



جامعة عجمان
AJMAN UNIVERSITY

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



17.2.5

Collaboration with NGOs for SDGs

Year 2025



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17.2.5 Collaboration with NGOs for SDGs

Ajman University collaborates with NGOs and non-profit organizations, supported by private-sector and government stakeholders, to tackle the SDGs through student volunteering programmes, research programmes, and the development of educational resources. These collaborations support community engagement, sustainability learning, applied research, and student participation in SDG-focused activities.

1. Student Volunteering Programmes

1.1. Ajman University's Mangrove Restoration Effort Wins MAJRA Sustainable Impact Award 2025

Community-Driven Mangrove Restoration for Climate Resilience and Coastal Ecosystem Protection

Ajman University's "Greening Communities: Mangrove Planting Project" was named Best University-Led Project at the MAJRA Sustainable Impact Challenge 2025 and recognized among the Top 20 national sustainability initiatives from more than 228 entries across the UAE. The project combines ecological restoration, student volunteering, community participation, and environmental



education to restore coastal ecosystems, raise awareness, and support nature-based climate action. Through the active involvement of students, faculty, staff, and community members, the initiative promotes civic engagement and environmental stewardship while demonstrating how universities can mobilize their communities for measurable sustainability impact. The project received MAJRA's Verified Impact Stamp, affirming the credibility and effectiveness of AU's approach to linking sustainability education, volunteerism, community-centered action, and coastal ecosystem protection. The initiative supports SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

1.2. AU Wins Second Place in the Aoun Award for Community Service by Emirates Red Crescent (2025)

Student Volunteering with Emirates Red Crescent for Humanitarian and Community Service

Ajman University's Team Aoun for Community Service, operating as the Emirates Red Crescent Club under the Office of Student Life, secured second place in the 13th cycle of the Aoun Award for Community Service organized by Emirates Red Crescent Authority in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Throughout the academic year 2024–2025, the team



implemented 30 humanitarian and community-focused initiatives supporting underprivileged families,

patients, orphans, and low-income households. These initiatives generated 1,550 volunteering hours, involved 1,236 volunteers, and reached more than 6,500 beneficiaries through activities such as orphan support events, charitable campaigns, hospital visits, blood donation drives, dental care outreach, and educational resource support. The initiative demonstrates Ajman University's collaboration with a humanitarian organization to promote student volunteering, community service, social responsibility, and SDG-related impact. It supports SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

1.3. A Day for Orphaned Children at Ajman University (2025)

AU's Office of Student Life collaborated with the UAE Red Crescent in Ajman to organize "Together We Make Joy," a community-based volunteering initiative for orphaned children. The event engaged student volunteers from the Activities Unit, Athletics Unit, Red Crescent Club, White Hearts Club, and various university sports teams, together with staff supervisors, in delivering sports challenges, face painting, games, and other recreational activities. The initiative emphasized AU's commitment to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by promoting inclusion, emotional well-being, volunteerism, and community support for vulnerable children.

Held at Ajman University's sports complex on February 5, 2025, the event reflected the University's continuing efforts to strengthen collaboration with humanitarian and community organizations. It also demonstrated how student volunteering can foster compassion, social responsibility, and a culture of giving while creating meaningful and positive experiences for orphaned children.



1.4. Ajman University's Google Developers Club Engages Schoolchildren in AI Awareness Workshop (2025)

Ajman University's Google Developers Club, under the Office of Student Life, collaborated with Al Ahliya Private Schools to conduct an AI-awareness workshop for schoolchildren. Seven AU student volunteers guided younger learners in understanding the benefits, challenges, and potential risks of artificial intelligence while promoting its safe, ethical, and responsible use. The initiative supported SDG 4 (Quality Education) by extending technology education to the wider community and providing university students with an opportunity to apply their knowledge through educational volunteering.



