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ALMATY MANAGEMENT
UNIVERSITY

ALMAU

SDG Report

August 2025- June 2026



www.almau.edu.kz

Table of Contents

→	03	Letter from the Rector
→	04	AlmaU overview
→	07	SDG 1: No Poverty
→	10	SDG 2: Zero hunger
→	13	SDG 3: Good health and well-being
→	19	SDG 4: Quality education
→	22	SDG 5: Gender equality
→	27	SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation
→	28	SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy
→	29	SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth
→	31	SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
→	32	SDG 10: Reduced inequality
→	33	SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities
→	36	SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production
→	37	SDG 13: Climate action
→	39	SDG 14: Life below water
→	40	SDG 15: Life on land
→	42	SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions
→	43	SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals

Letter from the Rector



Timur Buldybayev

Rector of AlmaU,

Dear Partners and Friends,

At Almaty Management University (AlmaU), we believe that education is a powerful driver of positive change. Our mission is to make the world a better place through education, research, and entrepreneurship. We are committed to preparing responsible leaders who can address today's challenges and contribute to a more sustainable future.

We integrate sustainability into our education, research, and campus operations, fostering innovation, entrepreneurial thinking, and social responsibility.

Universities play a vital role in addressing global and regional challenges, from climate change to social inequality. At AlmaU, we encourage students, faculty, and researchers to develop practical solutions that create meaningful change.

Historically, AlmaU has maintained strong ties with its community, recognizing that a university's role extends beyond the classroom. Today, as we review our policies and transform our institutional practices, we remain committed to strengthening community engagement, fostering inclusion, and embedding sustainability into our activities.

Through partnerships with businesses, international organizations, universities, and local communities, we connect global knowledge with the needs of Kazakhstan and Central Asia. Our commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals reflects our belief in the power of collaboration and shared responsibility.

We continue to build an open, people-centered university where education, research, and innovation create lasting value for society. We believe a sustainable future is not simply something we aspire to - it is something we create together.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

AlmaU Overview



Almaty Management University (AlmaU) is an entrepreneurial and socially responsible university striving to become more comprehensive and research-oriented. In 2025, AlmaU celebrates 37 years of excellence in education — as Kazakhstan's oldest private university, the first business school in the country, and a pioneer of business education in the CIS region.

Building on its entrepreneurial heritage, AlmaU integrates global best practices in responsible management, innovation, and sustainability. The university cooperates with more than 130 universities and associations worldwide, fostering international collaboration, academic mobility, and cross-border research. AlmaU is committed to the Third Mission of universities, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Principles for Responsible Management Education (UN PRME), embedding them across its strategy, education, and operations.

AlmaU includes 10 Schools, 3 Centers, the Institute for Education Development, and AlmaU Extension, its executive education hub. The university offers programs in over 20 disciplines — from business, economics, and law to digital technologies, entrepreneurship, creative industries, and health sciences — delivered in Kazakh, Russian, and English.
Today, AlmaU unites more than 5,200 students, with 75% undergraduate and 25% postgraduate learners. It also hosts Central Asia's largest MBA and DBA community, with over 1,000 professionals advancing their management expertise. Through research, partnerships, and social impact, AlmaU continues to shape a sustainable, inclusive, and innovative future for the region.

AlmaU Overview

AlmaU is accredited by IQA CEEMAN (2010–2029) and its MBA programs by AMBA (2013–2026). The Graduate School of Business, School of Hospitality and Tourism, and School of Entrepreneurship and Innovation hold BGA accreditation (2021–2026).

The university ranks among Central Asia's top three business schools (Eduniversal) and is placed in the 801–1000 band of the THE Impact Rankings 2026. In the QS Global MBA Rankings 2024, AlmaU's Graduate School of Business is among the top 300 worldwide, while the Executive MBA program ranks 25th globally in the QS Executive MBA: Joint Programs.



IQA CEEMAN Accredited

IQAA Independent Agency for Quality Assurance in Education — Accredited

IAAR НУ "Независимое агентство аккредитации и рейтинга" Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating — Accredited

Association of MBAs Accredited

IQAA Ranking — Top 3 National ranking of leading humanitarian and economic universities in Kazakhstan 2022

Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2024 Ranked 801-1000

Business Graduates Association Accredited

4 Palmes of Excellence eduniversal

QS World University Rankings — Global MBA in the Top 300 2024

QS World University Rankings — Executive MBA Ranked 2024

AlmaU Overview



Vision

AlmaU is a globally recognized comprehensive university for people aspiring for the sustainable development of society.

Mission

We are making the world better through the development of education, research, and entrepreneurship.

Values

- Leadership
- Entrepreneurship
- Integrity
- Sustainability
- Responsibility

1 NO POVERTY



Introduction

SDG 1 aims to eradicate every form of extreme poverty including the lack of food, clean drinking water, and sanitation. Achieving this goal includes finding solutions to new threats caused by climate change and conflict. SDG 1 focuses not just on people living in poverty, but also on the services people rely on and social policy that either promotes or prevents poverty.

One of the key indicators that measure poverty is the proportion of population living below the international and national poverty line. Measuring the proportion of the population covered by social protection systems and living in households with access to basic services is also an indication of the level of poverty.

