



WESTMINSTER

International University in Tashkent

An Accredited Institution of
the University of Westminster (UK)

Sustainable Development Goals Report



2021-22

WESTMINSTER

International University in Tashkent

Message from our Rector of Westminster International University in Tashkent



“I trust that this report engages, informs and provides for us all with further motivation as we continue to work together to make our positive impact on the Sustainable Development Goals”.

Bakhrom Mirkasimov

The United Nations' member states adopted the framework of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which our University, Westminster International University in Tashkent, has used as a blueprint to help frame actions and activities across the University, in line with our values of being bold, responsible, and compassionate. The 17 SDGs enable us to frame and bring together our extensive collective energies towards helping our part in addressing climate crisis inequalities to bring about a more environmentally sustainable and socially just world.

In the last 12 months, the University has worked in partnership with the community to further progress our commitment to the SDGs. This has helped us further improve and grow our understanding, passion, and commitment as well as delivering practical actions to make a positive impact.

We have increased our engagement with our colleagues, student body and groups to increase awareness and understanding of the SDGs in Uzbekistan. We have embedded the SDG to develop Strategic Operating Plans for all departments and schools across the University. We have worked alongside our colleagues and students through conferences and residential programmes, so we can all understand our roles in contributing to the 17 SDGs and the positive impact that they make in our society and community.

This first SDG Report shares our experience and records our achievements to-date against each SDG goal.

Introduction

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are used to frame the University strategic decisions helping us to become compassionate, progressive, and responsible.



Throughout 2021 the University accelerated its efforts to work collaboratively across the University on inclusion, sustainability, and social responsibility. Despite challenges of Covid-19 the University continued to contribute to society and the community through research, learning, and teaching. WIUT has developed new programmes in response to global environment, social, and economic challenges; we have worked on Climate Change, championing inequality and supporting the mental and physical well-being of both students and colleagues.

Our University recognizes the role that we have as an institution based at the heart of Tashkent in achieving sustainable development. Westminster International University in Tashkent is committed to using the SDGs as a mechanism to effectively report on our progress and achievements whilst embedding these goals across University activities which will benefit students, colleagues and other stakeholders.

This is the first time that the University has submitted its application to the Times Higher education Impact ranking. Moving forward, we are continuing to work in collaboration with colleagues and students across our community through our operations, with the focus on linking our research, teaching, operations and communications to the SDGs.

We have continued to work to embed Equality, Diversity and Inclusion across our University. The strategy will be implemented through an annual EDI Action Plan and through other specific workstreams which will have their own action plans, timelines, teams and targets. The strategy will be reviewed after its second year of implementations.

Progress on education for Sustainable Development

UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN)

WIUT joined first in Uzbekistan the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN) in 2019. Our faculty members, students, and staff gain access to the Network to help us identify and connect with other sustainable development experts, promote activities and events, and discover new prospects for funding, collaboration and much more.

Globalization and SD Course – 2021



In 2021, WIUT held its annual *Globalization and Sustainable Development Course* led by Dr. Sodyq S. Safoev, the First Deputy Chairman of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The course provides a platform for students to meet and discuss regional and global issues with local and international policy makers, and diplomatic mission heads. In 2021, among the distinguished speakers were Mr. Alkis Drakinos, Head of Resident Office, EBRD, Mr. Viktor Ognivtsev, Consultant at International Trade Centre,

former UN official and Ms. Matilda Dimovska, UNDP Resident Representative in Uzbekistan. The course provides insights on why and how globalization and sustainable development has become the universally prioritized agenda for the future of our world.

International Conference on New Uzbekistan's National SDGs: Milestones and Perspectives

24 September 2021, - Tashkent hosted international conference on *New Uzbekistan's National SDGs: Milestones and Perspectives*. The conference was a joint initiative between The Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Youth Affairs Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan, UNDP in Uzbekistan, the World Bank in Uzbekistan, Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) and the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED).





