



جامعة عجمان
AJMAN UNIVERSITY

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



17.2.4

Collaboration for SDG best practice

Year 2025



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17.2.4 Collaboration for SDG best practice

Through international collaboration and research, Ajman University reviews comparative approaches and develops international best practices for tackling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The University actively contributes to knowledge exchange through global and regional platforms, academic partnerships, professional networks, and collaborative initiatives, while disseminating its sustainability strategies, achievements, and institutional practices through online platforms, international forums, and SDG-focused programs.

AU continuously collaborates internationally to adopt and share sustainable practices, developing, publishing, and implementing various strategies while promoting knowledge exchange, including:

- [Climate & Sustainability Strategy 2022-2030](#)
- [Community Engagement Strategy 2022-2027](#)
- [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Strategic Plan 2022-2027](#)
- [AU Revitalizing Instruction, Skills & Education Strategy \(AU RISE\) Strategy 2025-2027](#)
- [Research Strategy](#)
- [Sustainability at Ajman University](#)
- [Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [Ajman University COP28 UAE](#)
- [Carbon Emissions Reduction at AU](#)
- [Community Programs and Activities](#)
- [Sustainability Lifelong Learning](#)
- [Climate Change Learning Program](#)
- [AU Co-leads the UCN Decarbonization Academy](#)
- [From the Desk of Chancellor Seghir](#)

Examples of AU's collaboration for developing and sharing best practices in 2025 include:

1. [Ajman University Among the World's First Founding Members of QS One \(December 2025\)](#)

AU's recognition as one of the first founding members of QS One reflects its commitment to SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals by strengthening international collaboration, strategic engagement, and knowledge exchange with leading global higher education institutions. Through its participation in this selective leadership network, AU gains opportunities to engage in global policy dialogue, intelligence-sharing, and forward-looking discussions on academic innovation, evidence-based decision-making, institutional development, and future-ready education systems. This membership supports AU's efforts to adopt international best practices, enhance the quality and relevance of higher education, and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of the higher education sector in the UAE, the region, and beyond.



2. Ajman University Becomes the First UAE Signatory of the CANIE Accord, Strengthening Global Climate Leadership in Higher Education (2025)

AU became the first UAE university to sign the CANIE Accord, joining an international network that shares resources and develops approaches to climate action in education. AU committed to 61 actions across five areas and reported full completion of its Leadership and Influencing and Climate Education actions. Its participation supports the exchange of practices on climate education, emissions reduction, and sustainable operations, contributing to SDG 17.2.4: Collaboration for SDG Best Practice.

3. Ajman University Contributes to Institutional Climate Action Planning Workshop at THE Arab World Summit 2025 (November 2025)

AU advances international collaboration for SDG best practice through research-informed engagement in high-level platforms that enable the exchange of comparative approaches and scalable sustainability solutions. In 2025, the University contributed to the Institutional Climate Action Planning Workshop at the Times Higher Education Arab World Summit 2025, where global higher education leaders examined practical and accountable models for embedding sustainability across governance, operations, and academic



activities, supporting the co-development of transferable climate action strategies. The University further engaged in policy-oriented dialogue through its participation in Ajman's Carbon Neutrality Strategy Forum, sharing research-based insights on sustainable urban development and climate-responsive design, and collaborated with regional partners including Greenpeace MENA through the Wellbeing Economy Award to showcase and benchmark innovative sustainability solutions. Collectively, these initiatives demonstrate Ajman University's role in contributing to the development and dissemination of international best practices aligned with (SDG 13: Climate Action; SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals).

4. Ajman University Joins the Digital Education Council (November 2025)

Advancing Digital Education Best Practices through Global Collaboration

AU's membership in the Digital Education Council demonstrates its commitment to adopting international best practices in digital education through global collaboration, knowledge exchange, and shared learning with leading educational institutions. Through this partnership, AU gains access to international workshops, joint initiatives, and digital learning resources that support faculty development, enhance student learning, and promote the practical application of innovative technologies such as artificial intelligence and data analytics. This initiative supports SDG 4: Quality Education by strengthening modern and future-ready teaching and learning practices, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals by fostering sustained international collaboration and cooperation in advancing higher education.



5. University Signs MoU with Revitalife Compounding Pharmacy to Strengthen Applied Learning and Professional Training in Pharmaceutical Sciences (November 2025)

Enhancing Healthcare Education, Applied Learning, and Industry Collaboration

AU's MoU with Revitalife Compounding Pharmacy supports SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals by strengthening collaboration between higher education and the healthcare industry to enhance applied learning, clinical training, research, innovation, and community-focused health initiatives. Through field-based training, specialized workshops, skill-development programs, and cooperative projects, the partnership provides pharmacy students with practical exposure to professional pharmaceutical practices and supports the adoption of industry-relevant best practices. This collaboration reinforces AU's commitment to preparing future-ready healthcare professionals, advancing pharmaceutical education, and building meaningful partnerships that contribute to professional competency, innovation, and community well-being.