Almaty Management University (AlmaU) contributes to the achievement of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1, which calls for an end to poverty in all its forms. The University recognizes that access to quality education, financial opportunities, and meaningful employment are important factors in reducing socio-economic vulnerability and supporting long-term economic well-being.

Through education, enterpreneurship-related learning and community engagement, AlmaU works to make higher education more accessible to students who may face financial barriers. These initiatives are complemented by career-oriented education, professional development, internships, and opportunities to engage with industry, enabling students to strengthen their skills and improve their future employment prospects.

By combining financial support with education and career development, AlmaU seeks to create pathways that help students build greater economic resilience and contribute to a more inclusive and sustainable society.

AlmaU aims to expand accessible and flexible educational formats, provide personalized learning opportunities, and strengthen pathways connecting education with employment and entrepreneurship. By combining educational access with practical skills, career development and entrepreneurial opportunities, the University seeks to contribute to greater economic resilience and improved quality of life for its students and the wider community. This approach reflects AlmaU's vision of education as a mechanism for improving quality of life and strengthening social cohesion.

Freedom Insurance and AlmaU Launch Five-Year Education Programme for 100 Students

Freedom Insurance, Almaty Management University (AlmaU), and Kazakhstan's Agency for Regulation and Development of the Financial Market have launched a five-year education programme designed to prepare approximately 100 undergraduate and graduate students for careers in the country's evolving insurance industry.

The initiative responds to the rapid transformation of the sector. Insurance policies are increasingly issued online, documents for certain claims can be submitted remotely, and risk assessment now relies not only on traditional financial mathematics but also on data analytics, digital services, and automation.



The programme is particularly timely as Kazakhstan prepares to reform its insurance market. In February, President Kassym-Zhomart Tokayev instructed the authorities to develop a sectoral programme through 2030 and prepare new insurance legislation. The Agency for Regulation and Development of the Financial Market subsequently confirmed that the programme was being developed jointly with the National Bank of Kazakhstan. Its priorities include further digitalisation and new approaches to insurance products.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-and-freedom-insurance-launch-a-new-stage-of-partnership/

2 ZERO HUNGER



Introduction

SDG 2 aims to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. Achieving this goal requires ensuring that all people have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious, and affordable food throughout the year. It also involves supporting sustainable food systems, increasing agricultural productivity, reducing food loss and waste, and strengthening the resilience of food production to climate change and other economic and environmental challenges.

Almaty Management University (AlmaU) contributes to the achievement of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, which calls for an end to hunger and the development of more sustainable and resilient food systems. The University recognizes that food security is closely connected with public health, social well-being, responsible consumption, environmental sustainability, and inclusive economic development.

Through education, research, community engagement, and cooperation with businesses, public institutions, and civil society organizations, AlmaU helps raise awareness of food security, healthy nutrition, sustainable agriculture, and responsible food consumption. Academic programmes and student initiatives can provide future managers and entrepreneurs with the knowledge and practical skills needed to develop innovative solutions for the agricultural and food sectors.

AlmaU also seeks to promote responsible food practices within the university community. The university promotes awareness of balanced nutrition, responsible resource use and food-waste prevention. Quantitative food waste monitoring results are not presented in this report. Student projects, volunteering activities, and partnerships with external organizations can further contribute to supporting vulnerable groups and addressing food-related challenges in the wider community.

By combining education with research, entrepreneurship, and social responsibility, AlmaU aims to support the development of sustainable food systems and strengthen the capacity of students to respond to food security challenges. The University seeks to expand interdisciplinary learning, encourage innovation in agriculture and food-related businesses, and promote partnerships that connect academic knowledge with practical solutions.

SaltX Promotes Healthier Nutrition and Improved Food Labelling in Kazakhstan

Within the Global Social Impact Fellowship partnership between AlmaU and Lehigh University, the SaltX project is addressing excessive sodium consumption and promoting healthier food choices in Kazakhstan.

High salt consumption is a major nutritional and public health challenge associated with cardiovascular disease and other non-communicable conditions. The World Health Organization recommends limiting daily salt consumption to five grams. However, average consumption in Kazakhstan is estimated at approximately 17 grams per person per day, one of the highest levels in the WHO European Region.

SaltX applies a multi-dimensional approach combining research, public education, food policy, and social entrepreneurship. The project seeks to introduce a national nutritional labelling system that enables consumers to better understand product content and make informed dietary choices.

The team also works with public health organisations to raise awareness of the effects of excessive sodium consumption. The project explores opportunities to support enterpreneurs developing lower-sodium food products and to connect local producers with relevant food technologies. The extent of dirtect producer engagement during the reporting period requires separate confirmation.

The project provides students with opportunities to contribute to research, policy development, consumer education, and social entrepreneurship. Its international and interdisciplinary format enables participants to adapt global knowledge and technologies to Kazakhstan's nutritional and public health context.





https://creativeinquiry.lehigh.edu/news/2026-2026-gsif-kazakhstan-fieldwork-advances-research-partnerships-and-social-impact

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Introduction

SDG 3 aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all people at all ages. Achieving this goal involves reducing maternal and child mortality, combating communicable and non-communicable diseases, strengthening mental health, preventing substance abuse, reducing road traffic injuries, and ensuring universal access to quality healthcare services.

Key indicators used to measure progress towards SDG 3 include life expectancy, maternal and child mortality rates, the prevalence of infectious and chronic diseases, suicide rates, coverage of essential health services, and access to medicines. Vaccination coverage, the state of the population's mental health, and the prevalence of risk factors such as tobacco and alcohol use are also important indicators.

