

# WHAT WOULD A NEW RANKING LOOK LIKE?

Ben Sowter  
Head of Division  
QS Intelligence Unit

**“An old jest runs to the effect that there are three degrees of comparison among liars. There are liars, there are outrageous liars, and there are scientific experts.**

**This has lately been adapted to throw dirt upon statistics. There are three degrees of comparison, it is said, in lying. There are lies, there are outrageous lies, and there are statistics.**

*Robert Giffen*

*President of the Statistical Society, 1882-1884*

# CONTENTS

- QS Classifications
  - Including age as an additional dimension
- Benchmarking
  - Identify and analyse trends amongst international institutions with comparable profile to ATN members
- Modelling
  - Consider and model different approaches to evaluations that take age into consideration

# QS CLASSIFICATIONS

Size	
<b>XL</b>	Very Large >=30,000 Students
<b>L</b>	Large >=12,000 Students
<b>M</b>	Medium >= 5,000 Students
<b>S</b>	Small < 5,000 Students

Research Output	
<b>VH</b>	Very High <i>Threshold relative to size and focus</i>
<b>HI</b>	High <i>Threshold relative to size and focus</i>
<b>MD</b>	Moderate <i>Threshold relative to size and focus</i>
<b>LO</b>	Limited or None <i>Threshold relative to size and focus</i>

Focus	
<b>FC</b>	Fully Comprehensive <i>All 5 faculty areas + medical school</i>

Age?	
<b>1</b>	New <10 years old
<b>2</b>	Young <25 years old
<b>3</b>	Established <50 years old
<b>4</b>	Mature <100 years old
<b>5</b>	Historic >=100 years old

## AGE FOR UNIVERSITIES

### Foundation Year

- The year to which an institution can trace its roots.
- Often the year the first institution was established at the current institution's principal location