President of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).

The conference aimed to discuss ongoing socio-economic reforms in Uzbekistan, their importance in achieving national SDGs, to exchange knowledge, share ongoing research and policy efforts, and identify gaps for improvement and future strategies. World-renowned scholars, representatives of the government and private sector, representatives of international agencies and think tanks took part in the event in-person and virtually. Among them was **Prof. Jeffrey Sachs**,

WIUT and the UN system in Uzbekistan celebrate UN Day!



of the University. The students presented Uzbekistan's 16 national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and shared with the participants their respective goals, highlighted issues and proposed actionable solutions for sustainable development.

United Nations' 76th anniversary was celebrated in Uzbekistan on October 21, 2021 through an event organised by the Westminster International University in Tashkent and the UN system in the country. The event was held at WIUT's campus and was attended by more than 150 participants, including national and international partners, civil society organisations, youth, representatives of the UN agencies, funds and programmes based in Uzbekistan, as well as students and academic staff

A two-day conference of the Tashkent International Model UN was held at Westminster International University in Tashkent

On May 21-22, 2021, Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Office for Central Asia (UNODC ROCA) and the Agency for Youth Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan held the Tashkent International Model United Nations (TIMUN) Conference, which is one of the most global youth projects in Central Asia.



SDG 1: No Poverty

End poverty in all its forms everywhere



Scholarships and opportunities to finance the study at WIUT

University scholarship and opportunities for students

- University scholarship - 30 (100% scholarship)
- Government scholarship - 50 (100% scholarship)

Scholarships from public and private sectors

- Sturgeon Capital scholarship - 2
- ABNMB Group scholarship - 1
- “Sanjar Chingizovich Djalalov” public health scholarship - 1

Support for socially vulnerable students

- Single parent family support scheme - 7 (35% discount)
- Personal disability support scheme - 3 (100% scholarship)

WIUT's research profile in economic development and poverty reduction

7 out of 10 researchers are from WIUT based on the [top 10 RePEc best Economists in Uzbekistan](#).

WIUT's charity - Warm Heart



“Warm Heart” is a non-profit charity organization established in 2011 by Social Engagement Section of WIUT. Warm Heart serves to support those in need, by directing funds / donation items received to them. In 2021-2022 academic year, the “Warm Heart” donations were directed to paint walls (by WIUT Art Club) and purchase musical instruments at the specialized school No. 57 for children with mental and physical disabilities. WIUT also supports sport and art activities with the school, particularly, WIUT students hold friendly volleyball and football matches with schoolchildren, and WIUT students also organize drawing classes for children as part of the WIUT Art Club.

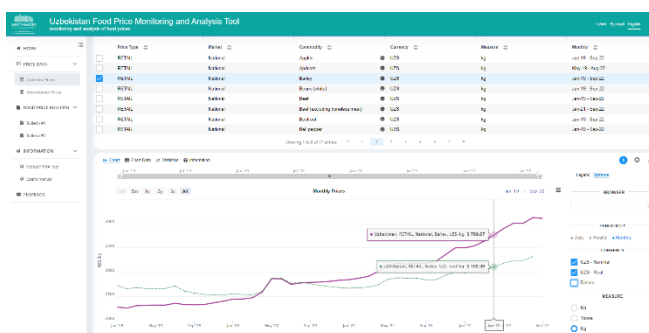


SDG 2: Zero Hunger

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Partnership with the world's leading food and agriculture organizations

WIUT has had a strong capacity in food and agriculture evidence-based research for the last 10 years. Among the partners of WIUT are the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), The Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO).



In November 2021, WIUT signed a partnership agreement with FAO on the “Technical implementation of the Price and market information system and related policy analysis for selected agricultural value chains in Uzbekistan”. The project has been supported by the Center for Policy Research and Outreach (CPRO) of WIUT.