Almaty Management University (AlmaU) contributes to the achievement of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3), which calls for good health and well-being for all. The University recognizes that physical and mental health are essential conditions for successful learning, professional development, social participation, and a high quality of life.

Through educational, preventive, and awareness-raising activities, AlmaU promotes a culture of healthy living among students and employees. The University seeks to increase awareness of balanced nutrition, physical activity, disease prevention, responsible attitudes towards personal health, and the importance of seeking timely medical assistance.

Particular attention is given to the psychological well-being of the university community. Academic pressure, adaptation to a new environment, professional uncertainty, and other factors may affect students' emotional well-being. Raising awareness of mental health, developing stress-management skills, creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment, and expanding access to psychological support are therefore important areas of the University's work.

AlmaU also supports sports, wellness, and community initiatives designed to encourage healthy habits and strengthen social interaction. Sporting events, student clubs, thematic lectures, training sessions, and preventive campaigns help members of the university community remain physically active, develop self-care skills, and make informed decisions about their health.

Development of Clinical Psychology and Suicide Prevention

On February 10, 2026, the Sharmanov School of Health Sciences (SSHS) hosted an open meeting titled "Clinical Psychology in Kazakhstan and the World," bringing together students, faculty members, and individuals interested in the development of mental health and the professional community in Kazakhstan.

The invited speaker, Sandugash Kansarovna Kudaibergenova, Candidate of Psychological Sciences, Assistant Professor at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, and psychologist at the Republican Scientific and Practical Center for Mental Health of the Ministry of Health of Kazakhstan, shared her expertise on the development of clinical psychology in Kazakhstan and internationally.

The discussion focused on the role of clinical psychologists within the healthcare system, current challenges facing the profession, and the importance of collaboration between medical doctors and psychologists. Particular attention was given to the integration of psychological support into the treatment process as an essential component of comprehensive healthcare.



A practical part of the meeting was dedicated to suicide prevention. Participants explored risk factors, early warning signs of psychological crisis, strategies for providing support, and appropriate pathways for referring individuals to professional help. Through practical cases and exercises, participants developed skills for recognizing signs of crisis and responding appropriately to people experiencing difficult situations.

The initiative contributes to SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being by promoting mental health awareness, strengthening suicide prevention knowledge, supporting the development of qualified mental health professionals, and encouraging a more integrated approach to psychological well-being within the healthcare system.

https://almau.edu.kz/en/how-clinical-psychology-is-developing-in-kazakhstan-an-open-meeting-at-sharmanov-school-of-health-sciences/

AlmaU Launches Active Longevity Project for People of the “Silver” Age

Almaty Management University (AlmaU) has launched a project for older adults as part of the “Silver University” initiative. Hosted at the Qainar Bulaq open urban co-working space, the project aims to promote active longevity, physical and psychological well-being, personal development, and social engagement.

The initiative has brought together more than 120 participants aged 50 and above. It provides members of the “silver” generation with opportunities to acquire new knowledge, develop modern skills, participate in creative and wellness activities, and connect with like-minded people.



The programme began with an Aikune health practice session. Aikune is a system of exercises designed to strengthen the deep muscles of the back, improve posture, and support overall physical well-being through static exercises, breathing techniques, and mindful stretching.

The programme will subsequently be expanded to include dance and art workshops, psychological support sessions, and other educational, creative, and wellness activities. These initiatives are intended to encourage physical activity, support emotional well-being, reduce social isolation, and provide participants with opportunities for continued learning and meaningful interaction.



The initiative also reflects the University’s commitment to creating an inclusive environment in which people can continue learning, developing, and participating in community life regardless of age.

https://almau.edu.kz/en/the-project-for-people-of-the-silver-age-has-launched-at-almau/

Team Ski Tournament “AlmaU – ZEINEP Cup” Held in North Kazakhstan Region

the traditional annual “AlmaU – ZEINEP Cup” ski race was held for the third time in the village of Lobanovo, Aiyrtau District, North Kazakhstan Region. Organized jointly by Almaty Management University and the Higher Multidisciplinary College “Zeinep,” the event brought together more than 300 participants from different regions of Kazakhstan.





For the first time in the tournament’s history, the competition was held in a team format. This approach strengthened not only the competitive spirit of the race but also teamwork, responsibility, and mutual support among participants. A message of encouragement from Olympic champion Vladimir Smirnov inspired the athletes to pursue new achievements, strengthen their character, and maintain an active lifestyle.

The tournament was attended by AlmaU President Asylbek Kozhakhmetov and Akim of Aiyrtau District Meyram Mendybayev. They emphasized the importance of accessible sporting events in promoting mass participation in sport and supporting the health and well-being of local communities.

The “AlmaU – ZEINEP Cup” promotes cross-country skiing, encourages young people to engage in regular physical activity, and contributes to preserving the sporting traditions of Aiyrtau District and the North Kazakhstan Region. The event also serves as a community platform that brings together athletes, students, teachers, local residents, and visitors while strengthening the connection between education, social responsibility, and healthy lifestyles.

https://almau.edu.kz/en/team-ski-tournament-almau-zeinep-cup-held-in-north-kazakhstan-region/

AlmaU Among the Top Performers at the International AI in Healthcare Hackathon 2026

From March 27 to 29, 2026, the International AI in Healthcare Hackathon was held at Central Asian University in Tashkent. The event brought together young researchers and developers working at the intersection of artificial intelligence and healthcare.



