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Frequently Asked Questions - Saudi Ranking of Higher Education Institutions

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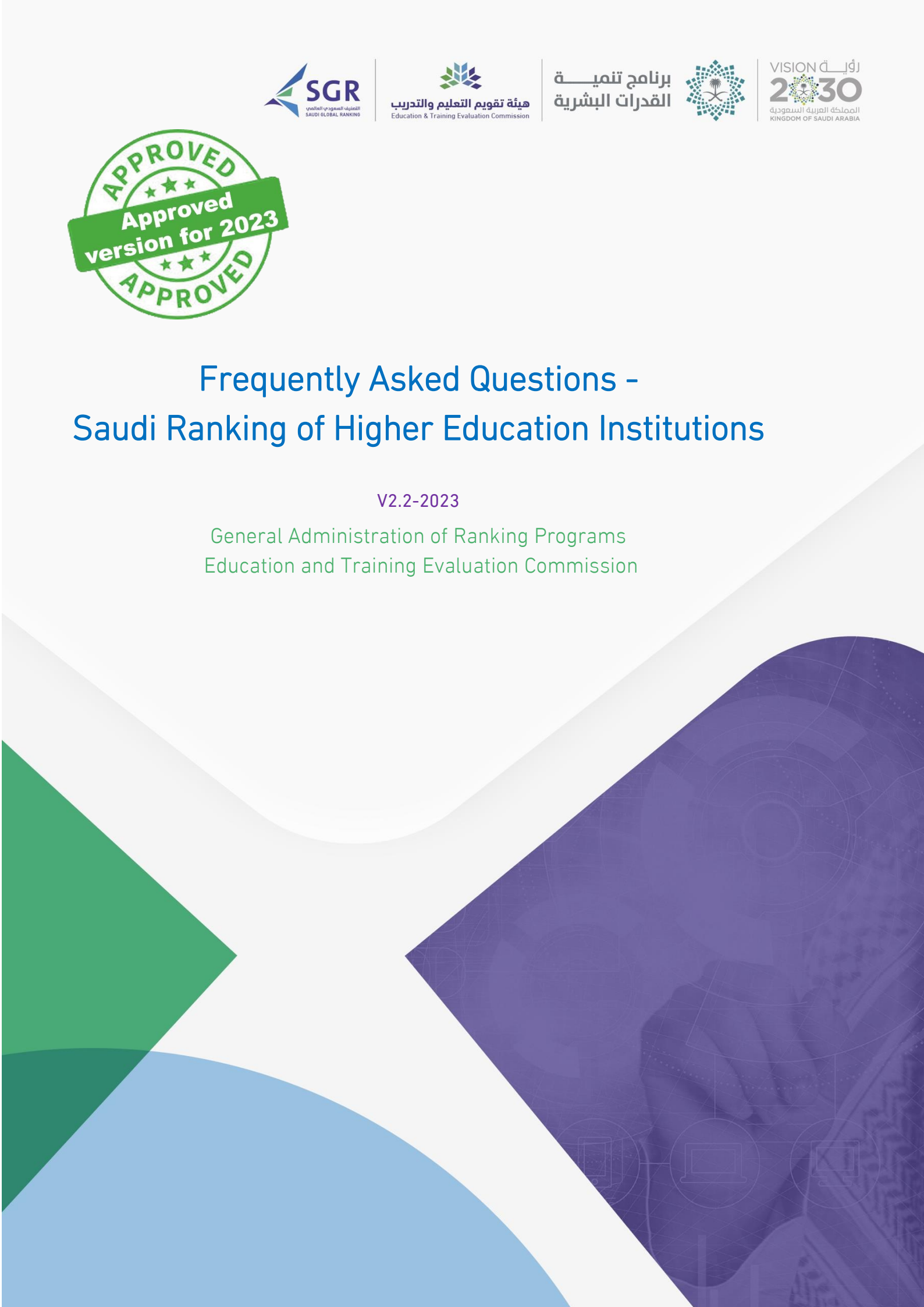
General Administration of Ranking Programs
Education and Training Evaluation Commission



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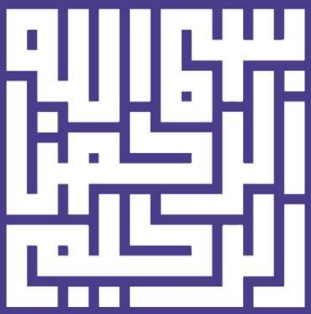

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Frequently Asked Questions Guide about the Saudi Ranking of Higher Education Institutions

This guide includes frequently asked questions related to indicators of the Saudi Ranking of higher education institutions.

