Applied Technical Qualifications in Tashkent	91	10	1	2	3	1	1	4	0.77	0,069
17	State	Tashkent textile and Light Industry Institute	393	97	0	5	6	5	19	66	0.69	0,061
18	State	INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE AND AGROTECHNOLOGIES OF KARAKALPAKSTAN	207	29	0	0	9	7	5	8	0.69	0,061
19	State	Karshi State Technical University	856	163	0	5	19	13	38	77	0.59	0,053
20	State	Nukus Branch of Samarkand State University of Veterinary Medicine, Livestock and Biotechnologies	86	12	0	1	1	2	4	5	0.59	0,053
21	State	Jizzakh Polytechnic Institute	472	88	0	7	9	1	18	51	0.57	0,051
22	State	Andijan State Technical University	488	84	0	3	10	7	17	45	0.54	0,049
23	State	Almalyk State Technical University	240	39	0	1	2	2	13	22	0.47	0,042
24	State	Andijan Institute of Agriculture and Agrotechnology	342	29	0	1	7	6	4	10	0.37	0,033
25	State	Bukhara State Technical University	889	135	0	2	4	4	20	102	0.29	0,026
26	State	Termiz State University of Engineering and Technology	333	23	0	2	2	2	5	14	0.25	0,022

Rank	Type of ownership	HEI name	Total academic staff	Total publications	Top 1%	Top 10%	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Index	Score
27	State	Samarkand State University named after Sharof Rashidov of Architecture and Civil Engineering	324	20	0	1	1	4	1	14	0.19	0,017
28	Foreign branch	The Branch of the Russian State University of Oil and Gas (National Research University) named after Ivan Mikhaylovich Gubkin in Tashkent	56	4	0	0	0	0	1	3	0.13	0,011
29	Foreign branch	Branch of the Federal State Autonomous Higher Educational Institution "National Research Nuclear University MEPhI" in Tashkent	No profile available									0
30	Foreign branch	Branch of National University of Science and Technology MISIS in Almalyk	No profile available									0
31	Foreign branch	Branch of Astrakhan State University in Tashkent	No profile available									0
32	Foreign branch	The Tashkent Branch of Mendelev University of Chemical Technology of Russia	No profile available									0
33	Private	IT-Park University	No profile available									0
34	State	Nukus State Technical University	No profile available									0
35	State	Samarkand Agroinnovations and Research University	No profile available									0

Rank	Type of ownership	HEI name	Total academic staff	Total publications	Top 1%	Top 10%	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Index	Score
36	State	Tashkent Institute of Chemical Technology Yangiyer branch	No profile available									0
37	Foreign branch	Ajou University in Tashkent	No profile available									0
38	Foreign branch	Bucheon University in Tashkent	No profile available									0
39	Private	Japan Digital University	No profile available									0
40	State	Tashkent Branch of Samarkand Institute of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Husbandry and Biotechnologies	No profile available									0

Table 3. Ranking results for applied-category HEIs on the Research Publication Activity indicator, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

Note: the index is calculated from weighted publication indicators and academic staff numbers (maximum score: 5). For HEIs without a Scopus Institution Profile, the indicator is not calculated and a score of 0 is assigned.

Although Tashkent State Transport University led in total research publications with 558 outputs, it ranked eighth on the weighted ranking measure.

New Uzbekistan University's leading position in the ranking is explained by its strong performance in Q1, Top 10% and Top 1% publications and by its high research productivity relative to academic staff.

There is no direct proportional relationship between the index value and the ranking score. Because logarithmic normalisation is applied in calculating the ranking score, differences in index values are expressed on a 0–5 point scale.

Applied-category HEIs without a Scopus Institution Profile are not assigned a ranking position.

6.5. Key findings

The analysis shows that 3,720 research publications were recorded in the Scopus Institution Profiles of the 28 applied-category HEIs. The category averaged 132.9 publications per HEI and 33.2 publications per 100 academic staff.

Tashkent State Transport University led in total publication volume with 558 publications. However, the five leading HEIs accounted for 52.7 per cent of all publications in the category, indicating a relatively high concentration of research publication activity in a limited number of institutions.

Among quartile-classified publications, Q4 journals accounted for the largest share at 41.9 per cent, while Q1 journals accounted for 22.1 per cent. This points to scope for applied-category HEIs to increase the share of publications in higher-quartile journals.

New Uzbekistan University demonstrated a clear lead in Q1, Top 10% and Top 1% publications. It accounted for 45.1 per cent of the category's Q1 publications, 45.9 per cent of its Top 10% publications and 52.5 per cent of its Top 1% publications. This indicates a substantial concentration of higher-quartile and highly cited outputs at the university.

The ranking results confirm that absolute publication volume and relative research productivity do not produce the same ordering of institutions.

Although New Uzbekistan University ranked second in total publication volume, it placed first in the category on the Research Publication Activity indicator, with an index of 55.92 and a score of 5 points.

This result reflects the fact that the ranking considers not only publication volume but also quartile and citation composition and performance relative to academic staff.

VII. HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN THE MEDICAL CATEGORY

7.1. Overview of research publication activity

The medical-category analysis covers nine HEIs that participate in the national ranking and have a Scopus Institution Profile.

These HEIs employed 7,302 academic staff.

Their Scopus Institution Profiles contained 1,494 research publications. This equates to an average of 166 publications per HEI and 20.5 publications per 100 academic staff.

The total number of research publications in the medical category was lower than in the social sciences and humanities and applied categories.

However, an average of 166 publications per HEI is among the highest results across the principal institutional categories in the analysis.

This indicates that, despite the relatively small number of medical-category HEIs, publication activity is strong in some institutions.

HEIs in the category also differ in academic staff numbers, scale of activity and research specialisation.

Their research performance should therefore be assessed using not only absolute publication counts, but also journal quartiles, Top 10% and Top 1% publications and the weighted index calculated relative to academic staff.

7.2. Leaders in research publication activity

Tashkent State Medical University led medical-category HEIs in total research publication volume, with 413 publications.

It was followed by Samarkand State Medical University with 321 and Bukhara State Medical Institute named after Abu Ali ibn Sino with 288 research publications.

Central Asian University in Tashkent - CAU recorded 207 research publications in its Scopus Institution Profile, Fergana Medical Institute of Public Health 85, Andijan State Medical Institute 74 and Tashkent Pharmaceutical Institute 60.



Figure 17. Leading medical-category HEIs by total number of research publications, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

The top three HEIs by publication volume—Tashkent State Medical University, Samarkand State Medical University and Bukhara State Medical Institute named after Abu Ali ibn Sino—accounted for a combined 1,022 research publications, or 68.4 per cent of all publications in the medical category.

More than two-thirds of the category's publication volume was therefore concentrated in these three HEIs.

7.3. Quality and citation indicators

Of the 1,494 research publications recorded for medical-category HEIs, 1,325 were classified by journal quartile and 169 had no quartile indicator.

Among quartile-classified publications, 223 appeared in Q1 journals, 311 in Q2, 283 in Q3 and 508 in Q4.

Q1 publications accounted for 16.8 per cent of the quartile-classified total, Q2 for 23.5 per cent, Q3 for 21.4 per cent and Q4 for 38.3 per cent. The 223 Q1 publications were equivalent to 14.9 per cent of all research publications in the category.

Central Asian University in Tashkent - CAU led in Q1 publications with 73, accounting for 32.7 per cent of all Q1 outputs in the medical category.

It was followed by Samarkand State Medical University with 68 Q1 publications, Tashkent State Medical University with 41, Bukhara State Medical Institute named after Abu Ali ibn Sino with 16 and Tashkent Pharmaceutical Institute with eight.

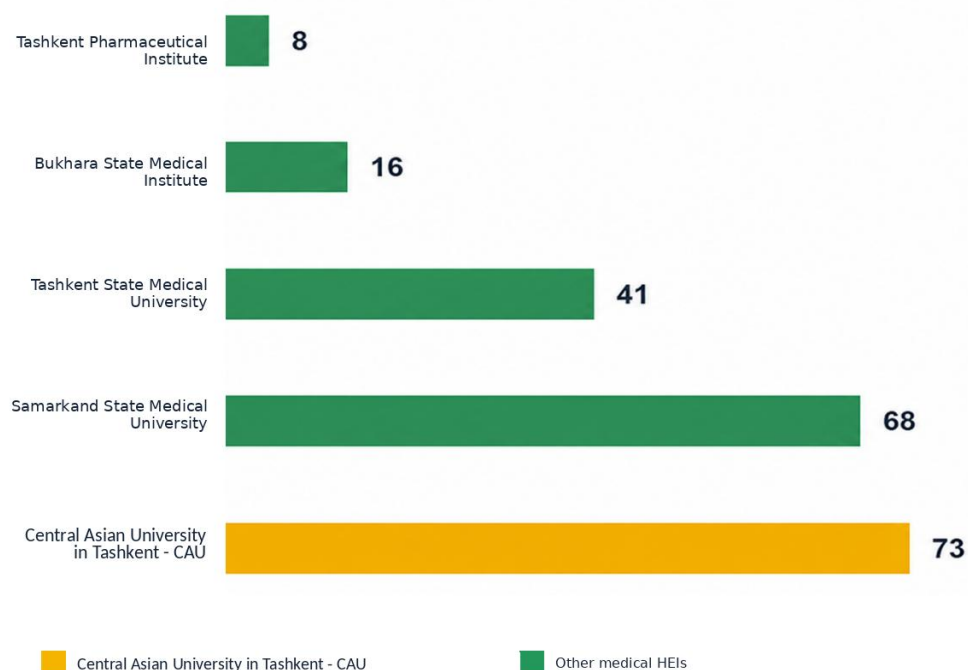


Figure 18. Leading medical-category HEIs by number of research publications in Q1 journals, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

Medical-category HEIs recorded 131 Top 10% research publications. Samarkand State Medical University led with 37. Central Asian University in Tashkent - CAU recorded 29, Bukhara State Medical Institute named after Abu Ali ibn Sino 20, Tashkent State Medical University 18, Fergana Medical Institute of Public Health 10 and the Termez Branch of Tashkent State Medical University nine.

