





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.

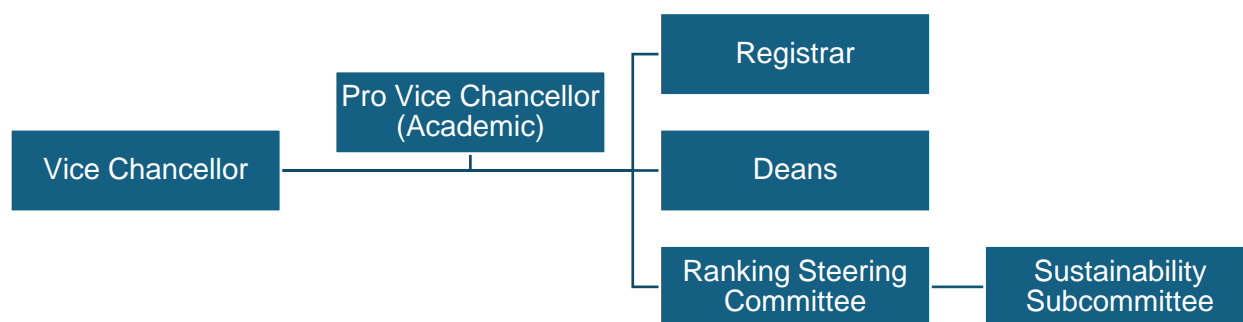
To coordinate these efforts, DU has established a central Steering Committee for THE Impact Rankings, chaired by:

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 History	-	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 10 — Reduced Inequalities

Executive Summary

DU actively reduces inequality through inclusive admissions, financial aid for disadvantaged groups, disability-access improvements, and policies supporting transgender, first-generation, and rural students. DU's professional development programs and counselling services further support underrepresented students' progression and graduation.

High-Impact Claim: *DU is Bangladesh's most socially diverse public university, with structured mechanisms to support students facing socio-economic, geographic, or identity-based barriers.*

SDG 10: Reduced Inequality

SDG 10 seeks to reduce inequality within and among societies—an agenda deeply connected to Dhaka University's history of activism, intellectual leadership, and civic responsibility. In 2024, DU became the national focal point for a transformative movement against discriminatory practices, exemplifying the power of student-led advocacy in shaping social justice. This was not merely a moment of protest; it was a defining expression of democratic engagement, equity-driven discourse, and youth leadership demanding systemic fairness.

The year's defining development was the anti-discrimination student movement in July 2024, ignited by the reinstatement of job quotas in the public sector. Under the banner “Students Against Discrimination,” DU students led a nationwide call for merit-based recruitment and inclusive state policy. What began as campus mobilization rapidly expanded into a countrywide youth uprising, with thousands staging peaceful sit-ins, occupying major roads, and suspending academic activities to amplify demands for equality.

Dhaka University served as the symbolic heart and organizational command center of this movement. From the Central Library to major campus intersections, DU became a space for public dialogue, ethical action, and moral clarity. Students framed their struggle not only as a response to economic exclusion but as a quest to define the values of a future Bangladesh built on fairness, opportunity, and equal representation.

The movement came at a heavy cost. Students faced violence, detentions, and physical harm, yet remained resolute. Their courage placed DU at the center of both national and international attention.

A watershed moment arrived during the visit of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in late October 2024, who met with students and publicly acknowledged DU's historic legacy of civic movements—from the Language Movement to pro-democracy struggles. He described the 2024 protests as part of a global story of human rights, urging students to safeguard the gains achieved through their activism and to remain vigilant stewards of democratic values.

While the movement achieved national visibility and moral legitimacy, important institutional questions remain regarding accountability, justice, and long-term reforms. Nevertheless, 2024 reaffirmed Dhaka University's status as a moral compass and civic anchor for a generation determined to build a more equitable society.

DU & Reduced Inequalities — 2024 Snapshot

Student-Led National Movement

July 2024: Anti-discrimination movement begins at DU

Banner: “Students Against Discrimination”

Nationwide mobilization: sit-ins, road occupations, class boycotts

Focus: merit-based recruitment; equity in public-sector opportunities



Figure 1: Quota reform protesters declared a nationwide complete shutdown on July 18, 2024, to oppose violent police and security force attacks during their demonstration and funeral procession for six killed protesters at Dhaka University campus on July 17, 2024

Full news link: <https://www.bssnews.net/july-uprising/292676>

Full news link: <https://www.tbsnews.net/thoughts/justice-reforms-and-legacy-revolution-interim-governments-path-forward-941586>

DU as the Movement's Epicenter

Central Library → protest hub

Campus intersections → mass gatherings

DU as the organizing nerve center for nationwide youth action

Global Recognition & Human Rights Advocacy

Visit by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (October 2024)

Commended DU's leadership in civic activism

Highlighted DU students as part of global human-rights movements

Risks, Costs & Calls for Justice

Reports of injuries, detentions & alleged mistreatment

Growing demand for accountability & independent investigations

High-Impact Claims

- ✓ DU demonstrated national leadership in reducing inequalities by catalyzing the country's largest youth-led anti-discrimination movement in 2024.
- ✓ The campus became a platform for democratic participation, social justice discourse, and inclusive policy advocacy—core indicators of SDG 10 impact.
- ✓ International recognition from the UN High Commissioner affirmed DU's global relevance in human rights and civic equity.
- ✓ DU students mobilized thousands nationwide, illustrating the University's role in shaping equitable governance and inclusive development.
- ✓ Through activism, public dialogue, and civic leadership, DU strengthened Bangladesh's capacity to address systemic inequalities, aligning directly with SDG 10 targets on social, economic, and political inclusion.