	Question	Answer
1	What is Saudi Ranking of higher education institutions?	A mechanism for measuring the performance of higher education institutions within the Kingdom through. It operates through a procedural framework for measuring institutions' performance using an acknowledged methodology that institutions refer and adhere to. And as per fixed standards and indicators, institutions demonstrate their strength or need for development consistent with the level of ranking obtained according to specific categories that highlight the aspects that influence the enhancement of higher education quality, capabilities, and outcomes in local higher education institutions.
2	What are the strategic objectives of the Saudi Ranking of higher education institutions?	Saudi Ranking of Higher Education Institutions aims to: 1. Enhance educational process' quality and excellence. 2. Higher education institutions' Institutional excellence. 3. Raise the level of efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability. 4. Align with the labor market, empower society and promote sustainable development. 5. Stimulate research, development, and innovation.
3	What are Ranking outcomes?	Higher education institutions are ranked according to: • Descending order Higher education institutions are arranged in descending order according to the total number of points measured by the Saudi Ranking Fields and Indicators' Matrix. • Ranking Categories and Indicators Classify by ranking categories and main fields with specific indicators for each category. • Higher Education Institutions Reports Individual educational institutions' reports that include analysis of strengths or potential areas of development and improvement.
4	What is the positive impact expected from implementing Saudi Ranking on higher	Linked to Vision 2030 on the third level: • Achieves several targets of the Human Capability Development Program

	Question	Answer
	education institutions linked to vision 2030 on the third level?	• Promotes a development strategy to achieve excellence and leading performance in global rankings. • Motivates higher education institutions to attract international talents • Promotes social responsibility and volunteering. • Contributes in enabling the leaders to take the necessary measures to address gaps in quality and provide them with data and results to support decision-making, improve spending efficiency and to invest in resources.
5	What is the positive impact expected from implementing the Saudi Ranking of local higher education institutions on higher education institutions and their various components?	• Provides proactive diagnostic indicators that support decision-making and improve expenditure efficiency and resources investment. • Identifies the strengths and shortcomings of higher education institutions, in addition to identifying their development requirements. • Promotes a culture of competitiveness and development among higher education and training institutions. • Promotes the alignment of education outcomes with labor market needs. • Provides career options for faculty members • Encourages cooperation in the fields of scientific research and development with the private sector.
6	What the Saudi Ranking of higher education institutions offers Students and parents?	• It enhances society's educational opportunities to high-quality education by giving parents and students as well an objective criterion for comparing higher education institutions and choosing the suitable one to enroll in. • Contributes to increased after-graduation employment rates. • Motivates partnerships with international exchange programs to encourage students to study abroad. • Motivates the parents' involvement in the educational process.
7	What were the procedures taken before the launch of ranking launch?	• Launching the ranking in a trial phase (participation of a number of educational institutions). • Holding several workshops with officials from public and private educational institutions participating in the trial phase. • Develop and review indicators and methods, after obtaining feedback from participating educational institutions.
8	What is the difference between ranking and academic accreditation?	Ranking of local higher education institutions is an extension that complements institutional and program accreditation, and confirms that educational institutions meet quality standards. Ranking contributes to creating an atmosphere of constructive competition in between higher education institutions with the aim to raise their performance quality.

	Question	Answer
9	What are ranking indicators?	A set of qualitative and quantitative measures for indicators within certain areas (education, research, community service) used to calculate educational institutions' performance to infer the extent they meet the targeted performance standards and rank them according to the degree they have achieved.
10	What are the educational institutions targeted in the Saudi Ranking?	Saudi Ranking of higher education institutions applies to the following bodies: • Public higher education institutions. • Private higher education institutions. • Regional and international higher education institutions licensed to operate within the Kingdom.
11	What are the ranking categories?	Differentiated groups to rank higher education institutions according to specific criteria and indicators, so that each category focuses on a specific area that highlights aspects of excellence and development opportunities in higher education institutions.
12	Will national ranking results include educational institutions' colleges or graduate schools ranking?	At this stage, the ranking will not be by colleges. However, ranking by colleges will hopefully be studied in upcoming publications.
13	What are the stages of managing ranking data?	Data management's integrated lifecycle is as follows: 1. Data Planning 2. Data Governance 3. Data Collection 4. Data Verification 5. Data Cleaning and Processing 6. Data Analysis 7. Data Presentation 8. Data Dissemination and Documentation 9. Data Reports Preparing
14	How is ranking governed?	• Apply unified policies, standards and specific procedures for managing higher education institutions' ranking data at the Kingdom level. • Ensure full compatibility and standardization between the establishment, management and platforms and services of all ranking data.
15	What are the sources of Saudi Ranking of local higher education Institutions' data?	• Local higher education institutions via the electronic ranking data portal. • Other competent parties that owns data about local higher education institutions, such as: o National Observatory of Labor (HRDF). o Volunteering Platform (Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development). o Ministry of Education.