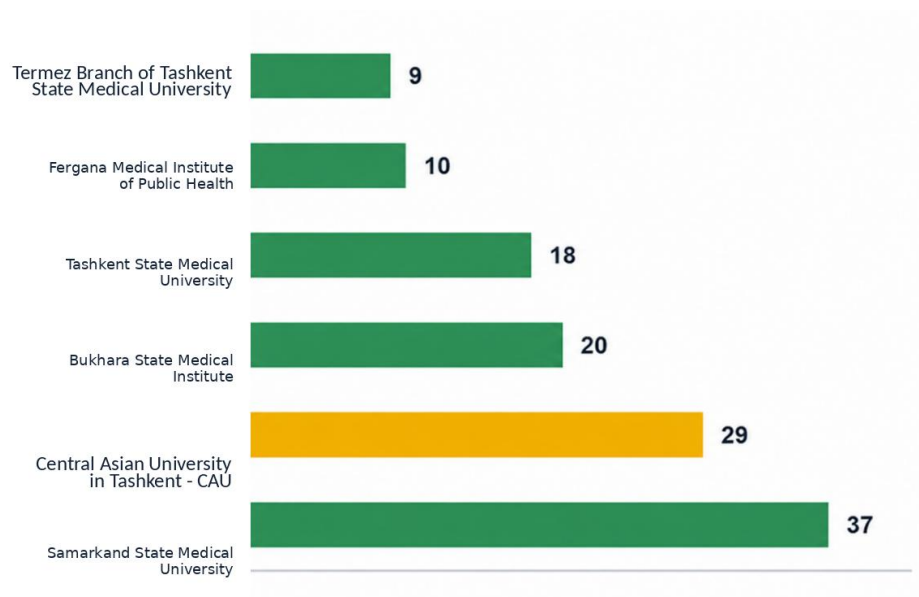


Figure 19. Leading medical-category HEIs by number of Top 10% research publications, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

The category recorded 10 Top 1% publications. Three were attributable to Central Asian University in Tashkent - CAU. Andijan State Medical Institute and Fergana Medical Institute of Public Health recorded two each, while Samarkand State Medical University, Tashkent Pharmaceutical Institute and Tashkent State Medical University each recorded one.

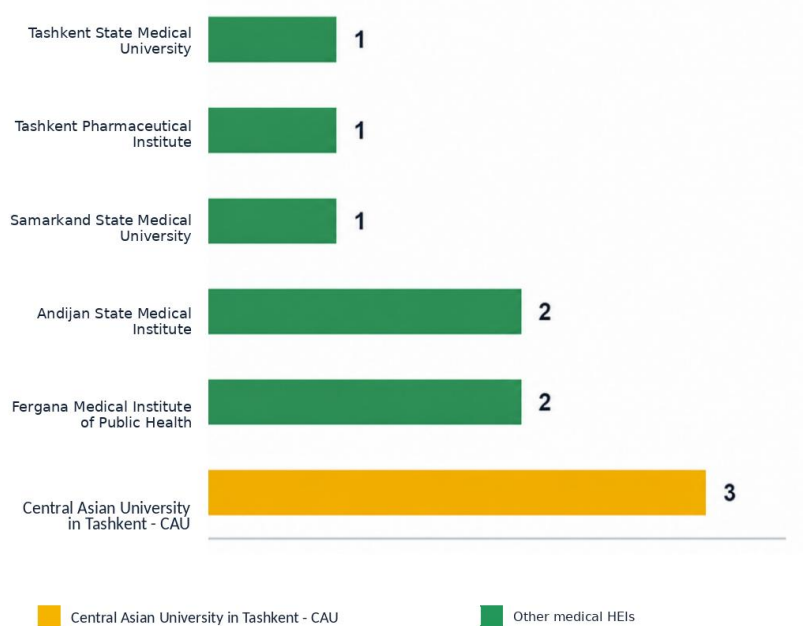


Figure 20. Leading medical-category HEIs by number of Top 1% research publications, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

The results show that leadership across the different indicators is not concentrated in a single HEI within the medical category.

Central Asian University in Tashkent - CAU led in the number of Q1 and Top 1% publications, while Samarkand State Medical University led on the Top 10% indicator. Although Tashkent State Medical University ranked first in total publication volume, other HEIs recorded stronger results for higher-quartile and highly cited publications.

Although the overall publication volume of medical-category HEIs is lower than in the social sciences and humanities and applied categories, the presence of Top 10% and Top 1% publications demonstrates that the category generates research with international citation impact.

7.4. Ranking results for HEIs in the medical category

Ranking results for medical-category HEIs were assessed using an index based on weighted research-publication indicators and academic staff numbers.

The ranking therefore considers total publication volume alongside Q1–Q4 publications, Top 10% and Top 1% publications and relative research productivity.

The ranking results for medical-category HEIs included in the analysis are presented in Table 4.

Rank	Type of ownership	HEI name	Total academic staff	Total publications	Top 1%	Top 10%	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Index	Score
1	Private	Central Asian University in Tashkent - CAU	89	207	3	29	73	58	22	9	15.22	5,000
2	State	Samarkand State Medical University	1 265	321	1	37	68	65	55	108	1.30	0,427
3	State	Bukhara State Medical Institute named after Abu Ali ibn Sino	911	288	0	20	16	57	70	133	1.19	0,390
4	State	Tashkent Pharmaceutical Institute	251	60	1	5	8	8	20	22	1.10	0,361
5	State	Fergana Medical Institute of Public Health	658	85	2	10	7	22	18	28	0.63	0,206
6	State	Tashkent State Medical University	2 529	413	1	18	41	86	66	154	0.57	0,189
7	State	Termez Branch of Tashkent State Medical University	363	34	0	9	3	7	8	15	0.56	0,184
8	Private	Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research	109	12	0	0	1	1	3	2	0.26	0,084
9	State	Andijan State Medical Institute	1 127	74	2	3	6	7	21	37	0.24	0,077
10	State	Urgench State Medical Institute	No profile available									0

Rank	Type of ownership	HEI name	Total academic staff	Total publications	Top 1%	Top 10%	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Index	Score
11	Private	Bukhara Innovative Education and Medical University	No profile available									0
12	Private	Central Asian Medical University	No profile available									0
13	State	Karakalpakstan Medical Institute	No profile available									0
14	Foreign branch	Branch of the Federal State Autonomous Education Institution of Higher Education "Kazan (Volga region) Federal University" in the city of Jizzakh of Republic of Uzbekistan	No profile available									0

Table 4. Ranking of medical-category HEIs by research publication activity based on Scopus data, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

Note: the index is calculated from weighted publication indicators and academic staff numbers (maximum score: 5). For HEIs without a Scopus Institution Profile, the indicator is not calculated and a score of 0 is assigned.

Central Asian University in Tashkent - CAU ranked first with an index of 15.22 and a score of 5 points. Despite having only 89 academic staff, the university recorded 207 research publications, including 73 in Q1 journals, 29 in the Top 10% and three in the Top 1%.

This result indicates high weighted research performance relative to the university's academic staff base.

Samarkand State Medical University ranked second with an index of 1.30 and a score of 0.427. It was followed by Bukhara State Medical Institute named after Abu Ali ibn Sino with an index of 1.19 and a score of 0.390, and Tashkent Pharmaceutical Institute with an index of 1.10 and a score of 0.361.

Fergana Medical Institute of Public Health ranked fifth with an index of 0.63, Tashkent State Medical University sixth with 0.57 and its Termez Branch seventh with 0.56. The Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research and Andijan State Medical Institute followed with index values of 0.26 and 0.24 respectively.

Tashkent State Medical University recorded the highest absolute publication volume in the category, with 413 research publications, but ranked sixth overall.

There was an almost 11.7-fold difference between the index values of the first- and second-ranked HEIs. This indicates substantial unevenness in weighted research-metrics performance across medical-category HEIs.

7.5. Key findings

First, the nine medical-category HEIs participating in the national ranking and holding a Scopus Institution Profile recorded 1,494 research publications.

The category averaged 166 publications per HEI and 20.5 publications per 100 academic staff. This indicates an established level of publication activity in internationally indexed sources among medical-category HEIs.

Second, Tashkent State Medical University led in absolute publication volume, with 413 research publications.

The next-highest results were recorded by Samarkand State Medical University with 321 publications and Bukhara State Medical Institute named after Abu Ali ibn Sino with 288.

The concentration of the majority of medical-category publications in these three HEIs indicates that publication activity is relatively concentrated in major medical education and research centres.

Third, medical-category HEIs recorded 223 Q1 publications, 131 Top 10% publications and 10 Top 1% publications.

In particular, the higher-quartile and highly cited publication performance of Central Asian University in Tashkent - CAU, Samarkand State Medical University and Tashkent State Medical University reflects their active engagement in the international research landscape.

Fourth, leadership by total publication volume and leadership by relative research productivity were not held by the same institution.

Tashkent State Medical University ranked first in total publication volume, while Central Asian University in Tashkent - CAU led the ranking with an index of 15.22 and a score of 5 points.

Fifth, the almost 11.7-fold difference between the index values of the first- and second-ranked HEIs indicates uneven weighted research-metrics performance within the medical category. In addition, five HEIs do not have a Scopus Institution Profile, which the source text associates with low research publication activity.

