



UAEU

جامعة الإمارات العربية المتحدة
United Arab Emirates University



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES UNIVERSITY

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS REPORT 2024**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United Arab Emirates University (UAEU), established in 1976, is the first and most comprehensive national research university in the country. Located in Al Ain, UAEU operates from a state-of-the-art campus equipped with advanced educational and research facilities that support innovation, excellence, and global engagement. Today, the University hosts more than 16,000 students representing over 80 countries, reflecting its diverse and vibrant academic community.

UAEU plays a leading role in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by supporting initiatives, research programs, and community projects that contribute to sustainable growth and societal well-being. In the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2024, UAEU demonstrated strong global performance by being ranked in 11 SDGs, reaffirming its commitment to addressing global challenges through research, teaching, and outreach.

UAEU has also made significant progress in environmental and social sustainability. In the QS Sustainability Rankings 2024, the University ranked 343 globally and 1st in the UAE, underscoring its leadership in environmental impact, social responsibility, governance, and sustainability-driven academic initiatives.

This report highlights examples of UAEU's key activities that contribute to SDG achievements. One of the major initiatives is the SDGs Students' Research Program, to enhance awareness and engagement with the UN SDGs among students and the broader community. Through this program, seed funding is provided to student-led research teams to explore, design, and implement innovative solutions that are resilient, inclusive, and sustainable, under the mentorship of faculty members or researchers.

In addition to this program, numerous initiatives and research activities aligned with the SDGs are being carried out across UAEU's colleges and research centers. These efforts support the UAE's national strategy for climate neutrality, contributing to the country's goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

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Ranked
201-300
Out of 1093 Institutions

UAEU Score
59.5/100



Times Higher Education
Impact Rankings 2025

1 NO
POVERTY



20 Scopus Publications
addressing SDG1 in 2024

↓ 9.90%

Compared to 2023

End poverty in all its forms everywhere



No Poverty

01

Scholarship/Fellowship schemes are available to national and international students of UAEU.

- Chancellor's Fellowship for Graduate Students at UAEU
- Graduate Research Assistantship (All nationalities)
- Graduate Teaching Assistantship (All nationalities)
- Graduate Administrative Assistantship (All nationalities)
- Full – Ride Scholarship from Master to PhD for UAE nationals (UAEU Alumni only)
- PhD Scholarship (All Nationalities)
- PhD Fellowship (All Nationalities)
- The ICT Scholarship Program
- Scholarship for MSc Space Science under Arab Space Pioneers Program

1

in the UAE

**Scopus
Publications
in 2024**

The UAEU research team from the College of Business and Economics, in collaboration with the University of Tanta in Egypt, conducted an in-depth study titled “The Effect of Financial Inclusion on Poverty Alleviation and Economic Growth: A View from an Emerging Market.” This research examines how expanding access to financial services such as banking, credit, savings, and digital finance can contribute to reducing poverty levels and stimulating sustainable economic development within emerging economies. By analyzing empirical data and assessing structural challenges, the study provides valuable insights into the mechanisms through which financial inclusion supports household welfare, enhances entrepreneurial activity, and promotes overall macroeconomic growth.

UAEU researchers conducted a study on [“The Impact of the Islamic Financial Wills System on Achieving Sustainable Social Development.”](#) and the results were published in the Journal of Sustainability.

3.14

**Field-Weighted
Citation Impact
(2020-2024)**

356

**PhD Scholarship
and Fellowship**

13

**Full-ride
Scholarship**

97

**Research
Assistantship**

341

**Chancellor
Fellowship**

9

**Space Science
Scholarship**

8

**Graduate
Administrative
Assistantship**



Ranked
101–200
Out of 803 Institutions

UAEU Score
69.2/100



Times Higher Education
Impact Rankings 2025

2 ZERO
HUNGER



99 Scopus Publications
addressing SDG2 in 2024

 43.48%

Compared to 2023

A UAEU research team from the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, led by Prof. Mutamed Ayyash, conducted pioneering work on fermented date syrup waste (FDSW). By utilizing *Pichia cecembensis* and *Pichia kudriavzevii* yeasts, researchers enhanced the nutritional and bioactive properties of date syrup waste. The study demonstrated strong anticancer and antidiabetic potential, offering new pathways for transforming food industry by-products into functional, health-promoting ingredients.



In collaboration with the National University of Singapore, UAEU researchers embarked on the development of plant-based meat substitutes aimed at reducing reliance on traditional animal-based protein. This initiative reinforces the UAE's transition toward a sustainable and diversified food system, contributing to long-term food security, reduced environmental impact, and accessible nutritional alternatives for the growing population.



UAEU played a key role in the launch of the “Food Consumption Rate” project and Regular Surveys on Consumption Patterns in Abu Dhabi, contributing academic expertise in data collection. This initiative supports the development of food policies, helps assess dietary trends, and strengthens evidence-based planning for sustainable food availability and distribution.



