Kenzhegali Sagadiyev University of International Business (UIB) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Report 2025

Introduction

Kenzhegali Sagadiyev University of International Business (UIB) remains committed to supporting and advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2025 the university carried out strategic activities and initiatives aligned with SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). This report details the university's key contributions and achievements in these areas during the calendar year 2025.

SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

- **Medical Education**: UIB's International Medical School (IMS), established in 2019, trains physicians under the English-taught programme "Smart Medicine". As of 1 September 2025, 646 students were enrolled. In the 2025–2026 academic year, 105 teachers worked at the Faculty of Medicine (53 full-time), including 4 Doctors of Medical Sciences, 11 Candidates of Medical Sciences and 4 PhDs, with a teacher-to-student ratio of about 1:6. Clinical training takes place at the "Sunkar" medical center.
- **Health Research**: Faculty members carried out state-funded research on major health burdens in Kazakhstan, together with a multicenter study on diagnosing chronic kidney disease in patients with arterial hypertension.

Key Initiatives and Achievements:

Health Research and Student Well-being	
Breast Cancer Burden in Kazakhstan	"Clinical, epidemiological and diagnostic aspects of the breast cancer burden in Kazakhstan: innovative steps", IRN AP19674998, state grant funding 2023–2025, led by G.S. Igissinova. The project was completed in 2025.
Diseases of the Large Intestine	"Clinical, diagnostic and morphological determinants of large intestine diseases in Kazakhstan: innovative approaches and solutions", IRN AP23484165, state grant funding 2024–2026, led by G.S. Igissinova.
Chronic Kidney Disease	The Department of Clinical Disciplines participated in a multicenter study on the diagnosis of chronic kidney disease in patients with arterial hypertension.
Student Well-being	In the October 2025 student satisfaction survey (450 respondents), the psychological climate block received the highest score – 4.20 out of 5. Students rated mutual understanding and respect within their groups at 4.39.

SDG 4: Quality Education

- **Programme Portfolio and Enrolment**: 54 UIB programmes are listed in the national Register of Educational Programmes: 28 bachelor's, 21 master's and 5 PhD. In the 2025 admission campaign, UIB enrolled first-year students in 25 bachelor's, 11 master's and 3 PhD programmes. As of 1 September 2025, the university had 4,274 students, of whom 671 studied on state educational grants.
- **Academic Staff**: At the start of the 2025–2026 academic year, UIB employed 255 academic staff (166 full-time, 89 part-time), including 7 Doctors of Sciences, 51 Candidates of Sciences and 32 PhD holders. 54.2% of full-time staff hold an academic degree.
- **Digital Learning Environment**: From autumn 2025, courses, syllabi and examination materials were managed in the university's own learning platform Academo, supported by methodological seminars for teaching staff (September 2025).

Key Initiatives and Achievements:

Accreditation and Quality Control		
Student Satisfaction Survey	In October 2025 the Center for Quality Assurance surveyed 450 bachelor's, master's and doctoral students. The overall satisfaction score was 4.01 out of 5, up from 3.83 the previous year. The library (4.25) and the International Office (4.23) received the highest service ratings.	The lowest score (3.38) concerned the information environment (Academo, website). The Center recommended stabilising the platform, strengthening IT support and adopting rules on the use of generative AI, since 16% of students use AI in assignments constantly.
"Teacher Through the Eyes of the Student" Survey	Conducted on Academo in the autumn 2025 semester using 16 criteria. The faculty-level average was about 4.65 out of 5: 4.45 at the Faculty of Business and Social Sciences and 4.85 at the Faculty of Medicine.	Students rated timely publication of course materials and fair, transparent assessment highest. Training in presentation skills and audience engagement was planned for the 2026 winter school.
Grade Distribution Analysis	Bell-curve analysis of autumn 2025 grades: 21% A/A−, 51% B+ to C+, 12% C/C−, 6% D+/D and 11% F.	The distribution remained stable and close to the previous year, supporting consistent and fair assessment.
Programme Accreditation	On 29 December 2025 the Central Asian Association for Accreditation of Education (CAAAE) accredited three bachelor's programmes: 6B06105 "Smart Technologies" (until 2032), 6B04116 "Marketing Research and Analytics" (until 2030) and 6B04208 "Jurisprudence" (until 2028). This confirms that the programmes meet national and international quality standards.	
MBA Graduation	In 2025 the Graduate School of Business held 5 pre-defences and 5 defences: 37 MBA students, including the joint MBA	

	group with Astana IT University, defended their master's theses and projects and graduated.
Learning Resources	Through the national subscription, students and staff have access to Scopus, Web of Science, ScienceDirect and Wiley. The library offers 117 reading and co-working seats, including 16 computer workstations.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