The findings indicate that medical-category HEIs have developed a degree of capacity in publication volume, participation in higher-quartile journals and international citation impact.

However, reducing substantial within-category disparities requires improved management of Scopus Institution Profiles, a higher share of publications in higher-quartile journals and targeted support for HEIs with weaker research performance.

VIII. HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES CATEGORY

8.1. Overview of the category

The social sciences and humanities category is the largest in the analysis both by number of institutions and by volume of research publications recorded in Scopus.

This reflects the category's broad coverage within the national higher education system and the inclusion of HEIs specialising in a wide range of education and research fields.

In 2025, the category included 62 HEIs that participate in the national ranking and have a Scopus Institution Profile. Together, they employed 27,799 academic staff.

HEIs in the social sciences and humanities category recorded 10,423 research publications in Scopus, representing 56.6 per cent of the overall total of 18,424 publications.

The journal-quartile composition was: Q1 – 2,589 publications; Q2 – 2,015; Q3 – 1,217; and Q4 – 1,953.

In terms of international citation impact, 1,542 publications fell within the Top 10% and 249 within the Top 1%.

This shows that, alongside a large overall publication volume, the category also contains a substantial number of outputs in higher-quartile journals and with high international citation impact.

The category averaged 168.1 research publications per HEI and 37.5 publications per 100 academic staff. Its lead in total publication volume should be interpreted in light of the fact that it contains more HEIs than the other categories.

8.2. Leaders in research publication activity

Within the social sciences and humanities category, a relatively high share of research publication activity was concentrated among several leading universities.

Leadership differs to some extent across total publication volume, publications in higher-quartile journals and international citation impact.

Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Biruni ranked first by total research publication volume with 1,218 publications. It was followed by Tashkent State University of Economics with 989, Mamun University with 908, Samarkand State University named after Sharof Rashidov with 745, Termez University of Economics and Service with 592, and National Pedagogical University of Uzbekistan Named after Nizami with 483.

The leading social sciences and humanities HEIs by total research publication volume are presented in Figure 21.

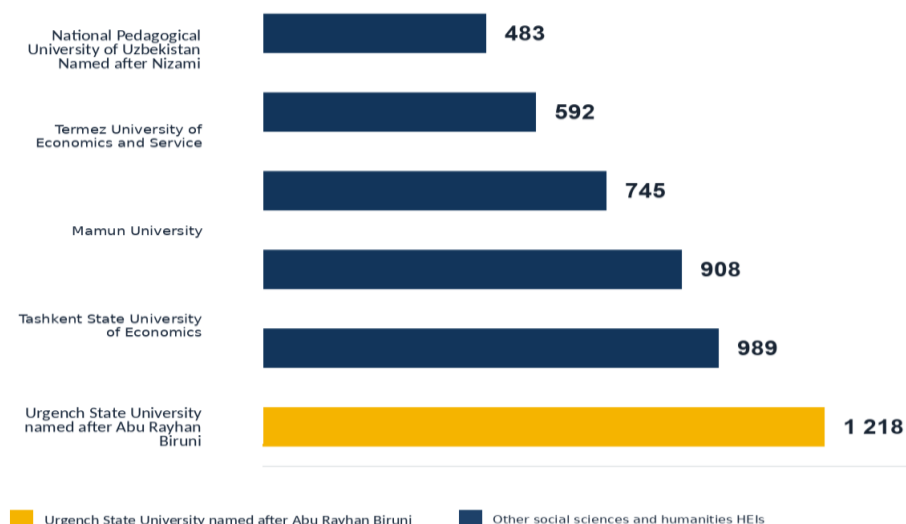


Figure 21. Leading social sciences and humanities HEIs by total research publication volume, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

Tashkent State University of Economics led in Q1 publications with 377. National Pedagogical University of Uzbekistan Named after Nizami recorded 313, Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Biruni 303, University of Tashkent for Applied Science 217, Mamun University 167 and Samarkand State University named after Sharof Rashidov 160.

These results indicate a substantial level of activity in publishing in higher-quartile journals among some HEIs in the social sciences and humanities category.

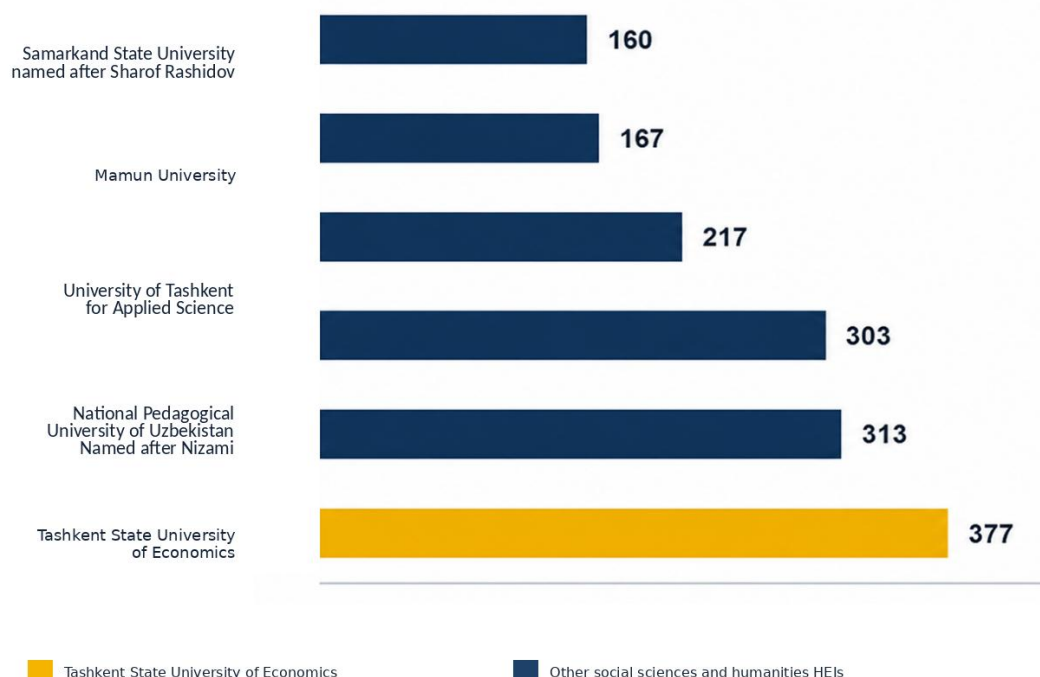


Figure 22. Leading social sciences and humanities HEIs by number of research publications in Q1 journals, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

Tashkent State University of Economics also ranked first in Top 10% publications, with 227. It was followed by Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Biruni with 206, National Pedagogical University of Uzbekistan Named after Nizami with 167, Mamun University with 143, University of Tashkent for Applied Science with 133 and Alfraganus University with 98.

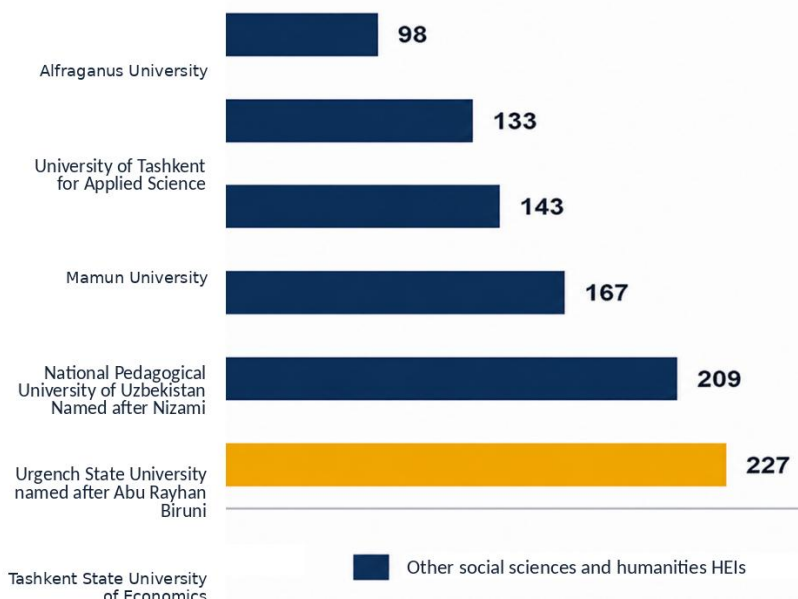


Figure 23. Leading social sciences and humanities HEIs by number of Top 10% research publications, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

Tashkent State University of Economics led in Top 1% publications with 54. Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Biruni recorded 32, Mamun University 31, Alfraganus University 29, Termez University of Economics and Service 26 and University of Tashkent for Applied Science 19.

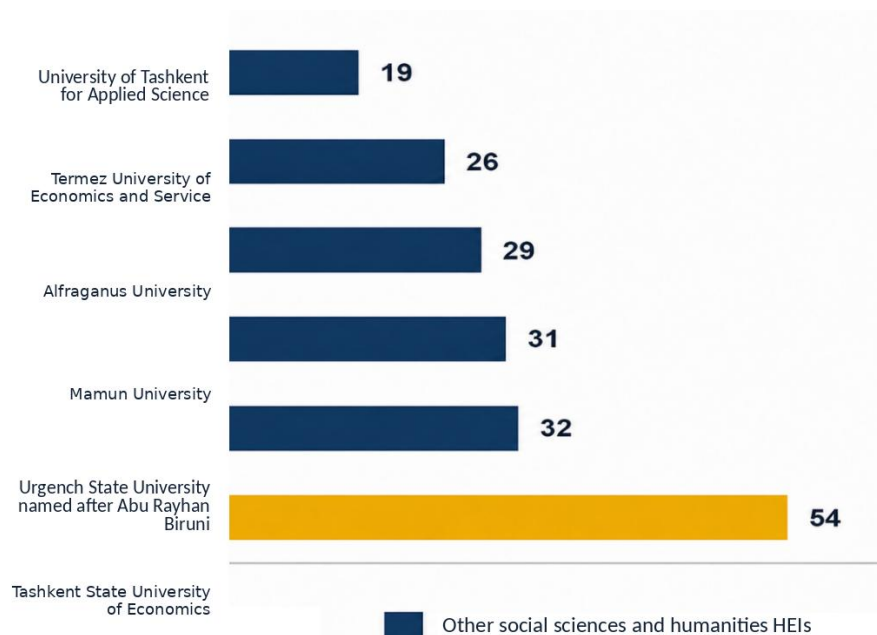


Figure 24. Leading social sciences and humanities HEIs by number of Top 1% research publications, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

The comparative results show that Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Biruni led in total publication volume, while Tashkent State University of Economics led in Q1 publications and highly cited outputs.