End hunger,
achieve food
security and
improved nutrition
and promote
sustainable
agriculture



Zero Hunger

02

A study led by Dr. Ihab Habib and the Veterinary Public Health Research Laboratory team investigated *Campylobacter* contamination across various stages of poultry processing—from defeathering to chilling. The research provides critical insights into contamination dynamics and supports efforts to ensure a safe and reliable food supply, reducing foodborne illness risks and improving public health outcomes.



As part of the Year of Sustainability 2024 and UAEU's roadmap for COP28 and Beyond (2023–2026), the University funded four student research projects under the [Student Sustainable Development Goals Research Program](#). These projects specifically targeted the reduction of food waste, supporting efforts to minimize resource loss, and increase efficiency across the food supply chain.

Students from the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine showcased innovative solutions addressing major challenges in the food sector during Global Food Week, organized by ADNEC Group and Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority.




1 in the UAE

Scopus Publications in 2024

7.29

Field-Weighted Citation Impact (2020-2024)



Number of graduates from agriculture and aquaculture courses including sustainability aspects

72

Total food waste from University campus

15_{mt}

A hungry man is not a free man

Ranked
401–600
Out of 1498 Institutions

UAEU Score
60.1/100



Times Higher Education
Impact Rankings 2025

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



467 Scopus Publications
addressing SDG3 in 2024

↑ 1.30%

Compared to 2023

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



Good Health and
Well Being

03

To mark World Cancer Day, the College of Medicine and Health Sciences organized a public awareness lecture in collaboration with the Al Ain Sports and Cultural Club. The event promoted early detection, healthy lifestyle practices, and public understanding of cancer risks, reinforcing UAEU's contribution to nationwide cancer prevention efforts.



Students from the College of Medicine & Health Sciences conducted an awareness campaign at Kanad Hospital titled "Your Health from Your Genes." The initiative educated community members on genetic risk factors, hereditary diseases, and the importance of preventive genetic screening—contributing to improved long-term health outcomes.



The Sports Activities Unit launched a summer sports program for children of the UAEU community, running throughout July 2024. The program encouraged physical activity, healthy habits, teamwork, and social interaction, supporting the holistic development and mental well-being of young participants.



In collaboration with the Drug Enforcement Administration in Al Ain, UAEU organized an educational lecture addressing the dangers of drug use and prevention strategies. The session targeted students and raised awareness about substance abuse, risk factors, and protective measures to support a safe and healthy social environment.



UAEU's College of Medicine and Health Sciences, in partnership with the Department of Health, organized the 3rd AHS Nutrition Conference. The event brought together leading experts, clinicians, researchers, and academics to discuss the latest advancements in nutrition science, public health, and disease prevention, reinforcing UAEU's role as a regional hub for knowledge exchange in health and nutrition.



In partnership with the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA), UAEU conducted a landmark research study titled: "Quantitative Evaluation and Genomic Analysis of Campylobacter Bacteria, One of the Most Significant Pathogens Causing Foodborne Illnesses, Across Poultry Meat Production Stages from Farm to Consumer". This first-of-its-kind study in the region examined contamination risks from farm to consumer, generating vital insights to improve food safety regulations and reduce foodborne illnesses—significantly advancing public health protection in the UAE.



The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology launched a community campaign aimed at both raising awareness and preparing future doctors with essential clinical communication and public-health engagement skills.



UAEU researcher Amnia Ghareeb Al Qahtani developed an [innovative autism assessment tool](#) tailored specifically for pre-school children in the UAE. As existing tools are largely translations lacking cultural specificity, this new assessment offers important advancement for early diagnosis and early childhood intervention, supporting better developmental outcomes for children across the region.

268

Number of
graduates in health
professions

2 in the UAE

Scopus
Publications
in 2024

7.29

Field-Weighted
Citation Impact
(2020-2024)

Ranked
=13
Out of 1681 Institutions

UAEU Score
85/100



Times Higher Education
Impact Rankings 2025

4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



113 Scopus Publications
addressing SDG4 in 2024

↑ 11.88%

Compared to 2023

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



04

Under the patronage and presence of His Excellency Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, UAEU convened a distinguished group of experts to discuss the transformative applications of artificial intelligence in education. The forum explored AI's potential to personalize learning, enhance teaching methodologies, and address emerging challenges within the education sector.



The College of Business and Economics organized a lecture titled "Immersive Education: Virtual Reality Overview and Teaching Demo for the Classroom." The session introduced faculty and students to emerging VR technologies and demonstrated their practical implementation in academic settings. By integrating immersive learning tools, UAEU continues to innovate teaching practices and enhance student engagement.



