WESTMINSTER
International University in Tashkent

An Accredited Institution of
the University of Westminster (UK)

WESTMINSTER INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN TASHKENT

Sustainable Development Goals

Report 2025



November 2026

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Contents

Message from the Rector of Westminster International University in Tashkent



"This year marks the fifth consecutive year of participation by Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) in the Times Higher Education (THE) Sustainability Impact Ratings. Guided by the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we continue to embed sustainability across our teaching, research, operations, and community engagement. Our annual submission is a key means of measuring our progress and strengthening our contribution to global sustainable development."

Komiljon Karimov

At Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT), we remain firmly committed to the principles of sustainable development and the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This commitment is embedded in our teaching, our research, and the way we operate as a university community.

Our participation in the Times Higher Education (THE) Sustainability Impact Ratings for the fifth consecutive year is both a measure of our progress and a reflection of our enduring aspiration to contribute meaningfully to society. The SDGs guide our actions and inspire us to innovate, whether through our curriculum, research projects, community engagement, or partnerships that create tangible impact.

In the previous and this academic year, we made further progress in embedding sustainability at every level of our institution. We expanded our education for sustainable development initiatives and strengthened research addressing environmental and social challenges, while continuing to align our goals with Uzbekistan's national priorities and global development objectives. *In this year's rankings, we placed in the 401–600 range globally. We see this as steady, solid progress, which we aim to build on year by year.*

Looking ahead, we will deepen the integration of sustainability across all aspects of university life. Together with our dedicated staff, students, and partners, we will continue to turn ideas into action and ensure that WIUT remains a driving force for positive change locally, regionally, and globally.



WIUT SDG REPORT 2025

Introduction

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

As a formal member of the UN, the first Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) member in Uzbekistan, and the host of many Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) initiatives, WIUT is a leading advocate for sustainability in the region. To support this core mission, we have adopted the UN SDG framework, which we use to record, measure, and improve our contribution to a range of social, environmental, and economic outcomes. Every student and member of faculty and staff plays a crucial role in advancing this commitment and embedding the SDGs across our operations, teaching, research, and knowledge exchange.

This year, in the 2026 edition, WIUT was ranked in four SDGs by the Times Higher Education (THE) University Impact Rankings: WIUT is ranked #101–200 for the SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), 301–400 for the SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 401–600 for the SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and 401–600 for the SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

THE Impact Rankings 2026

SDG 16
101–200
Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

SDG 8
301–400
Decent Work and Economic Growth

SDG 5
401–600
Gender Equality

SDG 17
401–600
Partnerships for the Goals

The University's commitment to sustainability is embedded in its teaching, research, and infrastructure initiatives. Aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), these efforts enhance its contribution to social, environmental, and economic outcomes.

WIUT SDG REPORT 2025

Progress on Education for Sustainable Development

In 2025, Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) further embedded the Sustainable Development Goals across its teaching, research, campus operations and partnerships. Education for Sustainable Development is now part of every course, and students in all disciplines learn to connect their studies with the social, environmental and economic challenges facing Uzbekistan, Central Asia and the wider world.



WIUT researchers produced evidence-based work and policy recommendations on issues ranging from food security, water and climate resilience to health, gender equality, migration and good governance. Through conferences, roundtables, training programmes and cooperation agreements, the University worked alongside government bodies, UN agencies, international organisations, businesses, NGOs and universities around the world.

On campus, WIUT continued to invest in renewable energy, water and energy efficiency, waste reduction and green spaces. It also supported its students and staff through scholarships, fair and inclusive employment practices, and opportunities for learning and professional development.

SDG Course at WIUT

Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) delivers its SDG course, “Our Sustainable Future Together”, annually. Led by the Rector, Dr Komiljon Karimov, the course was launched in the 2024/25 academic year and has since become one of the University’s flagship initiatives in Education for Sustainable Development. It aims to build awareness and understanding of sustainable development among students and staff. In the 2025/26 academic year, it was delivered to 80 students.



Reflecting its role in Education for Sustainable Development at WIUT, the course is run by the University’s UNESCO Chair on Knowledge Economy. It supports the Chair’s commitment to integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and knowledge economy principles into its teaching, research, and outreach, in direct support of UNESCO’s Education for Sustainable Development objectives.

Through thought-provoking discussions, interactive debates, and team projects, students deepen their

understanding of the SDGs and how they apply in the real world. Each weekly session focuses on a specific Goal and is co-delivered by a practitioner working in that field. This approach has created sustained cooperation with the United Nations country team and other international organisations, including the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Uzbekistan, UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, FAO, the World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank, whose senior representatives have contributed directly to teaching. Government institutions have also taken part, including the Center for Economic Research and Reforms, and the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Private-sector partners include PwC Uzbekistan, ACWA Power, and Korzinka.

WIUT Student "Research Society Conference 2025"



On 28 April 2025, Westminster International University in Tashkent successfully held the **Student Research Society Conference 2025** under the theme **"Research for a Sustainable Future"**.

The conference consisted of three key sessions: **Paper presentations** open to all students across various disciplines, the presentation stage of the **New Academic Talent 2025 competition**, featuring shortlisted Level 6 and Level 7 WIUT students and the awarding and closing ceremony of the **Research Skills Development Course competition**.

