

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



17.4 Education for the SDGs

17.4.1 - Does your university as a body have a commitment to meaningful education around the SDGs across the university, that is relevant and applicable to all students?

Yes

Table of Contents

I. Introduction: The Mandate of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)	3
II. SDG 17.4.1 Compliance Requirements: Pervasive Commitment	3
III. Evidence of Compliance: Integrating Sustainability Across the University	4
3.1 Formal Curriculum Alignment and Institutional Mandate	4
3.2 Global Frameworks and Responsible Management Education	5
3.3 Cross-Disciplinary and Experiential Learning.....	6
3.4 Future-Focused Skills and Career Preparation	8
IV. Conclusion: UBT's Strategic Approach to Future-Focused Education.....	10

I. Introduction: The Mandate of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)

Sustainable Development Goal 17, "Partnerships for the Goals," holds a mandatory and highly weighted position in global university benchmarking frameworks, emphasizing the necessity of robust collaboration to achieve the 2030 Agenda. While Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is traditionally associated with SDG 4, the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings methodology places the commitment to teaching sustainability as a core component of SDG 17, Indicator 17.4.1.

This report confirms the University of Business and Technology's (UBT) compliance with Indicator 17.4.1: Education for SDGs commitment to meaningful education. This indicator assesses the commitment to providing education around the SDGs across the entire university, ensuring it is relevant and applicable to all students. The highest form of commitment demonstrated is the integration of sustainability education across the full curriculum. By fulfilling this requirement, UBT actively supports UN Target 4.7, which mandates that learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development.

II. SDG 17.4.1 Compliance Requirements: Pervasive Commitment

UBT demonstrates a systemic commitment to meaningful SDG education through three primary mechanisms measured by the indicator:

1. **Commitment Level:** Documenting whether education around SDGs is integrated across the full curriculum (maximum points), mandatory for all students, or optional for all students.
2. **Relevance and Applicability:** Ensuring sustainability education is relevant and applicable to students across different programs, not just those in specialized environmental fields.
3. **Institutional Mandate:** Implementing strategies that formally embed sustainability principles into the academic framework.

III. Evidence of Compliance: Integrating Sustainability Across the University

UBT utilizes formal curriculum mapping, participation in global responsible management frameworks, and mandatory experiential learning activities to demonstrate widespread commitment to SDG education.

3.1 Formal Curriculum Alignment and Institutional Mandate

UBT affirms a foundational dedication to linking its academic mission directly to global sustainability goals.

- **Strategic Alignment:** The University is deeply committed to aligning its academic and research endeavors with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is viewed as essential for addressing global challenges and fostering sustainable development.
- **Curriculum Philosophy:** UBT's courses are expressly designed to address pressing societal issues such as poverty (SDG 1), gender equality (SDG 5), climate change (SDG 13), and economic growth (SDG 8). The curriculum is tailored to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to contribute meaningfully to the achievement of the SDGs.
- **Quantitative Integration (Course Alignment):** UBT reports alignment of a significant number of courses across nearly all 17 SDGs, confirming that sustainability topics are pervasive throughout the institution's offerings. Examples of aligned courses include:
 - 196 courses aligned with SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure).
 - 148 courses aligned with SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).
 - 130 courses aligned with SDG 4 (Quality Education).
 - 122 courses aligned with SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).
 - 70 courses aligned with SDG 5 (Gender Equality).

For more details, check the below link:

[Report on the alignment of UBT research and courses with different SDGs](#)

3.2 Global Frameworks and Responsible Management Education

UBT's participation in international bodies that mandate sustainability reporting underscores its institutional commitment to ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) education principles.

- **PRME Signatory:** UBT is a proud signatory of the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME). This formal commitment integrates responsible management practices, encompassing sustainability, into teaching and research.
- **Targeted SDG Discourse:** At the PRME Middle East Chapter 10th Regional Forum, a UBT representative shared best practices in responsible management education. UBT specifically led a workshop focusing on collaboration between industry and academia regarding Responsible Production and consumption (SDG 12), thereby directly integrating sustainability into management curriculum dialogue.



3.3 Cross-Disciplinary and Experiential Learning

UBT ensures that sustainability concepts are delivered across a wide range of departments and foundational courses, making the education applicable to all students.

- **Sustainability in Foundational Studies:** Approximately 90 English Language students from UBT Academy participated in an extracurricular visit to the IKEA Jeddah Showroom. This was organized because IKEA's sustainability strategy is aligned with the strategy of UBT and the National Geographic Learning Curriculum used by UBT Academy. The tour focused on healthy and sustainable living. This demonstrates the inclusion of sustainability topics within core, non-specialized curriculum elements, ensuring wide applicability.



- Community Knowledge-Sharing: UBT intentionally hosts knowledge-sharing sessions to create transformative experiences and enhance the learning experience for students, faculty members, and staff. These sessions include topics such as sustainable volunteer work.

Volunteering: A Leader's Vision and a Nation's Message



3.4 Future-Focused Skills and Career Preparation

UBT links its educational offerings directly to the skills needed to implement sustainable practices in future careers and support the nation's Vision 2030.

- **Bridging Academia and Industry:** Through a new partnership, UBT aims to help students access the right source of knowledge and equip themselves with the required skills to adapt seamlessly in the job market. The goal is to bridge the gap between academia and industry by integrating supply chain and procurement elements into real-life work scenarios. This ensures graduates are prepared to meet professional requirements in an ethical and responsible business environment.

Strategic Partnership Agreement between UBT and Blue Ocean – Revolutionizing Supply Chain



- Alignment with National Vision: UBT's academic programs, such as the Sports Management Program detailed at the “Future Forward: Youth and the Path to Vision 2030” discussion, specifically train students to contribute to the development of sectors in line with Vision 2030 objectives. This vision serves as the national framework for sustainable development, ensuring the education is relevant to national priorities.

UBT participate in “Future Forward: Youth and the Path to Vision 2030”



IV. Conclusion: UBT's Strategic Approach to Future-Focused Education

UBT demonstrates a robust and explicit commitment to meaningful education around the SDGs (Indicator 17.4.1) by establishing a systemic foundation for Education for Sustainable Development across the institution.

Compliance is supported by concrete evidence, including:

1. **Quantitative Proof of Integration:** Formal documentation shows alignment of hundreds of courses with nearly all 17 SDGs, confirming that sustainability concepts are systematically taught across diverse disciplines from Business Administration (SDG 12) to Engineering (SDG 9).
2. **Institutional Mandates:** UBT's status as a PRME signatory solidifies its commitment to ethical and responsible management education.
3. **Applicable Learning for All:** Mandatory-style learning, such as the IKEA sustainable living activity for English Language students, ensures that the principles of sustainable development are relevant and applicable to a broad spectrum of the student body.
4. **Career Readiness:** Partnerships focus on integrating core business functions (like supply chain and procurement) into real-life scenarios, ensuring UBT graduates are equipped with skills to implement sustainable and ethical practices professionally.

By actively integrating SDG principles into its academic programs and emphasizing practical, responsible business practices, UBT fulfills its commitment to educating a generation of leaders empowered to contribute to a sustainable and ethical future.