One of the products today from this partnership is the *Uzbekistan Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA) Tool* – a user-friendly web-based tool to facilitate dissemination and analysis of food price data. The tool is available in three languages – Uzbek, English and Russian. The data includes 77 food commodities from the *dekhkan* markets starting from January 2019. The tool is available publicly at <https://fpma.wiut.uz/>.

Other research relevant to agriculture and food security in 2021, include support of the *Uzbekistan Agri-Food Development Strategy 2020-2030; Assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on agriculture and food security*.

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



Public Health impact in the region and country

Westminster International University in Tashkent offers a Master's course on Public Health Science since January 2020. 16 students graduated from the course in 2021-22. The MSc Public Health Science aims to provide high-level and evidence-based knowledge for improving health locally, nationally and globally.



The course is led by Dr Evgeniya Shalaeva, who published more than 10 papers in leading public health and health journals during 2021-22 academic year. Among her and other colleagues' publications, many focus on the questions analyzing COVID-19 impacts from health and socio-economic perspectives.



COVID-19 on campus measures

The measures taken against COVID-19 in the campus continued in 2021. They included vaccination, wearing of masks, sanitation measures, usage of antiseptics and others. Apart from providing vaccination in the medical center of the campus, the university provided discounts for vaccinated students in order to create an incentive.

Partnership with the Ministry of Health and UNICEF

In 2021, WIUT continued and finalized its partnership with the Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan and UNICEF, initiated in 2020, to support: (1) Monitoring implementation of a credit-based modular education system in selected medical universities of Uzbekistan; (2) Technical support to conduct costing and economic evaluation of the National Adolescent Health Strategy 2022-2026; (3) Analysis of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Health Care Facilities in Uzbekistan.



SDG 4: Quality Education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Community Level English Language Centre for Children



In 2021, WIUT started a partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Uzbekistan to support opening the *Tong Yulduzi Mahalla English Youth Centre*. The Centre was launched on March 2022. The Mahalla Youth Centre offers English language classes to around 20 students from 7 to 18 years old. The classes are run by volunteers who are WIUT students. The Tong Yulduzi Mahalla is one of the three mahallas that are supported by WIUT in the Mirabad district.

Community Level Professional Development

August 2021: In partnership with UNDP Uzbekistan and the Agency for Public Services, WIUT supported a 3-day training programme on “Effective management for local government in Uzbekistan” in selected regions of Uzbekistan. The 3-day training sessions aimed at improving the skills and expertise of employees to ensure the effective functioning of local government bodies, introducing modern management mechanisms, and strengthening transparency and public accountability.



The Centre for Professional and Lifelong Education ([CPLE](#)) at WIUT conducted its “English and Mathematics Professional Courses” launched on February 12, 2021 for 150 teachers representing secondary public schools of the Mirabad District in Tashkent. This professional development programme, which included 76 hours of training in English and 50 hours of training course in Mathematics, was initiated in accordance with the Presidential Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan №6108 of 06.11.2020.

Annual English Language Research Conference



On May 2021, WIUT hosted the 2nd International Conference on Education and Linguistics (ICEL 2021) with a focus on Energising English Language Teacher Research and Practice. The Conference was organised together with the Ministry of Public Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan, RTI International, USAID and the British Council. The keynote speaker in 2021 were Prof. Penny Ur (Israel) and Dr. Richard Smith (UK) - both world-know experts In English language. The conference

was also hosted on May 2022, and is planning for 2023.

SDGs Focused Curriculum

"I, CITIZEN" module delivered at the foundation level for first-year students aims to strengthen the development of skills and attitudes that are key to students' academic and professional success. It aims to develop their competencies as active and informed citizens in a global era. This includes strengthening their inquisitive thinking, reasoning, problem-solving and creative thinking and applying these to global issues which are relevant to their local context. Students are provided with ongoing opportunities to explore and discuss these issues in-depth, building their awareness of what a global citizen is.