Over three days, participants worked in interdisciplinary teams to develop technological solutions for real clinical challenges and received guidance from industry experts.

A team of AlmaU students representing the School of Digital Technologies and Engineering and the School of Media and Film secured 7th place among 54 teams from 13 countries. This was the highest result achieved by a university representing Kazakhstan at the competition.

The hackathon provided AlmaU students with valuable experience in an international professional environment where technological ideas were developed and tested in response to practical healthcare needs. Their achievement demonstrated the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration, systematic work, and the responsible application of artificial intelligence to improve health and well-being.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-among-the-top-performers-at-the-international-ai-in-healthcare-hackathon-2026/

AlmaU Students Take Third Place in the Student Chess League

On April 13-14, 2026, a Student Chess League tournament was held at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University as a qualifying stage for the Republican Championship among universities in Kazakhstan.

Twenty universities participated in the competition, with only the five highest-ranked teams advancing to the next stage. Each team consisted of four male and two female players.

AlmaU was represented by Zhangir Bizhigitov, Nurasyl Zhumabek, Mukhammedzhan Koishyman, Anuar Ualikhan, Korkem Imanberdi, and Nadiya Satulganova. Demonstrating concentration, resilience, and strong teamwork throughout the decisive rounds, the team secured third place and qualified for the Republican tournament.

AlmaU students also achieved outstanding individual results. Nurasyl Zhumabek scored 8.5 points out of 9, while Zhangir Bizhigitov scored 8 points out of 9. Both players took first place on their respective boards.

The achievement highlights AlmaU's commitment to supporting student sport and creating opportunities that promote intellectual development, strategic thinking, emotional resilience, and student well-being.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-students-took-3rd-place-in-the-student-chess-league/

AlmaU Hosts Round Table on Mental Health in the Digital Age

On April 24, 2026, Almaty Management University hosted a round table titled "Mental and Psychological Health in the Era of Digitalization: Risks and Resources."

The event brought together experts, practitioners, academics, and students from the Sharmanov School of Health Sciences. Its purpose was to create a cross-sector platform for sharing knowledge and developing practice-oriented recommendations to strengthen psychological well-being amid rapid digital transformation.



The discussion was opened by AlmaU Rector Timur Buldybayev. Speakers included President of the Kazakh Psychological Society Mukhan Perlenbetov, public figure Aruzhan Sain, representatives of academic and educational institutions, practicing specialists, and students.

Participants examined the effects of digitalization on society and mental health, addictive behaviour in digital environments, emotional burnout, psychological resilience, and modern approaches to psychotherapy. The programme also addressed juvenile delinquency prevention, inclusive education, support for children with special educational needs, and the development of awareness and emotional intelligence among young people.

The open discussion highlighted the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to mental health and the need to further develop preventive and educational initiatives that support psychological well-being in the digital age.

https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-hosted-a-round-table-titled-mental-and-psychological-health-in-the-era-of-digitalization-risks-and-resources/

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Introduction

SDG 4 aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Achieving this goal requires expanding access to education, improving learning outcomes, eliminating inequalities, developing relevant professional skills, and creating safe and inclusive learning environments.

Key indicators used to measure progress towards SDG 4 include participation and completion rates at different levels of education, students' proficiency in literacy and numeracy, access to vocational and higher education, the development of digital and employment-related skills, and the availability of qualified teachers. The indicators also assess inequalities in educational access and the quality, safety, and inclusiveness of learning facilities.

Almaty Management University (AlmaU) contributes to the achievement of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 through accessible, practice-oriented, and innovative education. The University recognises education as a foundation for personal development, social mobility, responsible leadership, and sustainable economic growth.

AlmaU integrates academic knowledge with practical learning, research, entrepreneurship, digital technologies, and engagement with industry and society. Scholarships, professional development programmes, international partnerships, interdisciplinary projects, and opportunities for experiential learning help students and professionals acquire competencies relevant to a rapidly changing labour market.

The University also promotes lifelong learning by offering educational opportunities for students, faculty members, professionals, entrepreneurs, and members of the wider community. Its initiatives support the development of critical thinking, creativity, ethical awareness, digital literacy, leadership, and the ability to address complex social, environmental, and economic challenges.

By strengthening teaching quality, expanding partnerships, and introducing innovative and inclusive learning formats, AlmaU seeks to create an educational environment in which learners can realise their potential and contribute meaningfully to society. This approach reflects the University's commitment to preparing responsible leaders and advancing equitable, high-quality education in Kazakhstan and beyond.

AlmaU Presents Kazakhstan's First National Collection of Business Cases

On October 22, 2025, Almaty Management University presented Kazakhstan's first national collection of practical business cases. The publication was developed at the initiative of YPO Kazakhstan in collaboration with faculty members and entrepreneurs from AlmaU's Graduate School of Business and Institute of Entrepreneurship.

The collection features 53 first-hand success narratives from leading Kazakhstani companies, including Freedom Holding Corp., BI Group, Kusto Group, and Lancaster Group. Combining real business situations, management decisions, and the personal experiences of business leaders, the publication provides a practice-oriented resource for entrepreneurship and management education.