6. AU Psychology Students Explore Morocco Through Academic and Cultural Exchange (2025)

AU, through the Psychology Department at the College of Humanities and Sciences, organized an academic and cultural exchange visit to Morocco to strengthen international collaboration, comparative learning, and knowledge exchange in psychology and mental health education. During the visit, students participated in academic sessions with faculty and peers from Ibn Tofail University, attended the International Psychology Conference, and engaged with clinical psychology institutions and cultural sites across Rabat, Tangier, and Kenitra. The experience provided students with opportunities to review international perspectives, explore professional practices in psychology, and engage in academic and cross-cultural dialogue. This initiative supports SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals by promoting international collaboration, intercultural understanding, and the adoption of broader perspectives and best practices in higher education and mental health.



7. Ajman University Signs MoU with Baku State University to Strengthen Academic and Research Collaboration (2025)

AU signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Baku State University to enhance academic research, promote international student and faculty exchange, and expand opportunities for joint academic and cultural collaboration. The partnership supports knowledge exchange, innovation, and multidisciplinary approaches to societal impact, while creating new pathways for joint research initiatives, dual academic programs, academic mobility, and shared institutional growth. Through this collaboration, Ajman University and Baku State University aim to advance impactful research and contribute to innovation, inclusion, and societal progress across the Middle East and the Southern Caucasus. The initiative supports the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly quality education (SDG 4), innovation and research capacity (SDG 9), reduced inequalities through inclusion and cross-cultural academic mobility (SDG 10), and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17).



8. Ajman University Signs Strategic MoUs with Leading Chinese Universities During Official Visit to Chongqing

AU signed two strategic Memoranda of Understanding with Chongqing University and Southwest University during the official visit of His Highness Sheikh Ammar bin Humaid Al Nuaimi, Crown Prince of Ajman and Chairman of the Executive Council, to the People's Republic of China. The agreements strengthen international academic collaboration through student exchange, scientific research, and joint academic programs. These partnerships provide a platform for Ajman University and its international partners to exchange knowledge, review comparative academic and research approaches, and develop collaborative practices that support the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in areas related to quality education (SDG 4), research innovation and sustainable knowledge-based development (SDG 9), and global partnerships (SDG 17). The initiative reflects Ajman University's commitment to expanding international cooperation and contributing to SDG best practice through cross-border academic and research collaboration.



9. Ajman University's College of Architecture, Art and Design Hosts the 2025 International Museum Day Forum (2025)

Ajman University's College of Architecture, Art and Design hosted the 2025 International Museum Day Forum in collaboration with the International Council of Museums – UAE (ICOM-UAE), under the theme “The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities.” The forum brought together local and international experts to engage in dialogue on evolving trends in museology, design, sustainability, and cultural engagement. Through keynote sessions, interactive discussions, and an exhibition of student projects focused on sustainable and inclusive museum spaces, the event created a platform for knowledge exchange between academia and cultural sector stakeholders. By encouraging the exchange of comparative perspectives and collaborative practices on sustainable, inclusive, and community-responsive museum design, the initiative supports SDG best practice development, particularly in relation to quality education (SDG 4), reduced inequalities through inclusive cultural spaces (SDG 10), sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17).



10. Ajman University Advances Five Places to Rank #12 in QS Arab Region Rankings 2026 (October 2025)

Ajman University advanced five places to rank #12 in the QS Arab Region University Rankings 2026, reflecting its growing regional profile in academic excellence, research innovation, and global engagement. The University recorded notable progress across several indicators, including a 12-place rise in Citations per Paper and International Research Network, underscoring the increasing strength of its scholarly output and international research collaborations. These achievements demonstrate AU's sustained commitment to research productivity, global academic engagement, and knowledge exchange. The progress supports the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly quality education (SDG 4), research innovation and knowledge-based development (SDG 9), decent work and future-ready graduate preparation (SDG 8), and partnerships through international research networks (SDG 17).