	Question	Answer
		○ Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property. ○ Global Journals and Databases ○ Official or government Reports available in Official Channels.
16	How will research and teaching universities be treated?	Two categories were launched in the first stage of the Saudi ranking of higher education institutions: • Educational Category: all educational institutions, A ranking category that contains areas and indicators that focus on measuring the quality of teaching and learning, alignment with the labor market, and community service. • Comprehensive Category: educational institutions with an academic and research orientation. A ranking category that contains areas and indicators that focus on measuring the quality of teaching and learning, alignment with the labor market, community service, in addition to research activity, and knowledge transfer. Other ranking categories will be launched in coming stages, some of which will be concerned with research-based universities.
17	Will ranking outcomes be in Arabic only?	All of the Ranking outcomes, including the matrices and explanatory guides will be available in both Arabic and English.
18	How will ranking take into account university's individuality in terms of age or being public or private?	This will be done by designing ranking categories of varying focus, in which the Ranking outcomes will be diversified, and its results published. For example, the educational category results will be displayed as follows: • General ranking of all universities. • Ranking of public universities. • Ranking of private universities. • Ranking of newly established universities (less than 20 years old).
19	How will ranking contribute to achieving the Vision's national goals at its third level in improving	Some universities hold a good international ranking, while others do not give the ranking criteria the importance needed, although most seriously seek to achieve quality institutional and program accreditations. And it is expected that ranking will contribute to universities' spirit to prioritize and compete to

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	universities' ranking so that 6 Saudi universities are among the top 100 universities in the world by 2030?	obtain prestigious positions locally, which will reflect at the international level, as local ranking can annually discuss strengths and weaknesses with educational institutions to raise and improve their obtained degree.
20	Will universities be charged ranking fees as it is applied in international ranking?	The Saudi Ranking is a national initiative funded by the Human Capability Development Program, thus, there is no charge for the next five years. At a later phase, some services could be provided for a fee, such as making quantitative and qualitative analysis of universities' performance level, or providing consultations on the methods and mechanisms to improve their performance level.
21	What are the requirements for submitting ranking data?	1. An educational institution must have obtained Institutional Accreditation from an accreditation center (full or conditional), so that the year in which the educational institution is subject to ranking is within the specified period for Institutional Accreditation. 2. The authorized personnel in the higher education institutions delegate representatives to carry out the processes and procedures of the Saudi Ranking in accordance with its specified forms on the electronic platform. 3. Register on the digital platform.
22	What is required of the educational institution after the ranking data application is accepted?	1. Attach required information, data (direct, indirect), and evidence to the electronic platform after verifying their validity and accuracy. Sources of the indirect data must be determined by the Commission before its submission. However, higher educational institutions are responsible for its verification and validity with those official authorities. 2. Adhere to the specified electronic platform time plan. 3. Not disclose information and data resulting from applying for the Saudi International Ranking without obtaining a written permission from the Commission, unless such information and data are not deemed confidential. 4. Archive all documents and paperwork related to the Saudi International Ranking processes and make them available upon the Commission's request. 5. Accept follow-up and control operations carried out by the Commission during field visits to verify information and data related to the Saudi International Ranking. 6. Adhere to relevant instructions and decisions.