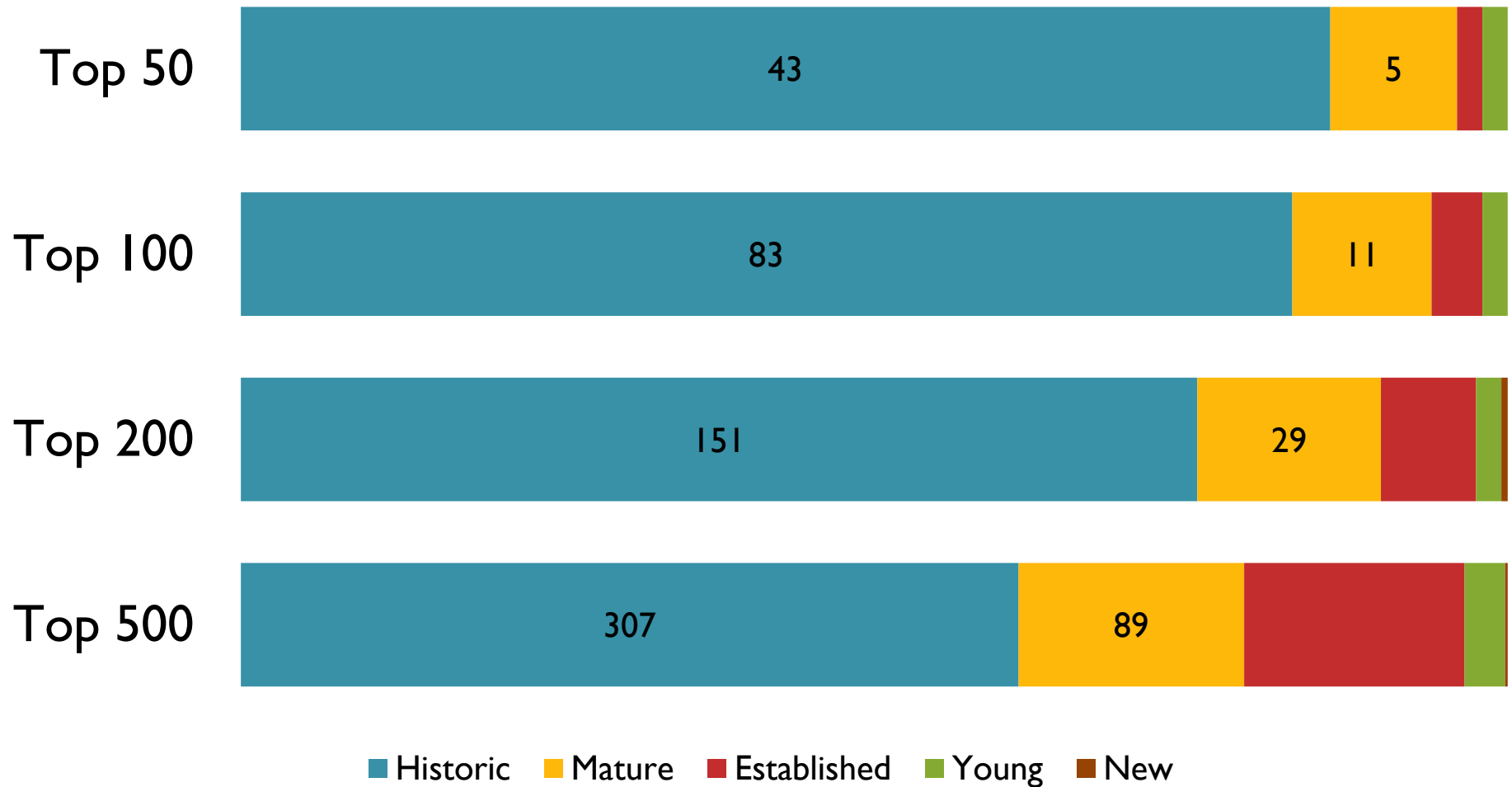
### Charter Year

- The year the institution was first granted university status

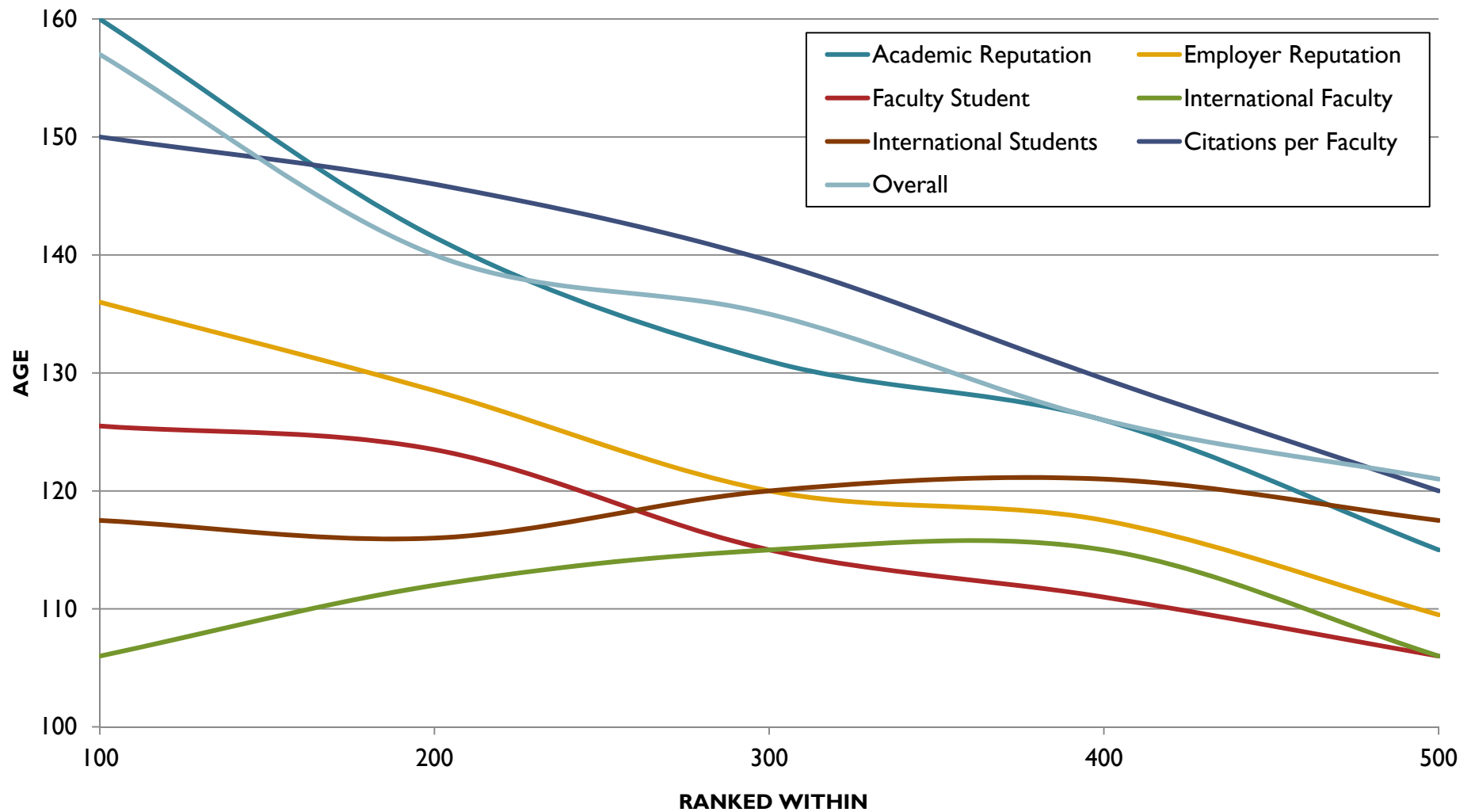
### Merger Year

- The year the current institution was established through the merging of (often considerably) older institutions

