



PHOENICIA UNIVERSITY

Sustainable Development Goals

REPORT 2024

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About Phoenixia University

At Phoenixia University (PU), we recognize the important role that higher education institutions play in advancing sustainable development and contributing to the global goals set by the United Nations. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a framework for addressing interconnected social, economic, and environmental challenges and for building a more inclusive and sustainable future.

PU's commitment to the SDGs is reflected across its academic, research, community, and institutional activities. Through education, research, community engagement, partnerships, and responsible institutional practices, the University works to make meaningful contributions to sustainable development.

Education is central to this commitment. PU seeks to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to understand and respond to global and local challenges. The University also supports learning opportunities and initiatives that connect education with real-world needs and sustainable development.

Beyond the classroom, PU engages with surrounding communities through educational, healthcare, social, and outreach initiatives. These efforts support access to essential services, promote inclusion, strengthen community well-being, and respond to the needs of underserved and vulnerable populations. PU also recognizes the importance of responsible institutional practices and resource management.

The University continues to develop and implement practices that promote responsible use of resources and support environmental and social sustainability across its operations.

Collaboration is an essential part of this work. PU engages with municipalities, governments, schools, healthcare institutions, civil society organizations, industry, and other partners to extend the reach and impact of its initiatives and contribute to sustainable development within and beyond the University.

Through these efforts, PU continues to strengthen its contribution to sustainable development and to fostering a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable future.

PU's Mission and Vision for the UN 2030 Agenda

Phoenicia University recognizes the important role of higher education in advancing the United Nations 2030 Agenda and contributing to sustainable development. The University's commitment to educational equity, community engagement, responsible resource use, and environmental and social responsibility is reflected in its institutional priorities and ongoing initiatives.

Mission

To advance sustainable development through quality and equitable education, research, community engagement, responsible practices, and meaningful partnerships.

Vision

To foster an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable university community that creates positive and lasting impact locally and globally.

Strategic Alignment and International Commitments

PU integrates the principles of the SDGs into its strategic priorities, supporting the development of graduates who are prepared for professional life and equipped to contribute responsibly to sustainable development at the local and international levels. The PU Strategic Plan 2024–2029 organizes this commitment around five Strategic Priorities, each explicitly aligned with relevant SDGs:

- Strategic Priority 1: Global Engagement
- Strategic Priority 2: Community Engagement
- Strategic Priority 3: Internationalization
- Strategic Priority 4: Health Engagement and Environmental Connectivity
- Strategic Priority 5: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

PU also supports international initiatives that promote responsible and sustainable higher education. The University has been a Communicating Signatory of the UN Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) since 12 March 2019 and a member of the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) since 2018.

Message from the President



Greetings,

It is a great pleasure to present Phoenicia University's work in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda. The SDGs provide a valuable framework for translating our educational mission and institutional priorities into meaningful contributions to society and for examining how our policies, practices, research, and community engagement create lasting value.

At Phoenicia University, higher education carries a responsibility that extends beyond the classroom. Education, research, community engagement, partnerships, and institutional operations each contribute to addressing social, economic, and environmental challenges. Our work supports all 17 Sustainable Development Goals across different areas of the University.

Education remains central to this work. SDG 4: Quality Education reflects our commitment to meaningful, inclusive, and future-oriented learning that equips students with the knowledge, skills, values, and sense of responsibility needed to contribute to society and sustainable development.

SDG 5: Gender Equality is reflected in the significant participation of women, who represent approximately 57% of the student body, as well as in efforts to ensure equitable opportunities to learn, participate, lead, and succeed.

The University's academic expertise also addresses practical community and environmental challenges. SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, for example, is reflected in water-quality testing and environmental research that apply academic knowledge to issues affecting communities and their quality of life.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth is reflected through practical learning, career readiness, employability initiatives, and professional development. Since 2020, graduate employment outcomes have provided an important measure of students' transition into professional life.

The University also contributes to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions through the work of the College of Law and broader efforts to promote ethics, justice, and responsible citizenship. Strong governance, accountability, and institutional responsibility further support an environment in which students and members of the University community can contribute positively to society.

These efforts are strengthened through collaboration. SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals reflects the University's engagement with communities, organizations, professionals, academic partners, and other stakeholders to share expertise and respond to common challenges.

The purpose of this work extends towards understanding how education, research, partnerships, community engagement, and institutional practices contribute to sustainable development and how these

Dr. Imad Zbib
President
Phoenicia University

1 No Poverty



SDG 1: No Poverty

Introduction

Phoenicia University (PU) is located in the District of Zahrani, one of the country's most economically disadvantaged regions, which continues to face compounding pressures from Lebanon's economic crisis and the recent escalation. In this setting, access to quality education is one of the most direct pathways out of poverty.

PU is committed to making quality education accessible regardless of socioeconomic background, and to contributing to poverty reduction in the wider community. This commitment is formalized in its [Financial Aid and Scholarship Policy](#), its [Anti-Poverty Policy](#), and its [Incubator Policy](#), and is reinforced by PU's membership since 2018 in the United Nations Academic Impact, which includes a dedicated commitment to addressing poverty.

This commitment follows a consistent approach. PU opens the door to students from the poorest households through need-based aid and admission targets; sees them through to graduation with wraparound support; builds livelihoods by helping local entrepreneurs start sustainable businesses; meets basic needs through health, food, and clothing initiatives; and shapes policy on poverty at local, national, and global levels.

The sections that follow present each of these areas in turn, bringing together the relevant figures, programs, and policies for each. A final section describes how PU monitors progress toward its targets.

1. Financial Aid for Low-Income Students

PU's financial aid strategy targets students from the most financially disadvantaged backgrounds, including the bottom 20% of household income in Lebanon, and sets measurable targets for their admission and completion.

Key Figures



Figure 1. Financial aid and bottom-quintile targets, AY 2023–24 (vertical line marks the target)

How PU Identifies Students in Need



Figure 2. From application to cohort tracking

Household income data is collected from every applicant through the [financial aid application](#) and assessed through a Proxy Means Test. The bottom-quintile cutoff is set using the upper bound of Decile 2 for Lebanon on the World Bank's [Poverty and Inequality Platform](#). Verified students are flagged in PU's student information system, so the Financial Aid Office and academic advisors can track their progress and act early when a student is at risk.

Financial Aid Programs



Figure 3. Financial aid programs under the Financial Aid and Scholarship Policy

PU's membership in the [College Board](#) since 2024 further connects students with additional financial aid opportunities, scholarship search tools, and test preparation resources.

2. Support Through to Graduation

Poverty-related barriers extend well beyond tuition. PU therefore surrounds students from the bottom income quintile, low-income households, and low- and lower-middle-income countries (LLMICs) with support that addresses daily needs, wellbeing, and academic progress.

Wraparound Support



Figure 4. Wraparound support under Section 8 of the Financial Aid and Scholarship Policy

Wellbeing and Inclusion

Counseling. The [Counseling Center](#) offers free, confidential counseling with a focus on groups most at risk of being underserved, and, with LWAH, operates a free Mental Health Hotline for the PU community.

Health care. The [Health Care Center](#) provides primary care on campus, and PU's partnership with LWAH gives students and staff free healthcare at LWAH facilities.

Financial hardship pathway. The [Minorities Center](#) works with the Financial Aid Office to arrange emergency assistance, adjusted or deferred payments, work-study, or referral to welfare and NGO partners.



Peer Mentoring

STUDENT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

- A dedicated track pairs first-year bottom-quintile and LLMIC students with senior mentors who have faced similar challenges, at a **1:4 mentor-to-mentee ratio**.
- Mentors are trained to check in on financial difficulties early, so students can be connected to work-study, counseling, and wraparound support before they consider withdrawing.
- In AY 2023–24, about **half of senior bottom-quintile and LLMIC students** served as mentors to new students.

Students from Low and Lower-Middle Income Countries

All of the support above also applies to LLMIC students, who face additional barriers such as visa and residency requirements and distance from family. For five years, the [Global Outreach and International Affairs Office](#) has visited six to seven schools each year in West Africa, a region that includes several LLMIC-classified countries, reaching hundreds of students and creating a direct pathway to PU.

3. Supporting Local Start-Ups

The [PU Incubator](#), the first start-up incubator in South Lebanon, helps members of the local community turn promising ideas into financially and socially sustainable businesses. Eligibility extends beyond the PU community to external applicants from the wider public.

Key Figures



Figure 5. PU Incubator impact

What the Incubator Provides

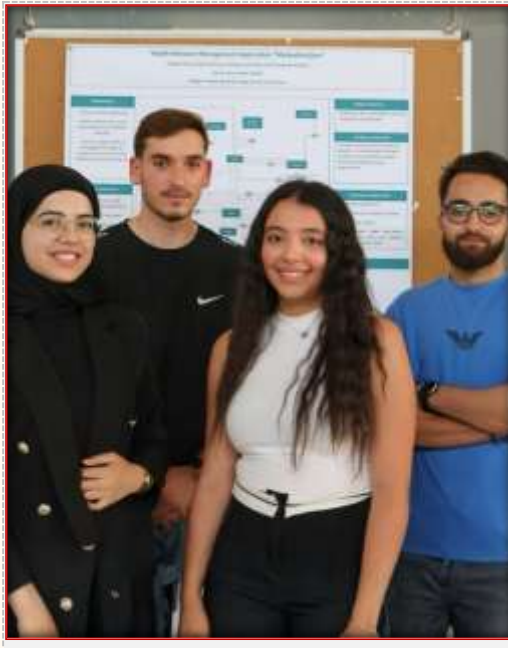


Figure 6. Incubator support, as set out in the Incubator Policy

Rather than direct seed funding, the Incubator provides financial assistance in kind and connects incubatees with external funding opportunities, including grants coordinated through the University’s Grants Office.

Community Entrepreneurship Events

- **Info session** (December 14, 2023): 20 attendees learned about mentoring tracks, training, and access to 13 high-tech laboratories.
- **Women Empowerment Market** (March 25, 2024): at least 11 female-led small businesses sold their products on campus at no cost.
- **Idea Fair** (April 27, 2024): ten ideas were pitched; the winning ocean-wave electricity project joined the incubation track.
- **Technology and Science Fair** (April 2024): the winning school team received a 70% scholarship and Incubator membership.
- **Entrepreneurship training** (September 1, 2024): 23 students and community members joined as new Incubator members.



SUCCESS STORY: THE SCALING CREW

PU alumnus Karim Hoteit joined the Incubator in 2021 with an idea for sales-driven content marketing. With mentorship, training, legal advice, and access to the Incubator’s workspace, he launched The Scaling Crew in February 2022. It has since grown into a self-sustaining business generating five-figure monthly revenue, and produces content that helps others find job opportunities.

4. Access to Basic Services

Through academic departments, student clubs, and partners such as the Lebanese Welfare Association for the Handicapped (LWAH), PU runs ongoing programs that give vulnerable and displaced communities direct access to health care, food, clothing, and safe water.

Key Figures



Figure 7. Reach of basic services programs

Programs

Health. The Diabetes Awareness and Free Diagnostic Campaign provides education, screening, consultations, and glucometers, supporting 49 people with Type 1 and 35 with Type 2 diabetes in 2024. [Mobile clinics](#) with LWAH provide health education, screening, and free medication.

Food and clothing. Proceeds from the annual [PU Christmas Market](#) provide food and essential supplies to displaced families, and the Change Club's [Clothes Donation Drive](#) distributes clothing based on assessed need.

Campus-grown produce. Olive oil and avocados from the campus's 9 greenhouses, about 1,000 avocado trees, and 200 olive trees are distributed to staff and lower-income community members.

Safe water. The [Water Quality Testing](#) service tests for cholera and coliform bacteria, giving communities the data they need to keep water safe.



5. Shaping Policy on Poverty

Under its [Anti-Poverty Policy](#), PU contributes academic expertise, research, and professional advice to poverty-reduction efforts, working with governmental bodies, municipalities, civil society, and international organizations.

Policy Engagement at Every Level

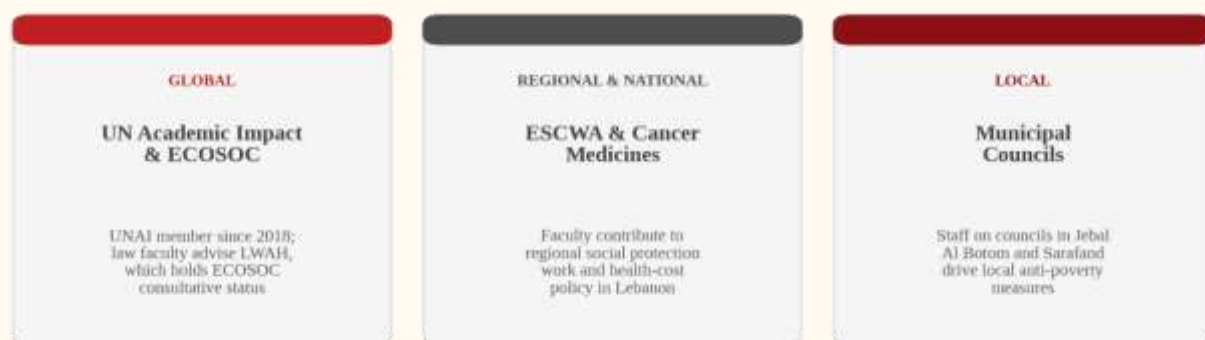


Figure 8. PU's contribution to poverty policy

Global. Through its [United Nations Academic Impact](#) membership, PU is committed to UN principles that include addressing poverty. Under the PU–LWAH agreement, PU's law faculty advises LWAH, which has held special consultative status with ECOSOC since 2000, on disability-rights policy, an area closely linked to poverty.

Regional and national. Dr. Hassan Hamie contributes to ESCWA work on social protection and poverty reduction across Arab States, and Dr. Zahi Abdel Sater leads an initiative to reduce out-of-pocket costs for cancer medicines in Lebanon, where out-of-pocket payments exceed 85% of national health expenditure.

Local. PU staff serving on municipal councils in Jebal Al Botom and Sarafand have helped restore social services centers, launch free healthcare days, install low-cost solar systems in homes, and create jobs for at-risk residents.

6. Policies and Monitoring

Policies

- **Financial Aid and Scholarship Policy** — prioritizes students from the bottom income quintile, sets admission and completion targets, and defines financial aid programs and wraparound support.
- **Anti-Poverty Policy** — provides a framework for contributing academic expertise, research, and partnerships to poverty reduction.
- **Incubator Policy** — sets out eligibility for community applicants and the free facilities, training, mentorship, and in-kind support available to start-ups.

Measuring Progress

Progress is monitored through cohort-based tracking of students from admission through graduation. The proportion of newly admitted students from the bottom income quintile is reported at the conclusion of each admissions cycle. Need-based financial aid is reassessed annually, while student completion is monitored by cohort against the established 80% target.

Looking Ahead

PU remains committed to strengthening equitable access to higher education and supporting student progression through to graduation. Continued efforts will focus on sustaining financial support mechanisms, monitoring completion outcomes, and expanding educational opportunities that promote access for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and the wider community.