IT Solutions for Public Education



On June 18, 2021, WIUT hosted a meeting-presentation on [SMARTEST](#) for representatives of The Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications of Uzbekistan, UZINFOCOM, Presidential IT-school named after Muhammad al-Khwarizmi, IT Park, and Tashkent University of Information Technologies.

SMARTEST is an online learning platform and knowledge repository for students, jointly developed and supported by the Course in Pre-Foundation Studies (CPFS) team, the Academic Lyceum and the Learning Resource Center of WIUT, in collaboration with the University of Westminster (UoW), London.

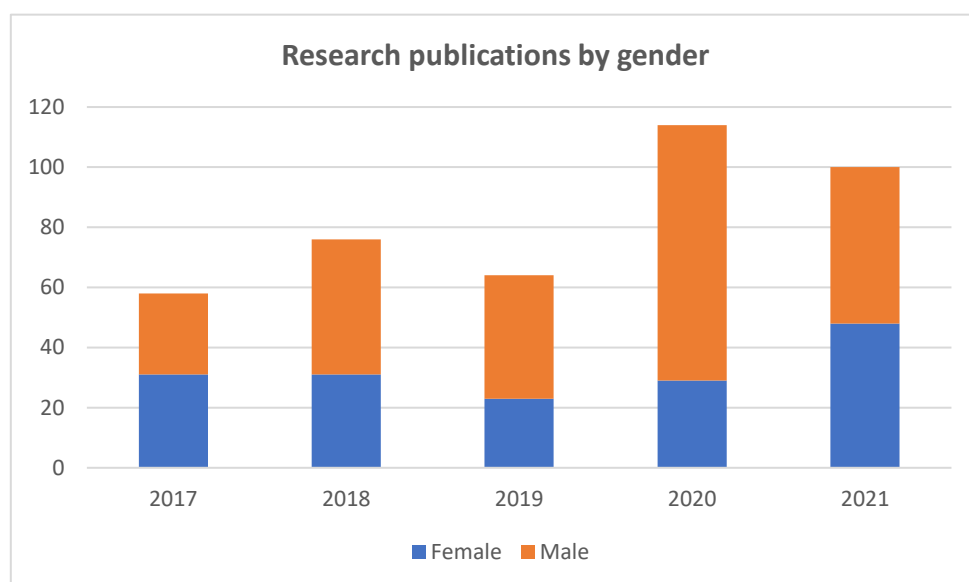
SDG 5: Gender Equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Faculty members profile and research output by gender

In 2021, 139 academic staff worked at WIUT. Among them 59 or 42% were women. In 2021, out of total 100 research publications in Scopus, Web of Science, locally accredited journals, and popular press, 48 were published by female academic staff.



Student profile by gender

In 2021, 4513 students studied at WIUT including undergraduate, postgraduate and graduate students. Among them 1584 or 35% were female.

Gender Equality – Partnership Projects & Innovations



On May 17, 2021, WIUT in cooperation with European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Commission on Gender Equality of the Republic of Uzbekistan, conducted a workshop as part of the “Gender Responsive Investment Climate assessment for Uzbekistan” project. The objective of the workshop was to contribute to policy and legal reforms aimed at improving gender equality and women’s economic empowerment, with a focus on women-led small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

In November 2021, WIUT signed a partnership agreement with the United Nations Population Fund in Uzbekistan (UNFPA) to conduct a research study on perceptions, prevalence and impact of inequality, harassment and discrimination in the workplace in Uzbekistan.

This research study is the first of its kind in Uzbekistan, it brings together international academic expertise to explore the extent to which corporate policies and mechanisms promote gender equality in working environments, prevent unfair treatment and violence based on gender, and support women with combining work and family responsibilities. In December 2021, the partnership followed with series of events aimed at raising awareness on efforts to combat gender-based violence in Uzbekistan.



innoWIUT Entrepreneur’s Lab regularly hosts *Women in Entrepreneurship* seminars and workshops to support innovation development and entrepreneurship among female students. The series invite successful women in business, including WIUT alumna entrepreneurs to share their experience and success stories. Among the most successful projects of the innoWIUT is led by Mokhinur Botirova, WIUT female student who has won number of innovative competitions with her “E-Med” startup project, and

continues working on it.