The project marked the 15th anniversary of YPO Kazakhstan, the national chapter of the global Young Presidents' Organization. The presentation brought together business leaders, members of YPO Kazakhstan, students, and faculty to discuss the creation of the book, its contribution to the development of business education, and opportunities to integrate its cases into the learning process.

Students and faculty members were able to engage directly with the authors and business leaders featured in the collection, ask questions, and explore the decisions and approaches that contributed to the companies' success.

The publication creates a new knowledge base for business education in Kazakhstan. By connecting academic learning with local entrepreneurial experience, it helps students develop practical management skills, strengthen their understanding of entrepreneurship, and prepare for responsible leadership in the national economy.





https://almau.edu.kz/ru/v-almau-predstavili-pervyj-nacionalnyj-sbornik-biznes-kejsov-kazahstanskih-kompanij/

Impact Pitch Day at AlmaU: Student Projects Shaping Tomorrow's Social Solutions

On December 9, 2025, AlmaU hosted Impact Pitch Day, a platform for undergraduate and graduate students to present socially significant and innovative projects addressing contemporary social, environmental, and economic challenges. The event was organized by the University's Center for Sustainable Development.

Opening the event, AlmaU President Asylbek Kozhakhmetov highlighted the University's role as a hub for impact-driven initiatives that generate meaningful change and contribute to society. Vice-Rector for Global Partnerships Sholpan Tazabek also delivered a message encouraging students to pursue responsible and innovative solutions.







Impact Pitch Day promoted social entrepreneurship and sustainable development while helping students strengthen their skills in responsible management, interdisciplinary collaboration, and impact-oriented thinking. The event also supported young innovators with an opportunity to present projects addressing themes linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The event provided students with practical opportunities to develop and promote socially beneficial initiatives. By combining business, technology, creative industries, and social practices, AlmaU Impact Pitch Day contributed to building a community of young leaders committed to sustainable, inclusive, and innovative change in Kazakhstan and beyond.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/impact-pitch-day-at-almau-leading-student-projects-shaping-the-social-solutions-of-tomorrow/

Almaty Management University's Tolyq Adam programme won the prestigious Times Higher Education Awards Asia 2026 in the "Teaching and Learning Strategy of the Year" category. AlmaU became the first university in Central Asia to receive this award.

The award ceremony took place on April 22, 2026, in Hong Kong during the THE Asia Universities Summit. The 2026 shortlist included 80 projects from 17 countries.

The international jury recognised AlmaU's innovative approach to creating an educational environment grounded in humanistic values, the philosophy of Abai Kunanbayev, and modern teaching practices. The programme is based on Abai's concept of Tolyq Adam, reinterpreted through the University's LEADER educational model. It integrates critical thinking, empathy, ethical and environmental awareness, and sustainable leadership skills.

The programme reaches more than 1,000 students annually and comprises eight transformational courses designed to develop a holistic worldview and practical competencies. Through project-based learning, students have initiated more than 100 social, environmental, and entrepreneurial projects in partnership with NGOs, educational institutions, and businesses.

According to AlmaU's internal research for 2024-2025, programme participants demonstrated consistent progress in academic achievement and personal development. Students reported improvements in critical and creative thinking, empathy, awareness, and understanding of their personal goals.

The award highlights Kazakhstan's growing contribution to the global education agenda and demonstrates the potential of humanistic education models to support meaningful change. AlmaU will continue developing the Tolyq Adam initiative and preparing a new generation of knowledgeable, responsible, and socially conscious leaders.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/kazakhstan-s-educational-model-based-on-the-philosophy-of-abai-has-been-recognised-as-the-best-in-asia-almau-wins-the-awards-asia-2026/

AlmaU Graduates Third Cohort of Neuromarketing Specialists

On January 23, 2026, AlmaU completed the third annual intensive professional development course, “Theory and Practice of Neuromarketing.” The course was delivered by the Neuromarketing and Neuromanagement Laboratory at the School of Management and Tourism.

Over two weeks and 72 academic hours, participants studied modern methods of consumer behaviour research, combining theoretical knowledge with practical neuromarketing studies. The cohort included faculty members, practising professionals, and company representatives, creating an interdisciplinary learning environment that connected academic approaches with real business contexts.

The course was delivered by AlmaU experts Madina Smikova, Professor and PhD in Economics; Akdana Abuzhalitova, Senior Lecturer and Head of the Neuromarketing and Neuromanagement Laboratory; and Gulsanat Bekenova, Lecturer and Junior Researcher.

As part of the final assessment, participants presented team-based applied projects and shared the results of experiments ranging from website attractiveness evaluations to customer experience analysis in food service areas. Those who successfully completed the programme received professional development certificates.

The course reflects AlmaU’s commitment to lifelong learning and practice-oriented professional education. It enables academics and industry specialists to acquire contemporary research skills and apply neuromarketing tools in their professional activities.





https://almau.edu.kz/ru/almau-vypustil-tretij-potok-specialistov-s-kvalifikaciej-v-oblasti-nejromarketinga/

AlmaU Joins the PRME Champions Cohort 2026-2027

Almaty Management University has joined the PRME Champions Cohort 2026-2027, an international community of universities and business schools recognised as leaders in responsible management education. AlmaU is the only university in the region included in the new cohort.