Mamun University, National Pedagogical University of Uzbekistan Named after Nizami and University of Tashkent for Applied Science also featured among the leaders on several key indicators.

This indicates that research publication activity in the social sciences and humanities category is not concentrated in a single HEI, and that the group of leading institutions is comparatively broad across publication volume, higher-quartile participation and international citation impact.

8.3. Publication profile and international citation impact

Research publication activity in the social sciences and humanities category should be assessed through publication volume, journal quartiles and international citation impact.

Together, these indicators support a broader interpretation of the composition of research publications in the category and their relative influence in the international research landscape.

Journal quartiles were identified for 7,825 of the 10,423 publications in the category: Q1 – 2,593; Q2 – 2,015; Q3 – 1,219; and Q4 – 1,998.

Among publications with an identified quartile, 33.3 per cent appeared in Q1 journals, 25.9 per cent in Q2, 15.7 per cent in Q3 and 25.1 per cent in Q4.

Of the quartile-classified publications, 4,604 (59.2 per cent) appeared in Q1–Q2 journals and 3,170 (40.8 per cent) in Q3–Q4 journals. The majority therefore appeared in higher-quartile journals.

At the same time, 2,649 research publications had no journal-quartile information.

Quartile shares should therefore be interpreted against the 7,825 publications for which a quartile was identified, rather than against the full total of 10,423 publications.

In terms of international citation impact, 1,542 publications fell within the Top 10%, including 249 within the Top 1%. Their shares of total publication volume were 14.8 per cent and 2.4 per cent respectively.

Because the Top 1% represents the most highly cited subset of the Top 10%, the two indicators cannot be added together as if they were mutually independent categories.

The results presented in Figures 22–24 show that Tashkent State University of Economics, Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Biruni, National Pedagogical University of Uzbekistan Named after Nizami, Mamun University and University of Tashkent for Applied Science were among the leaders in higher-quartile and highly cited publications.

The findings show that research publication activity in the social sciences and humanities category is characterised not only by high absolute volume, but also by the share of Q1 and Q2 publications and by research outputs in the Top 10% and Top 1% citation categories.

However, because these indicators are unevenly distributed across HEIs, they should be assessed alongside the staff-adjusted index and ranking results.

8.4. Ranking results for HEIs in the social sciences and humanities category

Ranking results for social sciences and humanities HEIs are based on an index calculated from weighted research-publication indicators and academic staff numbers.

In addition to total publication volume, the calculation includes Q1–Q4, Top 10% and Top 1% publications.

The ranking results for HEIs in this category are presented in Table 5.

Rank	Type of ownership	HEI name	Total academic staff	Total publications	Top 1%	Top 10%	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Index	Score
1	Private	Mamun University	282	908	31	143	167	146	58	88	15.37	3,000
2	Foreign branch	Amity University, Tashkent	19	89	0	15	6	3	9	2	13.37	2,610
3	Private	International University «Tashkent International University of Education» (TIUE)	43	41	2	12	19	15	3	2	9.30	1,816
4	Private	University of Tashkent for Applied Science	495	423	19	133	217	102	44	13	8.27	1,615
5	Private	Turan International University	97	367	0	10	28	57	14	26	7.71	1,505
6	Private	Termez University of Economics and Service	444	592	26	69	114	96	27	45	5.95	1,162
7	State	Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Biruni	1 179	1218	32	206	303	189	131	326	5.81	1,134
8	State	National Pedagogical University of Uzbekistan Named after Nizami	945	483	9	167	313	101	10	20	5.24	1,022
9	Private	Alfraganus University	634	466	29	98	139	110	42	48	5.23	1,021
10	Private	Kimyo International University in Tashkent	577	322	12	84	134	106	30	26	4.92	0,960
11	State	Samarkand State University named after Sharof Rashidov	816	745	6	84	160	139	149	220	4.71	0,919
12	State	Tashkent State University of Economics	1 690	989	54	227	377	154	77	44	4.27	0,833
13	State	Shahrisabz State Pedagogical Institute	262	91	8	42	57	19	0	4	4.16	0,812
14	Foreign branch	Westminster International University in Tashkent	181	92	0	10	53	13	12	2	3.60	0,703
15	Private	Diplomat University	25	9	1	1	3	0	2	2	2.24	0,437

Rank	Type of ownership	HEI name	Total academic staff	Total publications	Top 1%	Top 10%	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Index	Score
16	State	"Silk Road" International University of Tourism and Cultural Heritage	145	44	0	6	22	10	3	4	2.15	0,420
17	State	Jizzakh State Pedagogical University	614	262	2	14	26	103	31	58	1.91	0,373
18	Private	Asia International University	272	87	1	11	22	11	22	17	1.72	0,337
19	State	Termez State University	679	257	0	17	25	78	60	67	1.69	0,329
20	State	International Agriculture University	63	13	1	2	4	4	0	3	1.44	0,282
21	State	Karshi State University	803	212	2	23	45	53	33	69	1.41	0,275
22	State	Tashkent State University of Law	524	132	1	14	39	22	31	8	1.39	0,271
23	State	Samarkand Branch of Tashkent State University of Economics	130	23	1	3	6	8	4	4	1.22	0,237
24	Private	International School of Finance Technology and Science	263	62	1	9	10	10	10	24	1.16	0,227
25	State	Chirchik State Pedagogical University	680	169	1	5	31	45	38	47	1.15	0,224
26	State	International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan	240	45	2	8	7	13	3	4	1.06	0,207
27	State	Bukhara State University	1 067	294	0	17	27	52	76	115	1.05	0,204
28	State	Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies	357	124	0	7	19	22	2	5	1.03	0,201
29	State	Urgench State Pedagogical Institute	344	94	2	10	12	9	7	3	0.89	0,173
30	State	Gulistan State University	664	136	1	10	10	44	18	30	0.84	0,164
31	State	Urgut branch of Samarkand State University	93	13	0	4	1	3	1	4	0.80	0,155

Rank	Type of ownership	HEI name	Total academic staff	Total publications	Top 1%	Top 10%	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Index	Score
32	Foreign branch	Management Development Institute of Singapore in Tashkent	32	6	0	0	2	0	2	1	0.78	0,153
33	Private	Angren University	164	15	0	6	3	3	4	5	0.75	0,146
34	State	Fergana State University	1 186	216	0	6	48	35	34	85	0.74	0,144
35	State	Karakalpak State University	1 139	327	2	10	17	32	39	203	0.71	0,139
36	Foreign branch	Moscow State University in Tashkent named after M.V.Lomonosov	57	8	0	1	2	1	1	4	0.70	0,137
37	State	Namangan State University	730	110	0	9	14	25	28	36	0.68	0,134
38	State	Jizzakh Branch of the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek	197	25	0	2	3	6	7	8	0.59	0,115
39	State	University of economics and pedagogy	432	62	0	3	10	10	15	23	0.59	0,114
40	State	University of Exact and Social Sciences	45	4	0	1	1	1	0	1	0.56	0,108
41	State	Namangan State Pedagogical Institute	201	30	0	1	2	9	4	14	0.55	0,107
42	State	Navoi State University	776	113	0	9	14	13	13	62	0.51	0,099
43	State	Alisher Navo'i Tashkent State University of the Uzbek Language and Literature	243	77	1	2	5	1	2	36	0.50	0,098
44	State	University of World Economy and Diplomacy	292	33	0	4	2	7	8	6	0.47	0,091
45	State	Bukhara State Pedagogical Institute	540	89	1	1	2	14	22	41	0.46	0,091
46	Private	Kokand University	636	45	0	8	12	8	12	10	0.44	0,087

Rank	Type of ownership	HEI name	Total academic staff	Total publications	Top 1%	Top 10%	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Index	Score
47	State	Samarkand Institute of Economics and Service	309	43	0	0	1	11	13	11	0.44	0,087
48	Private	Nordic International University	111	12	0	0	1	5	1	5	0.42	0,083
49	State	Denov Institute of Entrepreneurship and Pedagogy	311	35	0	0	4	10	6	11	0.41	0,080
50	State	Termez State Pedagogical Institute	400	59	0	0	3	10	9	33	0.38	0,075
51	State	Nukus State Pedagogical Institute	596	61	0	3	6	13	14	15	0.38	0,074
52	State	Uzbekistan State World Languages University	1 316	93	1	9	21	27	11	12	0.37	0,072
53	State	Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages	664	42	0	1	10	18	5	4	0.33	0,065
54	Private	Nukus Innovation Institute	216	12	0	2	3	0	2	5	0.26	0,052
55	State	Gulistan State Pedagogical Institute	224	20	0	0	0	7	1	8	0.24	0,047
56	Private	Renaissance University	261	12	0	1	2	3	1	6	0.21	0,040
57	Private	The University of Information Technologies and Management	154	8	0	0	2	1	2	1	0.20	0,039
58	State	Kokand State University	679	28	0	1	3	4	8	12	0.15	0,029
59	Private	Zarmed University	295	9	0	1	2	2	1	2	0.15	0,029
60	Private	Tashkent Institute of Management and Economics	120	12	0	0	0	0	2	4	0.10	0,020
61	State	Andijan State Pedagogical Institute	458	11	0	0	1	2	4	2	0.08	0,016
62	State	Journalism and Mass Communication University of Uzbekistan	343	4	0	0	1	0	1	2	0.04	0,008