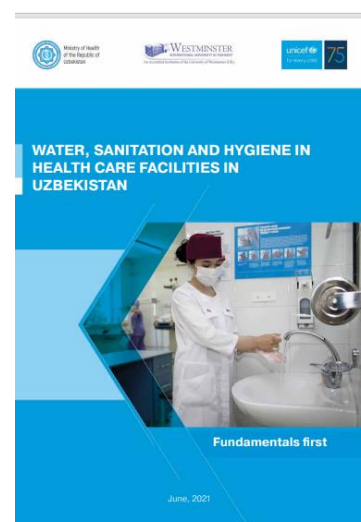


SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Technical Support of WASH analysis in health care facilities of Uzbekistan

In the beginning of 2021, WIUT technically supported analysis of the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in health care facilities in Uzbekistan. The study was the first comprehensive assessment of the WASH situation in hospitals at the regional and district level and in primary health care facilities. The outcomes clearly confirm that some basic provision of WASH components – basic hand hygiene services and basic energy services are in place in the majority of regional, district and PHC level health care facilities, reflecting past policy and implementation efforts. This project technically supported by the university researchers fully contribute to the SDG 6.



University commitment to sustainable water usage



University provides full access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities to all students and staff. WIUT Student Union and WIUT Ecology Club promote among the students and staff sustainable and environmentally friendly water usage.

Research on water

WIUT hosts post-doctoral research fellow Dr. Iroda Amirova as part of the "Institutional Change and Social Practice. Research on the Political System, the Economy, and Society in Central Asia and the Caucasus" project. Dr. Amirova's research focuses on different aspects of water management in Central Asia. She is based at the Center for Policy Research and Outreach (CPRO).

SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy



Eco-Friendly Lights and Water Heating

In 2021-22 academic year, university installed led panels in most of the venues and facilities on the campus. They have an exceptionally long life, they save on energy, minimize electricity bills and most importantly, are eco-friendly. The water in the Learning Resources Center (library) building is heated by the solar water heaters.



Energy Research

Since its founding, WIUT scholars have engaged in energy research in Uzbekistan, Central Asia, and throughout the world. Among the most notable research publications in 2021-22 academic year were:

- Abdurazakov, J. and **Kabilov, F.** (2021). [The Renewable Energy Law Review: Uzbekistan](#). *The Law Reviews*.
- Fergnani, A. and **Sweeney, J.A.** (2021). [Identity Wind Tunneling: A method for discovering an organization's strategic identity using scenarios](#). *Futures & Foresight Science*.

Research Seminar on Energy by Visiting Research Fellow

Johanna Rust, PhD candidate at Ruhr-University Bochum, visited WIUT In May 2021, and presented her research “New Perspectives on Energy Security in EU-China Relations: The Case of Central Asia”, as part of her research visit and dissertation.



SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

University's Commitment to Decent Work and Economic Growth of its employees

WIUT is committed to provide decent work experience to all its employees. WIUT also recognizes labor unions and labor rights, including for women and international staff. Fair and equal payment for equal value of work is another commitment of the university in meeting the goal.

The university offers various benefits for employees, such as medical insurance, financial aid in the case of health problems, annual medical examination and vaccination, education support schemes for employees and their children, and others. Research support schemes for staff members are also available, including conference travel support, publication support and internal grants for research projects.