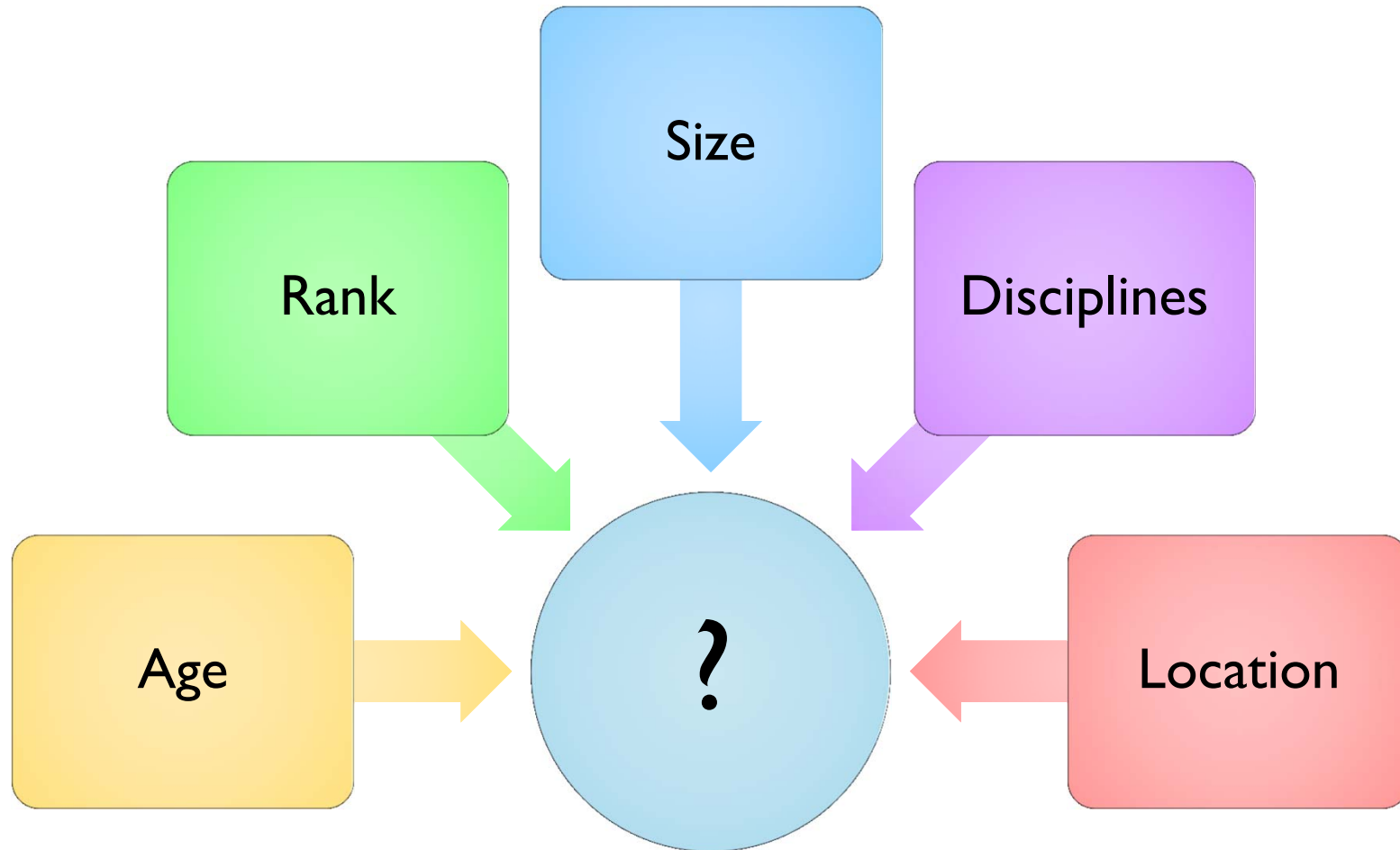
# DISTRIBUTION BY AGE RANGE



# MEDIAN AGE BY INDICATOR



# CRITERIA FOR COMPARATOR SELECTION



## PEER SELECTION CHALLENGES

- Not many qualifying institutions that qualify on all 5 dimensions
- Few good US matches
  - Virginia Tech
    - Founded in 1872 added “and State University” to its name in 1970
  - Brandeis
    - Founded in 1948, became “fully accredited” in 1954
  - Wake Forest
    - Founded in 1834, became “fully accredited” in 1967