The Libraries Deanship hosted a lecture titled "Innovate Library: Pioneering Knowledge Access with New Databases," highlighting advanced digital resources designed to support academic research and lifelong learning. By expanding its knowledge infrastructure, UAEU ensures that both students and faculty maintain access to cutting-edge scholarly tools and information services.



The College of Education organized the 5th Mydan Forum, dedicated to exploring contemporary trends shaping the field of education. The forum provided a platform to exchange insights on evolving pedagogical practices, inclusive learning strategies, and the future of the teaching profession.



4.73

Field-Weighted
Citation Impact
(2020-2024)

Under the patronage of H.E. Zaki Nusseibeh, UAEU hosted the 9th UAE Graduate Students Research Conference on April 20, 2024. The event brought together graduate students from across the nation to present their research, fostering a culture of inquiry, innovation, and scholarly exchange. The conference underlines UAEU's commitment to cultivating research capacity and supporting advanced academic development.



In 2024, UAEU achieved a significant milestone by advancing 29 positions in the QS World University Rankings 2025, reflecting major strides in academic reputation, research excellence, and international engagement. This achievement underscores the University's continuous progress toward global competitiveness and high-quality academic standards.



UAEU demonstrated substantial support for undergraduate research by [funding 189 projects](#) under the SURE+ Research Program—engaging 803 students across multiple colleges and disciplines. This research program enhances student learning outcomes, strengthens research skills, and promotes inquiry-based education aligned with global best practices.

The College of Education launched its [first educational summer camp for children](#) aged 11 to 15, designed to cultivate academic skills and enrich learning through hands-on activities. Held across the College's laboratories and classrooms, the camp provided a stimulating educational environment that extends UAEU's community engagement and promotes lifelong learning beyond formal academic programs.

2 in the UAE

Scopus
Publications
in 2024

1,928

Number of
students starting
a degree

Ranked
401–600
Out of 1361 Institutions

UAEU Score
52.3/100



Times Higher Education
Impact Rankings 2025

5 GENDER
EQUALITY



22 Scopus Publications
addressing SDG5 in 2024

↓ -35.29%

Compared to 2023

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

UAEU participated in the Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Initiative to empower rural women in Africa in agriculture, demonstrating its global commitment to women's economic empowerment. Through this initiative, the University contributed expertise and academic support to programs aimed at enhancing agricultural skills and improving livelihood opportunities for rural women. This reflects UAEU's broader mission to support gender-responsive development internationally.

https://www.instagram.com/p/C6oX7raSLwN/?img_index=1

To celebrate Emirati Women's Day, UAEU hosted a panel discussion titled "Emirati Women Empowerment: Aspirations and Achievement." The dialogue highlighted national achievements, addressed challenges, and reinforced the University's ongoing commitment to nurturing the next generation of female leaders.

https://www.instagram.com/p/C_Nj7N3C_ba/?img_index=1

The Emirates Center for Happiness Research (ECHR) and the College of Business and Economics organized an session titled "Females Connect: Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders with Today's Innovators." The program fostered mentorship, collaboration, and skill-building among female students and professionals. It emphasized leadership development, innovation, and the importance of supportive networks in advancing women's participation in key sectors.

https://www.instagram.com/p/C_NI43CJH0h/?img_index=1



Gender
Equality

05

The Campus Life Section delivered a workshop titled "Emirati Women: Between Work and Family Life," focusing on strategies for achieving a balanced and fulfilling professional and personal life. The session addressed societal expectations, workplace dynamics, and mental well-being, contributing to a supportive environment for female students and staff navigating diverse responsibilities.

https://www.instagram.com/p/C_Pez9fCSMM/?img_index=1

As part of UAEU's involvement in COP29 activities in Azerbaijan, the University co-hosted a high-level symposium titled "How University Collaboration can Support Women's Empowerment in Agricultural Research." Organized in collaboration with the General Women's Union and attended by Sheikha Dr. Moza bint Tahnoun Al Nahyan, the event highlighted the critical role of research institutions in advancing sustainable agricultural solutions led by women. It reaffirmed UAEU's leadership in promoting gender-inclusive scientific research globally.

https://www.instagram.com/p/DCIOZJsNU_S/?img_index=1

Under the theme "We Share for Tomorrow," the UAEU Libraries Deanship celebrated Emirati Women's Day by showcasing the achievements of Emirati women authors whose works are featured in the Emirates Resources Collection. This initiative emphasized the intellectual contributions of Emirati women and promoted greater visibility of their scholarly and creative output.