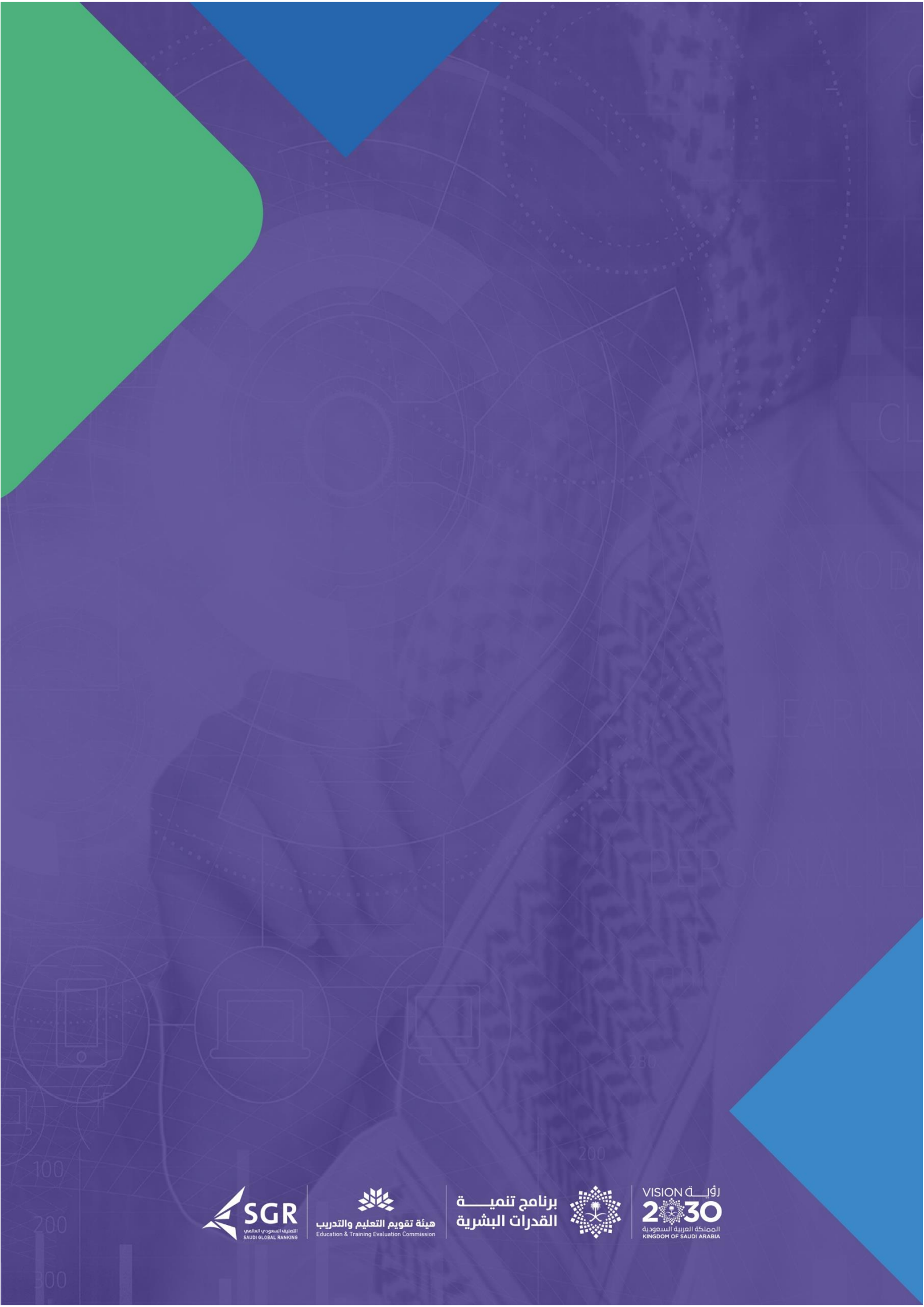
	Question	Answer
23	What documents and evidence should be reviewed before entering data?	1. About the Saudi Ranking of Higher Education Institutions. 2. The Saudi Ranking of Higher Education Institutions Rules and Provisions. 3. The Saudi Ranking of Higher Education Institutions Terminology Guide. 4. The Matrix of Ranking domains and indicators 5. The indicator cards, for the educational and comprehensive categories. 6. The guide for the timeframe and evidence of ranking data collection. 7. E-Services Directory for Accreditation and Ranking Digital Platform 8. Procedural Chart for Requesting Ranking direct and Indirect Data for Higher Education Institutions. 9. The Ranking data's quality elements. 10. Ranking Data Management 11. Guide to Saudi Ranking Frequently Asked Questions.
24	What is meant by evidence?	Attached documents that prove the validity of entered data, provided they are authenticated (stamped) by a responsible authority (such as number of students printed from an academic or administrative system at the educational institutions, or number of faculty printed from HR... etc.).
25	What requirements should attached evidence files meet?	Required conditions in attached evidence files: 1. Must be in PDF format. 2. Should include all evidence related to a data field in a single file. 3. Must be clear and readable. 4. Should be closely related to the information entered in the data field. 5. To be notarized by the educational institution's stamp.