This event provided an excellent platform for young researchers to share their ideas, engage in academic discussion, and contribute to addressing global challenges through innovative research. Participants also had the opportunity to strengthen their research skills, critical thinking, and professional networks.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 1

No Poverty

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Scholarships and opportunities for students

University scholarships and opportunities for students (2024/2025 academic year)

- University scholarship – 80 students
- Government scholarship – 266 students

Scholarships from public and private sectors

- Entity-financed scholarship – 20 students
- "El-Yurt Umidi" Foundation Scholarships – 1 student and 3 staff members

Support for socially vulnerable students

- Single parent / personal disability support scheme – 4 students

WIUT Staff Support Schemes

WIUT has unique social support and professional development schemes for staff members. Staff members willing to do their postgraduate (master's) studies can apply for a discount of 20% to 70% of the tuition fee; the amount of support depends on years of experience and the contribution made by colleagues who applied for the scheme. In 2025, 4 staff members received such support. Staff spouses studying at WIUT can also receive up to a 40% discount. Staff members are also eligible to support their dependents' studies. This scheme is not only one of the employee benefits provided by the university, but it also serves as a means of social mobility and contribution to the development of society. The discount for financing dependents' studies ranges from 25% to 100%, depending on the number of years worked at WIUT. In 2025, 49 staff members supported their dependents' studies of 49 dependents.

WIUT also supports Academic Lyceum staff members with a premium on their salary.

The Opening Ceremony of the Research Competition "For Social Development"



The ceremony was held at Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) on 21 February 2025. Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation spoke about scientific research on social protection and poverty reduction at higher education institutions. Deputy Director of the National Agency for Social Protection outlined ongoing reforms in social protection. The Director of the Institute for Social Protection Development then presented the competition's objectives and requirements, and participants discussed holding the competition regularly.

SDG 1: No Poverty at the SDG Course

The opening session of the SDG Course, held on 24 September 2025 and dedicated to SDG 1: No Poverty, featured Dr Obid Khakimov, Director of the Center for Economic Research and Reforms, as guest speaker. Dr Khakimov discussed current socioeconomic reforms and engaged in dialogue with more than 75 students, establishing a strong foundation for the semester ahead.

Publications

- **Musamuxamedov, A.,** et al. (2025). The Role of Income, Happiness, and Norms in Fostering Pro-Social Behavior: A PLS-SEM Analysis of Charitable Giving and Its Contribution to Sustainable Development in Uzbekistan. *Sustainability*. https://doi.org/10.3390/su17219440

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 2

Zero Hunger

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

SDG Course – Session on SDG 2: Zero Hunger

On 2 October 2025, Westminster International University in Tashkent hosted the second session of the SDG Course, which focused on SDG 2: Zero Hunger. Our guest speaker, **Mr Sherzod Umarov**, Assistant Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) in Uzbekistan, delivered a concise and insightful talk on advancing food security and the challenges of sustainable agriculture in the region.



The session reinforced the importance of collaborative, evidence-based approaches to tackling hunger and promoting resilient, sustainable food systems across Central Asia.

Publications

- **Egamberdiev, B., Zakirov, B., and Useinov, A.** (2025). Fostering Resilience for Food Security in Uzbekistan. *ZBW – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics, Kiel, Hamburg. Econstor.* https://www.econstor.eu/handle/10419/318075
- **Bilal, M., and Shamsieva, M.** (2025). Cereal Crops Yield and Climate Change: A Case Study. *International Journal of Global Warming.* https://www.inderscience.com/info/ingeneral/forthcoming.php?jcode=IJGW



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 3

Good Health and Well-being

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

Empowering Uzbekistan's Healthcare Leaders: A Global Perspective



On 6 January 2025, the Centre for Professional and Lifelong Education at WIUT, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan and the Centre for the Development of Professional Qualification of Medical Workers, launched the second iteration of the "International Experience in Healthcare Management and Public Health Preservation" programme. This initiative aims to develop a talent pool of 120 specialists for Uzbekistan's Ministry of Health.

The week-long, 36-credit course is part of a broader 306-credit curriculum. It was developed by faculty members from WIUT's MSc in Public Health Science programme and other key university departments. The curriculum integrates leading international practices in healthcare management, ethics, communication, financing, insurance, digital transformation, and legal frameworks.

By equipping healthcare professionals with a global perspective, this initiative seeks to strengthen Uzbekistan's healthcare sector and build a highly skilled talent pool to drive nationwide systemic improvements.

WIUT Joins WHO Barcelona Course and High-Level Dialogue on Health Financing in Uzbekistan



Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) is proud to announce its participation in the WHO Barcelona Course on Health Financing for Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the accompanying High-Level Policy Dialogue, held in Tashkent from 2 to 5 June 2025.

This landmark event, co-organised by the World Health Organization (WHO) and GIZ Uzbekistan, is supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ, Germany), and implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, and the State Health Insurance Fund (SHIF).

Representing WIUT at the event was Dr Sukhrob Saliev, Course Leader of the Master of Science in Public Health program. His involvement underscores academia's growing role in health policy and system

transformation in Uzbekistan.

Publications

- **Umarov, H.** (2025). Medical Insurance: World Experience and Prospects for its Development in Uzbekistan. . https://ankil.info/lib/1/395/3113/
- **Hossain, M.B.,** et al. (2025). The Role of Leisure Satisfaction on Students' Engagement, among Higher Education Institutes during the COVID-19 Pandemic. *Acta Polytechnica Hungarica.*
- **Usmanova, K., Bilal, M. and Qo'chqorova, D.** (2025). Validation of the Dutch Eating Behaviour Questionnaire (DEBQ) in a sample of Uzbek women. *Green Economy and Development.* https://econpapers.repec.org/article/teuged000/v_3a3_3ay_3a2025_3ai_3a9_3aid_3a6893.htm



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 4

Quality Education

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

New Centre for Academic Development (CAD) at WIUT



We are excited to announce the establishment of the Centre for Academic Development under the School of Law, Technology and Education at our university! The Centre is dedicated to supporting academic staff in enhancing teaching practices, fostering professional growth, and improving the student learning experience.

As part of its inaugural initiatives, the Centre successfully organised five impactful training sessions for academic staff from 6 to 10 January 2025.