- **Doctoral Research on Gender Stereotypes**: On 18 November 2025, Yerkezhan Kenzheali defended her PhD thesis "The impact of gender stereotypes on the formation of the labor market in Kazakhstan: theory, assessment and development scenarios" (8D04101 Economics) at the UIB Dissertation Council. The thesis was written in English at the Department of Finance and Accounting, with Prof. László Vása (Széchenyi István University, Hungary) as foreign scientific consultant. The defence was broadcast live online.
- **Research on Women's Employment**: The Department of Management and Business takes part in the research project "Development of strategic directions for expanding women's opportunities and access to quality employment in Kazakhstan".
- **Gender in Faculty Research Seminars**: In the 2025–2026 academic year, the Department of Finance and Accounting held a methodological seminar on assessing gender differences in financial literacy across the regions of Kazakhstan.
- **Women's Empowerment in Tourism**: The Department of Tourism and Hospitality took part in the 1st Regional Conference on Women's Empowerment in Tourism in Europe, organised by UN Tourism (2025–2026 academic year).
- **Partnership against Domestic Violence**: In the 2025–2026 academic year, UIB signed a cooperation agreement with the state institution "Center for Social Assistance to Victims of Domestic Violence" as part of its partnerships for practice-oriented learning and internships.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

- **Career Development Initiatives**: UIB's Career Center supports students' transition to the workforce through job fairs, guest lectures, internships and practice placements. In the 2025–2026 academic year, students completed practice at partner organisations such as Bereke Bank, ForteBank, Bank RBK, Air Astana, Halyk Bank, 2GIS and several logistics companies.
- **Graduate Employment**: The Career Center monitors employment of every graduating cohort using employer certificates, pension contribution data and the national EPVO database. 79.77% of 2025 graduates were employed (635 of 796). The highest bachelor's employment rates were in Corporate Finance (91.23%), Accounting and Audit (ACCA) (91.18%) and Economics and Management (90.00%).

Graduate Employment 2025	**Graduates**	**Employed**	**Employment rate**
Bachelor's	760	600	78.95%
Master's	34	33	97.06%
PhD	2	2	100%
Total	796	635	79.77%

Key Initiatives and Achievements:

Job Fair, October 2025	On 31 October 2025 the Career Center of Kenzhegali Sagadiyev University of International Business hosted a job fair with 35 representatives from 30 companies. Students met employers directly, learned about vacancies and internship programmes, and received advice on employment and practice.
Finance and Accounting Week	In November 2025 the Department of Finance and Accounting held its annual Finance Week, including a guest lecture on compliance risk management in second-tier banks by Elmira Kerimbayeva, senior manager in corporate finance at the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China.
Entrepreneurship Lecture	On 17 November 2025, L.K. Mardenova gave a lecture on startup acceleration in the USA.
Business Community 12	On 12 December 2025 the university hosted a business conference with practitioner speakers on videography and personal branding, reaching about 500 students.

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

UIB's strategic commitment to SDG 9 is realised through applied research for national development, cross-sector partnerships and the digitalisation of its own educational processes. In the 2025–2026 reporting period, UIB academic staff took part in 18 research projects, including projects funded from the university's own resources.

