



SDG 1.4.4

Policy addressing poverty

The University of Sharjah contributes to national and institutional efforts to reduce poverty through structured mechanisms that ensure financial accessibility and social equity in education. The **Community Cooperation Office** serves as the main institutional body responsible for coordinating financial aid and sponsorship for students with limited financial means. The Office liaises with businesspersons, companies, charities, and other external entities to secure funding for students who are unable to pay tuition fees. Financial aid is granted based on documented evidence of social and financial circumstances and academic standing. All applications are carefully reviewed to ensure fairness and transparency in the allocation of support. This process enables the University to assist financially disadvantaged students in continuing their studies and to contribute to local poverty alleviation efforts through education.

In addition to direct financial assistance, the **University's Strategic Plan 2030**, under **Pillar 4: Community Collaboration and Impact**, establishes a framework for promoting philanthropy and partnership as instruments for social development. The pillar includes initiatives related to funding, sponsorship, and alumni empowerment, aimed at supporting students and graduates in financial need. The **Alumni Empowerment Initiative** encourages active alumni participation in providing financial assistance, fostering a culture of giving, and supporting the University's social responsibility objectives. The initiative's performance indicators include the level of funding obtained and the reduction of students unable to graduate due to financial constraints.



Through these combined efforts, the University of Sharjah demonstrates an institutional commitment to implementing programmes that align with national policies addressing poverty and social inclusion. The University's financial aid mechanisms and philanthropic partnerships ensure that economic hardship does not hinder access to or completion of higher education, reflecting a practical contribution to sustainable development and the goals of poverty reduction.