These sessions focused on key areas of teaching and learning, including:

- "Formative Assessment Strategies for Enhancing Student Learning" (facilitated by Dr Liliya Makovskaya)
- "Empowering Growth and Learning through Effective Feedback" (facilitated by Dr Liliya Makovskaya)
- "Mastering Case-Based Teaching for Engaged Learning" (facilitated by Dr Prabha Kiran)
- "Balancing Connection and Authority in the Classroom" (facilitated by Mr Abdulaziz Djalilov)
- "Mental Health Awareness and Support Strategies for Educators" (facilitated by Dr Davron Abdigapparov)

These sessions were met with enthusiasm and provided valuable tools and insights to enhance classroom practices. We look forward to the continued development of programmes and resources through the Centre for Academic Development to support our academic community.

ICEL 2025: Language, Innovation, and Global Dialogue



On 2–3 May 2025, Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) hosted the 6th International Conference on Education and Linguistics (ICEL) and Exhibitions, welcoming over 300 participants from 18 countries.

Centred around the theme "Innovations in Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics for a Sustainable and Inclusive Future", the conference brought together global experts in language education, applied linguistics, and educational technologies.

More than 100 academic papers were presented, covering topics such as digital tools, AI in language learning, sociolinguistics, and inclusive language policies. Held in a hybrid format, ICEL 2025 served not only as a platform for academic exchange but also as a space to build international collaboration and advance language education as a tool for equity and sustainable development.

WIUT Teaching, Learning, and Research Symposium (TL&RS) 2025



Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) hosted its annual Teaching, Learning, and Research Symposium, bringing together faculty, researchers, and academic leaders to exchange ideas on Emerging Technologies and Skills for the Future.

Held on 7 May 2025, the event featured 12 thought-provoking presentations showcasing innovative teaching practices, digital transformation in education, and strategies to equip students with critical skills such as creativity, communication, and problem-solving.

The symposium also explored ways to strengthen collaboration between academia and industry to prepare graduates for a rapidly changing global workforce. It reaffirmed WIUT's role as a hub for educational innovation and academic collaboration, empowering educators to shape the future of teaching and learning.

Collaboration with Pearson Education Group



On 24 September 2025, the International Collaboration and Strategic Development Department (ICSD), in collaboration with the Learning Resource Centre (LRC), held a meeting with Pearson Education Group at Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT). The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss potential areas of collaboration, including academic resources, digital learning platforms, e-library opportunities and partnership models. As an outcome of the discussion, it was agreed that a number of Pearson resources will be shared with WIUT.

Publications

- **Davronova, D., and Sunnatillaev, A.** (2025). Celebrating 30 Years of EU-Uzbekistan Cooperation: The Impact of Erasmus+ and Tempus Programmes on Higher Education. *The statistics of Erasmus+ activities in Uzbekistan for 2022–2024.* https://erasmus.uz/en/publications/451-the-statistics-of-era

smus-activities-in-uzbekistan-for-2022-2024

- **Radjabzade, S., Makovskaya, L., and Akbarova, S.** (2025). From Language to Skills Development: Deconstructing EAP in a Transnational University. *BALEAP Journal of Research and Practice*. https://journals.warwick.ac.uk/index.php/baleap/article/view/1889

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 5

Gender Equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) is committed to equal opportunities for women and men in study, work and research. Its Diversity and Dignity Policy protects all students and staff from discrimination, and its Admissions Policy ensures fair and equal access. The University's Development Strategy 2025–2035 commits it to ensuring gender balance in the workplace.

In 2025, women made up 43.3% of WIUT's 487 academic, administrative and professional staff (211 women). Female faculty members authored 40% of the University's 234 publications. WIUT researchers study gender equality in education, employment, agriculture and leadership, both in Uzbekistan and beyond.

43.3%
of WIUT's 487 academic, administrative and professional staff are women

211
women employed at WIUT in 2025

40%
of the University's 234 publications authored by female faculty



Gender Differences in Environmental Decision-Making

At a School of Business and Economics research colloquium, PhD candidate Sarvinoz Mamadjonova presented her study "Empirical Analysis of Gender Differences in Environmental Decision Making". The research examines how gender equality and women's economic and political empowerment influence environmental performance at enterprise and country level, and highlights the role of gender-inclusive policies in achieving sustainability goals.



Female Leadership and Innovation in SMEs

PhD candidate in Management Abbos Azizov presented causal evidence, based on data from 44,193 SMEs in 43 countries, that female leadership increases the likelihood of SME innovation by 5.97 percentage points. The effect appears only where legal gender equality is stronger, underlining the importance of institutional support for women entrepreneurs.



TIMUN 2025: Gender Equality on the Agenda

More than 400 young delegates took part in the Tashkent International Model United Nations Conference, organised by WIUT with UN offices in Uzbekistan and the Youth Affairs Agency. Gender equality was among the key topics debated in its simulated UN committees, and the UNFPA Representative in Uzbekistan spoke at the opening ceremony.

