Why did you choose QS?

Universidad Católica de Colombia recognizes the worldwide experience and reputation of QS measurement systems in the education sector. This led us to focus on the indicators of QS rankings and QS Stars for several years to review and evaluate our progress with the standards of the institutions that are part of this British firm.

What objectives has QS Stars helped you to achieve?

Since 2015 we are participating in QS Stars, this has allowed us to improve the performance of external quality indicators and the internal evaluation system, to respond to the demands of society and the current market. In addition, through the QS Stars consultancy we have identified our strengths, for example, the inclusion and employability of our graduates.

What challenges have you been able to overcome thanks to QS Stars?

Data collection and evidence consolidation is a major challenge. Thanks to QS Stars we have managed to improve the definitions of the indicators, their scope and, tools to collect them. This system has made it possible to standardize reporting and improve internal measurement systems.
What are the key benefits of using QS Stars?

QS Stars becomes an useful tool for institutional self-assessment to improve our quality processes. The indicators are part of our university's measurement system and allow us to compare with other universities worldwide, to achieve high quality standards. In addition, it helped us to make decisions that generate opportunities for improvement in those aspects that must be strengthened.

Describe your audit journey with Stars

They were two months of intense work of meetings with the different academic and administrative departments of the University. In these meetings, the methodology of QS Stars was first explained to them and then the data collection was started, to finally review and evaluate the available information and evidence. We always took into account the previous results, to be able to have clarity about the goal to overcome.

What have you learnt by using QS Stars?

The QS Stars rating system has allowed us to recognize institutional capacities and strengths that generate national and international competitiveness. Universidad Católica de Colombia constantly carries out internal, external audits and self-assessments that help us to improve our processes and thanks to QS Stars we have implemented new indicators to incorporate in our internal measurement system, for example, the first generation of students, virtual teaching, investment in community art, among others.

>>> The QS Stars rating system nos ha permitido reconocer capacidades institucionales y fortalezas que nos generan competitividad a nivel nacional e internacional. La Universidad Católica de Colombia constantemente realiza auditorías internas, externas y autoevaluaciones que nos sirven para mejorar nuestros procesos y gracias a QS Stars hemos implementado nuevos indicadores para incorporar en nuestro sistema interno de medición, por ejemplo, la primera generación de estudiantes, la enseñanza virtual, inversión en arte comunitario, entre otros.
Participating in QS Stars has allowed us to see the evolution and progress of our University in aspects such as the employability of our graduates, the academic development of our students and professors, the social responsibility and internationalization of our programs. Three years ago, Universidad Católica de Colombia received three stars and for this new version not only increased its overall rating, but also improved its position in several of the indicators analysed.

This demonstrates the University’s commitment to continuous improvement and quality, positioning itself increasingly among a select group of universities worldwide that meet high quality standards to equip professionals with qualities and abilities that respond to the needs of today’s world. These results have also been added to our presence for the first time in the QS World Rankings in its 2022 edition, and to the increase of position in the QS LATAM rankings.

Lucia Cacciato Insilla Graterol
Interinstitutional Relations Coordinator

Patricia Serrano Esguerra
Head of International Affairs
QS Stars explained

QS Stars is a globally recognised rating system for higher education institutions. Ratings are achieved through an in-depth assessment across at least eight categories, resulting in an overall rating of 1 to 5+ Stars and a rating of 1 to 5 Stars for each category.

Following the assessment, QS provides a detailed report summarising the results in each category. This allows institutions to recognise their strengths, as well as weaker areas which may require attention and improvement.

The QS Stars package also includes a set of badges with the ratings achieved overall and in each category. Institutions may use these in their own marketing materials to show perspective students their strengths in areas that matter most, such as Teaching and Employability.

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