Rank	Type of ownership	HEI name	Total academic staff	Total publications	Top 1%	Top 10%	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Index	Score
63	Foreign branch	Webster University Tashkent	<i>No academic staff are employed at their primary place of work.</i>									0
64	Foreign branch	TASHKENT BRANCH OF THE FEDERAL STATE AUTONOMOUS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION "MOSCOW STATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (UNIVERSITY)" OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION	<i>No profile available</i>									0
65	Private	TEAM University	<i>No profile available</i>									0
66	Foreign branch	Varsovia University of Business and Applied Sciences (Collegium Humanium) Andijan Branch	<i>No profile available</i>									0
67	Foreign branch	Branch of the National Research University 'MPEI' in Tashkent	<i>No profile available</i>									0
68	Private	TMC Institute Tashkent	<i>No profile available</i>									0
69	Foreign branch	Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia Branch in Tashkent city	<i>No profile available</i>									0
70	State	Andijan State Institute of Foreign Languages	<i>No profile available</i>									0
71	Private	Bukhara University of Innovations	<i>No profile available</i>									0
72	Private	Bukhara International University	<i>No profile available</i>									0
73	Private	Korea International University in Fergana	<i>No profile available</i>									0

Rank	Type of ownership	HEI name	Total academic staff	Total publications	Top 1%	Top 10%	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Index	Score
74	Foreign branch	Tashkent Branch of Plekhanov Russian University of Economics	No profile available									0
75	Private	University of Economics and Pedagogy	No profile available									0
76	State	Namangan State Institute of Foreign Languages	No profile available									0
77	State	Kattakurgan State Pedagogical Institute	No profile available									0
78	Foreign branch	Riga Nordic University in Uzbekistan	No profile available									0
79	Private	Urgench RANCH University of Technology	No profile available									0
80	Private	Millat Umidi University	No profile available									0
81	Private	Navoi University of Innovations	No profile available									0
82	Private	Oriental University	No profile available									0
83	Private	University of Asian Technologies	No profile available									0
84	Foreign branch	Sharda University Uzbekistan	No profile available									0
85	State	International Institute of Food Technology and Engineering	No profile available									0
86	Private	Profi University	No profile available									0
87	Private	Karshi International University	No profile available									0
88	State	Samarkand State Pedagogical Institute	No profile available									0
89	Private	Jizzakh Sambhram University	No profile available									0
90	Private	Stars International University	No profile available									0
91	Private	Tashkent University of Humanities	No profile available									0

Rank	Type of ownership	HEI name	Total academic staff	Total publications	Top 1%	Top 10%	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Index	Score
92	Private	Social Innovations university of Tashkent	No profile available									0
93	Private	British Management University in Tashkent	No profile available									0
94	Foreign branch	TOBB University of Economics and Technology in Tashkent	No profile available									0
95	Private	Turon University	No profile available									0
96	Private	Vatan University	No profile available									0
97	Private	International Innovation University	No profile available									0
98	Private	Yangi Asr University	No profile available									0
99	Private	Tashkent University of Economics and Pedagogy	No profile available									0

Table 5. Ranking of social sciences and humanities HEIs by research publication activity based on Scopus data, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

Note: the index is calculated from weighted publication indicators and academic staff numbers (maximum score: 3). For HEIs without a Scopus Institution Profile, the indicator is not calculated and a score of 0 is assigned.

Mamun University ranked first with an index of 15.37 and a score of 3 points. The university recorded 908 research publications, including 167 in Q1 journals, 143 in the Top 10% and 31 in the Top 1%. Calculating these indicators relative to 282 academic staff demonstrates the university's high relative research productivity.

Mamun University ranked first with an index of 15.37 and a score of 3 points. Its 908 publications (Q1 – 167; Top 10% – 143; Top 1% – 31) were assessed relative to 282 academic staff.

The next positions were occupied by Amity University, Tashkent (index 13.37; 2.610 points), International University «Tashkent International University of Education» (TIUE) (9.30; 1.816 points), University of Tashkent for Applied Science (8.27; 1.615 points) and Turan International University (7.71; 1.505 points).

Termez University of Economics and Service (5.95; 1.162 points), Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Biruni (5.81; 1.134 points), National Pedagogical University of Uzbekistan Named after Nizami (5.24; 1.022 points) and Alfraganus University (5.23; 1.021 points) also recorded strong results.

Although Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Biruni led by publication volume with 1,218 outputs, it ranked seventh on the index, while Mamun University, third by publication count, ranked first in relative research productivity.

This illustrates the distinction between absolute publication volume and relative research productivity.

HEIs with smaller academic staff bases may record higher index values. Results should therefore be interpreted in conjunction with institutional scale and publication volume and quality. Scopus Institution Profiles and the necessary data were available for 62 HEIs, while the indicator was not calculated for 38 institutions because they did not have a profile.

8.5. Key findings

First, the social sciences and humanities category was the largest by both number of institutions and research publication volume.

The 62 HEIs with a Scopus Institution Profile recorded 10,423 research publications, equivalent to 56.6 per cent of all publications included in the analysis.

Second, Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Biruni, Tashkent State University of Economics and Mamun University recorded high results in total research publication volume.

The leading group was not limited to these universities. Samarkand State University named after Sharof Rashidov, Termez University of Economics and Service, National Pedagogical University of Uzbekistan Named after Nizami, Alfraganus University and University of Tashkent for Applied Science also demonstrated substantial research publication activity.

Third, 59.2 per cent of the 7,825 publications with an identified quartile appeared in Q1 and Q2 journals. The source records 1,542 Top 10% publications and 2 Top 1% publications, indicating a body of research with international citation impact within the category.

Fourth, leadership in total publication volume and leadership on the ranking index were held by different HEIs.

Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Biruni ranked first in absolute terms with 1,218 publications, while Mamun University led the ranking with an index of 15.37 and a score of 3 points. This demonstrates the need to consider publication volume alongside quartile and highly cited publication composition and performance calculated relative to academic staff.

Fifth, although the social sciences and humanities category contains a comparatively broad group of research-active HEIs, substantial differences remain between institutions in publication volume and relative research productivity.

In particular, a relatively large share of HEIs in this category—38 institutions—do not have a Scopus Institution Profile.

IX. HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN THE CREATIVE ARTS (SPORT) CATEGORY

9.1. Overview of the category

The creative arts (sport) category is the smallest in the analysis by number of institutions that both participate in the national ranking and have a Scopus Institution Profile.

The category comprises three HEIs employing a total of 1,231 academic staff. Together, they recorded 16 research publications in Scopus.

Fifteen publications were classified by quartile: Q1 – one; Q2 – seven; Q3 – six; and Q4 – one. There were no publications in the Top 10% or Top 1% citation categories. The category averaged 5.3 Scopus publications per HEI and 1.3 publications per 100 academic staff.

Although these indicators are lower than in other categories, they do not fully represent the overall performance of creative arts (sport) HEIs. Outputs in art, culture and sport often take forms other than conventional research publications.

9.2. Distinctive features of research activity

Assessment of HEIs in the creative arts (sport) category should take account of field-specific forms of output.

In art and culture, these may include works, compositions, performances, exhibitions, design and digital products; in sport, they may include training methodologies, preparation technologies and professional achievements.

Because a substantial share of such outputs is not recorded in Scopus as publications, the 16 publications identified do not fully represent the overall performance of these HEIs.

This approach is consistent with international practice. In the United Kingdom's REF 2021, artefacts, compositions, designs, exhibitions, performances and digital or visual media may be submitted and assessed as research outputs.⁸

⁸ Research Excellence Framework. *Submitting practice research outputs to REF 2021*. URL: <https://2021.ref.ac.uk/media/1238/submitting-practice-research-outputs-to-ref2021.pdf> (24.07.2026).

Scopus indicators should therefore not be used as the sole criterion and should be complemented by consideration of creative works, performances, design outputs, sporting achievements and expert assessment.

A low Scopus indicator may reflect not only a lower level of activity, but also the production of outputs in forms not captured by bibliometric databases.

9.3. Ranking results

Ranking results for HEIs in the creative arts (sport) category are based on an index calculated from weighted research-publication indicators and academic staff numbers.

Because publication volume in this category is low, the ranking results reflect only the research publication activity captured in Scopus.

The ranking results for HEIs in the category are presented in Table 6.

Rank	Type of ownership	HEI name	Total academic staff	Total publications	Top 1%	Top 10%	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Index	Score
1	State	Uzbek State University of Physical Education and Sport	497	11	0	0	0	6	5	0	0.11	2,000
2	State	UzSIAC The Uzbekistan State Institute of Arts and Culture	445	4	0	0	1	0	1	1	0.03	0,519
3	State	The National Institute of Fine Art and Design named after Kamoliddin Behzod	289	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.02	0,369
4	Foreign branch	Branch of the Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution of Higher Education "S.A. Gerasimov All-Russian State Institute of Cinematography" (VGIK) in Tashkent City.	No profile available									0
5	State	Uzbekistan State Conservatory	No profile available									0
6	State	State Academy of Choreography of Uzbekistan	No profile available									0
7	State	National Institute of Variety Arts named after Batir Zakirov	No profile available									0
8	State	UZBEKISTAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MUSICAL ART NAMED AFTER YUNUS RAJABI	No profile available									0

9	State	UzSIAC The Uzbekistan State Institute of Arts and Culture	<i>No profile available</i>	0
10	State	Nukus branch of the Uzbek state University of Physical education and sport	<i>No profile available</i>	0
11	State	Nukus Branch of the Uzbekistan State Conservatory	<i>No profile available</i>	0
12	State	Urgench branch of the Uzbek State Academy of Choreography	<i>No profile available</i>	0

Table 6. Ranking of creative arts (sport) HEIs by research publication activity based on Scopus data, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

Note: the index is calculated from weighted publication indicators and academic staff numbers (maximum score: 2). For HEIs without a Scopus Institution Profile, the indicator is not calculated and a score of 0 is assigned.