1.5. Ajman University's Dental Anastomosis Club Brings Joy to Orphaned Children (2025)

AU's Office of Student Life collaborated with the Youth Initiative Club, Dental Anastomosis Club, Book Club, and Biomedical Engineering Club to organize the "Table of Happiness" initiative for orphaned children. Student volunteers and healthcare professionals supported dental examinations, documented cases requiring follow-up treatment, delivered an educational session on oral hygiene, and facilitated recreational activities. Volunteers also shared



breakfast with the children and distributed gifts, toys, and financial assistance. The initiative demonstrated AU's commitment to volunteerism and community engagement while advancing SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through coordinated student-led service benefiting a vulnerable group.

1.6. The Office of Community Engagement Organizes 'Donate Your Time' Initiative (2025)

Ajman University's Office of Community Engagement organized the "Donate Your Time" initiative in collaboration with Manar Al Eman Charity School to mark the International Day of Education. Volunteers, donors, and community organizations worked together to assemble 800 educational toys and gifts for schoolchildren, demonstrating the value of volunteerism, social responsibility, and collective support for education. The initiative strengthened university–community collaboration and contributed to SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by mobilizing volunteers and local partners to support children's learning and well-being.



1.7. The Office of Community Engagement Celebrates Hag Al Laila with Community Initiative (2025)

Ajman University's Office of Community Engagement organized a student volunteering activity under its "Donate Your Time" initiative in celebration of Hag Al Laila. AU volunteers contributed their time to preparing 2,000 sweet packs, which they later distributed to students at Manar Al Eman School. Students from the school were also invited to the AU campus to participate in cultural activities, including a traditional dance and the distribution of sweet packs to the University community. The initiative promoted volunteerism, community participation, cultural



appreciation, and stronger engagement between the University and the local community (SDG 4 – Quality Education; SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities; SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities; SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals).

1.8. AU Volunteers Support Orphans through Eid Shopping Initiative with the International Charity Organization (2025)

Ajman University's Office of Community Engagement, in collaboration with the International Charity Organization, organized a student volunteering initiative to support 30 orphans in preparation for Eid. As part of the activity, AU volunteers assisted the children in selecting Eid outfits, helping create a joyful and meaningful experience for them. The initiative was complemented by on-campus activities held in celebration of Happiness Day, promoting kindness, empathy, and community spirit among students. Through this collaboration, AU demonstrated its commitment to volunteerism and community engagement while supporting vulnerable members of society (SDG 1 – No Poverty; SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being; SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities; SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals).



1.9. Office of Community Engagement

At AU, social responsibility is a core value, as demonstrated by the University's recognition with 5 QS Stars for Social Responsibility since 2019. The Office of Community Engagement (OCE) is committed to making a meaningful societal impact by leveraging the University's educational expertise, institutional resources, and community partnerships. Through its Community Service Unit (CSU), the OCE strengthens AU's engagement in community initiatives by facilitating the active participation of faculty, staff, and students. It also collaborates with local government entities, non-governmental organizations, and community leaders to create mutually beneficial opportunities for students and the wider community. Annual reports on community service activities are published online, while a detailed account of the CSU's activities for Academic Year 2024–2025 is available in the [Achievement File](#).

2. Research programmes

Ajman University (AU) places high importance on research in its 2022–2027 Strategic Plan, with a strong focus on fostering innovation and addressing global and societal challenges. Led by the [Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies \(DRG\)](#), AU promotes a supportive research culture, strengthens research infrastructure, and encourages interdisciplinary and international collaboration. These efforts also foster research partnerships with external stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, and contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

AU actively engages undergraduate and graduate students in research through graduate assistantships, institutional research funding, and innovation and entrepreneurship support provided by the [Ajman University Innovation Centre \(AUIC\)](#). The University regularly reviews and enhances its Graduate Assistant Policy to improve inclusivity and the support available to graduate students. AU has also expanded its support for undergraduate research in accordance with the Student Research Support Policy.

AUIC enables students and faculty members to transform innovative ideas into viable, market-ready products and services, contributing particularly to SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.

AU's specialized research centres also advance sustainability-related research. For example, the [Healthy and Sustainable Building Research Centre](#) conducts interdisciplinary research that supports sustainable and resilient communities, contributing to SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities and SDG 13: Climate Action.

Examples of research programmes implemented during the 2024–2025 academic year, together with related institutional support initiatives and evidence of continuing student engagement in SDG-related research, are presented below.

