“The responsibility weighs heavily on our shoulders. We are very much aware that national policies and multi-million pound decision are influenced by the rankings… We feel we have a duty to improve how we compile the rankings…

“We believe that universities deserve a rigorous, robust and transparent set of rankings – a serious tool for the sector, not just an annual curiosity.”
A new ranking system for a new era.

How do we enhance quality?

- Nature of our 13 indicators means universities only rise by making genuine improvements

- Citation data normalised, so full range of subjects allowed to flourish

- Serious indicators measuring the areas that matter to universities and governments

- Methodology devised in consultation with the sector, not imposed
"We broadly accept the criteria used by THE, which is why our policies are focused on the same areas."
David Willetts, UK minister for universities

"The data collected for the THEWUR provide a useful set of indicators which enable us to analyse the dynamics of higher education development and to comparatively relate excellence to policies”
Dirk Van Damme, Head of the Innovation and Measuring Progress Division (IMEP) at the OECD

"The THE rankings are the principal yardstick we should look to”
Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State for Human Resource Development, India.

“Times Higher Education rankings – now increasingly seen as the gold standard.”
Ferdinand Von Prondzynski, Vice Chancellor, Robert Gordon University
Why do we only rank 400 universities?

- This is not a weakness, but a great strength

- Ranking too many universities means they all compare themselves with Harvard

- Ranking too many could lead to loss of valuable mission diversity

“As a world-class university, Oxford continues to benchmark itself against the best in the world, including the leading US research-intensive universities.”


But not all universities want to benchmark themselves against the best in the world — and nor should they!
What impact will Moocs have on rankings?

• The question is the wrong way round – it is rankings that are shaping Moocs!

• But could we have a world ranking of Moocs one day?

Picture credit: CogDogBlog