	Question	Answer
26	What are the elements of data quality?	Data Quality Elements: 1. Accurate: Enter data accurately and ensure it is error free. 2. Complete: Data is free of missing values. 3. Numeric: all data must be numeric. 4. Time-bound: Upload the required data at the specified time. 5. Commitment to the specified time: upload required data on time. 6. Authenticated: validate forms for correctness, accuracy, completeness and confidentiality of data. 7. Certified: certify data according to specific roles and responsibilities. 8. Evidenced: attach evidence to all entered data fields.
27	What is the authorization document identifying those responsible for the ranking data?	An official regulatory document that authorized personnel (university president or Dean) delegate each of (the data director, data approval clerk, data reviewer and data entry clerk) as responsible for the process of providing the Education and Training Evaluation Commission with the educational institution's ranking data, and accordingly access permits will be granted to those specified to access the electronic ranking data portal, however access will not sent until the document is signed and uploaded to the digital platform.
28	Who is responsible for the registration process on the ranking digital platform?	Director and data approval clerk at the educational institute.
29	What are the responsibilities of the director and Data Approval Cerk?	1. Attending ranking related workshops provided by the Education and Training Evaluation Commission. 2. Receiving and responding to all ranking related correspondence and requests. 3. Receiving the ranking data request from the General Administration of Ranking Programs at the Education and Training Evaluation Commission. 4. Directing the data reviewer to start the data collection process. 5. Ensuring adherence to data entry deadlines.

	Question	Answer
		6. Ensuring entered data quality: (accurate / complete / numeric / time-bound / authenticated / certificated / documentary evidence). 7. Certifying data entered by the Data Entry Clerk, initially approved by the Data Auditor. 8. Authenticating and validating the ranking data quality and confidentiality document after the data entry process. 9. Submitting approved data to the Education and Training Evaluation Commission in accordance with its time plan.
30	What are the responsibilities of a Data Auditor? Who is responsible for the registration process in the Digital platform?	1. Attending ranking related workshops provided by the Education and Training Evaluation Commission. 2. Authenticating and validating the ranking data quality and confidentiality document prior to and after the data entry process. 3. Directing ranking data collection and entry. 4. Request ranking data from relevant authorities within the educational institution. 5. Matching and validating entered and available data's accuracy, ensuring the evidence upload. 6. Ensure that all evidence is uploaded. 7. Committing to the data entry and delivery timeline. 8. Audit and ensure data entry quality: (accurate / complete / numeric / time-bound / authenticated / certificated / documentary evidence). 9. Checking and submitting data to the authorized data officer for final verification and approval.
31	What are the responsibilities of the Data Entry Clerk?	1. Attending ranking related workshops provided by the Education and Training Evaluation Commission. 2. Authenticating and validating the ranking data quality and confidentiality document prior to and after the data entry process. 3. Audit and ensure data entry quality: (accurate / complete / numeric / time-bound / authenticated / certificated / documentary evidence). 4. Committing to the timeline of the ranking data entry process. 5. Data Entry. 6. Submitting data to the Data Auditor after the completion of data entry.

	Question	Answer
32	Is it possible to nominate more than one data verifier or more than one data validator?	It is not possible to nominate more than one data approval clerk, only one data approval clerk and data reviewer are permitted.
33	Can a higher education institution provide ranking data if the institutional accreditation is invalid or expired?	No, it cannot.
34	How are the ranking results viewed?	Annual results of the ranking are announced through the official media channels of the Education and Training Evaluation Commission after being approved by the authority holder.
35	What is the time period for the data entry process?	44 working days according to the timeframe announced by the Education and Training Evaluation Commission in version V02, and it may be amended in the future.
36	How can inquire about the status of the application in the digital portal?	It is possible to inquire about the status of the application and view its data through: • Log in to the digital portal for accreditation and ranking. • Login to My Orders • Enter the application number (sent from the General Administration of Ranking Programs)
37	What is the timeframe for the data to be submitted?	Kindly, check the timeframe guide through: • Registration in the digital portal for accreditation and ranking. • Entering the educational institution data. • Help guides. o Evidence of the timeframe and evidence.

	Question	Answer
38	Can a higher education institution provide ranking data if the institutional accreditation is invalid or expired?	No, it cannot, as institutional accreditation is a prerequisite for the ranking.
39	Can a higher education institution request the provision of ranking data if is not registered in the accreditation and ranking digital platform?	No, it cannot.
40	How can I get technical and technological support?	In the event of any technical challenges, the Commission can be contacted on the official channels for technical and technological support, which is the unified support platform via the following link: https://support.etec.gov.sa/identity?returnUrl=%2Fticket
41	What are the Education and Training Evaluation Commission communication channels?	• Email for inquiries info@etec.gov.sa • E-mail of the General Administration of Ranking Programs at the National Center for Academic Accreditation and Evaluation: sgr@etec.gov.sa • The unified number: 920033555 Working hours are from Sunday to Thursday from 8 am to 5 pm.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