# SELECTED PEERS

## ATN

UniSA  
RMIT  
UTS  
QUT  
Curtin

## Asia

NTU  
HK PolyU  
USTC  
Tsukuba

## North America

Victoria  
SFU  
York  
Calgary  
UC Irvine  
UC Santa Cruz

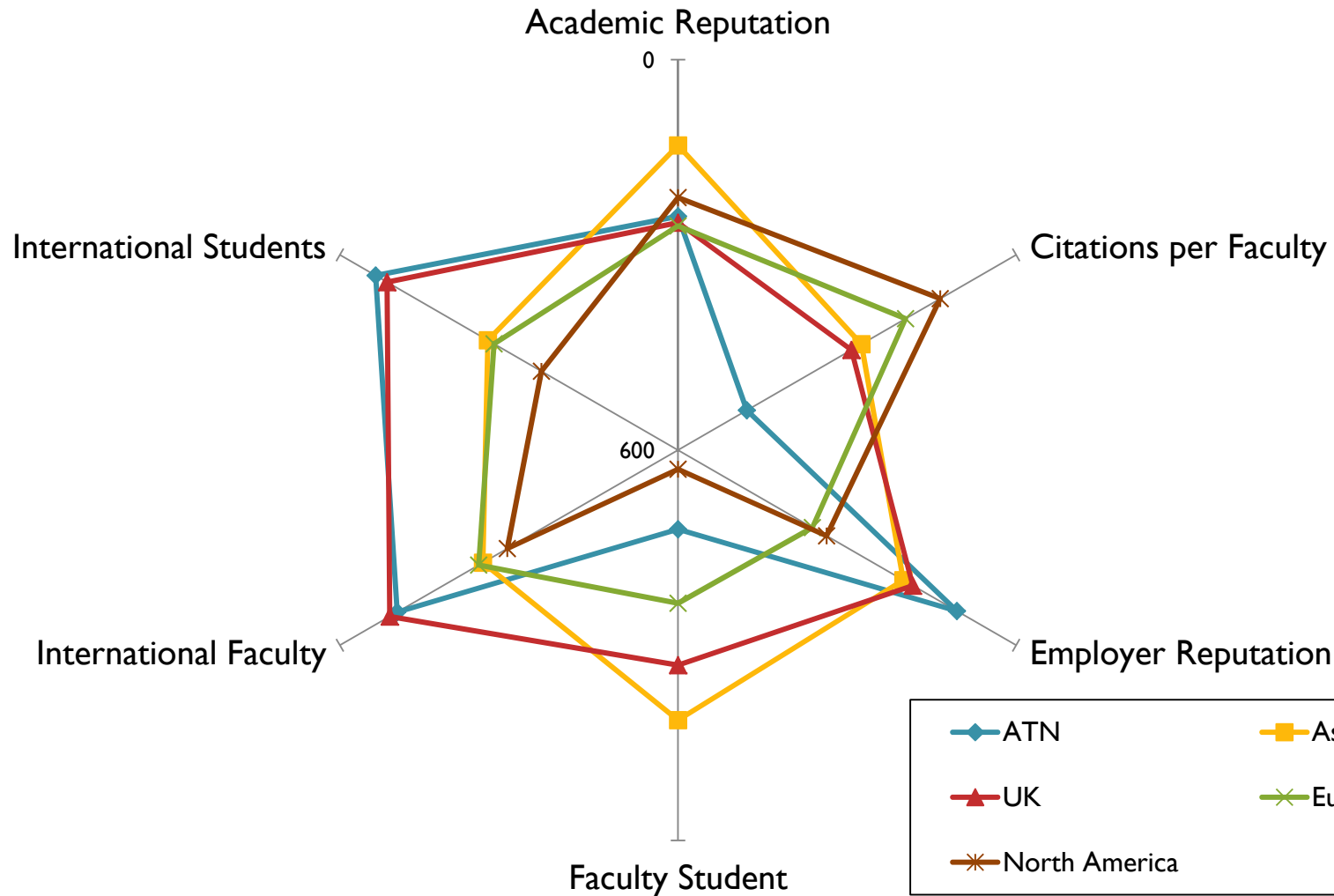
## Europe

Bielefeld  
Bremen  
Stockholm  
Maastricht  
Barcelona  
Madrid  
Norwegian  
UST  
Umea

## UK

Warwick  
Loughborough  
Newcastle  
Bath  
UEA  
Royal Holloway

# PEER GROUPS: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS



## OTHER ANALYSIS UNDERTAKEN

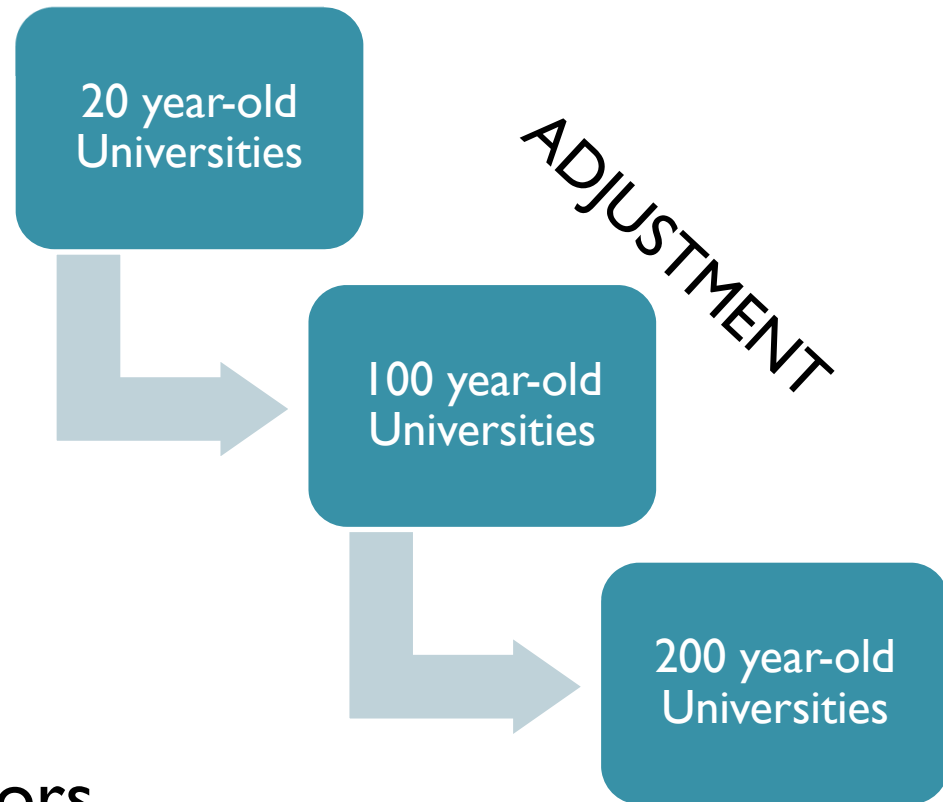
- Indicator performance
- Scopus metrics
- Survey response analysis
  - By faculty area
  - International/domestic
- Other rankings
  - ARWU, THE, Webometrics, 4icu, Alexa
- Basic financials – where available