2.1. [Greenpeace MENA, Ajman University, and UAE Universities Climate Network Celebrate 'Wellbeing Economy Award' Winners \(2025\)](#)

NGO Collaboration to Recognize Youth Research and Innovation for a Wellbeing Economy

Ajman University collaborated with [Greenpeace MENA](#) (NGO) and the UAE Universities Climate Network to organize the Wellbeing Economy Award, recognizing young researchers and innovators whose work contributes to sustainability, innovation, and wellbeing in the UAE and Gulf region. The initiative provided a platform for academic institutions, researchers, environmental



stakeholders, and multi-sector partners to highlight research that goes beyond traditional economic metrics and promotes inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development. Through this collaboration, Ajman University supported research-based solutions addressing renewable energy, wellbeing indicators, social equity,

environmental stewardship, and sustainable economic models. The initiative supports the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly good health and well-being (SDG 3), affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), decent work and economic growth through wellbeing economy models (SDG 8), innovation and applied research (SDG 9), reduced inequalities and social equity (SDG 10), climate action (SDG 13), and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17).

2.2. Ajman University: Sole Middle East Recipient of Prestigious ICANN Grant to Develop Global Internet Security System (2025)

Ajman University received an international research grant from the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), a non-profit public-benefit organization, to develop a global platform for archiving and analysing Domain Name System Security Extensions data. The research programme will continuously collect historical DNSSEC data, identify vulnerabilities and implementation gaps, and provide diagnostic and visual-analysis tools that support the security and resilience of global internet infrastructure. The project will also establish an advanced hardware laboratory and provide students, graduates, and researchers with access to valuable datasets and opportunities for applied research and technical training. Through this university–NGO research collaboration, the initiative contributes primarily to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).



2.3. Ajman University and Emirates Green Building Council Forge Partnership for a Sustainable Future

Ajman University (AU) and the Emirates Green Building Council (EGBC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to advance sustainability in architecture and the built environment. The partnership supports joint research, green building education, student engagement, faculty exchange, resource sharing, and the development of sustainable technologies and publications, contributing to SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Collaborative activities implemented under this partnership are presented in the relevant sections.



2.4. Ajman University–ICARDA Partnership Advances Research on Climate-Resilient Agriculture

Ajman University collaborates with the [International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas \(ICARDA\)](#), a global non-profit research-for-development organization, through the Desert Bloom: The Foodprint Project, an applied research initiative focused on sustainable agriculture and food security (SDG 2 – Zero Hunger) in arid environments. The partnership established a solar-powered hydroponic net house at AU as a living laboratory for testing and demonstrating climate-resilient agricultural technologies



(SDG 13 – Climate Action), including closed hydroponic systems, root-zone cooling, water-efficient irrigation (SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation), insect-protected cultivation, and solar energy (SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy).

Following a pilot phase in 2024, the facility became fully operational in 2025, providing opportunities for research and experiential learning in sustainable agriculture (SDG 4 – Quality Education), drought-resilient crops, water efficiency (SDG 6), and sustainable food production and resource use (SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production). The project has produced more than half a ton of cucumbers and cherry tomatoes for distribution within the AU community while generating practical knowledge on sustainable agricultural solutions suited to the UAE's hyper-arid climate.

The initiative demonstrates how university–NGO research partnerships (SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals) can translate climate adaptation research into practical solutions that contribute to food security (SDG 2), resource efficiency (SDGs 6 and 12), renewable energy adoption (SDG 7), climate resilience (SDG 13), and research-based education and community benefit (SDG 4).

2.5. Supporting Evidence of Student Research and SDG Engagement

The following examples provide additional evidence of AU's institutional mechanisms for supporting student engagement in SDG-related research and demonstrate the broader research environment within which its collaborative research programmes are supported.