WIUT's Research Capacity on Decent Work and Economic Growth

Human Capital and Decent Work are one of the multisector research groups of the Center for Policy Research and Outreach (CPRO) at WIUT. [Research papers in 2021](#) were published in peer-reviewed journals such as *Applied Health Economics and Health Policy*, *Journal of Sports Economics*, *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics*, *The European Journal of Health Economics*, *Economics of Transition and Institutional Change*, *Journal of Population Research*, *Politics and Policy*, *Journal of Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies*, *New Zealand Economic Papers*, *The Journal of the Economics of Ageing*, *Journal of Refugee Studies*.

Policy reforms in Uzbekistan have multiplied the need to support the government and private sector decision-making with evidence from solid research. With a strong independent voice, WIUT is the choice of many organizations when they need quality analysis and recommendations.

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



innoWIUT Entrepreneur's Lab

innoWIUT is the entrepreneurial lab of the university that aims to discover and support talented innovators, build startup friendly ecosystem, develop innovation capacity, and form venture capitals.

"E-Med": WIUT student, Mokhinur Botirova won "100 ideas for Uzbekistan" competition organized by the agency for Youth Affairs in 2021. Her startup project "E-Med", developed within the innoWIUT, was among 27,000 projects presented at the competition. "E-Med" was among the 245 projects that were short-listed. She won a prize of 10,000,000 soums, access to IT Park's acceleration programme and 3 months free access to Texnopark Coworking Zone.



WIUT is leading the startup ecosystem in Uzbekistan: WIUT is building a unique and successful entrepreneurship ecosystem in Uzbekistan. As a result, innoWIUT Entrepreneur's lab invited its recent graduate, a successful IT developer and the first hero of CNN's new project #TheGenerationNext Durdona Bakhronova for an open discussion "Empowering Female Tech Entrepreneurs" on campus.



The Goethe Institute hosted a final round of **GameDev Goethe in 2021**. GameDev Goethe is the first game development incubator in Uzbekistan. The project aims to support youth interested in game development, particularly bringing them together and creating their own games during the period of three months. Among 15 top teams, WIUT students **Bobur Irgashev** and **Inna Akhmedova** have been awarded the winning place with "Best of the Best Game" title and a gaming laptop each.



SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

Reduce inequality within and among countries

"Inclusive Marathon" for people with disabilities



The Central Park of Tashkent hosted "Inclusive Marathon" on June 30, 2021. The event included exhibition fair, including "Professions", "Education", and "Paralympic Games" sections. WIUT is acknowledged, by the United Nations Development Programme, as one of the most accessible and inclusive universities in Uzbekistan for students with disabilities.

Music and Rhythm Room

'Music and Rhythm Room' was opened at the specialized school No. 57, for children with mental and physical disabilities, with a support of WIUT in 2021. The university donated musical instruments, and members of the WIUT Art Club painted the walls of the room with bright creative drawings.



WIUT hosts the Inclusive University Conference



At the end of academic year 2021-22, in May, WIUT organised "The Inclusive University Conference" together with the Parliament of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialised Education and the British Council. The Conference addressed a number of critical issues related to the future development of an inclusive Higher Education in Uzbekistan. The participants looked specifically at issues related to women's empowerment, girls' education, access to education for people with special educational needs and

those representing vulnerable and low-income families.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



WIUT campus and accommodation

University campus has grown since establishment of the university in 2002. Istiqlol Building (named after Istiqlol Street) – the campus first building is more than 100 years old, which is located in the centre of Tashkent, near Amir Timur Square and the Congress Centre Uzbekistan. Construction of WIUT's Istiqlol



Building dates back to 1911 when it was 2nd Women's Gymnasium during the Russian Empire. Later, during Soviet period, the building was donated to the Aviation College. A century later, the college was merged with the newly formed Tashkent Aviation Institute. In 2002, WIUT opened its doors in the historical building. The building survived the largest earthquake in the history of Uzbekistan, which occurred on the 26th of April, 1966.

Due to increasing number of students, the campus of WIUT has been growing and currently includes three main buildings with classrooms, faculty rooms, computer rooms, canteens, conference halls and other space for support facilities. University's Learning Resource Centre (LRC) and Sports Hall (indoor and outdoor), and free zone spaces make the campus of university small academic home for WIUT community.