Publications

- **Nasimova, S.** (2025). Determinants of Female Literacy Rates: Evidence from Cross-Country Panel Data. *Economics and Society.* Link
- **Alimukhamedova, N., Tokhirova, N., Zakhidov, A., Nurmatov, A., Basyoni, A., Abdullaeva, L., Aganova, V. and Latypova, V.** (2025). Female Students' Aspirations and Study in U.S.: Voices of Gen Z from Uzbekistan. *The Midwest Quarterly: A Journal of Contemporary Thought.* Pittsburg State University.
- **Egamberdiev, B.** et al. (2025). Women's Empowerment for Farm Resilience in Ethiopia: A Three-Step Approach for Latent Class Analysis. *Review of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Studies.* https://doi.org/10.1007/s41130-025-00243-2
- **Bilal, M. and Usmonova, G.** (2025). Delaying Motherhood: Behavioral and Socio-Demographic Determinants of Early Childbearing in Tajikistan. *Green Economy and Development.* Link
- **Kiran, P.** et al. (2025). The Role of Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) in Reducing Gender Inequalities. In Grover, P., Phutela, N. and Singh, P. (Eds), *Higher Education and SDG10: Reduced Inequalities.* Emerald Publishing Limited. Link
- **Bilal, M., Djanibekov, N. and Tadjiev, A.** (2025). Mechanizing Cotton Harvesting in Uzbekistan. *CPRO Policy Brief 2025-01.* The brief highlights the need for transition measures to protect female rural workers.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 6

Clean Water and Sanitation

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Business Case Discussion Series

On 26 November 2025, WIUT BCC hosted the second seminar of our Business Case Discussion Series, titled "The Rise of Foreign Investments in Uzbekistan's Water Sector." This session featured Mr Evren Güneş, Chief Resident Engineer and Deputy Team Leader at SMEC International, who shared his extensive expertise in water resources management.



During the seminar, Mr Güneş provided valuable insights into the evolving landscape of foreign investments in Uzbekistan's water sector. He highlighted the growing importance of climate-resilient and sustainable water management solutions, drawing from his hands-on experience leading complex international projects. Participants had the opportunity to explore practical challenges, innovative approaches, and lessons learned from real-world infrastructure initiatives shaping the region's future.

Publications

- **Mirkasimov, B.,** et al. (2025). Current challenges in Central Asian water governance and their implications for research, higher education, and science-policy interaction. *Central Asian Journal of Water Research.* https://doi.org/10.29258/CAJWR/2025-R1.v11-1/47-58.eng



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 7

Affordable and Clean Energy

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy

Guest Talk with Dr Alexandr Akimov

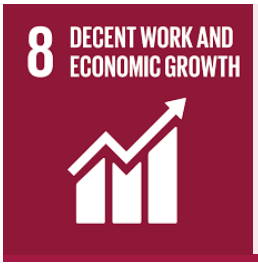


On 9 December 2025, the Graduate School hosted a Graduate Café session featuring Dr Alexandr Akimov, Associate Professor in Finance and Deputy Director at the Centre for Applied Energy Economics and Policy Research, Griffith University (Australia).

During the session, Dr Akimov delivered an insightful talk titled "Australian Electricity Market and its Transition to Net Zero Emissions: Lessons for Uzbekistan."

He discussed Australia's pathway toward a sustainable and low-carbon energy system, highlighting key reforms, market mechanisms, and policy tools that have supported the transition.

Dr Akimov also outlined practical lessons relevant for Uzbekistan, including the importance of regulatory transparency, investment in renewable technologies, and long-term planning for energy security and climate resilience. The talk sparked active engagement among students, researchers, and faculty members interested in sustainability, finance, and energy policy.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 8

Decent Work and Economic Growth

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

WIUT places a lot of emphasis on the recruitment, support and development of its academic and professional staff. In 2025, the university's main focus areas were digitalising its HR processes and making them more transparent. Recruitment ran through Huntflow, the online applicant tracking system, under the new edition of the Recruitment and Selection Policy. The APDR appraisal cycle moved fully online on apdr.wiut.uz, a platform the People and Culture and IT departments built together. In 2025, 78% of academic staff and 73% of professional and technical support staff were awarded merit-based salary increases. Other benefits WIUT offered its staff in 2025 include the Staff Support Scheme, professional development funding, medical insurance, an academic-year bonus, interest-free loans, a transport and meal allowance, and financial support for illness, surgery, and weddings.

78%
of academic staff awarded merit-based salary increases

73%
of professional and technical support staff awarded merit-based increases

51
employees recruited and onboarded in 2025, 13 of them international

1,289
graduates in the class of 2025

WIUT also helped its employees look after their well-being and cope with stress by offering flexible working hours, free art, vocal and drama clubs and yoga lessons, as well as a year-round programme of staff engagement events, including Winter Sports Week, the Navruz celebration, teambuilding, WIUT Family Day and the New Year event for staff children. As WIUT continues to grow by increasing the number of its students and courses, new positions are also being created. In 2025, 51 employees were recruited and onboarded; 13 of them were international. In 2025, the university provided paid internships to 5 WIUT students.

When it comes to graduate outcomes, the class of 2025 totalled 1,289 students who graduated in the 2024–2025 academic year: 1,015 at the undergraduate level and 274 at the postgraduate level. Among undergraduate programmes, Finance and Economics with Finance graduates are strongly concentrated in banking and financial services, while Commercial Law graduates are predominantly employed in the legal sector (33%). Business Information Systems graduates are led by IT & Telecommunications (44%), and Business Management graduates work across the widest range of sectors, with Logistics & Transportation as the leading destination.

Among postgraduate programmes, MA in Learning and Teaching (MALT) and the PG Certificate in Teaching and Learning record the highest satisfaction and recommendation rates (95–100%). MSc in Applied Economics graduates demonstrate the strongest indicators of professional progression, with 31% receiving a promotion or salary increase following graduation.

WIUT International Case Conference (ICC) 2025



The inaugural WIUT International Case Conference (ICC) 2025, organised by the Business Case Centre (BCC) at Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT), was successfully held on 15 May 2025. The conference centred on the theme "Inclusive Solutions for Sustainable Business," exploring innovative, inclusive approaches to contemporary business challenges, with a particular emphasis on sustainability and regional relevance.

ICC 2025 used the case method to advance experiential learning, helping educators craft impactful cases on Central Asian business and inclusive, sustainable decision-making.