2 Zero Hunger



SDG 2: Zero Hunger

Introduction

Lebanon's economic crisis has placed increasing pressure on household food security, particularly among communities in South Lebanon. Phoenicia University (PU) addresses food security and nutrition through its academic programs, campus food services, community initiatives, and outreach activities across the Zahrani District.

PU's approach is supported by its Ethical Sourcing Policy, which provides a framework for responsible food procurement and supplier selection.

The University educates students and the wider community on food security and nutrition through its public health programs; supports access to food by providing affordable, safe, and responsibly sourced meals on campus; supports families in need through food and campus-grown produce initiatives; and promotes awareness of healthy eating among schools and the wider public.

The sections that follow outline these areas of action, together with the policies, practices, and monitoring mechanisms that support their implementation.

1. Teaching Food Security and Nutrition

The Bachelor of Science in Public Health, offered by the College of Public Health, prepares graduates to address public health challenges related to food and nutrition. Dedicated courses address nutrition, food security, and food safety, while practice-based courses provide students with opportunities to apply their knowledge in real-world public health settings.

Food and Nutrition in the Curriculum

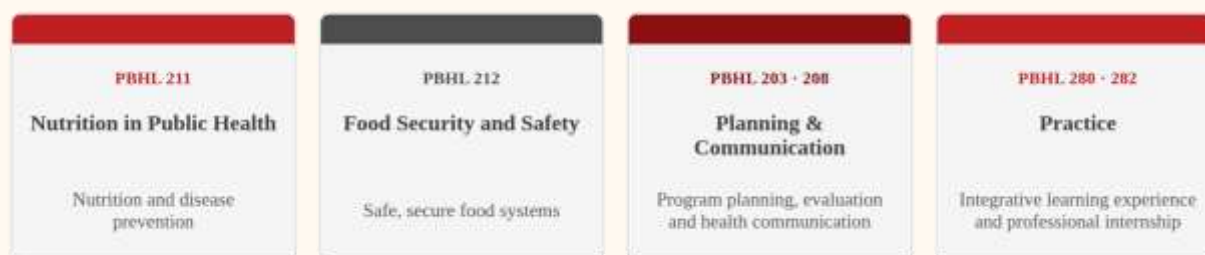


Figure 1. Food and nutrition courses in the B.S. in Public Health

2. Affordable, Safe Food on Campus

PU provides affordable meal options on campus, including subsidized meals that help reduce financial barriers for students experiencing economic hardship. Under the Financial Aid and Scholarship Policy, eligible students receive a 10% campus dining subsidy as part of the University's broader student support measures.

Key Figures



Figure 2. Food services and responsible sourcing

Food Services

Cafeteria. The main cafeteria seats about 150 people and is open Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. It holds a valid HACCP food safety certification issued by DQS CFS GmbH.

Coffee shop and mini market. A 25-seat coffee shop and an on-campus mini market give students and staff further affordable options throughout the day.

Less waste. Caterers must offer reusable dishware by default, and food waste from campus meals is monitored to guide reduction efforts.



Responsible Sourcing

ETHICAL SOURCING POLICY

- Aligned with **ISO 20400** Sustainable Procurement Guidelines and the **UN Global Compact** Ten Principles.
- At least **eight supplier audits** are carried out each year.
- Suppliers must respect labour and human rights and meet environmental safeguards.

3. Food Security in the Community

Beyond the campus, PU contributes to community food security through initiatives undertaken with student clubs and external partners to support families experiencing food insecurity. The University also distributes produce cultivated on its own land to help address local food needs.

Key Figures



Figure 3. Food support and campus-grown produce

Programs

Food boxes. PU distributes food boxes to its staff and their families during periods of hardship and during Ramadan.

Christmas Market. Proceeds from the annual [PU Christmas Market](#) provide food and essential supplies to displaced families.

Campus-grown produce. Olive oil and avocados from the campus's 9 greenhouses, about 1,000 avocado trees, and 200 olive trees are shared with staff and lower-income community members.

Student action. Student clubs organize food donation campaigns for families in need.



4. Nutrition Awareness and Local Food Producers

PU extends its public health expertise to schools and the wider community through awareness and educational initiatives, while also supporting small-scale food producers in accessing new markets and customers. The calendar below presents these activities in chronological order.

- Since 2023** • **Diabetes Awareness Lectures** NUTRITION · WITH LWAH
Free lectures delivered with the Lebanese Welfare Association for the Handicapped (LWAH) emphasize balanced diets and healthy eating.
- Apr 26, 2023** • **Environmental Awareness and Sustainable Gardening Activity** FOOD PRODUCTION · SCHOOLS
Young people received practical training in vegetable cultivation and household food production.
- Mar 5, 2024** • **World Obesity Day** NUTRITION · PUBLIC HEALTH
BMI measurements, personalized nutritional guidance, and sessions on balanced nutrition and obesity-related health risks.

Mar 25, 2024	●	Women Empowerment Market LOCAL PRODUCERS · PU INCUBATOR	At least 11 female-led small businesses sold their products on campus at no cost; the PU Incubator also supports home-based and rural food producers through mentoring and market access.
Apr 29, 2024	●	Vaping and Energy Drinks Health Awareness Session HEALTHY CHOICES · SCHOOLS	An age-appropriate session for students aged 10–15 at the LWAH School of Excellence.
Annual	●	Health and Research Day NUTRITION · FOOD SAFETY	Includes nutrition and food safety activities for students, staff, and visitors.

5. Policies and Monitoring

Policies

- **Ethical Sourcing Policy** — integrates ethical, social, and environmental criteria into purchasing, including food, and requires regular supplier audits.
- **Single-Use Items Reduction Policy** — requires campus caterers to use reusable dishware by default.
- **Financial Aid and Scholarship Policy** — includes the campus dining subsidy within wraparound support for students in need.

Measuring Progress

The Procurement Office at PU monitors the effectiveness of its food security and safety practices through regular supplier audits, conducted at least eight times annually. The cafeteria maintains HACCP certification, while food waste generated through campus meal services is monitored to inform ongoing reduction efforts.

Looking Ahead

PU remains committed to maintaining affordable and safe food options on campus, expanding the cultivation and distribution of locally grown produce, and extending its nutrition expertise to schools and families across the South. These efforts support an inclusive campus environment in which access to nutritious food does not become a barrier to education.

3

Good Health and Well - being



SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing

Introduction

In South Lebanon, access to health care has been affected by economic pressures, displacement, and conflict. Phoenicia University (PU) contributes to addressing these challenges by preparing health professionals through academic and clinical education and extending health services to underserved communities.

Through collaboration with the Lebanese Welfare Association for the Handicapped (LWAH) and four partner hospitals, PU integrates education, research, and community outreach to support health and well-being across different stages of life.

PU educates health professionals through programs that combine academic study with supervised clinical training; extends care to vulnerable communities through mobile clinics, health screenings, and awareness campaigns; and supports the health and well-being of its students and staff through counseling, primary care, and family health services.

The sections that follow outline these areas of contribution, together with the policies and practices that support a healthy and supportive campus environment.

1. Educating Health Professionals

PU strengthens Lebanon's healthcare workforce through health programs that combine academic study with supervised clinical training.

Key Figures



Figure 1. Figure 1. Clinical partners and community health outreach

Clinical Training and Quality

- **Hospital partnerships:** memoranda of understanding with Alaa El-Dine Hospital, Al Zahraa Hospital, Tebnin Hospital, and Nabih Berri Governmental University Hospital provide clinical placements.
- **Quality in public health education:** an affiliation with the Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation (APHEA).
- **Health research:** faculty contribute to research on cancer screening in the Arab world and trauma care in conflict-affected countries, and Dr. Zahi Abdel Sater leads an initiative to reduce out-of-pocket costs for cancer medicines in Lebanon.

2. Community Health Outreach

PU extends health services beyond campus to vulnerable and displaced populations, in partnership with LWAH and local municipalities.

Key Figures



Figure 2. Reach of community health programs

Programs

Mobile clinics. Since 2023, mobile clinics run with LWAH have served 15 municipalities in Saida Caza, reaching about 1,500–2,000 beneficiaries, and more than eight centers for displaced communities in Beirut, reaching about 4,200 people.

Diabetes campaign. The Diabetes Awareness and Free Diagnostic Campaign provides education, screening, consultations, and glucometers. Screening of 126 students identified three previously undiagnosed cases.

Prevention. Annual breast cancer awareness programs promote early detection, and the Run for Your Heart campaign (October 7, 2024) paired a community run with education on exercise and preventive care.

First aid. Community First Aid Training with the Lebanese Civil Defense (January 24, 2024) taught emergency recognition and basic first response.



3. Health and Wellbeing on Campus

PU’s Health & Wellness Division looks after the physical and mental health of students and staff, and the campus is smoke-free.

Services



Figure 3. Health and wellbeing services for the PU community

- The [Counseling Center](#) offers free, confidential counseling and, with LWAH, operates a free Mental Health Hotline.
- The [Health Care Center](#) provides primary care on campus, and PU's partnership with LWAH gives students and staff free healthcare at LWAH facilities.
- Students and staff can access reproductive health services, including gynecological consultations, through the Health Care Center and LWAH.
- A childcare center, open six days a week with a pediatric clinic and lactation room, supports student and employee parents.
- PU's [sports facilities](#) — gymnasium, football field, baseball field, and padel courts — are open to the wider community.

4. Policies and Monitoring

Policies

- **Non-Smoking Policy** — maintains a smoke-free campus.
- **Drug and Alcohol-Free Environment Policy** — supports a safe and healthy environment for study and work.
- [Policy on Reasonable Accommodation for Differently Abled Individuals](#) — includes emotional and mental health accommodations for students and staff.

Measuring Progress

PU monitors the reach and outcomes of its health outreach initiatives by recording the number of beneficiaries served through each mobile clinic and the individuals screened and supported through health campaigns, including diabetes awareness and screening activities. The University also tracks the number of graduates completing health profession programs each year.

Looking Ahead

PU remains committed to expanding its health professions programs and strengthening partnerships with hospitals and other healthcare providers. The University also continues to extend free health screening and care to communities across the South, supporting more equitable access to essential health services.

4

Quality Education



SDG 4: Quality Education

Introduction

Phoenicia University (PU) is committed to advancing quality, inclusive, and lifelong education by providing accessible learning opportunities that respond to the needs of students, professionals, and the wider community. Through academic programs, professional and vocational training, public learning initiatives, community outreach, and support for diverse learner groups, PU extends education beyond the traditional classroom.

These efforts reflect the University's commitment to expanding access to knowledge and skills, supporting continuous learning, and creating educational opportunities for individuals at different stages of life and with diverse learning needs. Located in the Zahrani District of South Lebanon, PU also responds to the educational and skills-development needs of the communities it serves, including young people, working adults, persons with disabilities, and other groups facing barriers to access.

Guided by its [Goals and Strategies](#) framework and supported by its [Lifelong Learning Access Policy](#), the University promotes equitable access to learning opportunities and makes its knowledge, resources, and facilities available beyond its enrolled student population. These initiatives contribute to PU's broader commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education).

PU's approach to advancing access to education is reflected across a range of initiatives and activities. The University provides free courses and online learning resources, makes selected campus facilities accessible to the public, offers free educational events and certified vocational training, and extends its outreach to schools, municipalities, and displaced communities.

The following sections present these efforts across key areas: first-generation students, free access to learning opportunities, public educational events, vocational training, and community outreach. Each section highlights the relevant initiatives, participation figures, and outcomes, followed by the policy framework that supports and guides these activities.

Headline Achievements at a Glance

325 community members trained in vocational skills

~175 schools reached through educational outreach

~6,000+ beneficiaries reached through mobile health clinics

900+ girls engaged in initiatives promoting STEM education and underrepresented fields

294 / 378 first-generation students enrolled in degree program

Free, Open Access to Learning for Everyone

In 2024, PU offered a range of free educational opportunities, enabling community members to access the University's academic expertise, resources, and learning opportunities.

a. Free Courses Leading to Certificates or Awards

EmpowerAI+ Workshop



Free certified training for secondary school teachers to confidently and ethically teach AI in their own classrooms, including collaborative lesson planning.

Certificate in AI & Data Science



A free, industry-aligned credential covering AI fundamentals, data science, machine learning, and analytics — preparing learners of all backgrounds for the digital economy.

Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching



A free course equipping students and educators with specialized knowledge for effective mathematics and numeracy instruction at the pre-primary and primary levels.

English Language Learning and Teaching



A free course supporting prospective educators in developing effective English instruction, emphasizing communication, assessment, and technology integration.

b. Free Access to Online Resources

Free Access to University Educational Resources



Open access to PU's own course materials across engineering, public health, law, and business — letting prospective students, professionals, and independent learners benefit at no cost.

Access to External Open-Access Academic Resources



Curated pathways to credible, peer-reviewed resources including DOAJ, SAGE Journals, CORE, DOAB, PubMed Central, ERIC, SSRN, and regional collections.

c. Free Access to Campus Facilities and Equipment

Water Quality-Testing Services



PU's Environmental Testing Laboratory has provided free bacteriological and physicochemical water testing to the community since November 2022.

Library



The PU library welcomes public users, offering print collections, study spaces, and academic resources for independent learning and research.

PU Incubator



South Lebanon's first start-up incubator, open to aspiring entrepreneurs with mentorship, coaching, workspaces, and networking opportunities.

Laboratories and Workshops



Thirteen state-of-the-art labs and workshops spanning engineering, environmental sciences, biology, chemistry, physics, and materials testing, used for outreach and community training.

Sports Facilities



Community access to a gymnasium, football field, baseball field, and padel courts for recreation, training, and health promotion events.

Public Educational Events

Throughout AY 2023–24, PU extended learning beyond its formal academic programs by offering free educational, professional, health, cultural, and community learning opportunities to students, staff, and members of the wider community. Through public talks, practical workshops, awareness sessions, career activities, and cultural initiatives, participants were able to acquire new knowledge, develop practical skills, engage with professionals and experts, and pursue continuous personal and professional development.

Key Figures



Figure 1. Free public events by theme, AY 2023–24

HIGHLIGHTS

- **14 free public events**, all open to the wider community at no cost.
- Delivered with partners including the **Lebanese Civil Defense**, industry leaders, journalists, and public officials.
- The **Technology and Science Fair** awarded a merit scholarship to the winning school team.

A Lifelong Learning Calendar

- Health, Wellness & Safety
- STEM & Innovation
- Career & Professional
- Civic Engagement
- Culture & Community

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

May 3, 2023

Consumer Rights & Economic Development

Dr. Mohamed Abo Haidar, Director General of the Lebanese Ministry of Economy and Trade, spoke on consumer protection, market transparency, and the digital transformation of public services.



CAREER & PROFESSIONAL

October 24, 2023

Inspirational Talk with Pierre Bachir

The R&D Manager of “Bouza Bachir” shared insights on entrepreneurship, family business management, and growing local businesses for international markets.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

November 6, 2023

Journalism Ethics with Samar Abou Khalil

A session on professional ethics in journalism, exploring real-world ethical decision-making behind credible, responsible reporting.



CAREER & PROFESSIONAL

November 30, 2023

Get Hired

The Career Center's readiness series covered CV writing, cover letters, and interview preparation, led by Dr. Rima Shaar.