<https://www.uaeu.ac.ae/en/news/2024/august/womanday2024.shtml>

STEM 826

Number of female
graduates

Arts & Humanities /
Social Sciences

1,044

Number of female
graduates

Medicine 183

Number of female
graduates

56

Number of female senior
academic staff



13.1

**Field-Weighted
Citation Impact
(2020-2024)**

Ranked
101–200
Out of 867 Institutions

UAEU Score
67.3/100



Times Higher Education
Impact Rankings 2025

6 CLEAN WATER
AND SANITATION



128 Scopus Publications
addressing SDG6 in 2024

↑ 18.52%

Compared to 2023



Clean Water and Sanitation

The 2nd International Conference on [“Water Resources Management and Sustainability: Solutions for Arid Regions.”](#) launched in the presence of H.E. Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, re-affirmed UAEU’s national leadership in water research by convening experts, policymakers, and researchers to discuss innovative solutions tailored to arid environments. The conference strengthened the UAE’s scientific capacity in sustainable water management and advanced the national agenda on environmental resilience.



Ensure access to water and sanitation for all

Coinciding with World Water Day, UAEU organized a panel discussion titled “Sustainable Emirati Efforts to Achieve Water Security,” which brought together national stakeholders to highlight the UAE’s strategies for long-term water sustainability. This event emphasized the nation’s commitment to safeguarding water resources and showcased UAEU’s role in supporting policy development and community engagement.



106,916m³

Volume of water used in
the university

The United Arab Emirates University has successfully registered a new patent titled [“Direct solar water desalination system with enhanced desalination”](#) with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. This groundbreaking invention, developed by Dr. Fadi Al-Naimat and researcher Muhammad Ziauddin, focuses on utilizing renewable energy to desalinate seawater, thereby producing high-quality drinking water at a low cost.

Dr. Ameera Mohammad from the College of Engineering at the United Arab Emirates University has received the Global Innovation Award in Water Desalination, supervised by Prof. Ali AlMarzouqi, Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. This achievement was part of the third edition of the “Innovation-Driven Water Sustainability Conference” (IDWS) held in KSA, aimed at promoting a more sustainable future for water globally



13.1

Field-Weighted
Citation Impact
(2020-2024)



2 in the UAE

Scopus
Publications
in 2024

Ranked
=62
Out of 987 Institutions

UAEU Score
71.7/100



Times Higher Education
Impact Rankings 2025

7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



296 Scopus Publications
addressing SDG7 in 2024

22.82%

Compared to 2023



Renewable
Energy

07

Ensure access to
affordable, reliable,
sustainable and
modern energy for
all

The "Wave Energy Research Team" at the College of Engineering, led by Professor Addy Wahyudie, secured third place in the Second Edition [Clean Tech Hackathon 2024](#) hosted by DEWA's Innovation Centre. This event, part of UAE Innovates 2024, aimed to foster innovative solutions in clean and renewable energy, showcasing the country's commitment to sustainability.



International Research Partnership

Prof. Nacir Tit and Dr. Wadha Alfalasi from the Department of Physics at UAEU, in collaboration with Prof. Yuan Ping Feng from the National University of Singapore, are spearheading innovative research on hydrogen energy, a key player in the transition to renewable energy sources



A student team from the College of Information Technology at the UAEU developed “Smart Solar PV Panels,” to achieve sustainability and develop renewable energy technology, using solar energy, to find an innovative solution for clean energy. This project is part of the university’s efforts to enhance its contributions to clean energy.



Supporting the national sustainability agenda and COP28 roadmap, a research team led by Dr. Leila Ismail from the College of Information Technology developed advanced AI-powered machine learning and deep learning models to predict household energy consumption. These models enable more efficient energy management, promote conservation behaviors, and contribute to designing smarter, more sustainable urban systems.





1.86

**Field-Weighted
Citation Impact
(2020-2024)**

Ranked
401–600
Out of 1149 Institutions

UAEU Score
60.8/100



Times Higher Education
Impact Rankings 2025

8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



117 Scopus Publications
addressing SDG8 in 2024

24.47%

Compared to 2023



08

Good Job and Economic Growth ---
Placement cell

The United Arab Emirates University celebrated the faculty members promoted in 2024, in recognition of their outstanding academic and research contributions



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

H.E. Prof. Ahmed Al Raeesi, Acting Vice Chancellor honoured individuals with exceptional ideas, as part of the university's efforts for the Zero Government Bureaucracy



An interdisciplinary team from UAEU's College of Business and Economics and College of Information Technology has made a significant advancement in workforce management



1,689

Number of students with work placements for more than a month

3.36

Field-Weighted
Citation Impact
(2020-2024)

2
in the UAE

Scopus
Publications
in 2024





211 Scopus Publications
addressing SDG9 in 2024

↑ 26.35%

Compared to 2023

1.88

Field-Weighted
Citation Impact
(2020-2024)

The Industry 4.0 District is a major undertaking by UAE University as part of its ambitious plan to be the “University of the Future”. This “District” is planned to host Labs and integrate various components of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) into UAEU students' education, including courses, programs, projects, research activities, and industrial applications. UAEU Launches District 4.0 Research Program The United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) has introduced the innovative District 4.0 Research Program, providing funding to support 10 student-led projects. This initiative focuses on fostering advanced research and innovation aligned with Industry 4.0 principles, empowering students to contribute to cutting-edge technological advancements. The “District 4.0” will start by hosting five major laboratories, namely;