4th Tashkent Business and Economics Conference (TBEC)



Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) proudly hosted the 4th Tashkent Business and Economics Conference (TBEC) on 22 October 2025, bringing together global thought leaders, researchers, and industry experts to explore the transformative intersection of technology, sustainability, and economic strategy.

Held in a hybrid format, both in-person and online, the conference welcomed a diverse array of participants from academia, finance, government, and the private sector.

Under the theme "Sustainable Future: Business, Technology, and Economic Transformations," TBEC 2025 addressed the pressing challenges and opportunities posed by digital disruption, globalisation, and shifting trade policies. The conference featured multidisciplinary research across economics, finance, management, and marketing, with sessions focused on:

- **Disruptive Technologies:** AI, blockchain, automation, and FinTech reshaping global trade and business models.
- **Trade and Tariffs:** The impact of evolving trade policies and economic dependencies on market stability.
- **Sustainable Growth:** ESG, green finance, and inclusive development strategies.
- **Organisational Transformation:** Leadership, innovation, and the future of work in a digital economy.

TBEC 2025 served as a dynamic platform for cross-border collaboration, knowledge exchange, and policy innovation. Participants engaged in vibrant discussions on how emerging technologies and strategic leadership can drive sustainable transformation in business and economics.

Publications

- **Rehman, M.A.U.,** et al. (2024). Expose the Hidden: Investor Sentiment and Anomaly Strategies in Emerging Market. *Romanian Journal of Economic Forecasting.* https://ipe.ro/new/rjef/rjef4_2024/rjef4_2024p63-81.html
- **Alimukhamedova, N. and Yusupov, N.** (2025). Closure of the Non-Bank Microfinance Sector in Uzbekistan: Who Is Affected and by How Much? *Economics of Transition and Institutional Change.* https://doi.org/10.1111/ecot.12452



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 9

Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

innoWIUT – the entrepreneurship lab of WIUT – supports student startups, forms innovative teams, and connects students & faculty with industry from Uzbekistan and across the region.

WIUT supports development of Science, Technology and Innovation Parks in Uzbekistan



Advancing Uzbekistan's Innovation Ecosystem at the 28th Session of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) by UNCTAD (7–11 April 2025) in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Director of innoWIUT Entrepreneur's Lab participated at the 28th Session of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), where he shared insights on Uzbekistan's developing Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Parks and their role in driving sustainable development of the country.

Uzbekistan has launched reforms to transform the nation into a regional innovation hub. These reforms not only attract foreign investment but also empower local talent, positioning Uzbekistan as a rising force in the global digital economy by creating a thriving hub for innovators and future leaders—bridging the gap between research and market-ready solutions.

InnoWeek–2025: International Conference on Scientific Communications



As part of InnoWeek–2025, the International Conference on Scientific Communications was held under the organization of the Center for Technical and Scientific Information at the Agency for Innovative Development. The event highlighted the vital role of scientific communication in fostering a research-based innovation ecosystem.

The conference brought together leading scientists, international organizations, and local experts to discuss research reliability, science-society dialogue, and the integration of scientific communication into national innovation systems.

Dr Bakhrom Mirkasimov (Deputy Rector on Research and Innovation) participated as a moderator, while other WIUT representatives also took part in the conference, contributing to discussions on advancing research communication and innovation.

A keynote guest, Sir Peter Gluckman, President of the International Science Council, emphasized the importance of trustworthy scientific communication and addressing misinformation to strengthen global understanding of science. Other distinguished speakers included Professor Shigeo Morimoto (Japan Science and Technology Agency), Academician Shahlo Turdiqulova (Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan), Estelle Cheng (ORCID), and Kerry Slattery (George Washington University, USA).

Publications

- **Kiran, P.,** et al. (2025). Leadership for Digital Transformation. In R. Krishnamoorthy and E. Rangaswamy (Eds.), *Future-Proofing Emerging Technologies for Business Transformation* (pp. 121–154). IGI Global Scientific Publishing. https://doi.org/10.4018/979-8-3373-1320-7.ch004

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 10

Reduced Inequalities

Reduce inequality within and among countries

SOBE Research Colloquium



On 10 December 2025, PhD candidate in Management Abbos Azizov presented his research, “Female Leadership and Innovation in Emerging Market SMEs: Causal Evidence from Lower-Middle Income Countries.”

Using data from 44,193 SMEs across 43 countries, the study provides causal evidence that female leadership increases the likelihood of SME innovation by 5.97 percentage points.

A key finding is that this positive effect only emerges in environments with stronger legal gender equality, highlighting the critical role of institutional support. The research offers important insights for policies aimed at fostering innovation through female entrepreneurship in developing economies.

Forum for Uzbek and Silk Road Studies Virtual Seminar Series



On 22 December 2025, Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) hosted the inaugural seminar of the Forum for Uzbek and Silk Road Studies Virtual Seminar Series in a hybrid format, bringing together participants both on campus and online. The seminar featured Dr Sherzod Eraliev, Senior Researcher at Lund University, who presented his talk “Uzbek Migrants across Russia, Turkey, and Europe: Mobility, Legal Precarity, and Everyday Navigation.”

Drawing on multi-sited ethnographic research, Dr Eraliev explored how Uzbek migrants navigate shifting legal regimes, labour markets, and informal governance structures across key migration destinations. The seminar highlighted migrants’ everyday strategies for managing legal precarity and uncertainty, while situating these experiences within broader regional and global transformations in migration governance.