Uzbek State University of Physical Education and Sport ranked first with an index of 0.11 and a score of 2 points. Its 11 publications (Q2 – six; Q3 – five) accounted for 68.8 per cent of the category's total publications.

It was followed by the UzSIAC The Uzbekistan State Institute of Arts and Culture (index 0.03; 0.519 points; four publications, including one each in Q1, Q3 and Q4) and the National Institute of Fine Arts and Design (index 0.02; 0.369 points; one Q2 publication).

Only three of the 12 HEIs in the category had both a Scopus Institution Profile and the data required for calculation. Because the ranking is based on only 16 publications in total, it should not be interpreted as a stable or comprehensive assessment of research performance.

9.4. Key findings

First, only three of the 12 HEIs in the creative arts (sport) category had a Scopus Institution Profile, and they recorded a combined 16 publications. This equates to an average of 5.3 publications per HEI and 1.3 publications per 100 academic staff.

Second, of the 15 publications with an identified quartile, one appeared in a Q1 journal, seven in Q2, six in Q3 and one in Q4. No publications were recorded in the Top 10% or Top 1% citation categories.

Third, Uzbek State University of Physical Education and Sport led the category with 11 publications (68.8 per cent), an index of 0.11 and a score of 2 points. It was followed by the UzSIAC The Uzbekistan State Institute of Arts and Culture and the National Institute of Fine Arts and Design.

Fourth, the absence of a Scopus Institution Profile at nine HEIs and the incomplete capture of field-specific outputs in the database limit the coverage of the analysis.

X. SYSTEMIC DISPARITIES AND RESEARCH LEADERSHIP

10.1. Leading results by HEI category

The analysis in the preceding chapters identified leading institutions in each HEI category in terms of total research publication volume, participation in higher-quartile journals and international citation impact.

Leadership is not distributed uniformly across categories: in some categories a single HEI leads on several indicators, while in others leadership is shared among different institutions.

Table 7 summarises the leading institutions on the principal research indicators by HEI category.

Table 7. Leaders on principal research indicators by HEI category, 2025

HEI category	Total publications	Q1 publications	Top 10% publications	Top 1% publications
TOP 1000	TIIAME NRU1,017	TIIAME NRU264	TIIAME NRU127	TIIAME NRU17
Applied	Tashkent State Transport University558	New Uzbekistan University328	New Uzbekistan University173	New Uzbekistan University21
Medical	Tashkent State Medical University413	Central Asian University in Tashkent - CAU 73	Samarkand State Medical University37	Central Asian University in Tashkent - CAU 3
Social sciences and humanities	Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Biruni1,218	Tashkent State University of Economics377	Tashkent State University of Economics227	Tashkent State University of Economics54
Creative arts (sport)	Uzbek State University of Physical Education and Sport11	UzSIAC The Uzbekistan State Institute of Arts and Culture1	–	–

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

Within the TOP 1000 category, National Research University "TIIAME" led on all four principal indicators.

In the applied category, Tashkent State Transport University led in total publication volume, while New Uzbekistan University led in Q1, Top 10% and Top 1% publications.

In the medical category, Tashkent State Medical University led in total publication volume, Central Asian University in Tashkent - CAU in Q1 and Top 1%, and Samarkand State Medical University in Top 10% publications.

In the social sciences and humanities category, Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Biruni was the national leader in total publication volume with 1,218 outputs, while Tashkent State University of Economics led in Q1 (377), Top 10% (227) and Top 1% (54) publications.

In the creative arts (sport) category, Uzbek State University of Physical Education and Sport led in total publication volume, while the UzSIAC The Uzbekistan State Institute of Arts and Culture led in Q1 publications. No Top 10% or Top 1% publications were recorded.

The results demonstrate that leadership in total publication volume does not necessarily imply leadership in higher-quartile or highly cited publications. Research performance should therefore be assessed jointly through publication volume, quartiles, citation impact and performance relative to academic staff.

10.2. National leaders in research publication activity

Because HEI ranking scores are normalised separately within categories and maximum scores differ, they cannot be compared directly at national level.

National leaders were therefore identified using total publication volume and the Q1, Top 10% and Top 1% indicators.

Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Biruni recorded the highest result among all HEIs, with 1,218 publications, including 303 Q1, 206 Top 10% and 32 Top 1% publications.

Tashkent State University of Economics recorded 989 publications in total, including 377 Q1, 227 Top 10% and 54 Top 1% publications, making it the national leader on the latter three indicators.

New Uzbekistan University recorded 507 publications, including 328 Q1, 173 Top 10% and 21 Top 1% publications. Achieving these results with 95 academic staff indicates high relative research productivity.

National Research University "TIIAME" led the TOP 1000 category with 1,017 publications in total, including 264 Q1, 127 Top 10% and 17 Top 1% publications.

The National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek recorded 966 publications, Mamun University 908 and Samarkand State University named after Sharof Rashidov 745. Mamun University's 143 Top 10% and 31 Top 1% publications indicate strong international citation impact.

Although National Pedagogical University of Uzbekistan Named after Nizami recorded 483 publications in total, 313 were in Q1 journals and 167 fell within the Top 10%. This confirms that HEIs with comparatively lower publication volume may still have a high share of higher-quality outputs.

Overall, the results indicate that Uzbekistan has developed a group of HEIs with strong performance in publication volume, journal quartiles and international citation impact.

10.3. Concentration of research publication activity across HEIs

In 2025, the Scopus Institution Profiles of the 105 HEIs included in the analysis contained a total of 18,424 research publications. Their distribution across institutions varied substantially.

Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Biruni, National Research University "TIIAME" and Tashkent State University of Economics together accounted for 3,224 publications, or 17.5 per cent of the total.

The top five HEIs, including the National University of Uzbekistan named after Mirzo Ulugbek and Mamun University, accounted for 5,098 publications, or 27.7 per cent.

The top 10 HEIs accounted for 8,288 publications. In other words, this group, representing 9.5 per cent of the HEIs in the analysis, produced 45 per cent of all publications. The remaining 95 HEIs accounted for 10,136 publications, or 55 per cent.

This indicates that a substantial share of Scopus publications is concentrated in a limited number of HEIs. However, results are influenced not only by research capacity but also by institutional scale, academic staff, subject mix, infrastructure, international collaboration and the completeness of the Scopus Institution Profile.

The degree of concentration should therefore be assessed alongside ranking scores, performance relative to academic staff, journal quartiles and citation impact.

10.4. HEIs with limited research publication activity

The 2025 analysis included 105 HEIs with a Scopus Institution Profile, which together recorded 18,424 research publications.

The HEIs with the lowest number of research publications recorded in Scopus are presented in Table 8.

HEI name	Publications
The National Institute of Fine Art and Design named after Kamoliddin Behzod	1
The Branch of the Russian State University of Oil and Gas (National Research University) named after Ivan Mikhaylovich Gubkin in Tashkent	4
University of Exact and Social Sciences	4
Journalism and Mass Communication University of Uzbekistan	4
UzSIAC The Uzbekistan State Institute of Arts and Culture	4

Table 8. HEIs with the lowest number of research publications recorded in Scopus, 2025

Source: authors' calculations based on Scopus data.

A total of 17 publications were recorded across these five HEIs, representing approximately 0.1 per cent of all publications.

The lowest result was recorded by the National Institute of Fine Arts and Design, with one publication. By comparison, the national leader, Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Biruni, recorded 1,218 publications—a difference of 1,217.

However, a low publication count does not necessarily indicate weak overall research or creative capacity. Results may be influenced by an HEI's field profile, scale, age, publication traditions and the completeness of its Scopus Institution Profile.

In art and design, for example, outputs may also take the form of exhibitions, creative works and projects.

Assessment of these HEIs should therefore consider field-specific characteristics, academic staff and the extent to which the Scopus Institution Profile captures relevant data, alongside publication counts.

10.5. HEIs without a Scopus Institution Profile

The analysis records 63 HEIs without a Scopus Institution Profile. The full list is provided in Annex 1.

Of these HEIs, 34 are in the social sciences and humanities category, 12 in the applied category, nine in creative arts (sport) and six in the medical category. The source table does not specify a category for the remaining two institutions.

Scopus Institution Profiles are generated algorithmically from affiliation information in publications. Variations in the way an institution's name is recorded may result in some publications being omitted from a profile or split across multiple profiles. Elsevier therefore recommends regular checks of alternative names and publications assigned to the profile.⁹

The absence of a Scopus Institution Profile does not mean that an HEI has no research activity or no publications indexed in Scopus.

However, it limits the ability to assess publications, citations and international collaboration outcomes comprehensively at institutional level.

HEIs should therefore align their primary and alternative names, use a consistent affiliation format in publications, consolidate fragmented profiles and regularly review the publications assigned to them.

10.6. Key findings

The analysis shows substantial variation in research publication activity both across HEI categories and between individual institutions.

First, the social sciences and humanities category led in total publication volume, while the TOP 1000 category led in average publications per HEI. These results should be assessed in light of differences in the number, scale and academic staff of HEIs.