- Smart Manufacturing Lab
- Cognitive, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Laboratory (CAIR)
- Advanced Additive Manufacturing Lab
- Advanced Materials Characterization Lab
- Smart Grid and Smart Cities Lab



Industry, Innovation
and Infrastructure

09

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

36

Number of
Patents Granted

56

Number of
Patents Filed

3148

Number of UAEU Scopus
Indexed Publications in 2024

The UAEU Science and Innovation Park concluded its “Summer Youth Camp,” an initiative designed to cultivate innovation, creativity, and practical scientific skills among school students in Al Ain. Conducted in two cycles for male and female participants, the program engaged 35 students (19 female and 16 male) in a two-week series of interactive workshops, specialized courses, and hands-on project activities. Through experiments, applied scientific sessions, and exposure to emerging technologies, the camp provided a stimulating environment that encourages curiosity, innovation, and problem-solving—core capacities essential for advancing SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). By equipping young learners with foundational STEM competencies and fostering a culture of innovation at an early age, UAEU contributes to building national research and innovation capacity, strengthening the UAE’s future workforce, and supporting sustainable technology-driven development.

UAEU published more than 200 papers related to SDG 9, including topics such as:

- Smart mobility and autonomous vehicles
- Sustainable construction materials
- Water security and infrastructure resilience
- AI and robotics applications in industry
- Renewable energy systems and smart grids

As part of the UAE's Year of Sustainability, the research team at UAEU's College of Engineering has pioneered the development of [sustainable and green constructional elements](#)





The Industry 4.0 District is a major undertaking by UAE University as part of its ambitious plan to be the “University of the Future”. This “District” will host Labs that will bring about different aspects of the Fourth Industrial Revolution into the education of UAEU students in terms of courses and programs, projects, research, and industrial applications. The “District” will start by hosting five major laboratories, namely; Robotics and Artificial Laboratory, Mini-Factory, Fabrication Laboratory, App Factory, and a Materials Library. Students, faculty, freelancers, and industries will have access to these labs to be able to try out, prototype, and test their ideas in different fields and may be guided in turning their ideas into commercial products. We anticipate that “District 4.0” will transform the way we conduct education in the STEM fields in the region.

Ranked
101–200
Out of 1108 Institutions

UAEU Score
71.5/100



Times Higher Education
Impact Rankings 2025

10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



130 Scopus Publications
addressing SDG10 in 2024

↑ 20.37%

Compared to 2023



The Special and Gifted Education Department and the Students' Happiness Department hosted the “Forum on Inclusion and Diversity” to empower people of determination and enhance their social roles



Reduce inequality within and among countries

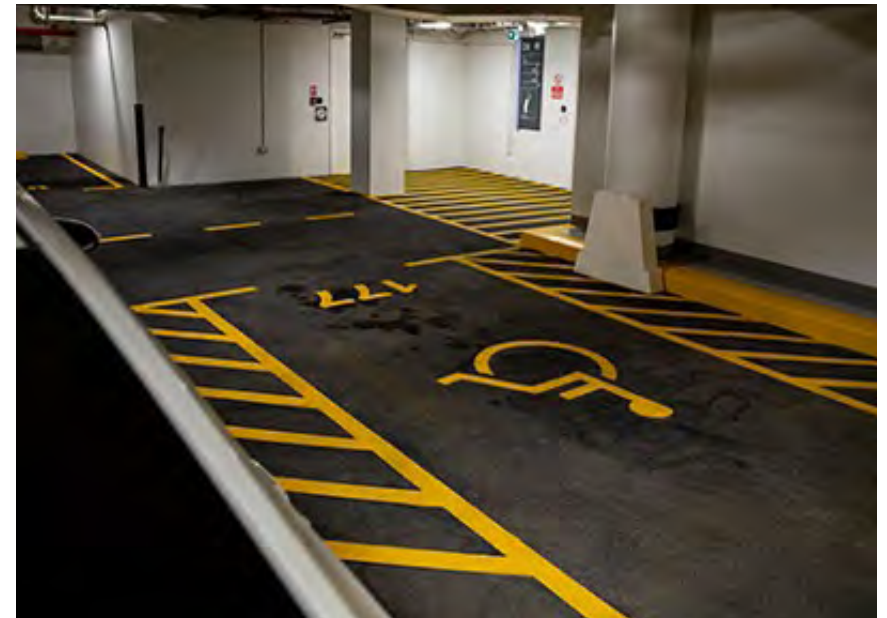


Reduced Inequality

10



Free parking is available across all UAEU campuses. Designated disabled parking spaces are reserved for individuals displaying a valid disability parking permit.