Publications

- **Kiran, P.,** et al. (2025). The Role of Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) in Reducing Gender Inequalities. In Grover, P., Phutela, N. and Singh, P. (Eds). *Higher Education and SDG10: Reduced Inequalities.* Emerald Publishing Limited. https://www.emerald.com/books/edited-volume/17723/chapter-abstract/96837182/The-Role-of-Higher-Education-Institutes-HEIs-in?redirectedFrom=fulltext



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 11

Sustainable Cities and Communities

Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Graduate Café Discussion Series

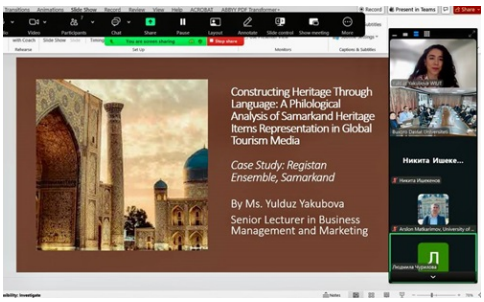
On 10 December 2025, the Graduate School hosted an engaging session of the Graduate Café, featuring a presentation by Aziza Ibrokhimova (PhD candidate). The event, titled "Museums, their development and contemporary analysis of visitor experience," provided a platform for a rich and insightful discussion on the evolving role of cultural institutions.



Aziza Ibrokhimova led a compelling exploration of how museums have transformed from static repositories into dynamic centers of public engagement. Her presentation traced the historical development of these spaces while offering a nuanced, contemporary analysis of the factors that shape the modern visitor experience. The discussion fostered a stimulating dialogue on how museums balance education, preservation, and community interaction in the 21st century.

Actual Issues of Philology in the Process of Globalization

Ms Yulduz Yakubova, Senior Lecturer in Tourism and its Dynamics, took part in an international conference "Actual Issues of Philology in the Process of Globalization," held at Bukhara State University.



Ms Yakubova's presentation, titled "Constructing Heritage Through Language: A Philological Analysis of Samarkand Heritage Items Representation in Global Tourism Media – The Case of Registan," examined how linguistic choices in global tourism discourse shape and construct cultural heritage narratives. The results also reflect a part of her PhD findings. The study focused on the Registan ensemble as a key symbol of Uzbekistan's heritage, highlighting the role of philology in mediating tourist inflow and shaping local identity.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 12

Responsible Consumption and Production

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Energy Efficient Appliances Usage

WIUT pays great attention to energy saving. The energy saving directions / instruments include use of energy-efficient appliances, implementation of smart buildings/automated buildings/intelligent buildings, green building elements, greenhouse gas emission reduction policies and carbon footprint. At the policy level, activities for further years include renewable energy policy, overall electricity consumption energy saving programs, climate change adaptation and mitigation programs. The campus and dormitory buildings are equipped with solar panels. All lights are transformed into LED systems, with motion and light sensors where applicable.

Advancing Sustainable Agriculture in Uzbekistan

On 16 April 2025, Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) proudly hosted the National Workshop on Promoting Alternatives to Highly Hazardous Pesticides (HHPs)—a significant milestone under the GCP/UZB/017/EC project, supported by the European Union (EU).



The workshop brought together over 30 representatives from government agencies, academia, civil society, and international organizations to discuss practical strategies for transitioning toward Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and reducing reliance on hazardous chemical inputs in agriculture.

The event concluded with the establishment of a multi-stakeholder IPM Working Group, tasked with developing a National Action Plan and advancing education and training initiatives.

Monitoring Meeting on Erasmus+ CirculEC Project

Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) hosts the monitoring meeting for the Circular Economy project funded by Erasmus+.

Rector Dr Komiljon Karimov and His Excellency Toivo Klaar, EU Ambassador to Uzbekistan, opened the ceremony.



As a part of the event, WIUT brought together over 50 professors and experts from Central Asian and European HEIs to review the project's progress. Zamira Ataniyazova, Iroda Komilova, and Murrodullo Bazarov presented WIUT's contributions in integrating concepts of Sustainability into educational programs. The distinguished guests include Akmal Rustamov from EEAS and Aziza Abdurakhmanova, Coordinator of the National Erasmus+ Office in Uzbekistan.

Publications

- **Hossain, M.B.,** et al. (2025). The Green Supply Chain Conundrum: Exploring the Interplay of Practices, Performance, and Technology in Shaping SME Sustainability in Developing Country. *Environment, Development and Sustainability.* https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10668-025-06614-5
- **Kumar, A.,** et al. (2025). Turning Trash Into Treasure: Optimization of Innovative Solid Waste Management Solutions for Puri, Odisha. In Albattat, A., Singh, A., Tyagi, P. K., & Haghi, A. (Eds.). *Solid Waste Management for Rural Regions* (Chapter 21). IGI Global Scientific Publishing. https://www.igi-global.com/gateway/chapter/363994
- **Mirkasimov, B. and Razhabova, S.** (2025). Assessment of hidden costs in agri-food value chains in Central Asia. *Economy: Analysis and Forecasts* (pp. 38). https://imrs.uz/journals/29
- **Alimukhamedova, N., Ismailov, J., and Abdullaeva, L.** (2025). Small Intervention, Big Impact: Experimental Evidence on Behavioral Change Towards Rational Use of Water and Energy in Uzbekistan. *CPRO Policy Brief 2025-05-01.* https://doi.org/10.70735/CZLD5460



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 13

Climate Action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Navigating Change: Agricultural Sustainability and Rural Development in Central Asia

Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT), in collaboration with the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), successfully hosted the international conference "Navigating Change: Agricultural Sustainability and Rural Development in Central Asia" on 14–15 October 2025 at WIUT.



The event brought together researchers, policymakers, and practitioners from across the region and beyond to discuss pressing challenges and emerging opportunities shaping agriculture and rural development in Central Asia. The conference provided a vibrant platform for dialogue and knowledge exchange on issues such as land degradation, water scarcity, and climate variability, which continue to impact productivity and food security across the region.