11. Ajman University Explores New Avenues of Academic and Research Cooperation with the Consulate General of France (October 2025)

Ajman University welcomed a delegation from the Consulate General of France in Dubai and the Northern Emirates to explore new areas of academic, research, cultural, and innovation cooperation. The discussions focused on strengthening international academic partnerships through student and faculty exchanges, joint academic programs, internship opportunities, innovative pedagogical approaches, and the integration of emerging technologies and artificial intelligence into teaching and learning. The meeting also explored collaboration with Campus France to support international student mobility, as well as opportunities for participation in Horizon Europe, which would enhance AU's research capabilities, expand international collaboration, and provide access to advanced research infrastructure and European research networks. The initiative supports



quality education (SDG 4), decent work and employability through internships and career pathways (SDG 8), research, innovation, and emerging technologies (SDG 9), reduced inequalities through international student mobility and access to global opportunities (SDG 10), and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17).

12. Office of Sustainability Strengthens Global Engagement at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi (2025)

Ajman University's Office of Sustainability participated in the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025 in Abu Dhabi, reinforcing the University's role in advancing sustainability dialogue and environmental action through international collaboration. The Congress brought together global experts and decision-makers from governments, civil society, the private sector, and academic institutions to address pressing environmental challenges and shape global sustainability priorities. Through its engagement, Ajman University contributed to sessions on digital conservation, environmental awareness, biodiversity, climate change adaptation, social inclusion, and community resilience. The participation also strengthened collaboration with the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and other local and international stakeholders. This initiative supports the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly quality education through environmental awareness and knowledge exchange (SDG 4), reduced inequalities through inclusive environmental planning (SDG 10), sustainable and resilient communities (SDG 11), climate action (SDG 13), biodiversity and ecosystem protection (SDG 15), and partnerships for the goals through international sustainability collaboration (SDG 17).



13. Ajman University Vice Chancellor Delivers Speaking Session on Energy Efficiency at UCN Decarbonization Academy Event

Ajman University's Vice Chancellor for Financial and Administrative Affairs, Mr. Rabi Al Khofash, participated as a speaker at the UCN Decarbonization Academy, an initiative of the UAE Universities Climate Network focused on advancing carbon neutrality efforts across universities. In his session, "Considerations for Improving Energy Efficiency," he shared practical approaches for improving campus energy performance, including upgrading HVAC systems, adopting smart building technologies, integrating renewable energy sources, and implementing energy retrofit projects. The session highlighted how universities can align sustainability with sound fiscal management while supporting national goals such as the UAE Energy Strategy 2050 and Net Zero 2050. As Ajman University co-founded the UCN Decarbonization Academy with the American University of Sharjah and NYU Abu Dhabi, this initiative demonstrates AU's role in sharing institutional best practices, raising climate awareness, and strengthening collaboration among universities to advance decarbonization and carbon neutrality. The initiative supports the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly quality education and sustainability awareness (SDG 4), affordable and clean energy through energy efficiency and renewable energy adoption (SDG 7), innovation and sustainable infrastructure (SDG 9), sustainable campuses and



communities (SDG 11), climate action through decarbonization and carbon neutrality (SDG 13), and partnerships for the goals through multi-university collaboration (SDG 17).

14. Ajman University Vice Chancellor Rabi Alkhofash Highlights the Role of Academia in Advancing Real-World Sustainability at PMI MENA Webinar (July 2025)

Ajman University's Vice Chancellor for Financial and Administrative Affairs, Mr. Rabi Alkhofash, participated as an invited speaker in a regional webinar hosted by the Project Management Institute – MENA Chapter, titled "Beyond the Buzzwords: Real Sustainability, Real Impact." His remarks highlighted how universities can contribute to national and global sustainability goals by moving beyond rhetoric and implementing tangible, scalable, and action-oriented initiatives. Drawing on Ajman University's own sustainability journey, he emphasized the role of higher education in integrating sustainability into academic programs, institutional operations, community partnerships, and data-informed planning. The session also underscored the importance of stronger academia-industry collaboration, strategic partnerships, stakeholder engagement, volunteerism, and broader sustainability metrics to achieve real-world social and environmental impact. This initiative supports the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly quality education and sustainability learning (SDG 4), decent work and future-ready skills (SDG 8), innovation and applied solutions (SDG 9), sustainable communities (SDG 11), climate action and environmental impact (SDG 13), and partnerships for the goals through academia-industry collaboration (SDG 17).



15. Ajman University: Sole Middle East Recipient of Prestigious ICANN Grant to Develop Global Internet Security System

AU secured an international grant from the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers to develop a global Internet security system focused on archiving and analyzing data related to Domain Name System Security Extensions. The project aims to establish a 24/7 operational platform that analyzes historical DNSSEC data, identifies vulnerabilities, and highlights global implementation gaps, thereby supporting stronger adoption of cybersecurity standards worldwide. Through this grant-funded initiative, Ajman University is contributing applied research, technical innovation, and diagnostic tools that address a major global challenge in secure digital infrastructure. The project also strengthens research and training opportunities for students, graduates, and researchers, while supporting knowledge exchange with the global Internet community. This initiative supports the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly quality education and research training (SDG 4), innovation and resilient digital infrastructure (SDG 9), stronger institutions through secure and trustworthy digital systems (SDG 16), and global partnerships for sustainable technological development (SDG 17).