2.5.1. [Continuing Student Research Efforts Toward Sustainability – selected projects reflecting AU's sustained student engagement in sustainability research, including projects from prior years.](#)

- [“WATER MAT” Smart Design for Water Conservation and Climate Action](#)
- [IOT Based Smart Garden](#)
- [IOT Based Smart Home](#)
- [Factors Affecting Financial Institutions' Strategies to Meet the UAE's Net-Zero and Climate Resilience Objectives](#)
- [How Materials Preserve Food, Health, and Sustainability Crosscheck](#)
- [Al Zorah Sustainable School Ajman](#)
- [Innovative Green Electric Pots](#)

- [Plastic Pollution Campaign - Graduation Project](#)
- [Plastic Pollution Animation - Graduation Project](#)
- [Water scarcity and sustainability in Dubai](#)
- [Sustainability Green Print - Graduation Project](#)
- [Climate change knowledge, attitude, and perception of university students in UAE \(Research paper1\)](#)
- [Climate change knowledge, attitude, and perception of university students in UAE \(Research paper 2\)](#)
- [Climate change knowledge, attitude, and perception of university students in UAE \(Research paper 3\)](#)
- [Climate change knowledge, attitude, and perception of university students in UAE \(Research paper 4\)](#)
- [Climate change knowledge, attitude, and perception of university students in UAE \(Research paper 5\)](#)
- [Examining UAE University Students' Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions Regarding Climate Change](#)
- [Integrating Green Infrastructure for Eco-friendly Spaces](#)
- [Energy efficiency based on passive design solutions in UAE](#)

2.5.2. Sample Graduation Projects

- [Department of Information Technology](#)
 - [Fall 2025](#) - graduation projects supporting SDGs 2, 4, 8, 9, 12, 13, and 16.
 - [Spring 2025](#) - graduation projects supporting SDGs 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 16.
- [Department of Psychology](#) - graduation projects addressing contemporary psychological issues and real-world applications, supporting SDGs 3 and 4.

2.5.3. Sustainability Research

- [College of Engineering and IT](#)
- [College of Law](#)
- [College of Business Administration](#)
- [College of Mass Communication](#)
- [College of Dentistry](#)
- [College of Humanities and Sciences](#)
- [College of Architecture, Art and Design](#)

3. Development of Educational Resources

3.1. Sustainability Lifelong Learning

Ajman University is committed to sustainability education, equipping its community, including students, faculty, and staff—with the knowledge and skills necessary to support a sustainable future. Sustainability training is mandatory for AU members and optional for the public.

Environmental Sustainability Training covers climate change, resource conservation, renewable energy, decarbonization, circular economy, biodiversity, sustainable transportation, climate justice, carbon footprint calculation, ESG standards, and climate innovation. AU maintains a dedicated page for the [AU Climate Action Learning Program](#).

Social Impact Training focuses on social responsibility, diversity and inclusion, community engagement, ethical leadership, social entrepreneurship, occupational health and safety, mental health and wellness, and future skills.

On average, AU community members receive 25 hours of sustainability training annually, integrated across curricula, workshops, and initiatives. This comprehensive approach ensures participants are prepared to drive positive environmental and social impact.

Training Categories (up to 2025):

- [Environmental Sustainability Training](#)
- [Social Impact Training](#)

3.2. Ajman University Collaborates with INJAZ UAE to Deliver AI Microlearning Workshops (2025)

Ajman University, through the College of Business and its Management Department, partnered with INJAZ UAE, a non-profit organization and local chapter of INJAZ Al Arab and Junior Achievement Worldwide, to deliver a series of eight AI microlearning workshops during the summer semester for students enrolled in the Innovation and Entrepreneurship course. Through this collaboration, faculty, industry experts, and a non-profit partner engaged over 300 students from diverse majors in discussions on Generative AI,



innovation, and entrepreneurship using Google's "Introduction to AI" microlearning course. This initiative demonstrates Ajman University's collaboration with a non-profit organization in the development and delivery of educational resources that equip students with future-ready skills and advance the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

3.3. Management Students Shine at Injaz-Nestlé ‘Sustainable Heroes’ Event with Innovation and Impact (2025)

Ajman University’s College of Business Administration participated in the national “Sustainable Heroes” event organized through the INJAZ–Nestlé partnership, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and the Ministry of Climate Change. Through this initiative, Management students engaged in entrepreneurship workshops, team-building activities, and a public showcase of sustainability-focused business ideas developed over several months as part of the INJAZ program. The event brought together students, non-profit partners, private sector stakeholders, and government entities in a shared platform for dialogue and innovation on sustainability and entrepreneurship. This initiative reflects Ajman University’s active role in cross-sectoral engagement and collaboration in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).