Key Initiatives and Achievements:

Research and Development Initiatives	
State-Funded Research	The Department of Finance and Accounting worked on grant funding projects on new instruments for developing agro-technological hubs in the regions of Kazakhstan and on the impact of macroeconomic, political and digital processes on Kazakhstan's financial stability. Programme-targeted funding projects address structural and technological modernisation of the core sectors of the economy using ESG approaches, and the modernisation of higher education quality assurance through digitalisation (IRN BR24992974, 2024–2026). A further project develops mechanisms to reduce social inequality and raise living standards in Kazakhstan.
Sustainable Cities and Climate	The Department of Management and Business participates in a project on a strategy for sustainable regional development based on

	smart and digital urban ecosystems in Kazakhstan, a study of how economic, social and environmental factors shape the link between urbanisation and greenhouse gas emissions, and a project on innovative technologies for the full extraction of scattered ore from complex mining blocks.
Internal Research Grants	Projects on automating management reporting to improve university management efficiency (K.T. Kabdesov), on a sustainable professional development course in pedagogical design (Department of Languages), and on a tool to improve interaction among participants in the learning process (I.K. Zhidebay, Department of Business Informatics).
Collaborative and Funded Projects	
University–Enterprise Cooperation (Erasmus+)	The Departments of Finance and Accounting, Social and Humanitarian Sciences, and Tourism and Hospitality participate in the Erasmus+ project PICASP (617540-EPP-1-2020-1-IT-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP): pilot courses in experimental enterprises to develop university–business cooperation for the Caspian region.
Innovation in Education	
Digital Transformation of Learning	The Department of Digital Transformation developed the Academo learning management system as an integrated digital ecosystem: course pages and gradebooks linked to syllabus weightings, a test builder with 8 question types, automatic plagiarism checks of written work, and a fully digital workflow for oral exam questions with approval by heads of department and deans using electronic digital signatures.
Publications and Intellectual Contributions	
Scientific Journal	The Eurasian Journal of Economic and Business Studies (EJEBS), recommended by the national quality assurance committee in Economics and Tourism, publishes 4 issues a year with double-blind peer review. It is indexed in EconBiz, ZBW, BASE, ERIH PLUS and WorldCat.
International Journals and Conferences	In the 2025–2026 academic year, academic staff of the Faculty of Business and Social Sciences published 27 articles in Scopus and Web of Science journals and 101 articles in journals recommended by the national quality

	assurance committee. The Faculty of Medicine published 20 scientific works. Overall, Scopus lists more than 130 articles by 75 authors affiliated with UIB.

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

- **Financial Access to Education**: Under its Regulation on Discounts, UIB supports talented and socially vulnerable students. As of 1 September 2025, 671 students studied on state educational grants.
- **Accessible Campus**: The main entrance is equipped with tactile paving, a ramp-lift and a device for moving between floors for people with special needs.
- **Outreach to the Regions**: UIB carries out career guidance for school leavers across Kazakhstan, not only in Almaty and the Almaty region, and gives applicants from all regions access to its internal grant competitions.

Key Initiatives and Achievements:

Tuition Discounts for the 2025 Intake	630 first-year students received discounts based on Unified National Testing (UNT) results, including 52 full (100%) tuition waivers, 55 discounts of 50% and 59 of 30%. A further 32 students received grants or discounts through university olympiads and partner programmes, including 3 internal grants for athletes. 58 students received a 25% social discount.
Regional Career Guidance Tour	From 5 to 25 October 2025, UIB teams visited 9 cities (Taraz, Shymkent, Turkistan, Kyzylorda, Astana, Aktau, Atyrau, Aktobe and Uralsk) and met 11,441 school leavers.
Republican Olympiad “U-Vision”	Launched on 1 November 2025 as a no-lose online olympiad open to applicants from all over Kazakhstan, with 938 participants. Winners receive internal grants covering 240, 120 or 60 credits, or a first-year discount.
UIB New Year Charity	In December 2025, students and staff worked with a charitable foundation to fulfil children’s New Year wishes and support families in need: 120 children and families received help.
Inclusive Tourism Education	Within the course “Accessible Tourism”, the Department of Tourism and Hospitality held an inclusive excursion at the A. Kasteyev State Museum of Arts (2025–2026 academic year).

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

- **Governance and Transparency**: UIB’s integrity framework rests on the Anti-Corruption Programme (Strategy) for 2023–2027, the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for academic staff and employees, and the Academic Integrity Code. The university’s values

include ethical behaviour and zero tolerance for corruption, collegiality, openness, transparency and trust.