16.The Office of International Academic Affairs and Office of Sustainability Organize Ajman University Winter Study Tour 2025

The Office of International Academic Affairs, in collaboration with the Office of Sustainability at Ajman University, organized the Winter Study Tour 2025 to enhance students' awareness of sustainability and climate change while linking academic knowledge with field-based and practical experiences. The tour included the Climate Fresk Workshop, where students explored the causes, impacts, and solutions to climate change through participatory learning.



Students also visited the Emirates RDF facility to learn about waste-to-fuel conversion, landfill reduction, circular economy practices, and sustainable energy innovation. In addition, students attended a session on the solar-powered hydroponic net house project in collaboration with ICARDA, followed by a visit to ICBA, where they engaged with experts on biosaline agriculture, food security, water scarcity, and sustainable crop, soil, and water management in arid environments. This initiative supports SDG best practice by connecting students with external experts, applied research centers, and practical sustainability solutions. It supports the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly quality education and sustainability learning (SDG 4), affordable and clean energy through waste-to-fuel and solar-powered systems (SDG 7), responsible consumption and production through circular economy and waste management (SDG 12), climate action (SDG 13), food security and sustainable agriculture (SDG 2), clean water and water management (SDG 6), and partnerships for the goals through collaboration with sustainability and research institutions (SDG 17).

17.UN Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI)

Ajman University has been an active member of the UN Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) since 2022, continuously aligning with global efforts to integrate sustainability into education. HESI, led by UN DESA and the Sulitest Association, connects academia, research, and policy-making to promote sustainable development. Supported by partners such as UNESCO, UNEP, and UN Academic Impact, HESI facilitates ongoing collaboration, exchange of best practices, and highlights the critical role of higher education in advancing sustainability.

18.United Nations' Environment Program Race to Net Zero for Universities

AU has committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, with an interim target for 2030, through the UNEP Race to Zero initiative. Participation in this global campaign supports SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 8, and SDG 13 (Climate Action) by fostering sustainable practices and clean energy solutions.

19.Safe Driving Awareness Campaign in Collaboration with Ford Motors

AU's Office of Student Life, in collaboration with Ford Motors, organized an awareness campaign for students on safe driving skills, aligning with SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). It featured practical car training sessions that highlighted the risks associated with unsafe driving behaviors, such as phone usage, overtaking, speeding, and reckless driving factors that can lead to severe accidents.

20. Nature Positive Alliance” with the University of Oxford and the UN Environment Program (UNEP)

Ajman University continues to be an active member of the Nature Positive Universities Alliance, which it joined during COP15 (United Nations Biodiversity Conference), reinforcing its commitment to sustainability by integrating environmental stewardship into operations and fostering a culture of responsibility. The Alliance, launched by UNEP, the University of Oxford, and 577 universities worldwide, positions universities as leaders in combating climate change and biodiversity loss. Through ongoing engagement, AU implements campus sustainability audits, adopts eco-friendly practices, restores habitats, and supports student-led advocacy via the Nature Positive Student Ambassadors program.

21. International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN) Membership

Ajman University remains an active member of the International Sustainable Campus Network (ISCN), continuing its distinction as the first university in the UAE and the second in the MENA region to receive this recognition. This ongoing partnership underscores AU’s commitment to integrating sustainability into its core operations, alongside renowned institutions such as Harvard and MIT. As a continuing ISCN member, AU actively collaborates with global experts, engages with fellow universities during conferences and workshops, and shares best practices through the ISCN website, newsletter, and social media. Key benefits of this sustained engagement include:

- **Global Recognition:** Reinforces AU’s dedication to sustainability, enhancing its reputation and attracting eco-conscious students, faculty, and partners.
- **Expert Collaboration:** Facilitates knowledge sharing and joint research with leading universities and professionals.
- **Exclusive Events:** Provides ongoing access to ISCN conferences, workshops, and sustainability-focused events.
- **Platform for Sharing:** Enables AU to showcase initiatives and learn from peers via ISCN’s digital platforms.

AU actively contributes to the following Communities of Practice:

- **Biodiversity Community of Practice**
- **Sustainability Governance & Leadership Community of Practice**
- **Sustainability Education Community of Practice**
- **Sustainability Reporting Working Group**
- **Sustainability Communications Roundtable**