





FOREWORD

University of Dhaka – Commitment to the SDGs & THE Impact Ranking Excellence

As Bangladesh's oldest and most prestigious public university, founded in 1921 and constituted under the Dhaka University Order 1973, the University of Dhaka (DU) has long served as the intellectual engine of the nation. From producing the country's leading civil servants, academics, scientists, policy thinkers, and cultural leaders, to serving as the birthplace of key democratic and social movements, DU's history is deeply intertwined with Bangladesh's national aspirations.

In alignment with the Government of Bangladesh's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, DU recognises its statutory, academic, and ethical responsibility to lead from the front. As a comprehensive public university with 13 faculties, 83 departments, over 50 research centres and institutes, and a vast network of colleges affiliated under its academic supervision, DU is in a uniquely advantageous position to contribute to the SDG agenda across teaching, research, innovation, community engagement, and policy support.

DU's Strategic Position for SDG Implementation

Dhaka University's contributions to the SDGs are strengthened through:

- A diverse ecosystem of academic departments that span science, technology, medicine, business, social sciences, arts, humanities, and environmental studies.
- Specialized research institutes and centres—including IER, IML, DSCR, BER, CMBT, NPU, NPT, CRP, and the newly established Centre for China Studies (CCS)—that produce nationally relevant research and policy inputs.
- Extensive partnerships with government ministries, UN agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO), national NGOs, and global academic networks.
- A strong alumni footprint in public service, education, diplomacy, science, technology, business, the judiciary, and cultural sectors.
- Active linkages with industry, particularly through the Faculties of Business Studies, Engineering & Technology, Science, and Pharmacy, enabling internships, applied research, innovation, and workforce development.
- Robust connections to policy-making bodies, as DU's faculty routinely serve on national commissions, reform committees, advisory councils, and government task forces.

Together, these strengths place DU in an advantageous national and regional position to contribute meaningfully to the SDGs and to excel in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings.

Our Commitment to the SDGs & THE Impact Ranking Excellence

DU's Institutional Commitment to THE Impact Rankings

Recognising the value of THE Impact Rankings in highlighting a university's contribution to society, DU has embarked on a multi-year effort to strengthen data systems, expand evidence collection, and embed SDG-aligned practices across the institution.

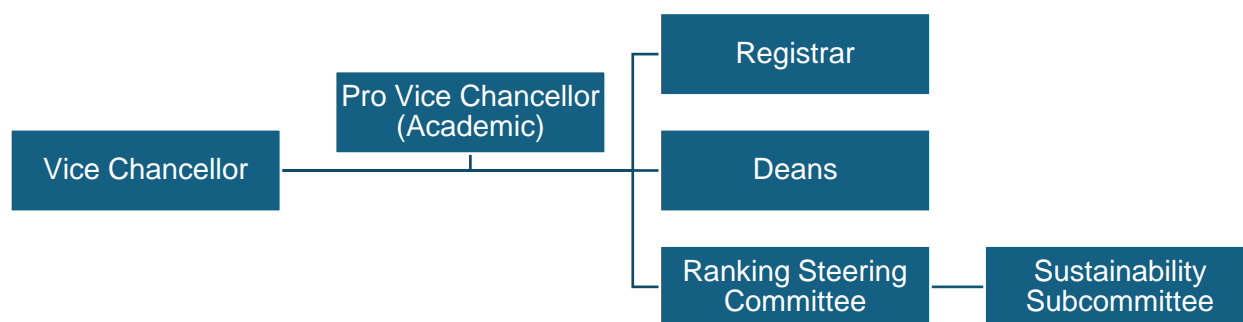
To coordinate these efforts, DU has established a central Steering Committee for THE Impact Rankings, chaired by:

Professor Dr. Md. Mamun-Ur-Rashid Ahmed, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic), University of Dhaka and Prof. Shamsad Mortuza as the Ranking subcommittee (sustainability) convener.

Under his leadership, the committee works relentlessly to:

- Coordinate SDG-related data from all faculties, institutes, departments, offices and centres
- Validate evidence aligned with THE's measurement framework
- Facilitate training sessions and capacity building across units
- Ensure alignment with national SDG targets and development priorities
- Support data-driven decision making for institutional improvement

A network of SDG Focal Points—including deans, directors, chairpersons, and administrative leaders—works closely with the committee to ensure comprehensive and accurate reporting.