HEALTH, WELLNESS & SAFETY

January 24, 2024

Community First Aid Training

With the Lebanese Civil Defense: a hands-on session in emergency recognition, basic first-response techniques, and safe assistance until help arrives.



HEALTH, WELLNESS & SAFETY

March 5, 2024

World Obesity Day

BMI measurements, personalized nutritional guidance, and educational events on balanced nutrition and obesity-related health risks.

CAREER & PROFESSIONAL

March 15, 2024

Motivational Talk with Ghadi Bou Moussa

The journalist spoke on authenticity, purpose, and continuous growth, with guidance on filming and report writing.





HEALTH, WELLNESS & SAFETY

March 28, 2024

Water Microbiology with Dr. Hamdan Hamdan

An introduction to water microbiology, water-borne diseases, and treatment, supported by PU's water testing facility.

STEM & INNOVATION

April 30, 2024

Technology and Science Fair

High school students showcased STEM projects, including Cadmous College's "City 2.0" on smart, sustainable urban living. The winning team received a merit scholarship.



CAREER & PROFESSIONAL

July 19, 2024

AI and the Future of Law

Rany Sader, Founding Partner of SADER & Associates, discussed the evolving role of artificial intelligence in the legal profession.

STEM & INNOVATION

October 3, 2024

ASME Arduino Workshop

Students Hassan Naser and Mohamad Jomaa led peer-to-peer training in Arduino components, coding for circuit control, and embedded systems.



HEALTH, WELLNESS & SAFETY

October 7, 2024

Run for Your Heart

For World Heart Day: a community run paired with education on exercise, nutrition, and preventive healthcare.

CAREER & PROFESSIONAL

October 18, 2024

Career Fair

Students, graduates, and the community met employers to explore career pathways, internships, and current industry requirements.



CULTURE & COMMUNITY

December 23, 2024

Symphoenicia Christmas Carols

The University's Symphoenicia choir brought the community together at the University Auditorium for its annual holiday performance.



Inclusive Vocational Learning and Skills Development

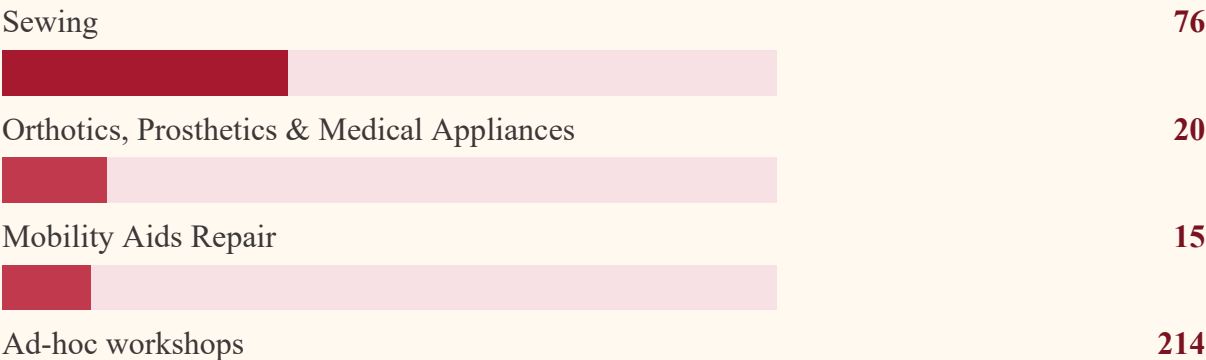
Throughout 2024, PU, in partnership with the Lebanese Welfare Association for the Handicapped (LWAH), provided free, certified vocational learning opportunities designed to develop practical and marketable skills among members of the community. The programs supported continued learning and skills development while creating accessible opportunities for persons with disabilities and other community members to strengthen their employability.

325

community members participated in vocational training and skills-development activities in 2024, including 50 participants with disabilities.

Participation by Program

Number of participants across each vocational learning track, 2024



Program Outcomes

Completion and employment results for each vocational learning track, 2024

Sewing 76 participants 100% completion; participants placed in employment. 50 with disabilities	Orthotics, Prosthetics & Medical Appliances 20 participants Training completed; participants prepared for employment.
Mobility Aids Repair 15 participants Training completed; participants developed employment-ready skills.	Ad-hoc workshops 214 participants Jewelry, crafts, pottery, weaving, carpentry, and candle making — participants gained practical, marketable skills.
These programs enabled participants to acquire practical competencies that support continued learning, personal development, and workforce participation — while ensuring persons with disabilities have genuine, accessible pathways to skills and employment.	

Educational Outreach Beyond Campus

Through structured programs and ad hoc initiatives, and in partnership with schools, municipalities, NGOs, and community groups, PU extends its educational mission beyond campus to reach learners where they are.

School Visits



Figure 2. School outreach, 2024

PU visits schools each year to guide students on higher education pathways and in-demand fields of study. Targeted outreach to girls' schools encourages female students to consider engineering and computer science, and sessions raise awareness of the educational pathways available to students with disabilities.

Health Education and Mobile Clinics



Figure 3. Health education and mobile clinic outreach with LWAH

Awareness Sessions for Students with Learning Difficulties

At the LWAH School of Excellence, PU delivered age-appropriate sessions for students aged 10–15, including students with learning difficulties, on **puberty and menstrual health** (May 30, 2024), **the risks of vaping and energy drinks** (April 29, 2024), and **environmental awareness and gardening** (April 26, 2023).

Lifelong Learning Policy

- **Lifelong Learning Access Policy** — affirms PU’s commitment to inclusive, equitable, and non-discriminatory lifelong learning; sets principles for planning and delivering lifelong learning activities; and promotes equal participation by women, persons with disabilities, and other underrepresented groups.

Policy in Practice

The policy applies to all University units involved in lifelong learning and to all participants, including prospective students, professionals, educators, employers, returning learners, homemakers, and members of the public, regardless of gender, background, or prior educational experience.

Looking Ahead

PU remains committed to strengthening lifelong learning by expanding opportunities to acquire, develop, and update knowledge and skills throughout different stages of life. Building on its academic, vocational, public learning, and community outreach initiatives, the University remains committed to providing accessible and flexible pathways for learning beyond traditional higher education, supporting personal, academic, and professional development while responding to the evolving needs of the communities it serves.

5

Gender Equality



SDG 5: Gender Equality

Introduction

Women make up the majority of Phoenicia University's (PU) students, yet across Lebanon and the region women remain under-represented in fields such as engineering and computer science, and too often see their studies or careers interrupted by caregiving and financial pressures.

PU supports **SDG 5: Gender Equality** through policy, financial aid, mentorship, and community engagement. Its commitments are set out in its [Women's Access and Participation Policy](#), its non-discrimination policies, and its [Maternity Paternity Family Care Leave Policy](#), and are described on its [SDG 5 webpage](#).

The University protects women from discrimination and harassment; supports women staff through fair pay, leadership opportunities, family leave, and free childcare; opens access for women and girls through admissions, financial aid, and school outreach; and sees women through to graduation with mentoring and targeted support.

The sections that follow present each of these areas. Unless otherwise cited, figures are drawn from PU's AY 2023–24 institutional research, HR, and Admissions records.

Key Performance Indicators at a Glance



Figure 1. Women at PU, AY 2023–24 (vertical line marks 50%)

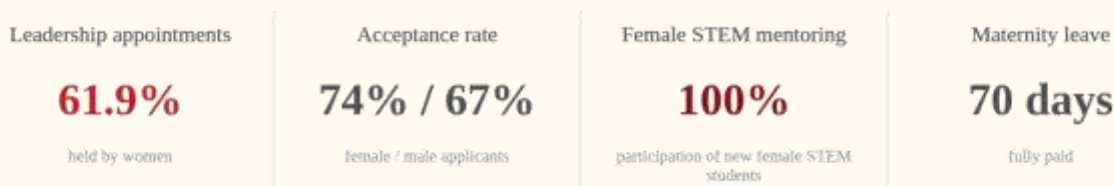


Figure 2. Leadership, admissions, mentoring, and family leave

1. Protection from Discrimination and Harassment

PU's non-discrimination framework prohibits discrimination, harassment, sexual misconduct, and retaliation across recruitment, working conditions, compensation, professional development, promotion, and termination.

Policies

- [Student Nondiscrimination, Discriminatory Harassment and Retaliation Policy](#)
- [Staff and Faculty Nondiscrimination, Discriminatory Harassment and Retaliation Policy](#)

- [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#) and [Equal Employment Opportunities Policy](#)
- [Grievance Policy and Procedure](#)

A SAFE PATHWAY FOR REPORTING

- **Dedicated intake pathway** for gender-based or sexual-harassment complaints, separate from the general discrimination process and staffed by personnel trained in confidential handling.
- **Oversight** by the University Diversity Officer (UDO), who has received training through PLAN International’s Gender Based Violence program and the Lana Haq (We Have a Right) Initiative in Jordan.
- **Protection from retaliation:** anyone who reports a concern in good faith, files a complaint, takes part in an investigation, or supports a peer is protected, and retaliation is treated as a separate violation subject to disciplinary action.

Staff training reinforces these protections: PU’s Director of Human Resources completed external training on inclusive workplaces, and HR staff attended the workshop “Communication Tools for an Inclusive Campus” in April 2024.

2. Women in the Workforce and Leadership

PU publishes its [Gender Pay Gap](#) and workforce representation each year as a direct application of its equal opportunities and non-discrimination policies.

Key Figures



Figure 3. Female representation in the PU workforce, AY 2023–24 (vertical line marks 50%)

- The **mean gender pay gap** was 15.8% and the **median** 12.7% in AY 2023–24, both under ongoing monitoring; by AY 2024–25 they had narrowed to 13.97% and 9.33% (see SDG 8).
- Women hold **50% of senior academic positions** (27.0 of 54.0 FTE).
- Two of PU’s six college deanships are held by women: **Dr. Mageda Sharafeddin**, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, which houses the Computer Science program, and **Dr. Dima Basma**, Interim Dean of the College of Law and Political Science.

Family Leave and Childcare

Maternity leave. Under the Maternity Paternity Family Care Leave Policy, all full-time female faculty and administrative staff receive 70 consecutive calendar days of fully paid maternity leave without any reduction in annual leave, plus up to 6 additional weeks of unpaid leave and the option of a phased or hybrid return.

Paternity leave. Male faculty and staff receive 3 consecutive calendar days of fully paid paternity leave, with flexible work options on return.

Free childcare. Through a strategic agreement with LWAH, PU provides fully subsidized childcare to the children of students, faculty, and staff, with a lactation room, close to the main campus. The center is open Monday to Friday 8:00 AM–5:00 PM and Saturday 8:00 AM–1:00 PM, with space for up to 15 children.



3. Access and Admissions

PU’s [Admissions Office Policy](#) guarantees equal opportunity “regardless of age, gender, marital status, race, ethnicity, or nationality.” The Women’s Access and Participation Policy builds on this with fair and transparent financial aid, outreach and mentoring to encourage entry into under-represented disciplines, targeted scholarships for women in Computer Science and Engineering, and equitable guidance for prospective female applicants.

Admissions Outcomes

In AY 2023–24, 74% of female applicants were accepted, compared with 67% of male applicants, and 63% of admitted women enrolled, compared with 57% of admitted men. Women made up 57.1% of new students. Of the 216 women who began a degree, 168 (77.8%) were the first in their family to attend university.

Measure	Female	Male	Total
Applicants	464	420	884
Accepted	342	283	625
Enrolled	216	162	378
Acceptance rate (accepted / applicants)	74%	67%	71%
Yield rate (enrolled / accepted)	63%	57%	60%

Table 1. Admissions by gender, AY 2023–24

College	Female	Male	Total
Architecture & Design	48	9	57
Arts and Science	43	51	94
Business	35	31	66
Engineering	33	68	101
Law & Political Sciences	20	2	22
Public Health	37	1	38
Total	216	162	378

Table 2. New student enrollment by college, AY 2023–24

First-generation students	Number
Total students	1,262
Students starting a degree	378
First-generation students starting a degree	294
Women starting a degree	216
First-generation women starting a degree	168

Table 3. First-generation students, AY 2023–24

4. Financial Aid for Women

Seven of PU’s eight financial aid categories are open to all students, with a review committee selecting recipients strictly on financial need and academic performance. In addition, the **Female Financial Aid for STEM Disciplines** is a supplemental award for women admitted to Computer Science or Engineering, addressing their under-representation without displacing aid available to others.

Key Figures



Figure 4. Female share of financial aid recipients by category, AY 2023–24 (vertical line marks 50%)

Women received 56.8% of all financial aid in AY 2023–24, and PU granted full scholarships to four female students who ranked in the top five nationally in the Lebanese Baccalaureate, under its [Financial Aid and Scholarship Policy](#).

5. Mentoring and Support Schemes

PU runs structured mentoring across the student lifecycle — faculty-led, peer-to-peer, and professional — together with targeted schemes that help women enter and stay in STEM.

Key Figures



Figure 5. Share of female students in mentoring schemes (line marks THE's 10% benchmark) and peer support, AY 2023–24

Schemes for Women in STEM

Female-to-female mentoring in STEM. Part of the Student Mentorship Program, this scheme pairs first-year women in STEM with senior female peer mentors at a 1:4 ratio. In AY 2023–24 it reached 100% of incoming female STEM students: all 23 new female Computer Science students and all 33 new female Engineering students.

Women's Continuity Pathway. Coordinated by the [Minorities Center](#), this pathway supports women whose education is at risk of interruption through childcare needs, marriage, caregiving, or financial hardship, linking them to subsidized childcare and to academic and financial aid teams.

Pioneer placements. The [Career Center](#) secures internships for women in under-represented fields, including placements at JA Square (France), MTC Touch Lebanon, and Gulf Consult (Kuwait), and 41 female STEM students received career guidance.

Peer support. Through the [Computer Science Peer Support Program](#) and the [PU ASME Peer Support Program](#), 81% of female Computer Science majors (34 of 42) and 75% of female Mechanical Engineering majors (9 of 12) took part.

Women Leaders as Mentors

- Mrs. Maliha Moussa El Sadr, Director of Early Childhood Intervention Lebanon, spoke on overcoming systemic barriers in public leadership in an [interview and mentoring session](#).
- Dr. Dima Basma serves on the Women's Leadership Council, a collaboration with Arizona State University and Haigazian University, advises the student-led Women Empowerment Club, and sits on the [PU Incubator](#) Advisory Board.
- Through the PU Alumni Mentorship Track, female STEM students connect with established alumnae who share their lived experience and professional networks to empower the next generation of women leaders. Alumnae can also volunteer their expertise and mentorship through the Phoenicia University Alumni Association (PUAA). Together, these pathways create vital role models who enrich the academic community and advance gender equality.

6. Outreach, Partnerships and Campus Life

Beyond campus, PU's school outreach, partnerships, and public events build the pipeline of female students and promote gender equality in the wider community.

School Outreach



Figure 6. School outreach, 2024

School visits cover academic programs, admission pathways, and careers, with particular emphasis on encouraging girls toward Engineering and Computer Science. On-campus lab demonstrations connect prospective female students with women faculty and current STEM students.

