Duhok Polytechnic University

Education for Sustainable Development Policy

Policy information	
Policy number	DPU-POL-AC-16
Policy category	Academic and Research
Version	1.1
Policy owner	Vice Presidency for Scientific Affairs and Postgraduate Studies
Responsible office	Sustainable Development Goals Policy Development Committee, with the Directorate of Quality Assurance and the deans of colleges and institutes
Approving authority	University Council
Approval date	30/06/2024
Effective date	30/06/2024
Last review date	30/06/2025
Next review date	30/06/2027
Related policies	Quality Education and Equal Access Policy (DPU-POL-AC-04); Academic Freedom and Research Autonomy Policy (DPU-POL-AC-14); DPU SDG policies (EN-07, EN-08, EN-11, EN-12, EN-13)
SDG alignment	SDG 4 (Quality Education), target 4.7, and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), with all 17 SDGs

1. Policy statement

Duhok Polytechnic University (DPU) is committed to meaningful education on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the whole university. Every DPU student, in every college, institute and programme, will gain the knowledge, skills and values needed to understand the SDGs and to contribute to sustainable development in their profession and community. DPU also shares education on sustainable development with its alumni, displaced communities and the wider public in Duhok Governorate and the Kurdistan Region.

2. Purpose

This policy aims to:

- ensure that SDG education is relevant and applicable to all students, whatever their field of study
- embed the SDGs in curricula, teaching, graduation projects and student activities
- provide dedicated courses and modules on sustainability and the SDGs
- support academic staff to teach the SDGs effectively
- offer education on sustainable development to alumni, displaced people and the local community
- monitor and report publicly on progress in SDG education

3. Scope

This policy applies to all undergraduate, diploma and postgraduate programmes; to all colleges, institutes and centres on the Duhok, Zirka, Zakho, Shekhan, Amedi and Shingal campuses; to all academic staff; to all students; and to DPU's outreach, continuing education and alumni activities.

4. Definitions

Term	Meaning
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	The 17 goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure peace and prosperity for all by 2030
Education for sustainable development (ESD)	Education that gives learners the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to take informed decisions and responsible action for environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society
SDG-embedded module	A module in any programme whose learning outcomes or content are explicitly linked to one or more SDGs
Dedicated SDG course	A module or course whose main subject is sustainability or the SDGs

5. Policy provisions

5.1 SDG education for all students

- All new students receive an introduction to the 17 SDGs and DPU's commitments, through orientation week and an introductory SDG session or module.
- Every programme includes SDG content relevant to its field, so that each student learns how their future profession contributes to sustainable development, for example clean energy in engineering, public health in health programmes, and responsible business in administration.
- Students are encouraged to link their graduation projects to one or more SDGs, and project reports state the related SDGs.

5.2 SDGs in curricula and course descriptions

- When programmes and modules are designed or reviewed under the Bologna Process, the related SDGs are identified in module descriptions and learning outcomes.
- Departments review their programmes regularly to strengthen SDG content and to remove gaps.

5.3 Dedicated courses on sustainability and the SDGs

- DPU offers dedicated courses and modules on sustainability and the SDGs, including environmental science, renewable energy, sustainable systems, health and safety, and sustainable development, and develops new elective modules on the SDGs open to students from all programmes.
- Short courses and online learning on the SDGs are offered to students and staff.

5.4 Co-curricular learning

- DPU organises seminars, workshops, conferences and awareness days on the SDGs for students, such as Earth Day, World Environment Day and World Water Day.
- Student clubs, volunteering, entrepreneurship activities and competitions linked to the SDGs are encouraged and recognised.

5.5 Staff development

- Academic staff are offered training on integrating the SDGs into teaching, assessment and research, including through DPU's pedagogical training courses.
- Good practice in SDG teaching is shared between colleges and institutes.

5.6 Education for alumni and the wider community

- DPU offers education on sustainable development to alumni through its alumni network, Career Development Center and continuing education courses.
- DPU provides outreach on the SDGs and sustainable development to schools, displaced and host communities, NGOs, government staff and the public in Duhok Governorate, including through workshops, public lectures, conferences and training courses.

6. Roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
University Council	Approves the policy and reviews the annual report on SDG education
Vice Presidency for Scientific Affairs and Postgraduate Studies	Owns the policy; ensures SDGs are included in programme design and review
SDG Policy Development Committee	Coordinates implementation, the introductory SDG session, staff training and outreach; prepares the annual report
Directorate of Quality Assurance	Checks that SDG links are included in module descriptions and programme reviews
Deans and heads of department	Ensure that every programme includes SDG content relevant to its field
Academic staff	Integrate the SDGs into teaching, assessment and graduation projects
Students	Engage with SDG learning and activities

7. Monitoring and reporting

1. The SDG Policy Development Committee records, each year: the number of programmes and modules with SDG content; dedicated SDG and sustainability courses; graduation projects linked to the SDGs; SDG events and participants; staff trained; and outreach activities for alumni and the community.
2. Progress is reported to the University Council and published on the DPU Sustainable Development Goals web page and in the annual sustainability report.

8. Related documents

- United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goal 4, target 4.7
- UNESCO, Education for Sustainable Development: A Roadmap (ESD for 2030)
- DPU Bologna Process programme and module descriptions
- DPU Institutional Strategic Plan for University Reform 2024–2027

9. Policy review

The policy is reviewed every two years, or earlier if national higher education requirements change.

10. Version history

Version	Date	Description	Approved by
1.0	30/06/2024	First approval	University Council
1.1	30/06/2025	Revised	University Council

11. Approval

Approved by the University Council of Duhok Polytechnic University, created on 30/06/2024, and revised on 30/06/2025.