⁹ Elsevier. *How do I use the Institution Profile Wizard?* Scopus Support Center.
URL: https://service.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/25553/supporthub/scopus/ (24.07.2026).

Second, national research leadership is multidimensional. Urgench State University named after Abu Rayhan Biruni led in total publication volume, while Tashkent State University of Economics led in Q1, Top 10% and Top 1% publications. Other HEIs also achieved strong results on individual indicators.

Third, the top 10 of the 105 HEIs produced 45 per cent of all publications. This points to the need to broaden the group of research-active institutions.

Fourth, the five HEIs with the lowest publication counts recorded a combined 17 publications. These results should be interpreted alongside institutional field profile, scale, age and the forms through which research outputs are disseminated.

Fifth, the absence of a Scopus Institution Profile at 63 HEIs limits data coverage. Affiliation data should therefore be standardised and institution profiles improved and maintained.

Overall, differentiated measures should be developed for different HEI categories in line with their field-specific characteristics and research capacity.

XI. PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING RESEARCH PUBLICATION ACTIVITY

The analysis shows growth in the research publications and international citation impact of Uzbekistan's HEIs, but also an uneven distribution of results across institutions.

Strong performance is concentrated in a limited number of HEIs, publication activity is low in some institutions, and 63 HEIs do not have a Scopus Institution Profile.

Recommendations should therefore extend beyond increasing publication counts to encompass quality, citation impact, research integrity, field-specific characteristics and data completeness.

11.1. Improving the quality of research publications

Assessment of HEIs should consider not only publication numbers, but also publications in Q1 and Q2 journals, Top 10% and Top 1% outputs, and field-normalised citation impact.

Each HEI's research development programme should define priority research areas, target journals, responsibilities of research teams and criteria for assessing outcomes.

It is advisable to introduce internal review of manuscripts before journal submission, covering methodology, data analysis, research novelty, research ethics and academic style.

Practical programmes in academic writing, statistical analysis and journal selection should be provided for academic staff, alongside services in bibliometric analysis, scientific editing, statistical consultancy and research data management.

11.2. Research integrity and monitoring retracted publications

Information on retracted publications should also be considered when assessing the quality of research outputs.

Retraction is a formal corrective mechanism applied when serious concerns arise about the reliability of a publication after it has been published.

According to calculations by the National Agency, 368 of 19,729 Scopus publications affiliated with Uzbekistan during 2022–2024 were retracted, equivalent to 1.87 per cent.

The data were compiled as at 30 January 2026 and do not include subsequent changes.¹⁰

When publishing this indicator, the unit of analysis, procedures for removing duplicate records, data sources and criteria for determining retraction status should be stated transparently.

A retraction does not automatically establish research misconduct by an author or HEI. It may result from a serious methodological or computational error, unreliable findings, duplicate publication, plagiarism or a breach of research ethics. In line with COPE guidance, each case should therefore be examined individually on the basis of the official retraction notice.¹¹

For the national ranking, publications formally retracted by the calculation date should be excluded from total publication counts and from Q1–Q4, Top 10% and Top 1% indicators.

However, applying an additional negative score for such a publication should be considered only after the reason for retraction, the HEI's responsibility and the procedure for appeal have been defined.

In Times Higher Education practice, publications identified as retracted in Scopus are likewise excluded from bibliometric calculations.¹²

A regularly updated register should be established using Scopus, Crossref–Retraction Watch and official publisher notices.

The register should record the DOI, publication and retraction dates, reason, official notice, authors, affiliations and verification status, while distinguishing retractions, corrections, expressions of concern and reinstatements.¹³

¹⁰National Agency calculations based on Scopus data retrieved as at 30 January 2026.

¹¹ COPE Council. *COPE Retraction Guidelines — English*. Version 2, November 2019.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.24318/cope.2019.1.4> (24.07.2026).

¹² Times Higher Education. *World University Rankings 2024: Questions and Answers*. APAC Session.

URL: https://www.timeshighereducation.com/sites/default/files/wur_mc_-_apac_qa.pdf (24.07.2026).

¹³ Crossref. *Retraction Watch: Documentation*.

URL: <https://www.crossref.org/documentation/retrieve-metadata/retraction-watch/> (24.07.2026).

Retraction data should be used not as a punitive instrument, but as a mechanism for strengthening research reliability and preventing poor publication practices.

11.3. Strengthening international citation impact

Between 2023 and 2025, the number of Top 10% publications increased from 452 to 1,156. However, Top 1% publications declined from 91 in 2024 to 78 in 2025. This indicates the need for additional measures to sustain the production of research with the highest levels of impact.

HEIs should identify high-impact topics, research centres and partners in priority subject areas and develop long-term research programmes and joint projects with leading international research groups.

High-quality article titles, abstracts and keywords, accurate maintenance of ORCID profiles, consistent institutional affiliation formats and wider use of open research data can strengthen the international visibility of publications.

Trends in Top 10% and Top 1% publications should be monitored annually using field-, year- and document-type-normalised measures.

Self-citation, coordinated reciprocal citation and artificial citation inflation should not be permitted.

11.4. Supporting HEIs with limited research publication activity

Support measures should be tailored to an HEI's subject profile, scale, age, human-resource capacity, research infrastructure and the status of its Scopus Institution Profile.

Each HEI should undertake a diagnostic assessment of the factors constraining research publication activity and use the findings to develop a three-year improvement plan.

The plan should set realistic indicators for publication quality, research projects, international co-authorship and participation by early-career researchers.

Inter-institutional advisory networks should be established around research-active universities to provide practical support in research methodology, project development, data analysis and manuscript preparation.

Small research grants, shared laboratories, protected research time and centralised academic-writing and statistical-advisory services should be introduced.

Support should not become an administrative publication-quota system. For HEIs in the creative arts (sport) category, creative works and sporting outcomes should be considered alongside research articles.

11.5. Improving the management of Scopus Institution Profiles

The analysis records 63 HEIs without a Scopus Institution Profile.¹⁴

Even where profiles exist, there is a risk that publications may be split across different profiles or incorrectly assigned to another institution.

Each HEI should designate an authorised person responsible for maintaining its Scopus Institution Profile and regularly reviewing official and alternative names, organisational structure, addresses and assigned publications.

The official forms of each HEI's name in Uzbek, Russian and English should be approved and a single affiliation standard developed for research publications. The standard should specify the format for the institution name, structural unit, city and country. An author's institutional email address should be provided separately as contact information.

The Institution Profile Wizard can be used to create a profile, add alternative names, update hierarchies and request corrections for incorrectly assigned publications. Only users authorised by the HEI may use this tool, and requests may require time to be reviewed.¹⁵

At national level, it would be appropriate to establish an electronic register containing each HEI's official name, Scopus identifier, alternative names, profile status, publication count and date of the most recent review.¹⁶

Before ranking calculations are finalised, preliminary data should be provided to HEIs for verification, with a clear deadline for submitting evidence and requesting corrections to errors or missing information. HEIs without a profile should receive targeted methodological support.

¹⁴National Agency calculations based on Scopus data and Annex 1.

¹⁵ Elsevier. *About the Institution Profile Wizard*. Scopus Support Center.

URL: https://service.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/25554/supporthub/scopus/ (24.07.2026).

¹⁶ Elsevier. *How do I use the Institution Profile Wizard?* Scopus Support Center.

URL: https://service.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/25553/supporthub/scopus/ (24.07.2026).

These measures would improve the completeness and reliability of Scopus data, support accurate representation of HEI research performance and reduce data errors in national ranking calculations.

11.6. Expanding international research collaboration

International collaboration strategies should be based on an HEI's priority subject areas and research capacity. Partner selection should consider not only ranking position but also subject-specific performance, infrastructure and track record of collaboration.

Collaboration should be developed through joint projects and laboratories, international grants, co-supervision of doctoral researchers, researcher mobility and shared use of research data. Formal or nominal co-authorship should be avoided, and the contribution and responsibility of each author should be defined.

Performance should be assessed not by the number of agreements signed, but by joint projects, grants secured, higher-quartile and highly cited publications, co-supervision and researcher mobility.

The Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2025 methodology also assigns a 2.5 per cent weight to international co-authorship within the International Outlook pillar.¹⁷

11.7. Introducing differentiated approaches tailored to HEI categories

Applying identical requirements to all HEIs does not fully account for differences in disciplinary profile and research capacity. International practice similarly adapts assessment criteria to field-specific publication and citation patterns.¹⁸

For TOP 1000 universities, priorities should include Top 10% and Top 1% publications, major international projects and collaboration with leading research centres.

¹⁷ Times Higher Education. *World University Rankings 2025: Methodology*.

URL: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/world-university-rankings-2025-methodology> (24.07.2026).

¹⁸ Times Higher Education. *World University Rankings by Subject 2026: Methodology*.

URL: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/world-university-rankings-subject-2026-methodology> (24.07.2026).

In the applied category, research addressing challenges in industry and the economy, industrial collaboration and applied outcomes should be encouraged.

In the medical category, priority should be given to the quality of clinical and biomedical research, research ethics, data reliability and collaboration with international medical centres.

In the social sciences and humanities category, assessment should consider not only publication volume but also the relevance of research to society and public policy and its capacity to bring national data and evidence into international scholarly debate.

In the creative arts (sport) category, Scopus publications should not be the sole criterion; creative works, exhibitions, stage productions, sporting results, methodological outputs and practical contributions should also be considered through expert assessment.

HEIs may be grouped by stage of research development into leading, steadily developing, publication-constrained and institutions without an established Scopus Institution Profile. Indicators for each group should reflect its starting position and existing capacity.

A differentiated approach does not mean lowering requirements; it means aligning them with an HEI's mission, subject profile and stage of development.