Women in Research and STEM

Dr. Diana Hadi published research on technological interventions for neurodivergent learners, including text-to-speech software, dyslexia-friendly typefaces, and personalized learning platforms.

Dr. Mariam Itani and senior student Khadija Ramadan presented sustainable-engineering research on CAHEP-PCM composite materials at the 2024 ASHRAE Conference.

Diana Kaissy, Executive Director of the Lebanese Oil and Gas Initiative and Lecturer in Engineering, delivered “Lebanon’s Oil and Gas Well: Past, Present, and Future” on 16 January 2024.

Student achievement: ECE student Nour Dagher completed an international training program in Egypt (October 2023), and Computer Science student Marwa Zeineddine placed first at the Arab Championship for Scientific Talents in Baghdad (June 2024).

Partnerships

- **ABAAD** — with the Student Affairs Office and the Women Empowerment Club, an ongoing collaboration including a Seminar on Combating Sexual Harassment attended by more than 60 students and a Woman Self-Image Workshop.
- **LWAH** — a strategic agreement that delivers PU’s fully subsidized childcare and lactation services close to the main campus.

Campus Events and Student Life

International Women’s Day. “Breaking Barriers and Empowering Women” hosted Ms. Karma Ekmekji — peace mediator, Senior Fellow at AUB’s Issam Fares Institute, and founder of #Diplowomen — on women’s representation in peace, security, and governance.

Women Empowerment Market. Active since 2020, the student-led Women Empowerment Club’s market gave 11 female-led student and community ventures a free on-campus platform.

Student leadership. At International Day (21 April 2024), women held 13 of 20 (65%) executive-committee positions across 11 student societies and 9 student clubs.



7. Graduation Outcomes

In AY 2023–24, PU awarded degrees to 150 graduates by subject area, 81 of them women — a female graduation rate of 54.0%, above the UNESCO global share of women in tertiary education (about 53%).

Key Figures



Figure 7. Female share of graduates by college, AY 2023–24 (vertical line marks 50%)

College	Female	Male	Total
Architecture & Design	10	12	22
Arts and Science	11	8	19
Business	11	10	21
Engineering	14	36	50
Law & Political Sciences	5	2	7
Public Health	30	1	31
Total	81	69	150

Table 4. Graduates by college and gender, AY 2023–24

Women were the majority of graduates in four of six colleges, and Architecture & Design was close to parity. The College of Engineering, reflecting a well-documented global pattern in STEM, had the lowest female share at 28.0% — which is why PU’s STEM scholarships, mentoring, and outreach focus there.

8. Policies and Monitoring

Policies

- [Women’s Access and Participation Policy](#) — targeted commitments to women’s access, recruitment, and progression.
- [Admissions Office Policy](#) — merit-based, non-discriminatory admissions.
- [Maternity Paternity Family Care Leave Policy](#) — paid maternity and paternity leave and flexible return.
- [Financial Aid and Scholarship Policy](#) — including the Female Financial Aid for STEM Disciplines.
- Non-discrimination, harassment, and grievance policies listed in Section 1.

Measuring Progress

Admissions data are tracked by gender in PowerCampus, including applications, academic intent, and outcomes, and reviewed annually by the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Office and senior management. HR and the QAA Office jointly monitor family leave, while the gender pay gap is reported annually.

Looking Ahead

PU’s data indicate progress toward greater gender balance in admissions, leadership, and graduation. Engineering remains an area where women are under-represented. PU remains committed to strengthening scholarships, mentoring, and outreach initiatives that support equitable opportunities for women to pursue education and leadership.

6

Clean Water and Sanitation



SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Introduction

Access to safe water is a pressing challenge in South Lebanon, where many households and municipalities depend on wells and water tankers. Phoenicia University (PU) uses its scientific expertise to close this gap.

Through its free water quality testing service, its management of water on campus, and its teaching and research, PU helps protect public health and conserve a scarce resource. Its approach is set out on its [SDG 6 webpage](#).

PU **tests** community water sources free of charge; **manages** its own water responsibly, from groundwater wells to free drinking fountains; and **teaches and researches** water supply, treatment, and microbiology, sharing that knowledge with the public.

The sections that follow present each area, followed by the policies that protect water on campus.

1. Free Water Quality Testing

Through its “PUre Water” initiative, PU’s Environmental Testing Laboratory has offered free [water quality testing](#) since November 2022. The service is run by the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department with the Laboratories Department.

Key Figures



Figure 1. Free water quality testing for the community

How the Service Works

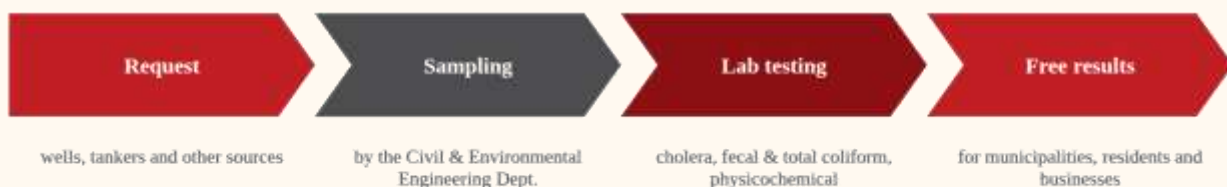


Figure 2. From request to results

PU works with neighboring municipalities including **Arzay, Bablieh, Ghasanieh, Insarieh, Kharayeb, Loubieh, and Zrarieh** to assess wells, tankers, and other water sources. Bacteriological tests cover cholera, fecal coliform, and total coliform, alongside physicochemical parameters, giving communities, municipalities, and businesses the data they need to protect public health.

2. Water on Campus

PU manages its own water carefully and makes safe drinking water freely available to everyone on campus.

Sources and Supply



Figure 3. Campus water sources and free drinking water

Water supply. Campus water comes primarily from on-site groundwater wells, supplemented by the municipal network and rainwater reuse.

Free drinking water. Treated drinking water is available from fountains across campus and from bottled water dispensers in the cafeteria, and the Plastic Reduction Policy promotes refillable solutions in place of single-use bottles.

In-house expertise. Ms. Amira Fakih, a member of PU staff since 2015, holds a Professional Diploma in Green Technologies with a specialization in Water (February 2020) from a joint AUB, LAU, and AUC program.

3. Education, Research and Awareness

PU prepares engineers to manage water resources and shares its knowledge with the wider community.

- **Courses:** Water Supply and Wastewater Management and Hydraulics and Hydrology, and CENG219 – Special Topics in Civil Engineering, whose Water Efficiency module covers reducing potable water use in buildings.
- **Research:** faculty have contributed to water quality monitoring of the Litani River basin and Lake Qaraoun, and PU researchers have published on wastewater treatment technologies (*Journal of Environmental Chemical Engineering*, 2026).
- **Public lecture:** Dr. Hamdan Hamdan delivered a free lecture on water microbiology and water-borne diseases on March 28, 2024.
- **School outreach:** with LWAH and the Sea Without Borders Association / Lebanese Diving Center, PU delivered “Keep Our Ocean Clean” (January 21, 2026) to Grade 3 students and students with learning difficulties.

4. Policies and Monitoring

Policies

- **Environmental, Health and Safety Policy** — requires laboratory spills to be contained before they reach drains or waterways.
- **Plastic Reduction Policy** — promotes refillable drinking water solutions in place of single-use bottles.

Measuring Progress

Every sample tested through the PUre Water service is analysed against bacteriological and physicochemical parameters, with results shared free of charge with the municipality, resident, or business that requested it.

Looking Ahead

PU will continue to expand free water testing to more municipalities, to reduce potable water use on campus, and to build the next generation of water professionals for the South.

7

Affordable and Clean Energy



SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Introduction

Access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy remains an important challenge in Lebanon. Phoenicia University (PU) recognizes the importance of responsible energy use and has integrated renewable energy and energy efficiency into its campus operations.

Solar energy forms a central part of PU’s approach to meeting its energy needs. The University also applies energy-efficiency measures across its buildings and systems, including lighting and cooling, to reduce energy consumption and improve operational efficiency.

This approach reflects the University’s broader commitment to reducing its environmental impact while ensuring that energy resources are used efficiently and responsibly. It also supports the integration of sustainability into campus operations, academic activities, and institutional planning.

The following sections highlight the University’s approach to clean energy and the progress made in advancing SDG 7.

1. Solar Energy on Campus

A rooftop solar photovoltaic system comprising 633 panels, with a total capacity of 376.6 kW, supplies approximately 66% of the campus’s energy consumption. Installed in 2021, the system was implemented under the supervision of Ms. Amira Fakih, a member of the PU staff.

Key Figures



Figure 1. Renewable energy on campus

2. Energy Efficiency

PU reduces energy consumption through energy-efficient buildings and equipment, supported by regular energy audits to identify opportunities for further efficiency improvements.

Efficiency Measures



Figure 2. Energy efficiency across campus

Seventy percent of campus buildings are certified or designed in accordance with green building standards, representing 30% of the total campus floor area. These buildings incorporate insulation, energy-efficient HVAC systems, LED lighting, and glass ceilings. The Facilities Management Department conducts annual energy and environmental audits to identify areas of waste and maintain energy consumption within planned levels.

3. Low-Carbon Mobility

PU recognizes that commuting contributes to campus-related emissions, particularly for a university serving students and staff from towns and villages across the South. The University promotes lower-carbon transportation options to support more sustainable commuting practices.

Key Figures

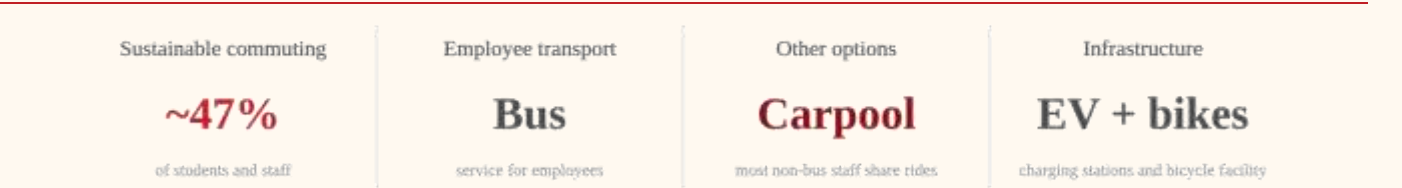


Figure 3. Sustainable transport at PU

4. Research and Innovation for Clean Energy

Green hydrogen. A feasibility study of a PV/T green hydrogen energy system for a house in Lebanon showed how integrated solar and hydrogen could offer households an economically viable alternative to diesel-generated electricity.

Fairer microgrids. Dr. Haytham Dbouk is a Scientific and Technical Investigator for the IGT–AUB–Templeton Microgrids Project and Co-Principal Investigator on an LAU President’s Intramural Research Fund project, contributing to policy-oriented research on fairer, more efficient microgrids and AI-enabled renewable integration.

Ocean power. At the April 2024 Idea Fair, a project generating clean electricity from ocean waves won a place in the [PU Incubator](#), with free workspace, mentorship, waived office rent, legal and accounting support, and access to lab equipment.

5. Policies and Monitoring

Policies

- **Ethical Sourcing Policy** — favors energy-efficient products in University purchasing.
- **[Incubator Policy](#)** — sets out the free facilities, training, and in-kind support available to clean-energy start-ups.

Measuring Progress

The Facilities Management Department conducts energy and environmental audits, monitoring energy consumption against planned levels and tracking the share of campus energy supplied by the solar plant.

Looking Ahead

PU remains committed to increasing the use of renewable energy, strengthening energy efficiency across campus facilities, and supporting research and innovation that contribute to more sustainable and accessible energy solutions.

8

Decent Work and Economic Growth



SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Introduction

Decent work and inclusive economic opportunities are important to individual well-being, student success, and community development. Phoenicia University (PU) promotes fair and supportive working conditions for its employees while preparing students and community members with the knowledge and skills needed to pursue meaningful employment and economic opportunities.

PU's approach is supported by its [Equal Employment Opportunities Policy](#), [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#), and [Grievance Policy and Procedure](#), which establish principles for fair treatment, equal opportunity, and a safe and respectful working environment,

Through its employment practices, career preparation, internships, industry partnerships, vocational training, and entrepreneurship initiatives, PU addresses decent work and economic opportunity across the University and the wider community.

The sections that follow outline these practices and the mechanisms used to support and monitor their implementation.

1. Fair and Decent Employment

PU's employment policies establish standards for fair, respectful, and safe working conditions and apply to employees as well as contractors and suppliers, where relevant.

LABOUR RIGHTS AT PU

- **Equal treatment and protection from discrimination and harassment:** Protections apply to staff, faculty, students, and third parties, supported by HR-based reporting mechanisms and safeguards against retaliation.
- **Protection from forced labour and exploitation:** Forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking, and child labour are prohibited, in accordance with Articles 21–25 of the Lebanese Labour Law.
- **Freedom of association and collective bargaining:** These rights are recognized in accordance with applicable Lebanese labour law.
- **Grievance and appeal:** A formal grievance procedure provides a mechanism for raising concerns and includes a right of appeal.
- **Health, safety, and wellbeing:** The Faculty Code of Conduct, Drug and Alcohol-Free Environment Policy, and Non-Smoking Policy support a safe, healthy, and respectful working environment.

2. Pay Equity and Representation

PU publishes its [gender pay gap](#), with the AY 2023–24 report indicating a mean gap of 15.8% and a median gap of 12.7%. During the same academic year, women represented 49.09% of academic staff, 63.79% of non-academic staff, and 61.90% of leadership positions. Two of PU’s six college deans were women.

Key Figures



Figure 1. Share of women by staff category, AY 2023–24 (vertical line marks 50%)



Figure 2. Gender pay gap AY 2023-24

3. Preparing Graduates for Work

Every PU academic program requires an internship of at least one month, and the [Career Center](#) provides career guidance, CV and interview support, and placements with employers, including the annual Career Fair.

Industry and Government Partnerships

- **Ministry of Economy and Trade:** a memorandum of understanding offers supervised internships within the Ministry’s directorates and joint research on SMEs and the digital economy.
- **Data Consult S.A.L.:** a memorandum of understanding with this IT and digital transformation provider offers internships and training in AI, data analytics, cybersecurity, and digital transformation.

4. Skills and Livelihoods in the Community

PU provides community members with opportunities to develop market-relevant skills through the Center for Continuing Education, free vocational training with LWAH, and the PU Incubator.

Vocational training. In 2024, 325 community members took part in free vocational training with LWAH, in sewing; orthotics, prosthetics, medical appliances and medical shoes; mobility aids repair; and periodic workshops in jewellery making, carpentry, pottery, and carpet weaving.

Entrepreneurship. The PU Incubator gives local entrepreneurs free workspace, training, and mentorship; 61% of the businesses it has supported have remained operational for five years or more.

Women’s enterprise. The [Women Empowerment Market](#) provided 11 female-led ventures a free on-campus platform to sell their products.

5. Policies and Monitoring

Policies

- [Equal Employment Opportunities Policy](#) — affirms equal employment opportunities for all qualified candidates.
- [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#) — covers staff, faculty, students, visitors, and third parties such as suppliers and contractors.
- [Grievance Policy and Procedure](#) — provides a formal complaints process with a right to appeal.