The university has two modern and comfortable dormitories located in the city centre. The dormitories are equipped with computer rooms, gym, medical centre, kitchen, and other facilities.



SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Responsible Consumption at the Campus

University campus is equipped with bins for plastic, paper and other waste. They enable students and staff members to place waste in appropriate recycling receptacles. The office spaces are equipped with paper bins, to make the recycling of paper. Some faculty members' offices have a note on the doors to "turn off the lights and computer while leaving". Similar messages are reminded occasionally via email by the electricians and engineers responsible for electricity, heating and water supply.



Corporate Social Responsibility Research

Zamira Ataniyazova from Business Management and Marketing department was awarded best paper at the 7th CSR2021 conference with her research titled "Consumer Perceptions of Corporate Social Responsibility: Socio-Economic Benefits in an Undeveloped Country".

This research has been later published in the [International Journal of Corporate Social Responsibility](#).

SDG 13: Climate Action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



Dialogue with students on climate action



Her Majesty's UK Ambassador to Uzbekistan, Tim Torlot, visited Westminster International University in Tashkent on November 17, 2021, and had a dialogue with our students, interested in climate issues. The Ambassador and the students discussed the UN Climate Change Conference #COP26, deliberated youth actions to achieve Uzbekistan's Green Growth initiatives and stressed how education can play a pivotal role in addressing climate change and its impact.

Tree Planting

WIUT students and staff annually plant trees in the campus. Climate change is causing serious problems to the world, the region of Central Asia and the WIUT community wishes to contribute to the greening of our country. In addition to planting trees in the WIUT surrounding areas, one can also see bicycle paths, bicycle parking, separate eco-garbage bins. Our university strives to be green, sustainable and makes every effort to be socially and environmentally responsible.



Climate Action Research

- Ali, S., **Ahmed, W.**, Solangi, Y. et al. (2021). [Strategic analysis of single-use plastic ban policy for environmental sustainability: the case of Pakistan](#). *Clean Technologies Environmental Policy*.
- **Juraev, J.** et al. (2021). [The Arctic Environmental Responsibility Index: A method to rank heterogenous extractive industry companies for governance purposes](#). *Business Strategy and the Environment*.



SDG 14: Life Below Water

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

SDG 14 in the context of Uzbekistan

Although, Uzbekistan is double landlocked country and have no access to oceans and seas, our university has relevant research and discussions to water resources management, which is crucial for the region.

Hosting OSCE Delegation



On December 7, 2021, the university hosted a delegation of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), where the representatives presented their research “States, borders, and waters: on the patterns of isolation and interdependence in Central Asia” that covered a wide range of security-related questions, starting from theoretical foundations of the state and security, followed by case studies with a focus on borders as social relations.

Visit of Fulbright Scholar

In March 2021, the Center for Policy Research & Outreach at WIUT hosted Frishta Qaderi, a Fulbright Scholar. Ms. Qaderi graduated magna cum laude from Brown University in 2020. Her research interests include environmental history, climate policy, and sustainable development. As a Fulbright Research Fellow in Uzbekistan, Frishta was studying women’s participation in rural water management. After completing her research in Uzbekistan, she continued her studies in environmental governance at the University of Oxford as a Marshall Scholar. Frishta speaks Persian, English, and Russian.