## A NEW RANKING

- Age threshold approach has limitations
  - Arbitrary (why does 49 qualify and 51 not)
  - Qualification not related to performance
  - Rank anomalies based on other universities dropping out of the list
  - Black and white qualification approach brings focus on the nature of foundation dates
- Additional indicators difficult to identify with good global availability
- Adjustment represents more robust approach for ranking

# ADJUSTED LIST: HOW IT WORKS

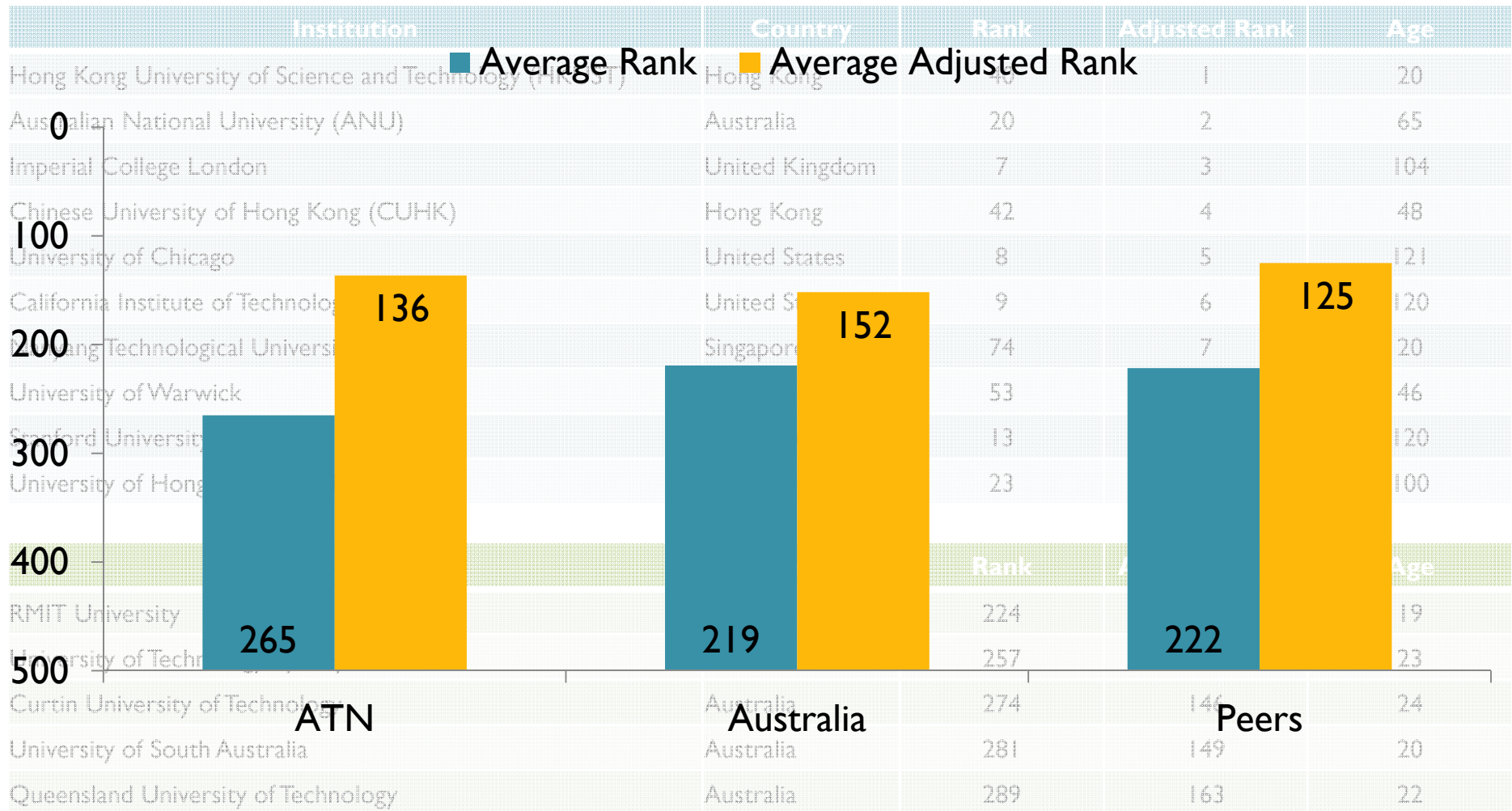
- Age floor
  - 0
  - 20?
  - 50?
- Age ceiling
  - 200?
  - Mean age – 168?
  - Median age – 121?
- Adjustment for indicators