The PRME Champion status is awarded through the Principles for Responsible Management Education initiative of the United Nations Global Compact. Participation in the PRME Champions Cohort provides a framework for peer learning and advancing responsible management education.

AlmaU's selection reflects the University's alignment with the global sustainable development agenda and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It also recognises AlmaU's long-term work to develop responsible management thinking and educational practices that generate positive social and economic impact.

The University's strategy incorporates the seven principles of responsible management education: purpose, values, teaching, research, partnership, practice, and exchange.

During 2026-2027, AlmaU will participate in international PRME Champions working groups, contribute to joint projects and research, and exchange good practices with leading management and business schools. This collaboration will help strengthen responsible leadership education and expand the University's contribution to sustainable development at the regional and global levels.

PRME Principles for Responsible Management Education

an initiative of the UN GLOBAL COMPACT

2026-2027 PRME Champions

Champion Institution	PRME Chapter	Country
Aalto University, School of Business	Nordic	Finland
Almaty Management University	Eurasia	Kazakhstan
Arden University	UK & Ireland	United Kingdom

https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-is-the-only-university-in-eurasia-recognized-in-the-prme-champions-cohort-2026-2027/

AlmaU Launches InspireEd, a Platform for Leaders Transforming Education in Kazakhstan

On January 29, 2026, AlmaU hosted the official launch of InspireEd, a new project initiated by the University's Institute of Education.



InspireEd is an intellectual platform that brings together education leaders, managers, and experts to promote innovation, professional leadership, and collaboration across Kazakhstan's education sector.

The event was opened by AlmaU President and Founder Asylbek Kozhakhmetov, who emphasised the strategic importance of leadership and innovative thinking in the development of the national education system. At the first meeting, Almagul Kanagatova, Founder and CEO of Global Nomad Education, delivered a presentation titled "Leadership in Education: A New Perspective."



The launch brought together school principals and deputy principals, university and college leaders and faculty members, academic managers, and representatives of NGOs and public organisations. The programme included a lecture on transforming management approaches, an open discussion of current educational challenges, and a networking session for professional exchange.



InspireEd creates a cross-sector space where academic expertise, practical experience, and leadership can contribute to improving education. Through open dialogue and cooperation, the platform aims to support professionals who are ready to take responsibility for the future of education and lead meaningful change in their communities.

https://almau.edu.kz/en/in-almau-inspireed-was-launched-a-platform-for-leaders-transforming-education-in-kazakhstan/

AlmaU Launches Faculty Development Programme on AI, Digital Technologies and ESG

On March 11, 2026, AlmaU launched "Transformation of Teaching Competencies: AI, Digital and ESG," a professional development programme for faculty members of the Graduate School of Business.

The programme began with the module "ESG in the Academic Process," delivered by Zhaniya Khaibullina, Director of the AlmaU Center for Sustainable Development, and Rustam Akhmetov, Professor of Practice at the Graduate School of Business. Participants explored key ESG trends, the Sustainable Development Goals, and methods for integrating sustainability principles, ESG case studies, and project-based learning into academic programmes.

Four additional practice-oriented modules address the use of artificial intelligence in teaching and research, AI-supported visual and media content, digital work environments, and the development of educational services using no-code tools. Participants will create practical outputs such as personal AI workflows, teaching presentations and infographics, course management tools, case platforms, decision-making simulators, and analytics dashboards.

The programme responds to the professional needs of faculty members by helping them reduce time spent on routine tasks, improve educational materials, and adopt interactive and visual teaching methods. Each module concludes with a specific product or resource that participants can immediately integrate into their courses.

By strengthening faculty competencies in artificial intelligence, digital technologies, and sustainability, the programme contributes to the continuous improvement of teaching quality and supports the transformation of AlmaU's educational environment.







https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-launches-professional-development-program-for-faculty-of-the-graduate-school-of-business-transformation-of-teaching-competencies-ai-digital-and-esg/

AlmaU and Lehigh University Complete the Second HDSE Leadership Intensive

AlmaU successfully concluded the second cohort of the Humanitarian Design and Social Entrepreneurship (HDSE) Leadership Intensive, an international educational programme implemented in partnership with Lehigh University in the United States.

The programme brought together students, young researchers, and aspiring entrepreneurs from Kazakhstan, other Central Asian countries, and the United States. It aimed to develop participants' competencies in leadership, social entrepreneurship, humanitarian design, and project management through international and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Over five intensive days, participants attended workshops and mentoring sessions, conducted field research, and developed projects in multidisciplinary teams. Using design thinking and social entrepreneurship approaches, they created practical solutions addressing environmental sustainability, climate resilience, inclusive education, access to technology, and community development.

Five teams presented their projects during the final showcase: Coco, Rexify, The Green Step, Almaty 4U, and Commitly. An international panel representing academia, international organisations, industry, and the sustainability sector assessed the projects based on innovation, feasibility, sustainability, scalability, and potential social impact. Rexify and Almaty 4U were selected as the winning teams.

The programme concluded with a reflection session, an awards ceremony, and the presentation of certificates jointly issued by AlmaU and Lehigh University. By combining experiential learning with international partnership, the HDSE Leadership Intensive equips emerging changemakers with the skills needed to develop sustainable solutions and generate positive social impact across Central Asia.





https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-successfully-concludes-the-second-cohort-of-the-hdse-leadership-intensive-2026/

First Young Leadership Programme for Future Student Leaders

From June 20 to July 11, 2026, AlmaU's AI Lab hosted the pilot Young Leadership Programme, organised by the Students Development Center to prepare students to lead university clubs, organisations, and initiatives.