Website Accessibility

UAEU is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible digital environment for all users, including those with special needs. Our website is designed to support assistive technologies, such as text browsers and screen readers, ensuring seamless access for all.



On-Campus Accessibility

UAEU ensures that its campuses are fully accessible to all students and visitors. Concrete pathways connect major buildings, while learning and teaching spaces are equipped with ramps or lifts to accommodate individuals with mobility challenges. United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) has a framework to ensure a respectful and inclusive environment, which includes anti-discrimination, anti-harassment measures as part of its broader Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct and Student Code of Conduct.

3.31

Field-Weighted
Citation Impact
(2020-2024)

1 in the UAE

Scopus
Publications
in 2024



130 Scopus Publications
addressing SDG11 in 2024

🏠 20.37%

Compared to 2023



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Sustainable Cities
and Communities

11

H.E. Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh honoured student Shehab Fawaz, from the College of Engineering for winning 3rd Place in the 9th Cultural and Scientific Week for GCC Universities and Institutions of Higher Education in the Scientific Innovation- Smart Cities Category



The University Chancellor honored students from the College of Engineering for winning 2nd place in the Mohammed Bin Rashid Housing Establishment Competition



UAEU research team from the College of Business and Economics explores the factors driving pricing power on Airbnb, revealing how property size, location, and premium offerings can help hosts set higher prices. Looking ahead, the team plans to examine the role of Airbnb amenities in enhancing guest experiences, aiming to develop a framework linking amenities to guest satisfaction



The Architectural Engineering Department hosted the “From Theory to Practice: Enhancing Urban Mobility through Sustainable Urban Design” seminar



1 in the UAE

Scopus
Publications
in 2024

2.11

Field-Weighted
Citation Impact
(2020-2024)



158 Scopus Publications
addressing SDG12 in 2024

73.63%

Compared to 2023

12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



UAEU research team from College of Engineering introduced a pioneering thermal insulator made from bio-polyester infused with date pits, marking a significant step forward in developing sustainable materials. This innovation demonstrates the potential of utilizing agricultural byproducts to reduce dependence on synthetic inputs, support circular economy principles, and enhance energy-efficient engineering practices.



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



Responsible Consumption and Production

12

A team of students from the College of Sciences showcased exceptional performance in the Innovators in Sustainability Challenge by developing DP-S4Oil, an innovative solution using recycled agricultural and plastic waste to absorb oil spills. Led by Mahra Al-Rumaithi, Nour Al-Bastaki, Saba Al-Balkhi, and Maryam Yahya, the project not only offers an environmentally safe method for mitigating marine pollution but also embodies responsible waste utilization and creative problem-solving.



An interdisciplinary UAEU research team, in partnership with KU Leuven, explored the [use of date fruit pomace for producing L-lactic acid](#), a foundational ingredient in biodegradable plastics. This research advances sustainable manufacturing by transforming organic waste into value-added products and supports long-term strategies for reducing plastic pollution and promoting eco-friendly alternatives in industrial processes.

A dedicated UAEU research project focused on [transforming scrap plastic bottles into re-manufactured materials](#), contributing directly to waste reduction and the advancement of circular economy practices. This initiative not only supports environmental preservation but also expands the scientific and practical applications for recycled plastics within sustainable engineering solutions.

A UAEU research team designed a low-cost aquaponic farming model that enhances agricultural productivity while reducing water consumption by up to 90% compared to traditional farming. By integrating Tilapia fish farming with crop cultivation such as basil and coriander, the system exemplifies resource-efficient, closed-loop food production—an essential component of sustainable consumption and environmentally responsible agriculture.



2.58

Field-Weighted
Citation Impact
(2020-2024)

696_{mt}

Amount of waste
recycled

1 in the UAE

Scopus
Publications
in 2024

470_{mt}

Amount of waste
sent to landfill



PAPER

PLASTIC

CANS

TRASH

خداמת
Khadamat

Innovating Facilities Management
For more information on Waste Management,
please visit our website: www.khadamat.ae

Ranked
301–400
Out of 924 Institutions

UAEU Score
51.4/100



Times Higher Education
Impact Rankings 2025

13 CLIMATE
ACTION



188 Scopus Publications
addressing SDG13 in 2024

32.39%

Compared to 2023



Climate
Action

In conjunction with the university's participation in #COP29, the #United_Arab_Emirates_University announced four research projects under the joint research funding program between UAEU and Baku Engineering University, focusing on topics related to climate change



Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Under the framework of COP29, and in the presence of H.E. Prof. Ahmed Ali Alraeesi, Acting Vice Chancellor of UAEU, Dr. Vazeh Asgarov, Acting Rector of Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University (ASOIU), and Dr. Mohammed Alyafie, Acting Dean of the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine at UAEU, a productive bilateral meeting was held. The meeting marked the [launch of the UAEU-ASOIU SDG Research Program](#), strengthening collaborative efforts towards global sustainability.