Ranking Steering Committee

Professor Dr. Mamun Ahmed Honourable Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic), University of Dhaka	-	Convenor
Professor Dr. Sayema Haque Bidisha Honourable Pro-Vice Chancellor (Administration), University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor M. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, PhD Honourable Treasurer, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Abdus Salam Dean, Faculty of Science, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. B M Mainul Hossain Director, Institute of Information Technology (IIT), University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Mosaddek Hossain Kamal Director ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Syed Shahadat Hossain Institute of Statistical Research and Training (ISRT), , University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. M. Rezaul Islam Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Shamsad Mortuza Department of English, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Rakibul Islam Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Sharif Ullah Mazumder Department of Mathematics, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan Department of Statistics, University of Dhaka	-	Member

Professor Dr. Md. Ahsan Habib Department of Chemistry, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Rashedur Rahman Chairman Department of Organization Strategy and Leadership, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Sadiq Sarowar Computer Programmer, ICT Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Rajib Mahmud Samim Parvez Deputy Registrar, Registrar's Office, University of Dhaka	-	Member-Secretary

Sustainability Sub-committee

Professor Dr. Shamsad Mortuza Department of English, University of Dhaka	-	Convenor
Professor Dr. Mosaddek Hossain Kamal Director ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. M. Rezaul Islam Institute of Social Welfare and Research, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Sharif Ullah Mazumder Department of Mathematics, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Ahsan Habib Department of Chemistry, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Mohammad Moninoor Roshid Institute of Education and Research, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Dr. Md. Anwarul Islam Department of Information Science and Library Management, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Professor Mohammad Abul Kawser Department of Histoty	-	Member
Mr. Rajib Mahmud Samim Parvez Deputy Registrar, Office of the Registrar, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Sadiq Sarowar Computer Programmer, ICT Cell, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Rifat Amin Technical Officer, Office of the Registrar, University of Dhaka	-	Member
Mr. Md. Rashedur Rahman Chairman Department of Organization Strategy and Leadership, University of Dhaka	-	Member-Secretary

Learning Through Engagement: DU in THE Masterclasses & Global Communities

To build internal capacity and learn global best practices, DU actively participates in:

- THE Masterclasses & Workshops, where team members learn from international experts on evidence preparation, SDG data management, and benchmarking.
- Peer-learning initiatives with leading universities in Asia, the UK, and the Global South.
- Policy dialogues and roundtables hosted by THE and affiliated bodies.
- Collaborative activities with UN agencies, including curriculum design (UNICEF), research grants (UNDP), health and demographic projects (UNFPA, WHO), youth engagement (UNESCO), and climate-resilience initiatives.
- DU embraces a philosophy of “learning to learn with others”—engaging globally to strengthen national capacity and embedding sustainability literacy into university culture.

Looking Forward: DU’s Strategic Vision for SDG 2030

With the Government of Bangladesh aiming to achieve the SDG goals by 2030, DU reaffirms that:

- Our research, teaching, and public engagement will remain closely aligned with national priorities. Our Vision statement, reads, “Create a world-class educational ecosystem that enables individuals to act as dynamic human capital and ethical leaders for a sustainable future.” [<https://www.du.ac.bd/university/VisionMission>]
- We will expand our documentation and impact measurement systems to ensure transparency and accountability.
- Partnerships with government bodies, international organisations and industry will be scaled up to amplify societal impact.
- We will continue to position DU as a leading SDG-driven university in South Asia, advancing the nation’s knowledge economy and development agenda.

As Bangladesh’s flagship university, the University of Dhaka is committed to becoming a global model of SDG excellence—through rigorous research, transformative teaching, social responsibility, and inclusive national development.



SDG 8 — Decent Work & Economic Growth

Executive Summary

The University of Dhaka (DU), functioning under the **Dhaka University Order 1973**, plays a foundational role in shaping Bangladesh's human-capital landscape and contributing to national economic growth. As the country's premier public university, DU produces one of the largest pools of graduates entering civil service, industry, education, research, entrepreneurship, and the development sector. With more than 40,000 students enrolled across 13 faculties, DU acts as a major engine of skilled workforce development, innovation, and upward socio-economic mobility.