Measuring Progress

PU publishes its gender pay gap and workforce representation each academic year, allowing progress to be tracked over time — as in the fall of the mean gap from 15.8% to 13.97% between AY 2023–24 and AY 2024–25.

Looking Ahead

PU remains committed to narrowing its gender pay gap, expanding internship and training opportunities through its academic and industry partnerships, and supporting community members in developing skills and sustainable businesses.

9

Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure



SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Introduction

Innovation, research, and resilient infrastructure support economic development and create opportunities for knowledge to be translated into practical solutions. Phoenicia University (PU) supports this process by providing researchers, students, and entrepreneurs with access to facilities, expertise, and opportunities for collaboration.

Through the PU Incubator, laboratories, research activities, and partnerships with government and industry, the University contributes to an environment that supports innovation, entrepreneurship, and the development of solutions relevant to regional needs.

PU's work in this area includes supporting start-ups and entrepreneurs, strengthening research and teaching infrastructure, advancing research in areas such as clean energy and sustainable engineering, and connecting academic expertise with industry and public-sector partners.

The sections that follow outline these activities and the institutional mechanisms that support them.

1. Research Infrastructure

Laboratories. Thirteen laboratories and technical workshops in engineering, environmental sciences, biology, chemistry, physics, and materials testing are used for teaching, research, and collaborative projects with external partners.

Environmental Testing Laboratory. Provides free water testing to the community since November 2022.

Solar plant. A 633-panel, 376.6 kW rooftop solar plant supplies 66% of campus energy and serves as a living laboratory for renewable energy.



2. Research and Innovation

Faculty research spans clean energy, sustainable materials, public health, and environmental remediation, often in collaboration with universities in Lebanon and abroad.

Research Highlights

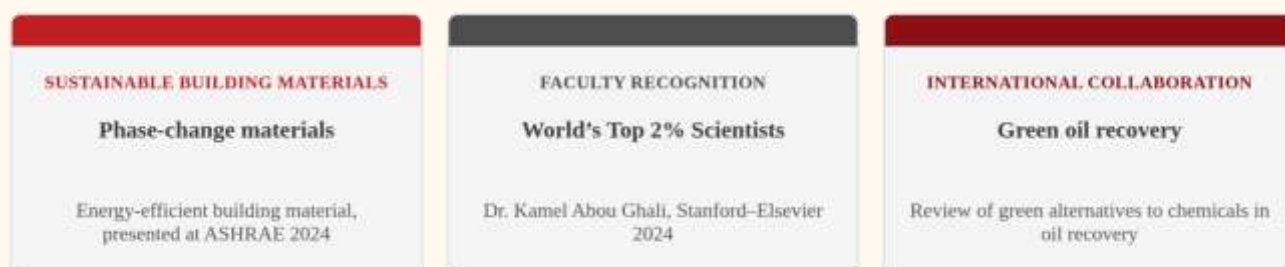


Figure 2. Selected research areas

- **Dr. Kamel Abou Ghali**, Interim Dean of the College of Engineering, was recognized among the World's Top 2% Scientists in the 2025 Stanford–Elsevier ranking.
- **Dr. Mariam Itani**, Coordinator of the Mechanical Engineering Department, led research on CAHEP-PCM composite materials with senior student Khadija Ramadan, presented at the [2024 ASHRAE Sixth International Conference on Efficient Building Design](#).
- **Dr. Kamel Bou Hamdan** collaborated with Beirut Arab University and Heriot-Watt University (UK) on a review of green materials for chemical enhanced oil recovery.

3. The PU Incubator

The first start-up incubator in South Lebanon, the PU Incubator is open to both the PU community and external applicants. It provides free workspace, training, mentorship, and in-kind financial support such as waived rent and free legal and accounting advice, and connects start-ups with external funding through the University's Grants Office.

Key Figures



Figure 1. Innovation and research infrastructure

The Incubator has supported businesses founded between 2017 and 2025 across 17 micro-sectors, and 61% of them have remained operational for five years or more. Its annual Idea Fair gives students and young community members a platform to pitch ideas and enter the incubation track; ten ideas were presented at the 2024 edition.

4. Policies and Monitoring

Policies

- **Incubator Policy** — sets out eligibility for community applicants and the free facilities, training, mentorship, and in-kind support available to start-ups.
- **Research and Advancement Policy** — supports faculty research and academic freedom.

Measuring Progress

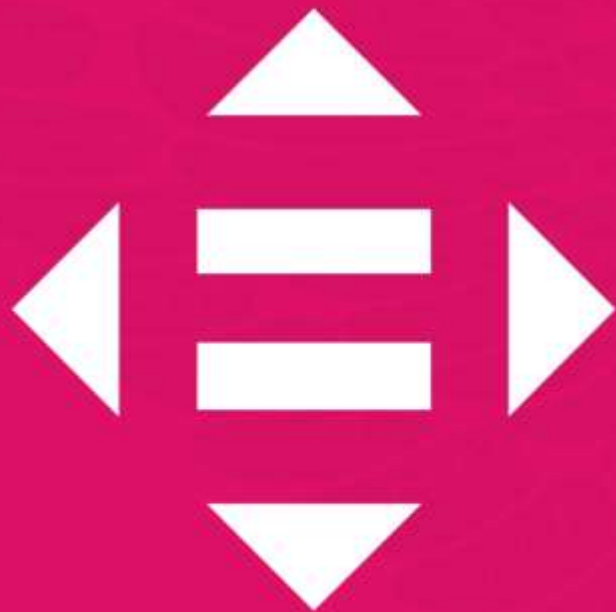
The Incubator tracks the businesses it supports over time, including the sectors in which they operate and their continued operation. To date, 61% of supported businesses have remained operational for five years or more.

Looking Ahead

PU remains committed to expanding access to its laboratories and Incubator, strengthening research partnerships, and creating opportunities for ideas and innovations from the South to connect with relevant industries and institutions.

10

Reduce Inequalities



SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

Introduction

Inclusion is measured not only by who gains admission to a university, but by who is able to stay, thrive, and graduate. Located in the District of Zahrani in South Lebanon, Phoenicia University (PU) serves a region where economic hardship, displacement, disability, and limited access to higher education shape the opportunities available to many young people and their families. For a large share of PU's students, the University is their family's first experience of higher education.



PU is committed to advancing structural inclusion and equitable access for underrepresented and disadvantaged groups across its entire community — students, faculty, and staff. Guided by Goal 4 of the University's [Goals and Strategies](#) framework and by Strategic Priority 5: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion of the [PU Strategic Plan 2024–2029](#), the University promotes the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, economic circumstance, or any other status.

This commitment is carried out through a consistent approach applied to every group PU serves. The University **measures** the representation of underrepresented groups at every stage of the student journey, from application to graduation; **protects** equal access through formal, non-discriminatory policies; **reaches out** to groups that might not otherwise consider PU through targeted recruitment and partnerships; and **supports** those who join the University through financial aid, accessible facilities, mentoring, and counselling. Institutional oversight is provided by the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEIC), with the University Diversity Office (UDO) and the Minorities Center translating policy into day-to-day support.

The sections that follow present PU's work group by group — people with disabilities, women, international and culturally diverse students, and students from low-income backgrounds — bringing together, for each, the relevant figures, policies, and initiatives. A final section describes the institution-wide policies and governance that underpin all of these efforts.

1. People with Disabilities

PU aims to be a campus where disability does not stand in the way of completing a degree or doing one's job well. The University works to eliminate physical, academic, and workplace barriers and provides reasonable accommodations that enable full participation in learning, work, and campus life. In line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), PU considers a person to have a disability when an impairment interacts with physical, informational, or attitudinal barriers that hinder full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.



Figure 1. Students and employees with disabilities at PU, AY 2023–24

Policies

- [Policy on Reasonable Accommodation for Differently Abled Individuals](#) — commits PU to accommodations across five domains (physical, academic, emotional/mental, employment, and housing) for students, faculty, and staff with documented disabilities, in alignment with Lebanese Law No. 220/2000 and the UN CRPD. Clear procedures for requesting accommodations are defined through the Office of the Registrar, the Health Care Center, and Human Resources, and the policy is backed by dedicated funding through the Achievers Scholarship Fund.
- [Policy on Accommodating Differently Abled Students During Exams](#) — sets out exam arrangements such as extra time, alternative formats, and dedicated support personnel.



Figure 2. Share of new students and graduates with disabilities, 2021–22 vs 2025–26

HIGHLIGHTS

- The convergence of the commencing and graduating shares in 2025–26 points to improving retention and completion for students with disabilities.
- In 2024, **50 of 76** sewing trainees in PU’s free vocational training with LWAH were people with disabilities; the program recorded 100% completion, with participants placed in employment.

Recruitment and Outreach

- **Staff recruitment through LWAH:** under a formal partnership agreement, the Lebanese Welfare Association for the Handicapped (LWAH) refers job-ready candidates with disabilities directly to PU for available staff positions, reaching qualified candidates who may face barriers in conventional hiring channels.
- **Accessible hiring:** accommodations, including accessible interview formats and locations, are available to any candidate who requests them.
- **Student pathway through LWAH:** PU connects students supported by LWAH to its academic programs, extending recruitment into a community that might not otherwise pursue higher education.

- **Transparent information before applying:** accessibility services are communicated during campus visits, admissions counselling, and outreach to organizations supporting students with disabilities, and are set out in PU's accessibility handout, [A Differently-Abled Friendly Campus](#).

Accessible Campus and Facilities

- **Physical access:** ramps, elevators, accessible restrooms and parking, tactile signage, adapted classroom and laboratory furniture, vehicle access where required, and pathways for electric wheelchairs into lecture halls.
- **Buildings designed for accessibility:** widened corridors, specialized restrooms, clearly marked emergency evacuation routes, and priority housing for students who require it.
- **Assistive technology:** a dedicated computer station in Room A109 with built-in tools for visually impaired users, and library resources including screen readers, braille texts, audiobooks, and specialized workstations.
- **Accessible workplaces:** accessible equipment, flexible or modified schedules, and assistive technology for faculty and staff, with performance evaluations adjusted for disability-related considerations.



Support Services and Access Schemes



Figure 3. Support services and access schemes for people with disabilities

2. Women and Gender Equity

PU upholds gender equality as a core priority, ensuring that access, participation, and success are available on equal terms regardless of gender. Gender representation is tracked annually at every stage of the student journey, with particular attention to fields where women remain under-represented, such as STEM, and to women whose studies or careers are interrupted by caregiving or financial pressures.

Key Figures



Figure 4. Female share of students at each stage of the student journey, AY 2023–24 (vertical line marks 50% parity)

- Female representation has remained above parity at every stage, with no evidence of disadvantage from application to graduation.



Figure 5. Female graduates and women in engineering, 2021–22 vs 2025–26

HIGHLIGHTS

- Women’s share of graduates rose from **54% in 2021–22 to 61% in 2025–26**, after peaking at 64% in 2024–25.
- Women’s share of engineering students rose from **26% in 2021–22 to 30% in 2025–26**, after peaking at 33% in 2024–25 — a reminder that sustained effort is needed to protect these gains.

Policies

- [Women’s Access and Participation Policy](#) — supports equitable access to higher education by reducing financial barriers and promoting the participation and success of women across all programs.
- [Financial Aid and Scholarship Policy](#) — provides enhanced financial aid for female applicants to STEM programs.
- [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#) — prohibits sexual harassment and misconduct; gender-based and sexual harassment cases are handled by the University Diversity Office through confidential, impartial, timely, and trauma-informed procedures.

- **Recruitment and Outreach**
- **STEM awareness sessions** during school visits, education fairs, Open Days, and summer camps showcasing programs and careers for women.
- **Inclusive marketing** ensuring female representation across recruitment materials, the website, and campaigns.
- **Reintegration of women staff and faculty:** the DEIC reviews hiring practices and, with the Women's Continuity Pathway, supports skilled women returning after career interruptions through flexible re-entry arrangements and mentorship.

Support and Initiatives

Women's Continuity Pathway. The Minorities Center supports women whose studies or work are interrupted by childcare, marriage, caregiving, or financial hardship, linking them to subsidized childcare with LWAH and to academic, HR, and financial aid teams, while the Counseling Center offers confidential counselling and a return-to-study plan.

Mentoring and career support. Female STEM students are paired with senior students and alumnae in their fields, female students receive salary negotiation coaching, and staff and faculty returning after a career break receive return-to-work support.

Role models and leadership. Sessions with accomplished women such as Mrs. Maliha Moussa El Sadr and Dr. Nadine Abbas, together with the Women Empowerment Club's activities, promote women's leadership on campus.

3. International Students and Ethnic, Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

PU values the presence of students and faculty from diverse national, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds as essential to an inclusive and globally engaged learning environment. The University monitors the representation of international students, students from non-Arabic-speaking backgrounds, and ethnic minority students to gauge the effectiveness of its recruitment and support.

Recruitment and Outreach

- **Global Outreach and International Affairs (GOIA) Office:** manages international partnerships, coordinates scholarship support and visa assistance for incoming students, and facilitates exchange and mobility programs.
- **Council of International Schools (CIS):** as a member, PU engages with a global network of schools collectively enrolling more than 818,500 students.



Figure 6. International and culturally diverse students at PU, AY 2023–24 (non-Arabic speakers shown as a share of new international students)

Support and Initiatives

International and ethnic minority students facing integration challenges are supported by the Minorities Center, which connects them to Student Affairs or the GOIA Office. The **Writing Center** offers one-to-one support that is especially valuable for students facing language barriers. Cross-cultural inclusion is celebrated through PU's annual **International Day** (April 21, 2024), which brought together 11 student societies and 9 student clubs to share cuisine, performances, and cultural activities, with equal female leadership across its planning roles.

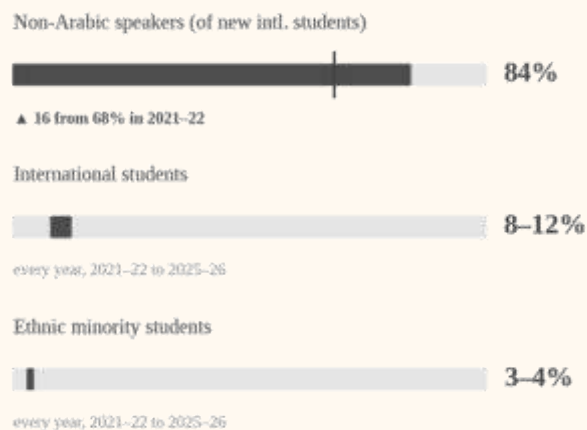


Figure 7. International, linguistic and ethnic diversity, 2021-22 to 2025-26 (non-Arabic speakers shown as a share of new international students)

Policies

- [Admissions Office Policy](#) — guarantees equal opportunity for all applicants regardless of race, ethnicity, or nationality.
- [Equal Employment Opportunities Policy](#) — ensures no candidate is denied employment on the basis of race, ethnic or national origin, citizenship, or color.