- **Collegial Governance**: The Academic Council, the Academic-Methodological Council, the Scientific Committee and faculty councils meet on a regular schedule, and a Disciplinary Council reviews cases as applications are received.

Key Initiatives and Achievements:

Anti-Corruption Compliance	In September 2025 the Compliance Service drew up the annual anti-corruption work plan. During the year it handled student complaints, informed heads of departments about them and took part in an online conference organised by the League of Academic Integrity.
Disciplinary Committee	On 26 November 2025 the Committee reviewed cases of unverified medical certificates, forged university documents and offensive language. Violations of the Internal Regulations and the Academic Integrity Code were recorded in the diploma supplements of 8 students.
Transparent Doctoral Defences	The Dissertation Council's PhD defence on 18 November 2025 was held with a 100% quorum and broadcast live online; recordings of defences are published on the university website.
Student Self-Government	From 23 November to 5 December 2025, students elected the President of the Student Government in three stages: casting and essay, election campaign, and voting.
Fairness in Teaching	In the October 2025 survey, students rated teachers' fair treatment of all group members at 4.08 and fairness of assessment at 4.04 out of 5.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

In 2025 UIB signed new memoranda with universities in Germany, Hungary and the Czech Republic, sent students and staff abroad, and expanded its network of employer partners, facilitating knowledge exchange and contributing to the global advancement of the SDGs.

Key Initiatives and Achievements:

New International Agreements	Memoranda of cooperation were signed with Zittau/Görlitz University of Applied Sciences, Germany (26 July 2025), Széchenyi István University, Hungary (18 August 2025) and the University of New York in Prague, Czech Republic (25 October 2025). A UIB delegation visited Prague from 21 to 28 October 2025 to sign the memorandum and discuss research

	and educational cooperation. In the 2024–2025 academic year, the Graduate School of Business signed a memorandum with the School of Business of the Transport and Telecommunication Institute (Riga, Latvia) and an agreement on an MBA study module in Poland.
Academic Mobility Programs	In the autumn 2025 semester, 10 bachelor's students studied abroad on exchange programmes. Candidates are selected by the Internationalisation Council through an English test and an interview. Over the full 2025–2026 academic year, mobility covered Poland, Latvia, Türkiye, South Korea, Lithuania, China, France, the Netherlands and Italy.
MBA Study Module Abroad	From 9 to 15 June 2025, 22 MBA students completed an international study module at National Louis University in Nowy Sącz, Poland.
Staff Mobility	A. Pasternak visited RAU (Romania) under Erasmus+ from 10 to 16 November 2025. L. Mardenova took part in an international event at Silkroad Innovation Hub (USA) on 24 November 2025.
G-Artience 2025 Connecting Week	About 20 UIB students, faculty and staff attended the G-Artience 2025 conference "Global TechArt Revolution: Fusion of Science and Art" at Dankook University, South Korea.
International Doctoral Supervision	UIB PhD research is co-supervised by foreign scientific consultants, among them Prof. László Vása (Széchenyi István University, Hungary), consultant for the PhD thesis defended on 18 November 2025.
Partnerships with Employers and Universities	In the 2025–2026 academic year, UIB concluded new cooperation agreements with organisations including Ernst & Young, Coca-Cola Almaty Bottlers, Bonduelle Kazakhstan, Magnum Cash&Carry, Abdi Ibrahim Global Pharm, Abylai Khan Kazakh University of International Relations and World Languages, Uzbekistan State University of World Languages and the Pushkin State Russian Language Institute. The university has 125 active cooperation agreements in total.

Conclusion

Kenzhegali Sagadiyev University of International Business continues to prioritize and contribute to the SDGs through accredited educational programmes, health and socio-economic research, graduate employment support, financial access to education, strong integrity institutions and new

international partnerships. Key results of 2025 include 79.77% employment of 2025 graduates, the accreditation of three programmes by CAAAE, a rise in student satisfaction from 3.83 to 4.01, and three new memoranda with European universities. These efforts highlight UIB’s dedication to fostering an environment where quality education, gender equality and sustainable partnerships thrive, promoting long-term positive impacts on society and global development.