Publications

- **Salahodjaev, R., Azam, S.,** et al. (2024). Military Spending and CO2 Emissions in the Era of Knowledge Economy. *Journal of the Knowledge Economy.* https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13132-024-02421-x
- **Egamberdiev, B., Primov, A., and Babakholov, Sh.** (2025). The Resilience Paradox: A Climate Change Coping Mechanism in the Farm Households from Samarkand Region of Uzbekistan. *ZBW – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics, Kiel, Hamburg.* https://www.econstor.eu/handle/10419/313179
- **Bilal, M., and Shamsieva, M.** (2025). Cereal Crops Yield and Climate Change: A Case Study. *International Journal of Global Warming.* https://www.inderscience.com/info/ingeneral/forthcoming.php?jcode=IJGW

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 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 a doubly landlocked country with no access to the ocean, our university has practices in place to conserve water, manage consumption, and prevent water pollution. We also conduct research and host discussions on water resources management, an issue of crucial importance to the region.

Water Conservation at the University

The university is implementing a water conservation program aimed at efficient water use and reducing water loss. As part of the program, all restrooms have been equipped with touch-sensitive (automatic) faucets that automatically shut off the water supply when the user is absent. This solution reduces water consumption by more than 25%, improves hygiene and reduces operating costs. All buildings of WIUT have a separated sewerage system. Rain water is thus collected from the roofs of the buildings and is then discharged into the irrigation ditch around the buildings. The university also collects underwater in the reservoirs.



Example of water conservation – in-ground water tank



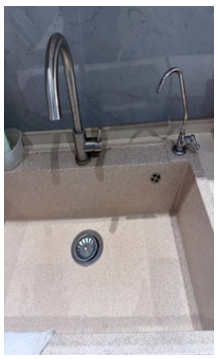
Example of rain water collection from the roofs

Consumption of water

The university uses both treated and untreated water. The primary source of water for irrigating lawns and green spaces is groundwater from a well, which undergoes no additional treatment.

The water supply is connected to the central water supply of Tashkent city. The central water supply is drinking water based on the annually conducted water quality tests. At different points on the campus and dormitories, the drinking water dispensers with filters are installed.





Installed drinking water dispensers

Water pollution control in campus area

- The university has implemented a comprehensive water pollution control system aimed at preventing contaminated wastewater from entering the water supply and the environment.
- Grease traps are installed in the kitchens, effectively removing fats and oils from wastewater before discharge into the sewer system.
- In addition, leaf catchers and dust collectors are used in the storm drainage system to prevent clogging of drainage channels with debris, leaves and dust particles.
- The university's technical department carries out regular monitoring and maintenance of the treatment elements, including preventative cleaning and testing of filtration efficiency.
- These measures help maintain environmental safety and prevent pollution of groundwater and surface water.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 15

Life on Land

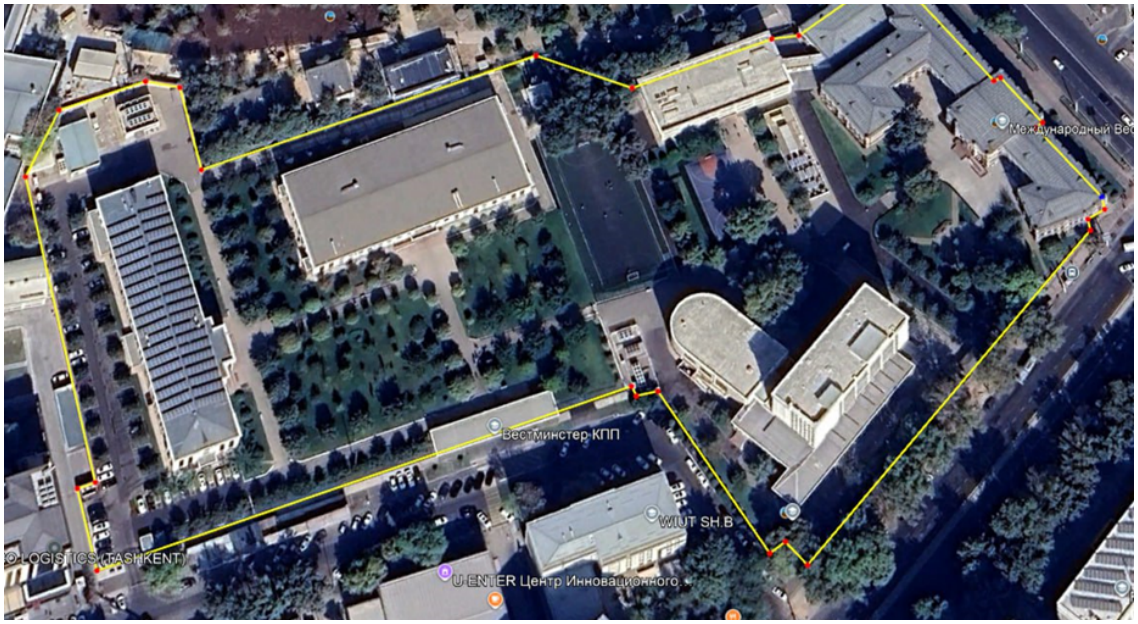
Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) has 4,460 m² of forest vegetation on campus, equivalent to 10.5% of its total campus area of 42,481 m².

4,460 m²
of forest vegetation on campus

10.5%
of the total campus area

42,481 m²
total campus area



WIUT employs professional gardeners and annually plants trees inside and outside the campus.