4. Students from Low-Income Backgrounds

Financial hardship remains one of the most significant barriers to higher education in Lebanon. At PU, financial aid is awarded specifically to students from low-income households or from Low- and Lower-Middle-Income Countries (LLMICs), making aid reciprocity a direct indicator of low socio-economic status. The University tracks these students from commencement to graduation to ensure that access translates into completion.

Key Figures

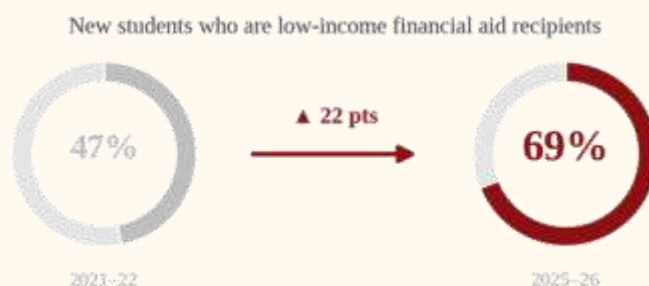


Figure 8. Share of new students who are low-income financial aid recipients, 2021-22 vs 2025-26



Figure 9. Annual school outreach and recruitment

- The share of commencing students who are low-income aid recipients rose from **47% in 2021–22 to 69% in 2025–26**, reflecting stronger outreach, admissions, and access initiatives.
- PU’s school outreach reaches approximately **175 schools** and an estimated **8,750–10,500 prospective students** each year.

Policies

- **Financial Aid and Scholarship Policy** — defines need-based financial aid for students from low-income households and LLMICs.

Recruitment and Outreach

- **Financial aid publicity:** aid and scholarship opportunities are promoted through school visits, open days, information sessions, and social media, so that students know funding is available before they apply.
- **Merit scholarships through the Technology and Science Fair**, giving talented high-school students who may face financial barriers a pathway into university.

Support and Initiatives

- **Financial hardship support:** the Minorities Center works with the Financial Aid Office to arrange emergency financial assistance, adjusted or deferred tuition payments, work-study opportunities, or referral to external welfare and NGO partners.
- **Financial and Transition Support Track:** first-year students from the bottom income quintile and LLMICs are paired with senior students who have navigated similar challenges and are trained to recognize signs of financial difficulty.
- **Student Resilience & Support Pathway:** the Counseling Center assesses how hardship is affecting attendance or performance and coordinates financial referral, academic advising, and follow-up to prevent dropout.
- **Access to fully funded study abroad:** since 2023, the GOIA Office has run an annual scholarship advising framework — EducationUSA, Fulbright, and Chevening information sessions — so that talented students can pursue graduate study regardless of their financial background.

5. Institution-Wide Commitment to Non-Discrimination

The group-specific measures above rest on a common foundation of policies, governance, and monitoring that apply across the whole University.

Policies

- [Goals and Strategies](#) — Goal 4 commits PU to the social, economic, and political inclusion of all.
- [Admissions Office Policy](#) — ensures all inquiries, applications, and admissions decisions are conducted equitably, transparently, and without discrimination.
- [Equal Employment Opportunities Policy](#) — affirms equal employment opportunities for all qualified candidates.
- [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#) — prohibits discrimination and harassment on any protected characteristic, applies to all staff, faculty, students, visitors, trainees, and suppliers on and off campus, and sets out a formal reporting, investigation, and disciplinary process under a zero-tolerance stance.
- [Student Nondiscrimination, Discriminatory Harassment and Retaliation Policy](#) — protects students against discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.
- [Staff and Faculty Nondiscrimination, Discriminatory Harassment and Retaliation Policy](#) — provides the same protections for employees.

Governance and Oversight

The **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee (DEIC)** sets institutional direction, develops university-wide policy, and reviews hiring practices. The **University Diversity Office (UDO)**, reporting to the DEIC and the Chancellor, implements the Committee's decisions: it advises leadership, coordinates inclusion programs and training, monitors concerns raised through the formal complaints procedures, manages harassment cases, and oversees the **Minorities Center**, which serves as an accessible first point of contact for anyone facing barriers to participation.

Monitoring and Community Engagement

PU tracks applications, admissions, enrolment, and graduation for each equity group, using the results to identify disparities, evaluate policies, and inform strategic planning. [Student clubs](#) work alongside the UDO to promote inclusion, and the UDO is developing a structured diversity, equity, inclusion, and human rights training program for faculty, staff, and student leaders.

Looking Ahead

PU's data show real progress: rising completion among students with disabilities, female graduation rates well above parity, a stable and diverse international community, and a growing share of low-income students entering the University. They also show where more is needed, such as sustaining women's participation in engineering and ensuring that gains in access for low-income students translate into equally strong completion. PU will continue to measure, review, and strengthen its policies and support so that every member of its community has an equal opportunity to learn, work, and thrive.

11

Sustainable Cities and Communities



SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Introduction

Phoenicia University (PU) contributes to the development of healthier, more inclusive, and resilient communities through its campus, services, educational activities, and community engagement.

PU's contribution extends from providing public access to its facilities and cultural resources to delivering community services, promoting sustainable campus operations, and supporting local governance and civic engagement.

PU opens its campus, heritage, and cultural resources to the public; serves neighboring communities through health, water, and social initiatives; promotes sustainable practices through its buildings and transportation initiatives; and contributes to local governance through staff engagement in community and public service.

The sections that follow outline these areas of contribution, together with the relevant policies and practices that support sustainable and inclusive communities.

An Open Campus

The campus at PU brings academic buildings, laboratories, student residences, sports facilities, and community spaces together in one location designed for both learning and public use. Several of these facilities are open to the wider community rather than restricted to students.

Open to the public	What it offers
FACILITIES	
Library	Open to the wider academic community, not only enrolled students, with print collections, journals, electronic resources, study spaces, and research resources.
Sports facilities	The gymnasium, football and baseball fields, and padel courts support community recreation and health promotion activities.
Environmental Testing Laboratory	Free water quality testing for individuals, municipalities, and organizations since November 2022.
PU Incubator	South Lebanon's first start-up incubator, giving local entrepreneurs access to mentorship, workspace, and lab facilities.
Green and open spaces	Landscaped grounds, recreational areas, and open outdoor spaces built into the campus layout.
EVENTS	
Public events	Community First Aid Training with the Lebanese Civil Defense, free BMI screening for World Obesity Day, public lectures on water microbiology, and the annual Technology and Science Fair.

2. Culture and Heritage

PU’s cultural life runs largely through its clubs and students, and much of it is open to people beyond the University.

Arts and culture. The Music Club has its own dedicated room on campus for rehearsal and practice, and the Theatre Club’s productions are open to the public. The University also brings in guest artists every year.

Cultural diversity. Each year, International Day gives students the chance to represent their own cultures on campus.

Student exhibitions. Architecture and Design students regularly display coursework and design projects in public exhibition space on campus, giving their work a real audience beyond the classroom.

Heritage. Humanities and Cultural Studies is one of the University’s stated research priorities, with work focusing on cultural identity, history, and heritage.



The library, exhibition spaces, and shared public areas reflect an ongoing institutional investment in facilities that support learning as much as cultural life.

3. A Sustainable, Accessible Campus

PU applies sustainable, inclusive thinking to how its campus is reached, lived in, and built.



Figure 1. A sustainable, accessible campus

Getting There

PU runs its own scheduled bus service for students, covering routes throughout the academic year. For a campus outside a dense urban center, the service reduces reliance on private cars and offers predictable trips that students actually use.

Living on Campus

On-campus student housing offers furnished rooms, utilities, internet access, housekeeping, laundry facilities, and 24-hour security, so students can live close to their studies without having to find housing off campus. Employee housing is part of the same residential infrastructure.

Accessible by Design

Under the [Policy on Reasonable Accommodation for Differently Abled Individuals](#), the campus provides ramps, elevators, accessible restrooms and parking, tactile signage, accessible classroom and laboratory furniture, and accessible emergency evacuation procedures. Routes, entrances, and facilities are built to be usable by students, staff, and visitors with disabilities from the start, rather than adjusted case by case.

Built Sustainably

- **Energy:** insulation and efficient HVAC systems cut energy demand, LED lighting is used throughout, and glass ceilings bring in natural light and ventilation.
- **Water:** on-site wells support water use rather than relying solely on the municipal supply.
- **Materials:** construction has used responsibly sourced wood and concrete where possible, and the University produces its own furniture in-house, which, with its recycling practices, keeps materials in use longer.

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN IN THE CURRICULUM

Students in Architecture and in Civil and Environmental Engineering study sustainable design and environmentally responsible construction as part of the core curriculum, not as an elective, shaping what future architects and engineers are taught to design.

4. Engaging Local Municipalities

PU's regional engagement goes beyond research, bringing health and environmental services directly to municipalities in the South.

Key Figures



Figure 2. Engagement with local municipalities

- **Health:** since 2023, PU's mobile medical clinics, run with the Lebanese Welfare Association for the Handicapped, have operated in collaboration with 15 municipalities, reaching an estimated 1,500–2,000 beneficiaries across 2023 and 2024.
- **Water:** the [Environmental Testing Laboratory](#) has offered free water quality testing to individuals,

municipalities, and organizations since November 2022.

- **Enterprise:** the [PU Incubator](#), South Lebanon’s first start-up incubator, gives local entrepreneurs access to mentorship, workspace, and lab facilities.

STUDENTS IMAGINING BETTER CITIES

Research and teaching in architecture, urban planning, and environmental engineering feed into PU’s regional work. At the 2024 Technology and Science Fair, the winning student project, “City 2.0: Unveiling the Future of Smart and Sustainable Urban Living,” explored technology-driven approaches to urban safety, resource efficiency, and citizen participation.

Policy

- [Policy on Reasonable Accommodation for Differently Abled Individuals](#) — sets the accessibility standards for campus buildings, facilities, and emergency procedures.

Measuring Progress

PU monitors its contribution to sustainable and inclusive communities through indicators such as the reach of community services, municipalities engaged, public access to campus facilities, and the use of sustainable and accessible campus infrastructure. These measures provide a basis for assessing community reach, accessibility, and the University’s contribution to local development.

Looking Ahead

PU continues to strengthen the role of its campus as a shared community resource, expand engagement with municipalities and local communities, and integrate sustainability, accessibility, and responsible use of resources across campus operations, education, and community engagement.

12

Responsible Consumption and Production



SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Introduction

University operations have a direct impact on the responsible use of resources and the environment. Phoenicia University (PU) integrates responsible consumption and production into its procurement and operational practices through formal policies and established procedures.

These policies address responsible procurement, the safe handling of hazardous materials, and measures to reduce waste and the use of single-use items.

PU's approach focuses on three key areas: responsible procurement, incorporating ethical, social, and environmental considerations into purchasing decisions; safe management of hazardous materials and waste; and waste reduction, reuse, and recycling across campus. Progress in these areas is monitored through established mechanisms and reviewed regularly.

The sections that follow outline these practices and the mechanisms used to monitor progress.

1. Responsible Procurement

PU's Ethical Sourcing Policy integrates environmental, social, and ethical considerations into procurement decisions. It promotes the selection of durable, reusable, recyclable, and energy-efficient products, prioritizes local suppliers where practical, and encourages reduced packaging.

Responsible Consumption Policies

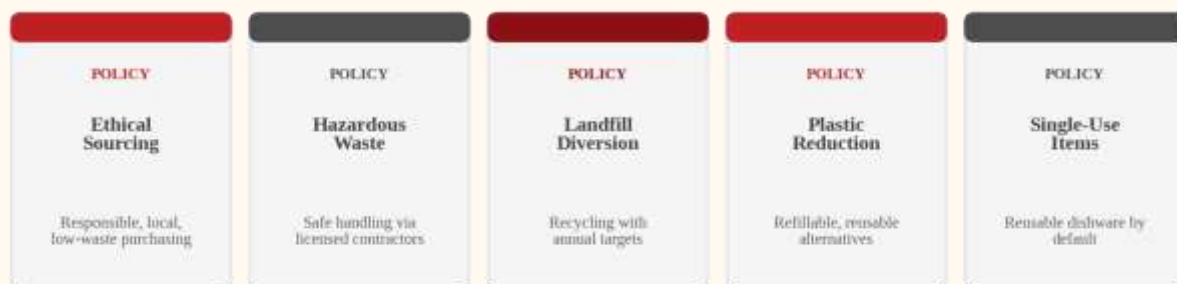


Figure 1. Responsible consumption policies

WHAT PU EXPECTS OF SUPPLIERS

- Respect for labour and human rights, with child and forced labour prohibited.
- Comply with environmental safeguards.
- Provide documentation demonstrating compliance and participate in periodic audits where required.

2. Safe Management of Hazardous Waste

PU's Hazardous Waste Management Policy establishes procedures for the safe handling, segregation, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste generated by laboratories, clinics, and workshops. Hazardous waste is disposed of only through licensed contractors, with annual training and inspections supporting compliance with the policy.

3. Reducing Waste and Single-Use Items

PU's Waste Disposal and Landfill Diversion Policy establishes a structured approach to reducing waste at source, promoting reuse and recycling, and monitoring and reporting results.

From Source to Report



Figure 2. PU's waste management cycle

Recycling. Paper, plastics, glass, metals, and electronic waste are segregated for recycling, with landfill diversion targets reviewed periodically.

Plastics and single-use items. PU's Plastic Reduction and Single-Use Items Reduction policies promote reusable alternatives and refillable water solutions. Campus caterers are required to provide reusable dishware for dine-in meals and report disposable item use to the Procurement Office.

Made on campus. The University produces furniture in-house, supporting resource efficiency and reducing reliance on external purchases.

4. Policies and Monitoring

Policies

- **Ethical Sourcing Policy** — integrates ethical, social, and environmental criteria into purchasing.
- **Hazardous Waste Management Policy** — governs the handling and disposal of hazardous waste.
- **Waste Disposal and Landfill Diversion Policy** — promotes reduction, segregation, and recycling.
- **Plastic Reduction Policy** and **Single-Use Items Reduction Policy** — reduce plastics and disposables on campus.

Measuring Progress

Facilities Management tracks the volume of waste generated, recycled, and sent to landfill, with progress reported annually to the Sustainability Committee. Caterers also report the use of disposable items to the Procurement Office, supporting monitoring of waste reduction efforts.

Looking Ahead

PU continues to strengthen its waste reduction and landfill diversion efforts, reduce the use of single-use items, and leverage its procurement practices to support suppliers that demonstrate responsible environmental and social practices.

13

Climate Action



SDG 13: Climate Action

Introduction

Rising temperatures, extreme weather, and environmental disruption threaten ecosystems, economies, and communities worldwide, and Lebanon is no exception. Phoenicia University (PU) contributes to climate action through institutional policy, campus infrastructure, and research.

As set out on its [SDG 13 webpage](#), PU combines mitigation — cutting its own emissions — with research that advances understanding of climate governance and adaptation.

PU **cuts emissions** through renewable energy, green buildings, and sustainable transport; **manages carbon** through a structured process that includes offsetting; and **researches** climate mitigation, law, and adaptation, sharing knowledge with the public.

The sections that follow present each area, followed by how PU monitors progress.

1. Low-Carbon Campus

Solar energy systems now supply 66% of total campus energy consumption, and the solar infrastructure serves as an energy-efficient design feature applied university-wide.