XII. CONCLUSION

This review provides a comprehensive assessment of trends in research publications affiliated with Uzbekistan during 2023–2025 and the 2025 Scopus performance of HEIs covered by the national ranking.

First, the number of unique Scopus-indexed publications increased from 7,151 in 2023 to 10,771 in 2025, a rise of 50.6 per cent.

Second, Q1 publications increased by 168.8 per cent and Top 10% publications by 155.8 per cent.

However, 46.6 per cent of publications with an identified quartile appeared in Q1 and Q2 journals and 53.4 per cent in Q3 and Q4, while Top 1% publications declined from 91 to 78. Sustaining the production of research with the highest impact therefore remains an important priority.

Third, HEI results varied according to institutional category, scale and subject profile.

The social sciences and humanities category led in total publication volume, while the TOP 1000 category led in average publications per HEI. Assessment should therefore consider institutional scale, academic staff and field-specific characteristics alongside absolute counts.

Fourth, national research leadership is multidimensional, with different HEIs leading on publication volume, Q1, Top 10%, Top 1% and relative research productivity.

The fact that the top 10 HEIs accounted for 45 per cent of all publications points to the need to broaden the group of research-active institutions.

Fifth, data coverage has a direct bearing on ranking reliability. The 10,771 unique publications recorded nationally cannot be directly compared with the aggregate 18,424 publications across the Scopus Institution Profiles of 105 HEIs, because a single publication may be counted under more than one HEI affiliation.

The absence of a Scopus Institution Profile at 63 HEIs also demonstrates the need to improve the standardisation of affiliation data and the management of institutional profiles.

Sixth, growth in publication volume should be accompanied by research integrity and the reliability of research outcomes.

Retracted publications should be removed from positive indicators, but an HEI should not automatically receive a negative assessment before the reason for each retraction and the degree of institutional responsibility have been established.

The central conclusion of the analysis is that Uzbekistan's higher education system is moving from a phase focused primarily on quantitative growth in research publications towards the systematic management of their quality, impact and reliability.

The next priority is to sustain the production of high-impact and practically relevant research and to broaden the group of HEIs with the capacity to deliver such outcomes.

LIST OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS WITHOUT A SCOPUS INSTITUTION PROFILE

(as at 30 June 2026)

This annex lists 63 HEIs for which no Scopus Institution Profile was identified during the analytical period. The absence of a Scopus Institution Profile does not mean that the academic staff of an HEI have no research publications indexed in Scopus. Some publications may appear in author profiles but may not have been consolidated under a single institution profile.

No	HEI name	Category
1	Branch of the Federal State Autonomous Higher Educational Institution "National Research Nuclear University MEPhI" in Tashkent	Applied
2	Branch of National University of Science and Technology MISIS in Almalyk	Applied
3	Branch of Astrakhan State University in Tashkent	Applied
4	The Tashkent Branch of Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology of Russia	Applied
5	IT-Park University	Applied
6	Nukus State Technical University	Applied
7	Samarkand Agroinnovations and Research University	Applied
8	Tashkent Institute of Chemical Technology Yangiyer branch	Applied
9	Ajou University in Tashkent	Applied
10	Bucheon University in Tashkent	Applied
11	Japan Digital University	Applied
12	Tashkent Branch of Samarkand Institute of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Husbandry and Biotechnologies	Applied
13	Urgench State Medical Institute	Medical
14	Bukhara Innovative Education and Medical University	Medical
15	Central Asian Medical University	Medical
16	Karakalpakstan Medical Institute	Medical
17	Branch of the Federal State Autonomous Education Institutuion of Higher Education "Kazan (Volga	Medical

	region) Federal University” in the city of Jizzakh of Republic of Uzbekistan	
18	TASHKENT BRANCH OF THE RUSSIAN NATIONAL RESEARCH MEDICAL UNIVERSITY named after N.I. PIROGOV. in Tashkent	Medical
19	TASHKENT BRANCH OF THE FEDERAL STATE AUTONOMOUS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION "MOSCOW STATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (UNIVERSITY)" OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION	Social sciences and humanities
20	TEAM University	Social sciences and humanities
21	Varsovia University of Business and Applied Sciences (Collegium Humanum) Andijan Branch	Social sciences and humanities
22	Branch of the National Research University 'MPEI' in Tashkent	Social sciences and humanities
23	TMC Institute Tashkent	Social sciences and humanities
24	Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia Branch in Tashkent city	Social sciences and humanities
25	Andijan State Institute of Foreign Languages	Social sciences and humanities
26	Bukhara university of innovations	Social sciences and humanities
27	Bukhara International University	Social sciences and humanities
28	Korea International University in Fergana	Social sciences and humanities
29	Tashkent Branch of Plekhanov Russian University of Economics	Social sciences and humanities
30	University of Economics and Pedagogy	Social sciences and humanities
31	Namangan State Institute of Foreign Languages	Social sciences and humanities
32	Kattakurgan State Pedagogical Institute	Social sciences and humanities
33	Riga Nordic University in Uzbekistan	Social sciences and humanities
34	Millat Umidi University	Social sciences and humanities
35	Navoi University of Innovations	Social sciences and humanities

36	Oriental University	Social sciences and humanities
37	University of Asian Technologies	Social sciences and humanities
38	Sharda University Uzbekistan	Social sciences and humanities
39	International Institute of Food Technology and Engineering	Social sciences and humanities
40	Profi University	Social sciences and humanities
41	Karshi International University	Social sciences and humanities
42	Samarkand State Pedagogical Institute	Social sciences and humanities
43	Jizzakh Sambhram University	Social sciences and humanities
44	Stars International University	Social sciences and humanities
45	Tashkent University of Humanities	Social sciences and humanities
46	Social Innovations university of Tashkent	Social sciences and humanities
47	Tashkent University of Economics and Technologies	Social sciences and humanities
48	British Management University in Tashkent	Social sciences and humanities
49	TOBB University of Economics and Technology in Tashkent	Social sciences and humanities
50	Turon University	Social sciences and humanities
51	Urgench RANCH University of Technology	Social sciences and humanities
52	Vatan University	Social sciences and humanities
53	International Innovation University	Social sciences and humanities
54	Yangi Asr University	Social sciences and humanities
55	Branch of the Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution of Higher Education "S.A. Gerasimov All-Russian State Institute of Cinematography" (VGIK) in Tashkent City.	Creative arts (sport)

56	Uzbekistan State Conservatory	Creative arts (sport)
57	State Academy of Choreography of Uzbekistan	Creative arts (sport)
58	National Institute of Variety Arts named after Batir Zakirov	Creative arts (sport)
59	UZBEKISTAN NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MUSICAL ART NAMED AFTER YUNUS RAJABI	Creative arts (sport)
60	UzSIAC The Uzbekistan State Institute of Arts and Culture	Creative arts (sport)
61	Nukus branch of the Uzbek state University of Physical education and sport	Creative arts (sport)
62	Nukus Branch of the Uzbekistan State Conservatory	Creative arts (sport)
63	Urgench branch of the Uzbek State Academy of Choreography	Creative arts (sport)

Source: National Agency calculations based on Scopus data.

LIST OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE RANKING UNDER THE NATIONAL RANKING REQUIREMENTS

Under the Regulation on the National Ranking of Higher Education Institutions, 32 HEIs that have been operating for less than three years or have no graduates do not participate in the national ranking for 2025. Of these, 23 have no graduates and nine have been operating for less than three years.

No	HEI name	Category	Reason
1	Cyber University of Uzbekistan	Applied	Operating period of less than three years
2	Branch of St. Petersburg State University in Tashkent	Applied	No graduates
3	Acharya University	Applied	No graduates
4	Al-Khwarizmi University	Applied	Operating period of less than three years
5	Digital University	Applied	No graduates
6	PDP University	Applied	No graduates
7	Samarkand International University of Technology	Applied	No graduates
8	Pisa University in Tashkent	Applied	No graduates
9	Impulse Medical Institute	Medical	No graduates
10	EMU-University	Medical	No graduates
11	Pharmaceutical Technical University	Medical	No graduates
12	Chirchik Branch of Tashkent State Medical University	Medical	Operating period of less than three years
13	Tashkent Metropolitan University	Social sciences and humanities	No graduates
14	Abu Rayhon Beruniy University	Social sciences and humanities	Operating period of less than three years
15	Silk Road Innovations University	Social sciences and humanities	No graduates

16	Branch of Auezov South Kazakhstan University in Chirchik	Social sciences and humanities	Operating period of less than three years
17	Oxus University	Social sciences and humanities	Operating period of less than three years
18	Tashkent Perfect University	Social sciences and humanities	No graduates
19	Sarbon University	Social sciences and humanities	No graduates
20	Sharq University	Social sciences and humanities	Operating period of less than three years
21	Tashkent University of Economics and Technologies	Social sciences and humanities	No graduates
22	American University of Technology	Social sciences and humanities	Operating period of less than three years
23	University of Science and Technologies	Social sciences and humanities	No graduates
24	Urgench Innovation University	Social sciences and humanities	No graduates
25	International University of Social Innovations	No category specified	Operating period of less than three years
26	Institute of Social and Political Sciences	Social sciences and humanities	No graduates

27	Green University	Social sciences and humanities	No graduates
28	University of Digital Economics and Agrotechnologies	Social sciences and humanities	No graduates
29	Tashkent International University	Social sciences and humanities	No graduates
30	TIFT University of Financial Management and Technologies	Social sciences and humanities	No graduates
31	University of Business and Science	Social sciences and humanities	No graduates
32	TASHKENT BRANCH OF THE RUSSIAN NATIONAL RESEARCH MEDICAL UNIVERSITY named after N.I. PIROGOV. in Tashkent	Medical	No graduates

Source: National Agency calculations based on national ranking data.

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