The College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Center for Public Policy and Leadership organized a seminar on “Building Urban Resilience: Understanding Climate Change and Mitigating Vulnerability to Rain Flood



For supporting national and global efforts in finding innovative solutions to climate change, the UAE University’s roadmap to COP28 and beyond (2023-2026), and the historic UAE Climate consciences at the Conference of the Parties (COP28), the UAE University launched the “[Green Research Projects](#)” aiming to fund and support re-search projects that focus on sustainability and climate change.

1 in the UAE

Scopus
Publications
in 2024

2.44

Field-Weighted
Citation Impact
(2020-2024)



44 Scopus Publications
addressing SDG14 in 2024

41.94%

Compared to 2023





The Bachelor program in Marine Fisheries and Animal Science encourages students to excel in a wide range of animal science specializations that are highly relevant to food security in arid lands. Students are provided with up-to-date theoretical information, and receive intensive practical training in well-equipped laboratories, on UAEU's experimental stations, and through internship opportunities.

Conserve and
sustainably use the
oceans, seas and
marine resources
for sustainable
development



Life Below
Water

14



The UAEU research team, in collaboration with the Environment Agency–Abu Dhabi, Dubai Municipality, and Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, conducted a study on marine debris ingestion in juvenile sea turtles along the Abu Dhabi coastline. The research revealed widespread plastic contamination, with all rehabilitated turtles and 85% of necropsied individuals found to have ingested plastics, including fragments, industrial pellets, and user-derived materials. Environmental factors such as Shamal winds and cold-stunning events were identified as contributing to turtle strandings and potentially worsening the impacts of plastic ingestion. The study highlights the urgent need for long-term monitoring and improved mitigation strategies to address plastic pollution in the Arabian Gulf.



The UAEU research team from the Department of Biology conducted a study on the bioaccumulation of potentially toxic elements in the commercially important narrow-barred Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus commerson*) from Umm Al Quwain (UAE) and Bandar Abbas (Iran). The analysis showed that chromium, copper, and iron levels exceeded international safety limits, posing risks to both marine life and human consumers, with many fish exhibiting high metal toxicity and poor body condition. These findings highlight the increasing discharge of industrial waste into the Arabian Gulf and the urgent need for stricter regulations to reduce toxic contaminants in the marine environment.

UAEU research team from the department of Biology, College of Science, led by Ph.D. student Shaima Malik, under the guidance of Prof. Sabir Bin Muzaffar and Dr. Oliver Manlik, has conducted a study on the bioaccumulation of potentially toxic elements in King Fish tissues



In 2024, UAEU also hosted the GULF4 Conference, underscoring its national and regional leadership in addressing environmental challenges affecting the Gulf ecosystem. The conference brought together scientists, managers, and students to examine the health, ecology, and sustainability of the Gulf. Its scholarly outcomes were published in four special issues of Aquatic Ecosystem Health & Management (AEHM).



1 in the UAE

Scopus Publications in 2024

1.49

Field-Weighted Citation Impact (2020-2024)

Academic Program:

Bachelor of Science in Marine Fisheries and Animal Science

Courses

GESU 121 Sustainability

ARAG 205 Introduction to Fish & Animal Science

ARAG 230 Principles of Fisheries Management

ARAG 325 Fisheries Management and Conservation

ARAG 424 Fish Breeding and Propagation

ARAG 425 Shellfish and Molluscan Aquaculture

ARAG 326 Mariculture

ARAG 426 Aquatic Ecology

ARAG 430 Fisheries Stock Assessment

ARAG 433 Fish Nutrition

GEO 411 Oceanography

BIOE 454 Marine Biology



71 Scopus Publications
addressing SDG15 in 2024

86.84%

Compared to 2023



15 LIFE
ON LAND



Land-Sensitive Waste Disposal

The United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) is strongly committed to land-sensitive waste disposal practices that protect soil health, prevent land degradation, and safeguard terrestrial ecosystems in alignment with SDG 15: Life on Land. Through strategic collaborations with the Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority (ADAFSA) and the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), UAEU contributes to national research and policy development on sustainable waste management-supporting best practices for the safe disposal of agricultural, chemical, biological, and plastic materials to avoid soil contamination and ecosystem harm. At the institutional level, UAEU integrates responsible waste-handling measures into its environmental policies, ensuring proper treatment and disposal of laboratory hazardous waste, reducing single-use plastics on campus, and promoting recycling and circular-economy solutions. UAEU researchers further advance national capacity through projects on smart waste-sorting technologies, sustainable wastewater treatment, and conservation strategies that minimize harmful land impacts. Together, UAEU, ADAFSA, and EAD reinforce the UAE's commitment to protecting biodiversity, restoring healthy terrestrial environments, and promoting sustainable land management across the country.