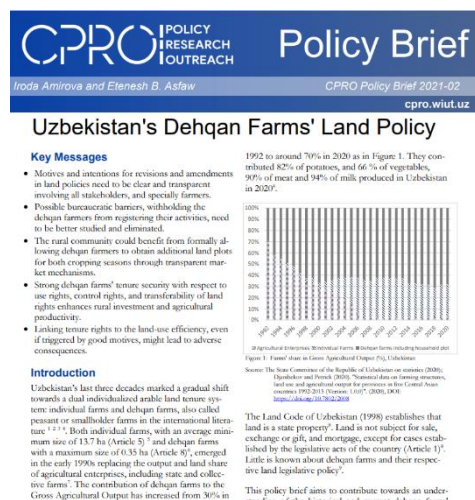
SDG 15: Life on Land

Protect, restore and promote sustainability use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



Agriculture and land research

The Center for Policy Research and Outreach (CPRO) have been involved in agriculture and land research since its founding in 2018. Agricultural economics is one of the core research areas of the center.



Among the relevant policy briefs published in 2021 is on Uzbekistan's Dehqan Farms' Land Policy. The policy brief identifies (1) motives and intentions for revisions and amendments in land policies need to be clear and transparent involving all stakeholders, and specially farmers; (2) possible bureaucratic barriers, withholding the dehqan farmers from registering their activities, need to be better studied and eliminated; (3) the rural community could benefit from formally allowing dehqan farmers to obtain additional land plots for both cropping seasons through transparent market mechanisms; (4) strong dehqan farms' tenure security with respect to use rights, control rights, and transferability of land rights enhances rural investment and agricultural productivity; (5) linking tenure rights to the land-use efficiency, even if triggered by good motives, might lead to adverse consequences.

Green Recovery



WIUT together with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) are doing Advisory services for greening COVID-19 economic recovery measures in Uzbekistan since 2021. The objective of this research is to support to the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction in Uzbekistan's to COVID-19 transition to a green recovery.



SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Students` Union – student representative body

WIUT Students' Union, or shortly SU, is students' self-governance body. It represents all WIUT students in communications with internal and external parties. SU serves to assist, support and engage students in a range of exciting and valuable experiences on campus and it protects students' rights. SU executives are elected annually, and they serve for one year.

Annual Law Forum



WIUT organised its inaugural Central Asian Law Forum on March 15-16, 2021, as an important platform to bring together academics, working people and practicing lawyers, and present the findings to the global community and students and young scholars interested in the study of Central Asian Law with a focus on International Trade and Foreign Investment Laws. The keynote speakers of the Forum were Catherine Pedamon (University of Westminster, UK), Christopher

Hartwell (Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland) and Ioannis Glinavos (University of Westminster, UK).

WIUT Law Students in the Jessup Moot Court Competition

WIUT students annually are among the finalists of the Jessup Moot Court Competition at the national level. In 2021, WIUT Jessup Moot team was the only team from Uzbekistan to proceed to the Advanced Rounds of the Phillip C. Jessup Global International Law Moot Court Competition. The competition is the largest moot court competition in the world, with over 700 teams competing from law schools around the globe. Harvard Law School, Columbia Law School, and the University of Oxford are just some of our notable competitors. In the competition, teams represent their respective fictional States before the International Court of Justice, a dispute settlement body for solving inter-State conflicts.

SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



SDGs – to strengthen WIUT's partnership – to support the global sustainable development

Our mission is to provide International Standards of Education and Research opportunities that contribute to the intellectual, social and professional development of the Central Asian communities as well as Global Community.

WIUT joins the Advance HE (UK)

March 2021: Westminster International University in Tashkent is the first Higher Education Institution (HEI) in Uzbekistan and Central Asia to join the Advance HE (UK), a community of over 370 HEIs located in 20 countries across the world. This is an opportunity to empower our faculty to engage with this British Higher Education Academy and become a professional member – a Fellow of the Academy - both to encourage excellence in teaching and it gives members with a reputable UK qualification!

Celebrating our 20-year anniversary



In January 2022, we have started celebrating our 20-year anniversary! The Rector of Westminster International University in Tashkent, Bakhrom Mirkasimov, and Peter Bonfield, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Westminster, exchanged gifts and planted an oak tree, a symbol of strength, wisdom and knowledge. The 20-year partnership between the two Universities is one of the longest standing of its kind in the world.