Tree marking for protecting trees

Publications

- **Bilal, M.** et al. (2025). Land tenure, autonomy and crop choice: Institutional drivers of agricultural diversification in Uzbekistan. *Agricultural Systems.* https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308521X25003142



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 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

Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) promotes the rule of law, integrity and accountable institutions in its own governance, its teaching and its work with government. Students and staff are represented in University decision-making through the Students' Union, the Labour Union and the Academic Council. Admissions are protected against corruption by a single online application platform, computer-based entrance exams with independent invigilators and video recording, and the exclusion of staff with a conflict of interest. Through its Center for Policy Research and Outreach (CPRO) and the CPRO Laboratory for Public Law and Governance, WIUT provides evidence-based advice and training to government bodies and offers a neutral platform for policy dialogue.



WIUT Jessup Team Reaches the Top 16 in Washington, D.C.

WIUT's Commercial Law students reached the Top 16 of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition 2025 in Washington, D.C., the best result in WIUT's history. They competed alongside teams from Harvard, Oxford and Moscow State University, and Karimaxon Khabibullaxo'ja was ranked among the Top 30 Oralists worldwide. The team qualified by winning the Uzbekistan National Rounds in February 2025.

Laboratory for Public Law and Governance: Supporting Administrative Justice Reform

The CPRO Laboratory for Public Law and Governance carried out an expert assessment of the national Concept for improving legislation on administrative court proceedings and prepared recommendations on the draft new Code on Administrative Court Proceedings. It also published analysis of Uzbekistan's anti-corruption environment and the role of administrative law in strengthening integrity in public administration, and held roundtables on local governance and administrative justice reform.



Training for Government Officials

In September 2025, WIUT and the CAREC Institute ran a four-day workshop for officials from Uzbek ministries and agencies on anticipatory innovation governance, in support of the Uzbekistan-2030 Strategy. Earlier in the year, WIUT experts delivered training in research methods and data analysis for the Ministry of Justice and its Research Institute of Legal Policy.



TIMUN 2025: Tashkent International Model United Nations

23–25 May 2025

WIUT organised one of the largest youth conferences in Central Asia in partnership with UN offices in Uzbekistan and the Youth Affairs Agency. More than 400 young delegates from Uzbekistan and abroad debated peace and security through preventive diplomacy and other global issues in eight simulated UN committees.



Guest Lecture on Anti-Corruption Policies

Yevgeniy Kolenko, First Deputy Head of the Law Enforcement Academy of Uzbekistan, lectured WIUT students on global anti-corruption strategies, legal mechanisms and institutional practice, and on reforms in Uzbekistan's law enforcement system.



Legal Awareness for Young People

WIUT runs regular events to strengthen students' legal awareness and respect for the rule of law:

- Cybersecurity and the prevention of offences (September), with the Tashkent City and Mirobod District internal affairs departments.
- Preventing drug abuse and extremist influence (November), with the Investigation Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.
- Constitution Day Quiz League (December), in which 15 student teams tested their knowledge of the Constitution, the rule of law and citizens' rights.

Publications

- **Islam, K.** (2025). The Digitalization of Public Services in Uzbekistan: How to Avoid the Rigidity. *CPRO Policy Brief 2025-11/2.*
- **Khamedov, I. and Tsay, I.** (2025). Opportunities for Reforming Local Government in Uzbekistan: Insights from International Experience. *CPRO Policy Brief 2025-03.*

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 17

Partnerships for the Goals

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

Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT) works with government, UN agencies, international organisations, universities, businesses and NGOs to advance the Sustainable Development Goals in Uzbekistan and Central Asia. As Uzbekistan's first member of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), WIUT contributes to national SDG policy through its Center for Policy Research and Outreach (CPRO). It also convenes cross-sectoral dialogue, takes part in international research and data partnerships, and embeds Education for Sustainable Development across all its courses.



SDG Course 2024/25 Successfully Completed

WIUT's SDG Course, launched in October 2024 and led by Rector Dr Komiljon Karimov, brought students together for a full academic year of discussions, debates and projects on the SDGs. The winning team represented WIUT at the International Student Conference in London. The second edition began in September 2025.



CAREC Global Public Health Education Centre of Excellence

WIUT was named one of five Global Public Health Education Centres of Excellence in the CAREC region by the Asian Development Bank and the CAREC Human Resources for Health Sub-Working Group. In this role, it leads joint research and training with CAREC partners, the WHO and GIZ.



Partnerships with the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade

WIUT signed Memoranda of Cooperation with the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade and with its Investment Promotion Agency. They cover joint research, improving investment legislation, analytical materials and internships. Together with the Agency, WIUT then hosted the WIUT Business Forum 2025 on responsible investment.



Navigating Change: Agricultural Sustainability in Central Asia

WIUT and the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) hosted an international conference of more than 100 researchers, policymakers and practitioners on land degradation, water scarcity and climate resilience.



Uzbekistan–UK Education Forum 2025

WIUT co-organised the third Uzbekistan–UK Education Forum in London with the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation and the British Council. The forum focused on graduate employability, governance, quality assurance and inclusive education.

International Partnerships in 2025

- Italian delegation visits WIUT (March): joint research on sustainable development and water resource management.
- Memorandum of Understanding with the CERGE-EI Foundation (April): research, exchanges and joint academic events.
- Rectors' Forum Poland–Uzbekistan (April): dual degrees, academic mobility and joint research.
- Uzbekistan–Germany Universities Forum, Berlin (November): memorandum with IAMO on joint research in Uzbekistan in 2025–2026.

Publications

- **Kumar, A.,** et al. (2025). Digital Entrepreneurship: Foundations, Trends, and Future Directions. *Global Business and Organizational Excellence.* https://doi.org/10.1002/joe.22300
- **CPRO Policy Briefs 2025**: 11 briefs on migration, climate and water, public administration, critical minerals, agriculture, urban development and local governance.

WESTMINSTER
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The report is prepared within departmental working groups to ensure a collaborative approach, aligning with the University's mission and vision.

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Sustainable Development Goals Report 2025