3.4. Ajman University Earns Sustainability Seal for Transformative Impact (2025)

Since 2023, Ajman University has operated the Solar-Powered Hydroponic Net House in collaboration with the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). The campus-based facility serves as a practical educational resource that demonstrates the use of solar energy and hydroponic irrigation techniques to promote resource-efficient agriculture, sustainable food production, and food security. Through this continuing collaboration, the Net House supports learning and applied engagement in renewable energy, water-efficient farming, and climate-responsive agricultural practices. The initiative contributes to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).



3.5. Ajman University Innovation Center Showcases Student Excellence at UAE Hackathon 2025 Final

Ajman University participated in the UAE Hackathon 2025 Final through the involvement of its Innovation Center, contributing to a national platform that celebrates digital innovation, youth creativity, and future-focused problem solving. The University was represented through jury participation by the Director of the Ajman University Innovation Center, while two student projects were selected for presentation at the final stage of the hackathon. Through this engagement, Ajman University contributed to broader dialogue and collaboration around innovation, digital transformation, and youth-led solutions on a national platform. This initiative reflects the University's commitment to cross-sectoral engagement in support of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).



3.6. The College of Business Administration Hosts a Workshop on Sustainability and Green Entrepreneurship (2025)

Ajman University, through its Office of Sustainability, implemented the Green Entrepreneurship Program, a structured initiative designed to engage university students across the UAE in developing environmentally and socially responsible business ventures aligned with local sustainability priorities. The program included a multi-stage process comprising a bootcamp, mentorship by industry professionals, and final project presentations evaluated by external stakeholders, including representatives from Ajman Chamber. Through this collaboration with external partners, students developed practical solutions addressing sustainability challenges, fostering innovation, entrepreneurial skills, and real-world application of SDG-related knowledge. This initiative reflects Ajman University's commitment to collaborating with external stakeholders to deliver student-focused programmes that advance the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).



3.7. The Office of Sustainability Launches the Green Entrepreneurship Program 2025 in Collaboration with Advanced Inhalation Rituals and Bluegreen Consultancy (2025)

AU's Office of Sustainability collaborated with Advanced Inhalation Rituals and Bluegreen Consultancy to launch the Green Entrepreneurship Program 2025. The two-day intensive program equipped students with practical knowledge and skills to develop environmentally and socially sustainable business ventures through workshops, interactive lectures, group projects, and mentoring. Participants



were given one month to prepare sustainable business plans and present their proposals to a panel of judges, with financial rewards, incubation opportunities, and potential investor support available for feasible projects. The partnership advanced SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by connecting academic learning with private-sector expertise, entrepreneurship support, and sustainable development priorities in Ajman and the UAE.

3.8. Ajman University and AFAQ Group Establish Partnership to Advance Applied Learning, Industry Readiness, and Community Impact (2025)

Ajman University established a partnership with AFAQ Group to advance applied learning, strengthen industry readiness, and support community impact. The collaboration reflects Ajman University's commitment to connecting academic learning with real-world practice, enhancing students' professional skills, and fostering engagement with industry and community stakeholders. The



initiative supports the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly quality education (SDG 4), decent work and economic growth through industry readiness and employability (SDG 8), innovation and applied learning (SDG 9), sustainable community impact (SDG 11), and partnerships for the goals (SDG 17).

3.9. Ajman University Students Showcase Sustainable Innovation at DATE and CARE MENA Event (2025)

Ajman University students showcased sustainability-focused and technology-based innovations at the DATE and CARE MENA event, including furniture designs made from reclaimed and eco-friendly materials and a sleep apnea detection device. These projects highlight students' application of classroom learning to real-world environmental, health, and social challenges while strengthening creativity, experiential learning, climate literacy, and innovation skills (SDGs 3, 4, 9, 12, 13, and 17).