Through the **DU Career Development Centre (CDC)**, **Business Studies incubators**, **Institute of Business Administration (IBA)**, **DU Technology Transfer Office**, and numerous faculty-industry partnerships, DU supports employability, internship placement, corporate training, career counselling, and startup mentoring. DU graduates consistently secure employment in government ministries, the Bangladesh Bank, NBR, BSEC, ICT sector, media, international NGOs, multinational firms, and development organisations—demonstrating DU's leadership in national workforce supply and economic advancement.

Skill-building is strengthened across units such as **Economics, Public Administration, Marketing, Finance, MIS, CSE, Robotics & Mechatronics, Statistics, and Development Studies**, which provide market-responsive curricula, entrepreneurship modules, and applied research opportunities. The university also offers specialized skills training through workshops, certificate programs, and global-exchange opportunities, ensuring students gain both theoretical knowledge and industry-ready competencies.

DU's startup ecosystem—supported by entrepreneurship clubs, hackathons, business competitions, and the DU Innovation Hub—nurtures new enterprises each year, contributing to Bangladesh's digital economy and innovation culture. DU's research in economics, fintech, labour markets, and social development informs national policy and strengthens economic planning capacity.

DU maintains strong collaborations with government and regulatory bodies such as BSEC, Bangladesh Bank, the Ministry of Finance, Planning Commission, ICT Division, and the Ministry of Education. Faculty members serve as advisers, commissioners, board members, and policy consultants—ensuring DU's intellectual capital directly supports economic governance.

High-Impact Claim:

DU is Bangladesh's most influential generator of skilled graduates, policymakers, and innovators, placing it at the centre of national economic growth, decent work provisioning, and long-term development planning.

SDG 8: Decent Work & Economic Growth

SDG 8 emphasizes productive employment, skill development, and sustainable economic growth. For Dhaka University (DU), this goal translates into equipping students with market-relevant competencies, building strong industry partnerships, and ensuring inclusive employment practices within the institution. In 2024, DU made notable progress through national-level collaborations, capacity-building programs, and expanded career pathways that strengthen the bridge between academic learning and real-world employment.

One of the major milestones was the MoU signed with the National Skills Development Authority (NSDA) on 4 June 2024. This collaboration positions DU as a direct contributor to national skills development by integrating technical training, labour-market surveys, and updated curricula aligned with economic priorities. The partnership aims to enhance employability, reduce skill mismatches, and prepare graduates for Bangladesh's evolving job market.

Similarly, DU strengthened its industry linkages through a new partnership with MetLife Bangladesh. The MoU signed by the Department of Banking & Insurance provides DU students with internship placements, career development opportunities, and industry exposure—key components for improving long-term professional outcomes. These collaborations underscore DU's evolving approach: moving beyond theory to experiential learning and sector-based workforce preparation.

Alongside these external partnerships, DU maintains a campus culture that supports decent work internally. The University promotes fair, inclusive, and non-discriminatory employment practices, ensuring that its own workforce reflects the values embedded in SDG 8. Together, these initiatives highlight DU's commitment to preparing students for meaningful work while contributing to national economic growth.

DU Skills & Employment Highlights — 2024

National Skills Development Partnership

MoU signed with NSDA (4 June 2024)

Joint curriculum development

Short courses & training programs

Labour-market surveys to align academic offerings with job demand

Full News Link: <https://www.bssnews.net/news/193205>

Industry Engagement & Career Pathways

MoU with MetLife Bangladesh

Internship & employment opportunities

Structured career development for Banking & Insurance students

Student Employability & Capacity Building

Expanded access to professional training

Greater focus on technical, financial & industry-oriented skills

More structured pathways from classroom to workplace

□ Institutional Commitment to Fair Work

Inclusive employment policies

Non-discrimination across gender, religion, and political orientation

DU as a stable, ethical workplace

High-Impact Claims

- ✓ DU is emerging as a national leader in skills development, working directly with the NSDA to shape Bangladesh's future workforce.
- ✓ Strategic industry partnerships (e.g., MetLife) create clear employment pipelines, improving graduate work readiness.
- ✓ DU integrates academic learning with real-world skill requirements, reducing mismatches between university training and job-market needs.
- ✓ The University contributes to economic growth by producing skilled, industry-ready graduates for high-demand sectors.
- ✓ DU models SDG 8 principles internally through ethical, inclusive, and non-discriminatory employment practices.