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



Life on
Land

15

As an initiative to raise community awareness, students from the United Arab Emirates University launched a campaign titled "[Our Beloved University](#)"



The UAEU research team conducted an advanced scientific study titled “Optimizing Germination Conditions of Ghaf Seed Using ZnO Nanoparticle Priming Through Taguchi Method Analysis.” This project focuses on improving the germination efficiency of Ghaf (*Prosopis cineraria*)—a culturally and environmentally significant tree species recognized as a national symbol of the UAE, and one that plays an essential role in combating desertification and supporting arid-land ecosystems.

UAEU research team is advancing environmental monitoring through Land Use and Land Cover (LULC) mapping using Google Earth Engine. This project provides a comparative analysis of multiple machine learning algorithms to identify the most accurate and efficient approaches for mapping dynamic landscape changes.

1 in the UAE
Scopus
Publications
in 2024

2.21
Field-Weighted
Citation Impact
(2020-2024)



42 Scopus Publications
addressing SDG16 in 2024

2.44%

Compared to 2023



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Peace and Justice Strong
Institutions.

16

The Practical Training Committee at the College of Law held a workshop titled “How to Handle a Criminal Lawsuit



The College of Law organized a workshop to discuss legal and regulatory aspects of mergers and acquisitions in companies



2 in the UAE

Scopus
Publications
in 2024

5.59

Field-Weighted
Citation Impact
(2020-2024)

The College of Law held the 29th Annual Conference titled "Health and Law: Prospects and Challenges" with the participation of a select group of experts and specialists to discuss innovative legal solutions in the field of health.



The Department of Private Law at the College of Law organized the 9th Annual Moot Court Competition, which aims to develop students' skills in preparing legal briefs



The College of Humanities and Social Sciences held a lecture on the role of forensic psychology in the legal system, and how psychological expertise can enhance criminal justice practices.



The College of Information Technology organized a "Cybersecurity Awareness Workshop" as part of the Cyber Pulse initiative, aimed at empowering students to safely navigate AI risks and data privacy





Ranked
301–400
Out of 924 Institutions

UAEU Score
51.4/100



Times Higher Education
Impact Rankings 2025



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



Partnerships to
achieve the Goal

17

With the presence of H.E. Prof. Ahmed Alraeesi, Acting Vice Chancellor of UAEU, and Prof. Michael Allen, Acting Vice President of Zayed University, UAEU and Zayed University organized the first UAEU-ZU Research Symposium. The event highlighted the outcomes of 12 collaborative research projects co-funded by both universities.



The United Arab Emirates University and the Education University of Hong Kong have initiated a strategic partnership under which a joint research program is established, paving the way for collaboration and innovation that benefit the global community. The first cycle of projects will focus on the key areas of Education & Nutrition in Early Childhood, Environmental Sustainability, and Happiness & Well-being



In a significant step toward advancing sustainability-focused research, the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) and Sun Yat-Sen University in China have announced the winners of their joint research grants in the presence of H.E. Ms. Mariam Alshamsi, Consul General, Consulate General of the United Arab Emirates in Guangzhou.



The Acting Vice Chancellor met with a delegation from Al Ain Football Club to explore cooperation opportunities and discuss future initiatives.



The United Arab Emirates University explores means of mutual cooperation with INSEAD Business School in Singapore.



The United Arab Emirates University welcomed Dr. Mohammed Youssef, Head of the Embassy Office and Political Affairs Advisor at the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Abu Dhabi, to discuss avenues of cooperation in the fields of economy, culture, and education



H.E. Prof. Ahmed Ali Al Raeesi, Acting Vice Chancellor of the United Arab Emirates University, participated in the University Partners Summit, hosted by Beihang University in China from November 2 to 4, 2024. During the summit, UAEU and Beihang University announced the launch of a joint research funding program aimed at advancing research in priority national areas



H.E. Prof. Ahmed Ali Al Raeesi, Acting Vice Chancellor of the United Arab Emirates University, welcomed a delegation from Nanyang Technological University (NTU). The visit aimed to enhance academic collaboration, exchange expertise between the two institutions, and announce the winning projects of the partnership program



H.E. Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, Chancellor of the university, welcomed H.E. Lucie Berger, Ambassador of the European Union to the UAE, to explore avenues for academic and scientific collaboration between the two parties



In collaboration with Seoul National University, the United Arab Emirates University organizes the 2nd edition of the Asian Climate Forum 2024





Data set	Institutions collaborating with United Arab Emirates University	
Year range	2020 to 2024	
Region totals	Collaborating Institutions	Co-authored publications
Worldwide	5486	9218
Africa	437	2100
Asia Pacific	1714	4655
Europe	1701	3087
Middle East	580	4328
North America	831	2183
South America	223	587



UAEU SUPPORTS UN SDGs



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