Sixteen students participated in the four-week programme, which combined theoretical learning, practical exercises, case discussions, teamwork, networking, and collaborative problem-solving. AlmaU staff members, alumni, and invited industry professionals contributed their knowledge and experience as trainers and speakers.

The programme consisted of four modules: HR and Self-Leadership; Communication, Negotiation and Legal Awareness; Finance and Fundraising; and Project Management and Business. Participants developed practical competencies in team leadership, personal effectiveness, partnership building, reputation management, legal literacy, budgeting, fundraising, project implementation, and entrepreneurial decision-making.

A key outcome was the creation of the Leader's Master Book, a knowledge management resource designed to transfer experience to future generations of student leaders. Available in digital and printed formats, the guide contains training materials, practical recommendations, document templates, operational guidelines, good practices, and management tools for student organisations.

The programme concluded with a certificate ceremony for participants and invited speakers. Its pilot edition strengthened AlmaU's student leadership ecosystem and helped build a community founded on responsibility, initiative, teamwork, mutual support, and continuous personal development.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-successfully-concludes-the-first-young-leadership-program-for-future-student-organization-leaders/

5 GENDER EQUALITY



Introduction

SDG 5 aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Reaching this goal requires eliminating discrimination and violence, ensuring equal access to education and economic opportunities, recognising unpaid care work, and increasing women's participation in leadership and decision-making.

Key indicators used to measure progress towards SDG 5 include the prevalence of discriminatory practices and gender-based violence, women's representation in political, economic, academic, and managerial positions, access to reproductive healthcare, and the proportion of women with equal rights to economic resources. Access to technology and the existence of legislation and institutional policies supporting gender equality are also important measures.

Almaty Management University (AlmaU) contributes to the achievement of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 by promoting equal opportunities, women's leadership, and an inclusive academic environment. The University recognises that gender equality is essential for social justice, educational quality, economic development, and sustainable progress.

Through education, research, public dialogue, student initiatives, and institutional partnerships, AlmaU raises awareness of women's rights, personal safety, professional development, and the barriers women face in education, science, and employment. The University also supports women researchers, encourages girls' participation in STEM, and promotes women's representation in leadership and decision-making.

Initiatives such as "She in Science" and "Qamqor - Women's Safety" create spaces for open discussion, mutual support, and practical learning. Cooperation with UN Women further strengthens the integration of gender equality principles into academic programmes, research, volunteer activities, and institutional development.

By combining education, advocacy, research, and partnership, AlmaU seeks to foster a university culture in which all members of the community can learn, work, lead, and develop without discrimination. This approach reflects the University's commitment to women's empowerment and to building a more equal, safe, and inclusive society.

She in Science: Supporting Women's Leadership and Equal Opportunities in Research

Almaty Management University hosted "She in Science: Start and Development in Science," an event dedicated to the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. The programme recognised women's contributions to research and promoted a sustainable scientific community based on equal opportunity, professional resilience, leadership, and intellectual potential.

Representatives of AlmaU, UNESCO, and the academic community discussed the barriers affecting women's participation and career progression in science. Speakers highlighted gender stereotypes, unequal access to opportunities, online harassment, challenges in balancing research and family responsibilities, and the gradual decline in women's representation at senior academic levels and in STEM fields.

The programme included keynote presentations on women's participation in STEM, the realities of academic careers, and Synaptic Leadership - a human-centred leadership model built on professional connections, solidarity, and mutual support. Speakers emphasised the importance of safe professional communities in which women researchers can develop their careers and have their voices heard.

A panel discussion titled "Balancing Science and Life: Support, Mental Health, and Lack of Systemic Assistance" brought together women researchers from different disciplines. They shared personal experiences of doctoral education, international mobility, motherhood, field research, career development, and overcoming social and institutional barriers.

The event also featured an open microphone session, a reflective art-based activity, and informal networking. By encouraging honest dialogue about the realities of scientific careers, "She in Science" contributed to strengthening gender equality, supporting women's participation in research and STEM, and developing a more inclusive academic environment.





https://almau.edu.kz/en/she-in-science-start-and-development-in-science-how-women-build-this-path-without-glamour-and-illusions/

AlmaU Research Professor Receives the Naila Bazanova Award

Aknur Zhidebekkyzy, PhD and Research Professor at AlmaU's School of Management, received the special award named after Academician Naila Bazanova. The prize was established by the National Academy of Sciences under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.



The award ceremony took place on March 6, 2026, at the House of Science in Almaty ahead of International Women's Day. The Naila Bazanova Award was presented to women scientists in Kazakhstan for the first time.

The award recognises women's contributions to national science, supports scientific initiatives, and promotes the achievements of women researchers. The ceremony brought together leading women scientists, researchers, faculty members, and representatives of universities and scientific organisations.