Key Figures

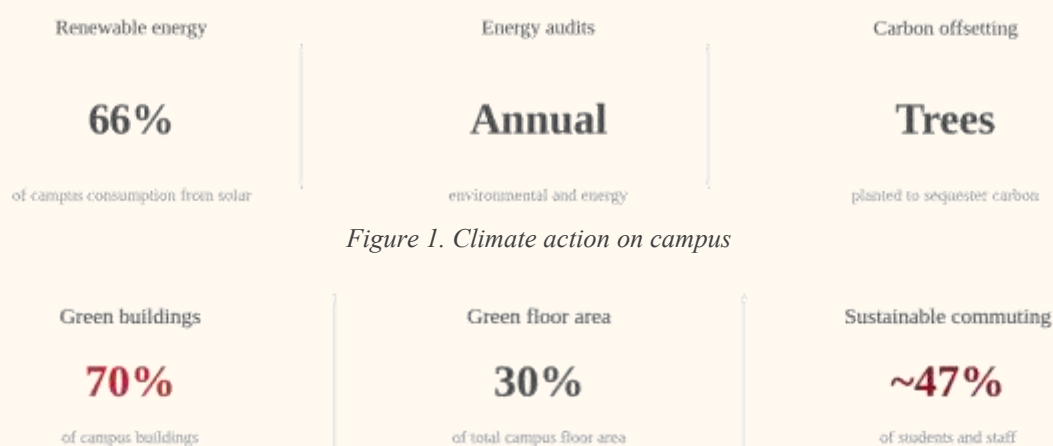


Figure 1. Climate action on campus



Figure 2. Green buildings and sustainable transport

Seventy percent of campus buildings are certified or designed to green building standards, representing 30% of total campus floor area. About 47% of students and staff use sustainable transportation, supported by employee buses, carpooling, EV charging stations, and bicycle infrastructure.

2. Carbon Management

PU's carbon management process combines four complementary steps, guided by annual environmental and energy audits.



Figure 3. PU's carbon management process

3. Climate Research

PU's academic community contributes to the evidence base on climate mitigation, governance, and adaptation.

Mitigation. A regional review of carbon capture, utilization, and storage projects in the MENA region and the challenges facing their large-scale deployment (Bou-Hamdan, Sufyan and Abbas, 2025).

Law and governance. Analyses of judicial approaches to climate change litigation (Farhat, 2025) and of the legal implications of cloud seeding (Farhat, 2026).

Adaptation. Heat stress assessment tools for older adults (Itani et al., 2020) and personal cooling technologies for hot, humid conditions (Allahham, Ghali and Ghaddar, 2025; El Loubani et al., 2021).



4. Climate Education and Outreach

- PU makes free [educational resources](#) on sustainability and climate action available to the public.
- Tree planting events engage students and staff in carbon sequestration.
- The Environmental Awareness and Sustainable Gardening Activity (April 26, 2023) taught young people about conserving natural resources.

5. Policies and Monitoring

Policies

- **Ethical Sourcing Policy** — favors energy-efficient and lower-impact products.
- **Waste Disposal and Landfill Diversion Policy** — reduces the emissions associated with landfill.

Measuring Progress

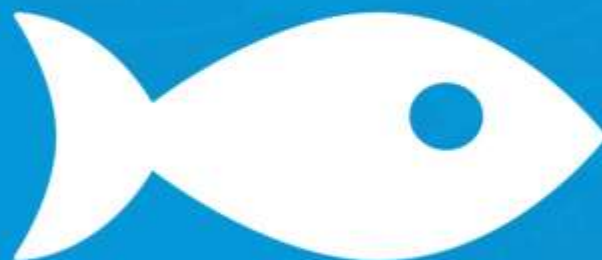
Annual environmental and energy audits by Facility Management track energy consumption and the renewable share of campus energy, guiding further reductions.

Looking Ahead

PU will continue to cut its emissions, to extend green building standards across more of its floor area, and to produce research that helps Lebanon and the region adapt to a changing climate.

14

Life Below Water



SDG 14: Life Below Water

Introduction

The protection of marine ecosystems is closely connected to responsible environmental management on land. Phoenicia University (PU) recognizes the importance of protecting marine resources and reducing activities that can contribute to water pollution.

Located near Lebanon's Mediterranean coast, PU has a particular interest in environmental issues affecting marine ecosystems and coastal communities. Its contribution to SDG 14 extends across research, campus practices, and educational activities.

Research at PU addresses marine pollution and the restoration of affected environments, while operational practices focus on preventing pollutants and harmful substances from entering water systems. Educational and awareness initiatives further encourage students and young people to understand the importance of protecting marine ecosystems.

The sections that follow present PU's work in research, pollution prevention, and education and awareness.

1. Marine Research

Dr. Hamdan Zuheir Hamdan joined PU's College of Engineering in October 2019. His research focuses on the bioremediation of petroleum hydrocarbons and other recalcitrant pollutants in marine sediments using sediment microbial fuel cells.

In 2024, his research on microbial community responses to petroleum contamination in coastal marine sediments along the Eastern Mediterranean shoreline was presented at the 14th International Conference on Remediation of Chlorinated and Recalcitrant Compounds, hosted by the Battelle Memorial Institute in Denver, USA.

Dr. Hamdan has also contributed to water quality monitoring in the Litani River basin and Lake Qaraoun. His teaching includes Environmental Engineering and Science, Water Supply and Wastewater Management, Fundamentals in Environmental Health, and Hydraulics and Hydrology.

2. Preventing Pollution

PU takes practical steps to ensure that pollution from its campus does not reach rivers and the sea.



Figure 1. Measures that keep pollution out of waterways

The Environmental, Health and Safety Policy sets out spill response procedures for laboratory operations in its Appendix A, requiring any hazardous substance spill to be contained before it can reach drains,

waterways, or other sensitive environments.

3. Ocean Awareness

“KEEP OUR OCEAN CLEAN”

- Delivered by PU and LWAH in collaboration with the Sea Without Borders Association and Lebanese Diving Center.
- Reached Grade 3 students and students with learning difficulties, using age-appropriate activities and messages to promote awareness of marine environmental protection.

4. Policies and Monitoring

Policies

- **Environmental, Health and Safety Policy** — spill containment procedures for laboratories.
- **Hazardous Waste Management Policy** — disposal through licensed contractors only.
- **Plastic Reduction Policy** and **Single-Use Items Reduction Policy** — reduce plastics that could reach the sea.

Measuring Progress

Hazardous waste management is supported by training and inspections, while the Pure Water service monitors community water sources for bacteriological and physicochemical contamination.

Looking Ahead

PU remains committed to advancing marine and environmental research relevant to the Eastern Mediterranean coastline and strengthening environmental awareness among young people.

15

Life on Land



SDG 15: Life on Land

Introduction

Phoenicia University's campus in the Zahrani District is not only a place of learning but also productive agricultural land. PU manages it sustainably and shares what it produces with the surrounding community.

Through responsible land use, hands-on environmental education, and policies that keep pollution out of the soil, PU contributes to the protection of land-based ecosystems.

PU cultivates its campus through greenhouses and orchards; educates young people to conserve natural resources and grow food responsibly; and protects land from pollution through its waste and sourcing policies.

The sections that follow present each area, followed by the relevant policies.

1. A Productive Campus

The campus includes 9 greenhouses, about 1,000 avocado trees, and 200 olive trees. Their produce is distributed to staff and to lower-income members of the surrounding community.

Key Figures



Figure 1. Campus land and agriculture

2. Environmental Education

Tree planting. Tree planting events contribute to carbon sequestration as part of the University's carbon management approach.

Sustainable gardening. The Environmental Awareness and Sustainable Gardening Activity, held on April 26, 2023, at the LWAH School of Excellence, introduced young people to natural resource conservation and responsible food production through practical gardening activities.



3. Protecting Land from Pollution

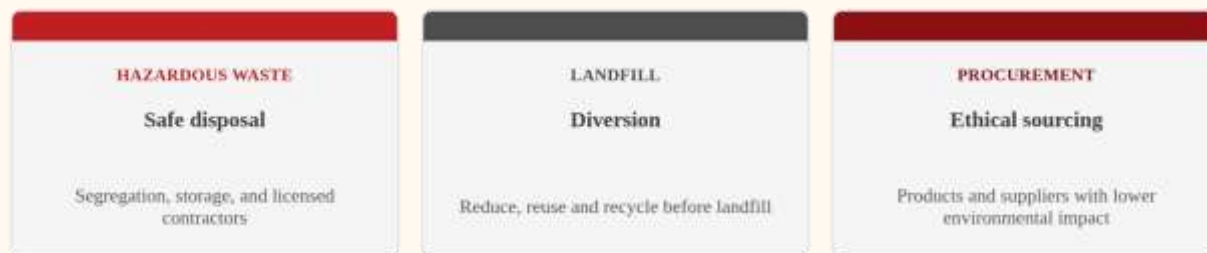


Figure 2. Policies that protect land

The **Hazardous Waste Management Policy** ensures that hazardous materials from laboratories, clinics, and workshops are segregated and disposed of only through licensed contractors. The **Waste Disposal and Landfill Diversion Policy** reduces the volume of waste sent to landfill through reduction, reuse, and recycling, and the **Ethical Sourcing Policy** encourages products and suppliers that minimize environmental impact.

4. Policies and Monitoring

Policies

- **Hazardous Waste Management Policy** — safe segregation, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste.
- **Waste Disposal and Landfill Diversion Policy** — landfill diversion targets reviewed each year.
- **Ethical Sourcing Policy** — favors products and suppliers with lower environmental impact.

Measuring Progress

Waste generated on campus is monitored according to the quantities recycled and sent to landfill, with annual reporting to the Sustainability Committee. Hazardous waste management is supported through annual training and regular inspections to promote safe and responsible handling practices.

Looking Ahead

PU remains committed to responsible stewardship of its campus land, sharing agricultural produce with the surrounding community, and providing young people with opportunities to learn about sustainable land management and the importance of protecting natural resources.

16

Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions



SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Introduction

Strong institutions are supported by transparent governance, ethical conduct, accountability, and respect for justice and the rule of law. Phoenicia University (PU) promotes these principles through its institutional governance, academic practices, community engagement, and legal education.

PU's approach includes participatory governance, mechanisms that support ethics and academic freedom, transparent institutional practices, and engagement with government, civil society, and other stakeholders. These efforts contribute to an environment in which members of the University community can participate responsibly and exercise their rights and responsibilities.

The University's College of Law further contributes through legal education and activities that promote understanding of justice, legal rights, and the rule of law. Community engagement initiatives extend this work beyond the University and support broader awareness of legal and civic responsibilities.

The sections that follow present these areas and the mechanisms that support them.

1. Participatory Governance

PU's governance includes the Board of Trustees, the University Council, academic leadership, and administrative units.



Figure 1. Governance and oversight at PU

The Board of Trustees combines appointed members with representatives elected from among faculty and staff, while the Clubs and Societies Board, comprising the presidents of officially recognized student organizations, provides students with a formal channel for participation in university governance. A Data Protection Policy establishes requirements for the responsible handling and protection of personal information.

2. Ethics, Transparency and Academic Freedom

ETHICS IN PRACTICE

- **Ethics Policy:** Addresses conflicts of interest, corruption, bribery, and responsible decision-making.
- **Strategy and Ethics Committee:** Provides oversight on ethical and institutional matters. During the 2024 conflict in Lebanon, the Committee advised the University on equitable access to learning and exam fairness, and it has also contributed to discussions on AI use and grading governance.
- **Academic Freedom:** Protected through the Faculty Handbook and the Research and Advancement Policy.
- **Financial Transparency:** PU publishes its annual financial accounts.

3. Engagement with Government and Civil Society

Advisory boards. Each college has an External Advisory Board of professional, industry, and alumni representatives. The College of Engineering's board includes the former Chairman of the Lebanese Petroleum Administration and senior professionals from Qatar Energy and Touch Lebanon.

Government. PU hosted a public discussion with Dr. Mohamed Abo Haidar, Director General of the Ministry of Economy and Trade.

Civil society. PU works with LWAH, which holds special consultative status with ECOSOC, and with ABAAD on gender equality and protection. Staff serve on municipal committees, and Dr. Dima Basma, Interim Dean of Law and Political Science, contributes to the International Trademark Association's Novel IP Rights Project.



4. Law and Justice Education

About 6% of PU's graduates enter the legal profession, and the College of Law and Political Science opens debates on justice to students and the public.

Key Figures



Figure 2. Governance and the legal profession

- **Moot courts:** PU law students took part in the Oxford moot court competition (April 2024) and the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition.
- **Public figures:** PU has engaged with Nader Gaspard, former President of the Beirut Bar Association.

5. Policies and Monitoring

Policies

- **Ethics Policy** — conflicts of interest, corruption, and bribery.
- **Data Protection Policy** — handling of personal information.
- **Grievance Policy and Procedure** — a formal complaints process with a right to appeal.
- **Discrimination and Harassment Policy** — zero tolerance for discrimination and harassment.

Measuring Progress

The Strategy and Ethics Committee reviews ethical matters and reports on its work, while the Risk Management & Compliance Committee and Institutional Review Board provide ongoing oversight within their respective areas.

Looking Ahead

PU remains committed to strengthening transparent and participatory governance, deepening engagement with government and civil society, and preparing graduates to uphold justice and the rule of law.

17

Partnerships For the Goals



SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Introduction

Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals requires collaboration across institutions and sectors. Phoenicia University (PU) works with municipalities, government ministries, non-governmental organizations, universities, and international networks to broaden the reach and strengthen the impact of its contributions to the SDGs.

The PU Strategic Plan 2024–2029 includes a dedicated section on the University's commitment to the SDGs, and the Strategy & Ethics Committee oversees their implementation and monitoring. PU's partnerships.

PU participates in international networks that advance sustainable and responsible higher education; collaborates in research with universities and academic institutions in Lebanon and abroad; works with government and civil society organizations to deliver services and contribute to policy development; and integrates the SDGs into learning through its curriculum, educational initiatives, and public events.

The sections that follow outline these areas of partnership and collaboration, together with the mechanisms through which PU monitors, evaluates, and reports its progress toward the SDGs.

1. Partnerships at a Glance

Key Figures

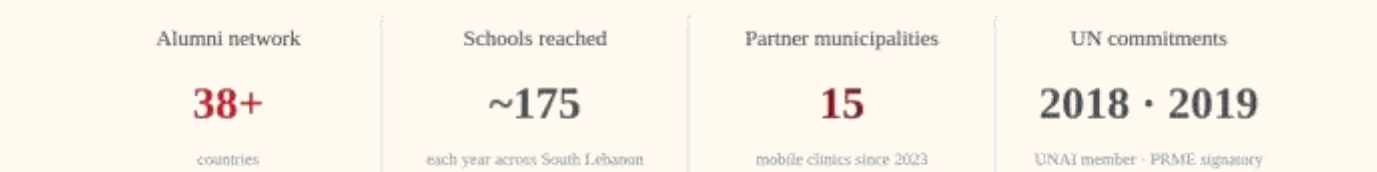


Figure 1. PU's partnerships in numbers

2. International Networks

PU belongs to international networks that connect it with universities working toward the same goals.