# ADJUSTED RESULTS

## APPROACH I

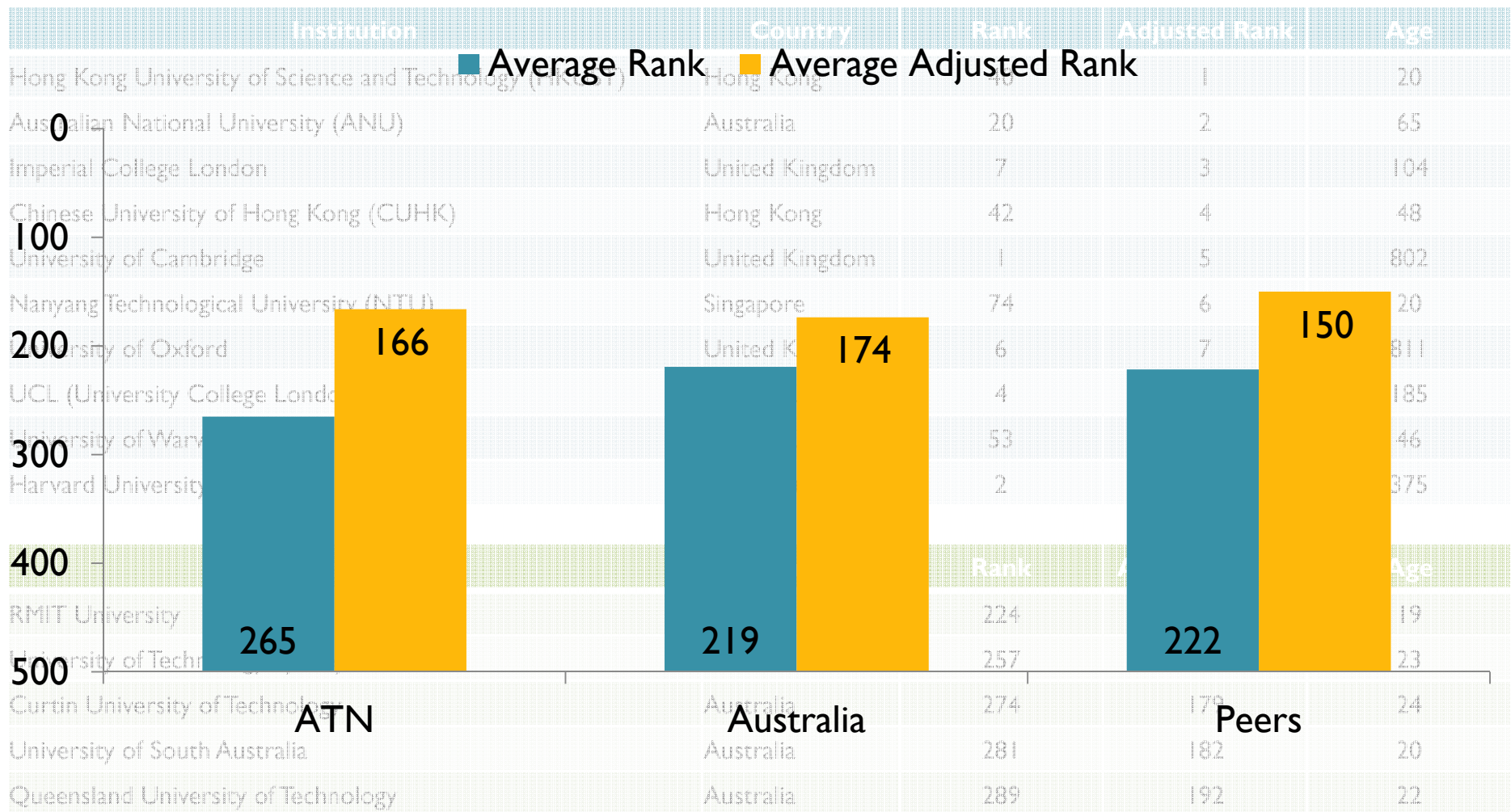
Floor 0; Ceiling 200; All Indicators



# ADJUSTED RESULTS

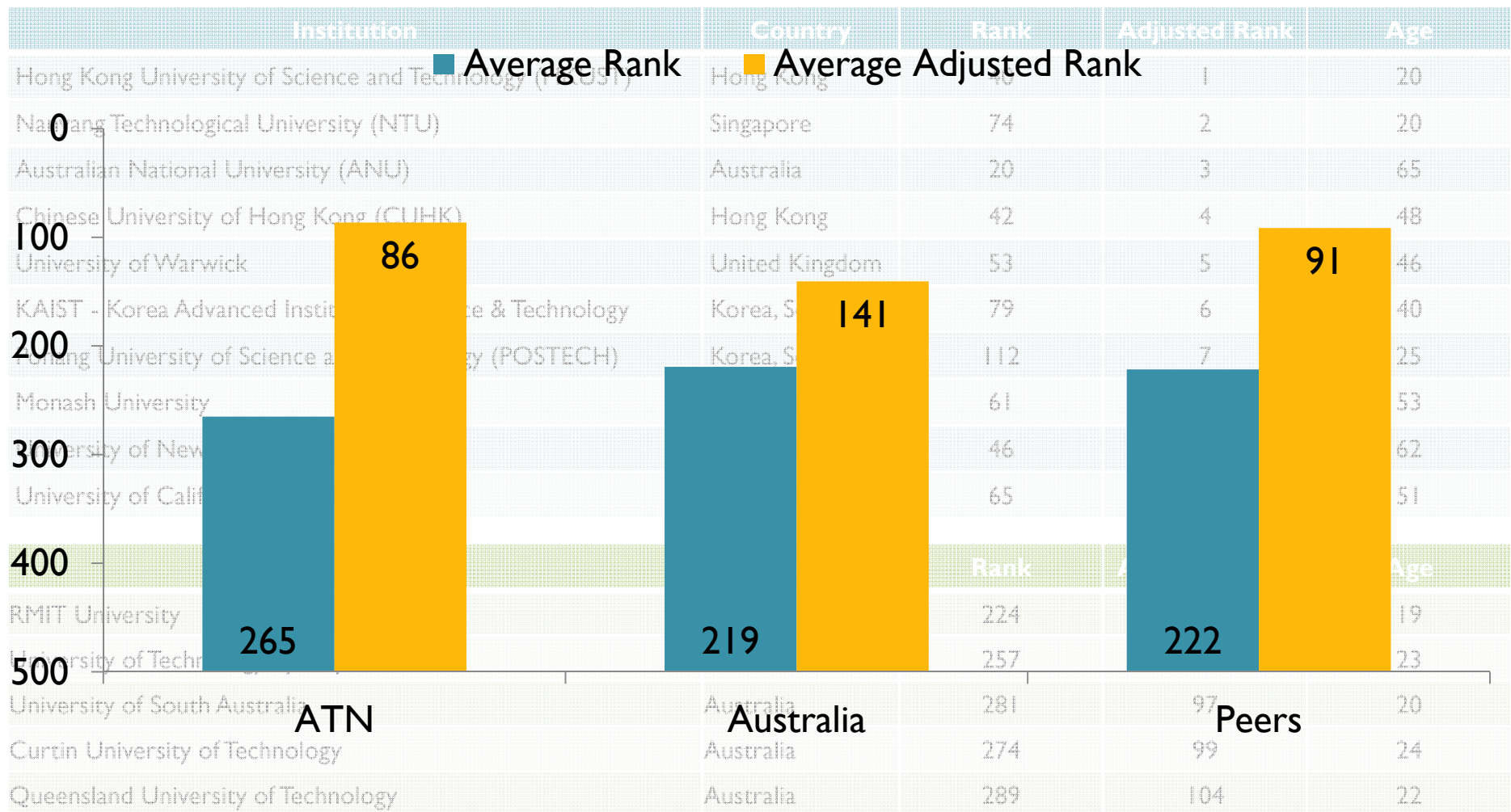
## APPROACH 2

Floor 20; Ceiling 120; Only Research Indicators

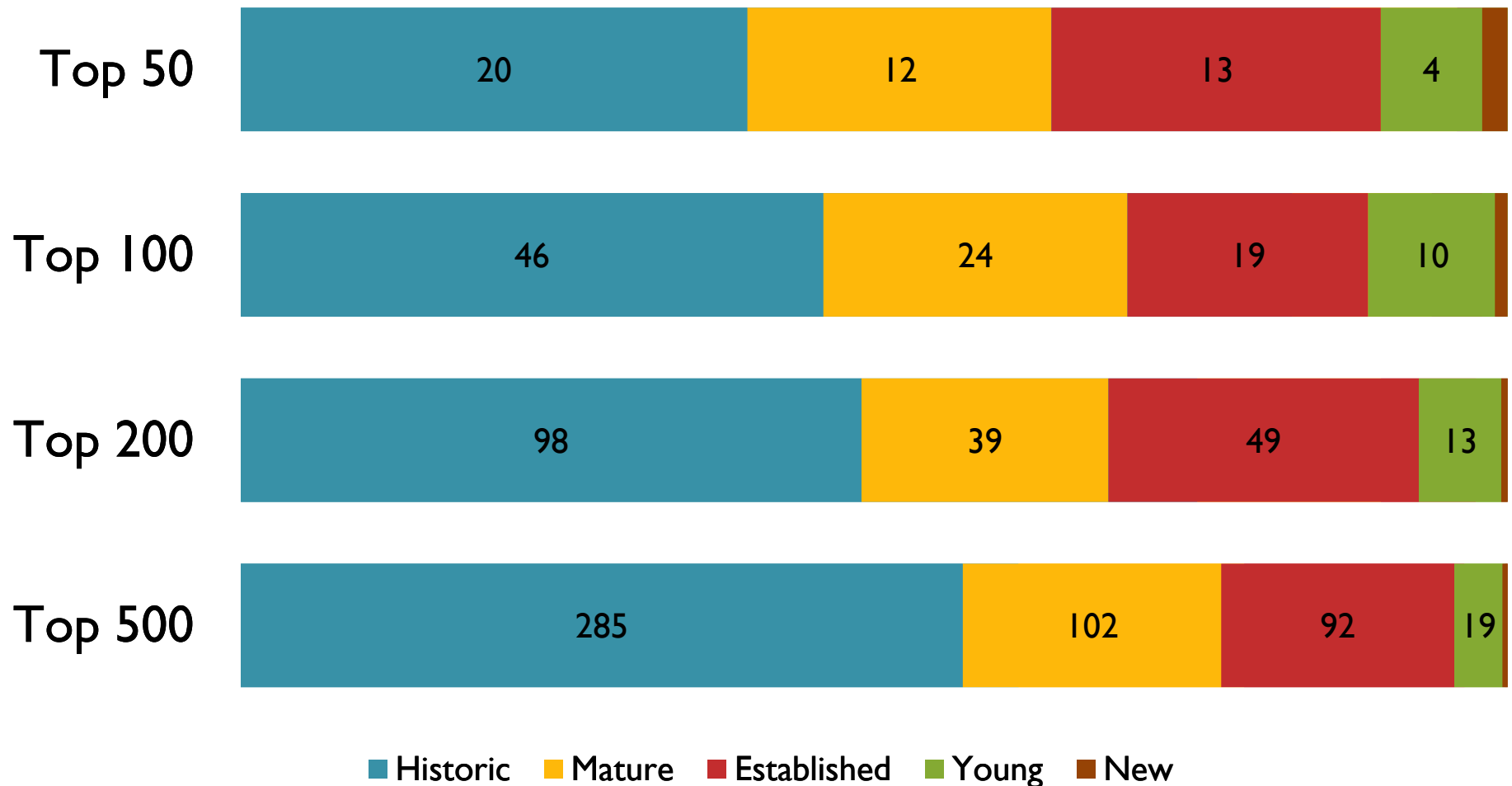


# ADJUSTED RESULTS

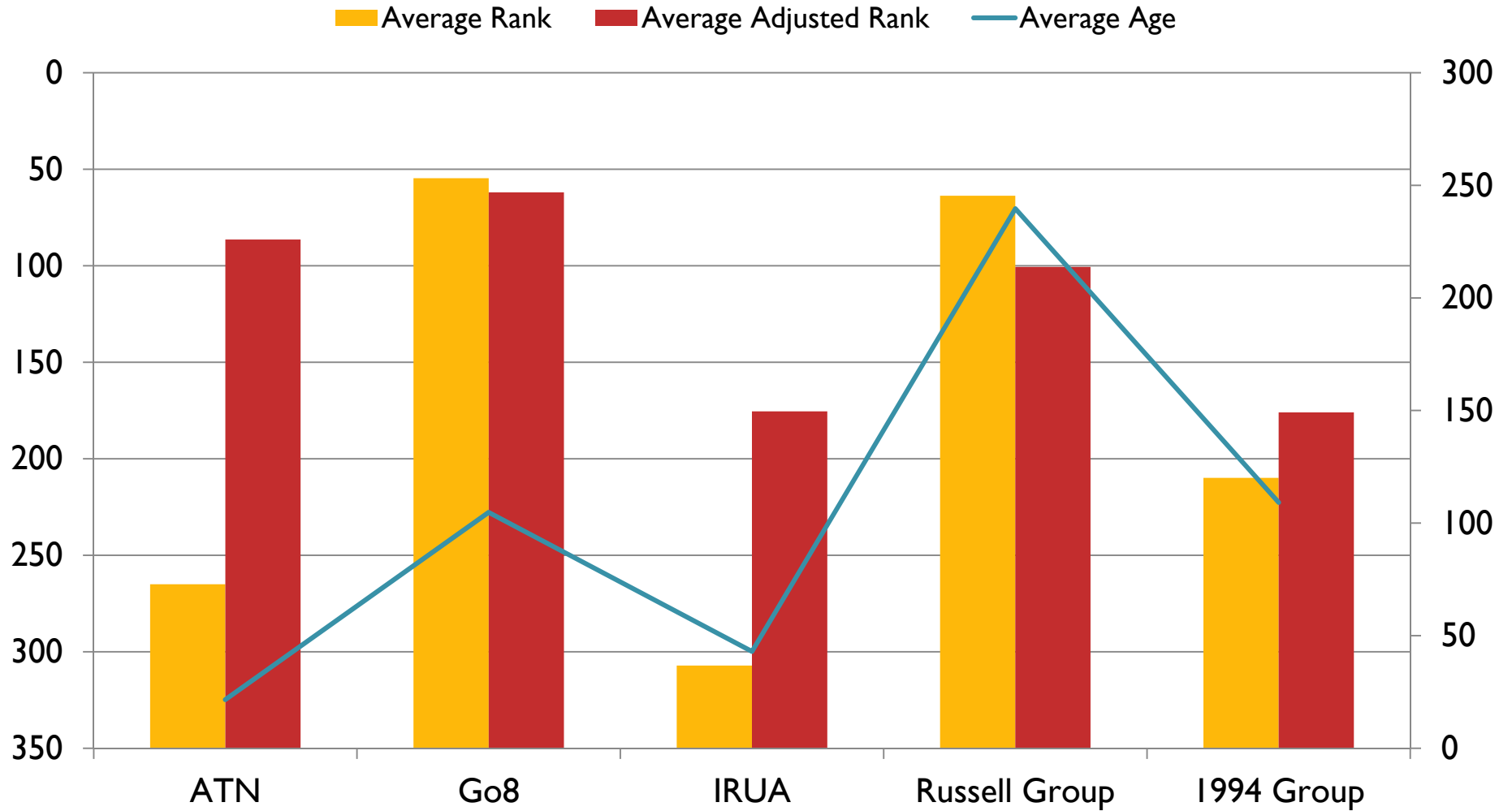
**APPROACH 3**  
Floor 20; Ceiling 120; All Indicators



# DISTRIBUTION BY AGE RANGE



# ALLIANCES – AGE AND RANKS



## WHAT NEXT?

- Gather feedback
- Compile and deliver “Phase I” report
  - Peer group observations
  - Material on adjustment
  - Sample tables
  - Phase 2 recommendations/suggestions
- A more customized ranking approach?
  - Different approach on research metrics
  - Other indicators?
  - Rating may be a preferable approach

Results: [www.topuniversities.com](http://www.topuniversities.com)

Blog: [iu.qs.com](http://iu.qs.com)

Email: [ben@qs.com](mailto:ben@qs.com) / [intelligenceunit@qs.com](mailto:intelligenceunit@qs.com)

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THANK YOU