Figure 2. International networks for sustainable development

- Member of the [United Nations Academic Impact](#) (UNAI) since 2018, and a Communicating Signatory

of the UN Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) since 12 March 2019.

- Active member of the **Global University Network for Innovation (GUNI)**, the **International Association of Universities' Higher Education for Sustainable Development network (IAU-HESD)**, and the **Mediterranean Universities Union (UNIMED)**.
- Participant in the **8th UI GreenMetric World University Rankings Network Meeting** (June 4, 2024).
- Member of the [College Board](#) since 2024 and of the Council of International Schools (CIS).

3. Research Collaboration

PU faculty work with researchers in Lebanon and abroad on questions that matter for sustainable development.



SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS · SDG 9

Green Materials for Oil Recovery

In 2024, Dr. Kamel Bou Hamdan collaborated with Beirut Arab University and Heriot-Watt University (UK) on green, environmentally sustainable alternatives to synthetic chemicals for enhanced oil recovery, published in the journal *Petroleum*.



HEALTH RESEARCH · SDG 3

Clinical Trial Transparency

Dr. Zahi Abdel Sater, Interim Dean of the College of Public Health, worked with co-authors in Jordan, the UK, the US, and the UAE on a study of 767 urological cancer trials (2000–2020), which found that 47.2% remained unpublished.



CLEAN ENERGY · SDG 7

Fairer Microgrids

Dr. Haytham Dbouk is a Scientific and Technical Investigator for the IGT–AUB–Templeton Microgrids Project and Co-Principal Investigator on an LAU President's Intramural Research Fund project on fairer, more efficient microgrids.

4. Partnership Foundation

Advisory Role with LWAH Since July 2023

PU's College of Public Health established a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the LWAH in July 2023. This partnership represents a strategic commitment to advancing the SDGs through collaborative community health initiatives and evidence-informed national health policy development.

<u>Align Programs</u>	<u>Identify Priorities</u>	<u>Design Indicators</u>	<u>Technical Support</u>
SDG priorities with community work and local needs	Community needs through field assessments and evidence	Monitoring frameworks for program evaluation	Health promotion, prevention, and inclusive access

Key Findings

Community Health Assessments 2024

SDG 3: Health & Well-Being Diabetes screening in schools identified 3 previously undiagnosed cases among 126 students, launching education and support initiatives.
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities Assessments of healthcare access barriers for people with disabilities informed mobile clinic design and delivery.
SDG 3 & 10: Displaced Populations Health needs assessment of displaced families in Beirut led to mobile services expansion across 8+ centers.
SDG 4: Quality Education Age-appropriate health education on puberty, menstrual health, and substance risks reached 10-15 year-olds including students with learning difficulties.

Programs & Impact

From Assessment to Community Action

Mobile Medical Clinics Healthcare services delivered across 15 municipalities in Saida Caza, with expansion to 8+ centers serving displaced populations in Beirut.	Impact Story Through mobile clinics, three previously undiagnosed diabetes cases were identified. Immediate education and support interventions were launched, with family members also screened and engaged in prevention strategies. Outcome: Early detection leading to improved health outcomes and family awareness.
Diabetes Campaign Physicians, nutritionists, and faculty provided screening, consultations, health education, and self-management support tools.	
Health Education Targeted awareness sessions on vaping/energy drinks (April 2024) and puberty/menstrual health (May 2024) delivered to school communities.	

National Impact

Evidence Informing Policy

Program data and community evidence compiled by LWAH inform national-level health planning through engagement with Lebanon's Ministry of Public Health, creating a documented pathway from community programs to national policy development.

Evidence-Based Policy	Ministry Reporting	Strategy Alignment	Surveillance Support
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5. Government, NGOs and Civil Society

PU engages with public institutions, non-governmental organizations, professional bodies, and

international organizations through a range of collaborative activities. These engagements include public discussions, training sessions, community outreach, research, student activities, and knowledge-sharing initiatives. The timeline below highlights selected activities conducted in collaboration with external organizations, presented chronologically.

- Jan 2023**

● **ABAAD** LEBANESE NGO · GENDER EQUALITY

An ongoing annual collaboration with the Student Affairs Office and the Women Empowerment Club, including a Seminar on Combating Sexual Harassment (January 12, 2023) attended by more than 60 students, and a Woman Self-Image Workshop.
- Since 2023**

● **Lebanese Welfare Association for the Handicapped (LWAH)** LEBANESE NGO

Mobile clinics for about 1,500–2,000 people in 15 municipalities and about 4,200 people in 8+ centers for displaced communities; a jointly developed diabetes campaign whose diagnostic data are reported to the Ministry of Public Health; free vocational workshops; free childcare; and student needs assessments for LWAH.
- May 2023**

● **Ministry of Economy and Trade** LEBANESE MINISTRY

A public discussion with the Director General, Dr. Mohamed Abo Haidar, on consumer protection (May 3, 2023), and a memorandum of understanding on internships and joint research on SMEs and the digital economy.
- Dec 2023**

● **Lebanese Order of Engineers and Architects** PROFESSIONAL BODY

An interview with its President, Aref Yassine, on registration and the professional responsibilities of engineers (December 12, 2023).
- Mar 2024**

● **UNIMED and FAO** REGIONAL NETWORK · UN AGENCY

An international webinar with FAO representatives and universities on sustainable agrifood systems (March 26, 2024).
- Apr 2024**

● **Oxford moot court competition** INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FORUM

PU law students joined an open discussion on human rights with judges, human rights lawyers, NGO staff, and government representatives.
- Aug 2024**

● **Ministry of Youth and Sports of Egypt** FOREIGN MINISTRY

PU staff member Faten Mhanna took part in the Arab Youth Parliament Model Simulation in Cairo (August 10, 2024), contributing to a proposal for a Youth Arab Bridge Program.
- Ongoing**

● **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION

Direct training for PU law students preparing for the International Humanitarian Law moot court competition.

5. Educating for the SDGs

PU integrates education for the SDGs across all six colleges. Every student meets the SDGs through a

mandatory General Education core and through the curriculum of their own program, and can go further through optional electives, applied projects, and co-curricular activities.

Mandatory: The General Education Core

All undergraduates complete 30 credits of General Education, except students in the College of Law and Political Science and in the Speech Therapy program, whose professional curricula are structured separately.

General Education area	Credits	SDG relevance
Civilization	6	Historical and ethical foundations of societies (SDG 4, 16)
English	6	Communication and academic literacy (SDG 4)
Communication	3	Information literacy and public discourse (SDG 4, 16)
Arabic	3	Language, heritage, and cultural continuity (SDG 4, 11)
Basic Sciences	3	Scientific literacy for environmental and health understanding (SDG 3, 13, 15)
Social Sciences	3	Inequality, development, social structures, and institutions (SDG 1, 5, 10, 16)
Globalization and World Cultures	3	Global interdependence and intercultural understanding (SDG 10, 16, 17)
Computing	3	Digital literacy (SDG 4, 9)
Total	30	

Table 1. The General Education core and its SDG relevance

SDG Coverage by College

Each college’s programs advance the SDGs most relevant to its discipline. The matrix summarizes the SDGs covered by each college’s programs; the tables that follow show how.

College	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Business	●			●	●			●	●			●					●
Arts and Sciences				●	●			●	●	●						●	●
Engineering				●		●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		
Public Health	●	●	●	●	●			●		●							●
Law and Political Science				●	●			●	●	●						●	●
Architecture and Design				●			●		●		●	●	●				

Table 2. SDGs advanced by each college’s programs

Programs by College

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)

SDG 1 SDG 4 SDG 5 SDG 8
SDG 9 SDG 12 SDG 17

Entrepreneurship and small-business courses support income generation and self-employment; management, finance, marketing, and accounting courses build practical skills; digital and AI coursework supports innovation; and supply-chain, procurement, and marketing content introduces responsible sourcing, mirroring PU's Ethical Sourcing Policy.

Applied learning: The PU Incubator and its annual Idea Fair let student teams pitch and develop ventures against real market and social needs, and the Career Center coordinates internships and applied projects with regional employers.

Master of Business Administration (MBA)

SDG 4 SDG 8 SDG 9 SDG 12
SDG 17

A lifelong-learning route for working professionals, with data science, AI, and digital transformation courses, and strategy and operations content on resource efficiency and responsible corporate practice.

Applied learning: Industry-facing learning and engagement with regional employers.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

B.Sc. in Computer Science

SDG 4 SDG 8 SDG 9 SDG 10
SDG 17

Programming, algorithms, networks, and AI courses build digital competencies for the digital economy, while outreach to prospective female applicants widens participation in a STEM field where women remain under-represented.

Applied learning: Dedicated computer laboratories, and student participation in faculty research through the Center for Research and Advancement's focus on AI, Data Science, and Cybersecurity.

B.A. in Communication and Social Media

SDG 4 SDG 5 SDG 8 SDG 10
SDG 16

Media production and research training build media literacy; coursework on media representation examines how gender is portrayed; and media ethics promotes transparent, accountable public discourse and inclusive storytelling.

Applied learning: The Communication and Social Media Studio, the student-led Communication and Social Media Society, University-wide campaigns, and PU's association with TEDx.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

B.E. in Civil and Environmental Engineering

SDG 4 SDG 6 SDG 9 SDG 11
SDG 12 SDG 13 SDG 14 SDG 15

Coursework on water supply, wastewater treatment, sanitation, and pollution control addresses service gaps in South Lebanon, alongside sustainable infrastructure, urban development, and climate considerations.

Applied learning: Students test water, soil, and air quality in the Environmental Testing Laboratory for coursework and final-year projects, and PU's own hazardous waste and landfill diversion policies serve as a campus case study.

B.E. in Electrical and Communication Engineering

SDG 4 SDG 7 SDG 9 SDG 11
SDG 13

Energy systems and efficiency, smart-grid, and communication-infrastructure content supports clean energy and resilient urban systems.

Applied learning: The campus solar systems, which supply 66% of campus energy, serve as a live installation to study, supported by the electrical and electronics laboratories.

B.E. in Mechanical Engineering

SDG 4 SDG 7 SDG 8 SDG 9
SDG 12

Thermofluids, energy systems, efficient design, and resource-efficient manufacturing prepare graduates for careers in energy and industry.

Applied learning: The Heat Transfer Laboratory, with an air-conditioning training unit, and mechanical workshops and materials laboratories for design, prototyping, and testing.

B.E. in Petroleum Engineering

SDG 4 SDG 7 SDG 8 SDG 9
SDG 12

Energy resource management, safety, and environmental stewardship promote responsible practice in the energy sector.

Applied learning: The Cyber-Chair Drilling Simulator, the first of its kind in the region, replaces the environmental and safety risks of field training, alongside the Petroleum Engineering Laboratory.

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

B.S. in Public Health

SDG 1 SDG 2 SDG 3 SDG 4
SDG 5 SDG 10 SDG 17

Epidemiology, health promotion, community health, and nutrition courses develop competencies to improve population health, with a focus on underserved and vulnerable populations.

Applied learning: Supervised field exposure with LWAH, which has held special consultative status with ECOSOC since 2000 and serves more than 39,000 registered patients, and placements with partner hospitals and primary healthcare centers in South Lebanon.

B.S. in Nursing

SDG 3 SDG 4 SDG 5 SDG 8
SDG 10 SDG 17

Clinical nursing education builds the health workforce that SDG target 3.c identifies as essential and provides a portable route to skilled employment.

Applied learning: Clinical rotations with hospitals across medical, surgical, maternal, and community settings; rehabilitation and long-term care with LWAH; and on-campus nursing skills and simulation facilities.

B.A. in Speech Therapy

SDG 3 SDG 4 SDG 8 SDG 10

Training in the assessment and treatment of communication and swallowing disorders builds a specialized allied-health workforce in a field with a documented national shortage.

Applied learning: Supervised clinical practice with LWAH, including its School of Excellence and Technical School, and hospital placements in post-stroke and dysphagia rehabilitation.

COLLEGE OF LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Bachelor of Laws

SDG 4 SDG 5 SDG 10 SDG 16
SDG 17

Constitutional, civil, and human-rights law strengthens understanding of the rule of law, equality, non-discrimination, and access to justice.

Applied learning: The purpose-built Mock Court, the Price Media Law Moot Court Competition at the University of Oxford, and civic engagement workshops with the National Democratic Institute.

LL.M. in Commercial Regulation, Litigation, and Arbitration

SDG 4 SDG 8 SDG 9 SDG 16
SDG 17

Advanced training in regulation, dispute resolution, and AI and technology governance supports the rule of law and institutional integrity.

Applied learning: Arbitration and litigation simulation in the Mock Court, and engagement with practicing arbitrators and commercial lawyers.

COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Bachelor of Architecture

SDG 4 SDG 7 SDG 9 SDG 11
SDG 12 SDG 13

Energy-conscious building, urban planning, and resilient, climate-responsive design for the Eastern Mediterranean are embedded in studio briefs.

Applied learning: Design studios and fabrication workshops, with studio briefs set in South Lebanon that engage with local settlement, housing, and reconstruction challenges.

Optional: Learning Beyond the Core

Students can further develop their engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals through optional SDG-aligned electives, including *Entrepreneurship*, *Innovation and Launching a Startup*, *International Criminal Law*, and *Energy and Environmental Law*. Additional opportunities are available through the PU Incubator, student societies, and public events.

Learning Through Partnership

Public Health students conduct structured needs assessments for the Lebanese Welfare Association for the Handicapped (LWAH) as part of PBHL 203 and PBHL 212 (Food Security and Safety), translating their findings into formal recommendations for the organization. Law students receive training from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in preparation for international moot court competitions, including the Oxford Moot Court Competition.

Outreach and Public Events

- **School outreach:** PU engages approximately 175 schools and reaches an estimated 8,750–10,500 students across South Lebanon each year. In 2024, targeted initiatives reached more than 900 female students with an interest in Engineering and Computer Science.
- **Free water testing:** The Environmental Testing Laboratory has provided free water testing services to the community since November 2022.
- **Technology and Science Fair** Held on April 30, 2024, with *City 2.0: Unveiling the Future of Smart and Sustainable Urban Living* receiving the winning award.
- **Research Center workshop:** A workshop on *Research Vision and Sustainable Development* was

held on December 19, 2024.

- **Alumni seminar:** An alumni seminar on *Climate Change Epidemiology*, presented by Mahmoud Hashoush, was held on October 10, 2023.
- **Alumni network:** PU's alumni network extends across more than 38 countries, providing an international network connecting graduates with the University and one another.

6. Monitoring and Reporting

PU maintains mechanisms for monitoring, documenting, and reporting its progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals. Relevant activities, outcomes, and institutional contributions are reviewed through appropriate University processes and reflected in internal records, reports, and publicly available SDG resources.

Measuring Progress

The Strategy & Ethics Committee oversees the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs, and an annual sustainability committee reviews buildings, energy and emissions, waste, water, procurement, and education.

Looking Ahead

PU remains committed to strengthening collaboration at the local, national, and international levels and to expanding opportunities for knowledge exchange, joint initiatives, and community engagement in support of the 2030 Agenda.



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