The establishment of the award is an important step towards strengthening the visibility and role of women in Kazakhstan's scientific community. Aknur Zhidebekkyzy's achievement reflects AlmaU's commitment to supporting research excellence, gender equality, and women's leadership in science and education.

https://almau.edu.kz/en/research-professor-of-the-school-of-management-aknur-zhidebekkyzy-has-been-awarded-the-naila-bazanova-prize-of-the-national-academy-of-sciences/

She Matters: Promoting Solidarity, Safety and Gender Equality

On March 6, 2026, the AlmaU Students Development Center and the student initiative “Qamqor - Women’s Safety” organised a series of interactive activities to mark International Women’s Day and raise awareness of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality.

Students participated in discussions and activities focused on self-worth, confidence, social stereotypes, personal boundaries, rights, and safety. The programme encouraged participants to examine established beliefs and develop a better understanding of gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Activities included “Letter to Yourself,” an exercise in self-support and gratitude; “Tradition or Stereotype?”, an interactive discussion of common social beliefs; “Myth or Fact,” a knowledge-based activity about rights and safety; and a presentation on the history and significance of International Women’s Day.

The Qamqor initiative combines lectures, workshops, and peer support to create a community in which women can strengthen their confidence, increase their knowledge of their rights, develop personal safety skills, and support one another.

Through educational dialogue and student engagement, the event contributed to creating a safer and more inclusive university environment while promoting solidarity and gender equality within the AlmaU community.





https://almau.edu.kz/en/she-matters-international-women-s-day-solidarity-amp-action/

AlmaU and UN Women Sign Memorandum on Gender Equality

On September 10, 2026, Almaty Management University and UN Women in Kazakhstan signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen cooperation in gender equality and women's empowerment.



The Memorandum was signed by AlmaU Rector Timur Buldybayev and Dr. Ceren Güven Güres, Head of the Central Asia Liaison Office and UN Women Representative to the Country Office in Kazakhstan. The agreement marks a new stage in integrating gender equality principles into the University's educational, research, and institutional activities.



The partnership will support the development and dissemination of gender-related knowledge and research through the UN Women Knowledge Centre on Gender Equality. Its educational materials and case studies will also be integrated into AlmaU's academic programmes.

The parties plan to engage students and youth volunteer organisations in gender equality initiatives, including the Central Asian Alliance, CHANGE, HeForShe, and the "16 Days of Activism" campaign. Cooperation will also address women's economic empowerment, the elimination of violence against women and girls, women's leadership, and gender-responsive governance.



The Memorandum creates new opportunities for joint educational, research, and community initiatives supporting SDG 5: Gender Equality and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also strengthens AlmaU's role as a platform for advancing gender equality in Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-and-un-women-sign-memorandum-of-cooperation-on-gender-equality/

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Introduction

SDG 6 aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Achieving this goal requires universal access to safe and affordable drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene, improved water quality, efficient water use, and the protection of water-related ecosystems.

Key indicators used to measure progress towards SDG 6 include the proportion of the population with access to safely managed drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services. Other indicators assess wastewater treatment, water quality, water-use efficiency, levels of water stress, integrated water resource management, and the condition of freshwater ecosystems.

Almaty Management University (AlmaU) contributes to the achievement of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 by promoting responsible water consumption, environmental awareness, and sustainable resource management. The University recognises that water security is closely connected with public health, climate resilience, economic stability, and quality of life.

Through educational activities, public lectures, campus initiatives, and cooperation with external organisations, AlmaU raises awareness of water scarcity, water footprints, transboundary water resources, and the importance of efficient water use. These initiatives help students, employees, and members of the wider community understand how individual and institutional decisions affect water sustainability.

AlmaU also works to integrate responsible water-use practices into its campus operations. The University's participation in the Smart Water Zone initiative demonstrates its commitment to reducing its water footprint, improving resource efficiency, and fostering a culture of environmental responsibility.

By combining education, institutional practice, public engagement, and partnership, AlmaU seeks to contribute to sustainable water management in Kazakhstan and Central Asia. This approach reflects the University's commitment to protecting natural resources and supporting equitable access to clean water for present and future generations.

Why Every Drop Matters: AlmaU Holds Lecture on Water Security in Central Asia

On August 7, 2026, AlmaU held a public lecture at Almaty's Main Botanical Garden as part of the "Source of the Future" educational initiative. The lecture was delivered by Zhaniya Khaibullina, PhD and Director of the AlmaU Center for Sustainable Development.

Titled "Why Every Drop Matters," the lecture explored the links between water security, climate change, sustainable development, economic stability, and individual consumption choices. Participants discussed how water has become a critical factor in national, economic, and regional security.

Particular attention was given to Central Asia's dependence on transboundary water resources. Nearly half of Kazakhstan's surface water runoff originates outside the country, highlighting the importance of international cooperation and modern water management practices.

The Aral Sea was presented as a major example of the environmental and socioeconomic consequences of inefficient water use. The lecture also examined the Kokaral Dam as evidence that well-designed solutions can support ecosystem restoration, employment, local economic development, and improved quality of life.

Participants learned about green, blue, and grey water footprints and the concept of virtual water transferred through agricultural and industrial products. Practical recommendations included reducing food waste, choosing local and seasonal products, extending the lifespan of clothing, using water efficiently at home, and supporting businesses that adopt water-saving technologies.

The lecture promoted a culture of responsible water consumption and reinforced the shared responsibility of governments, businesses, academia, and society for advancing SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation and protecting Central Asia's water resources.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/why-every-drop-counts-a-lecture-on-water-security-and-the-future-of-central-asia-held-in-almaty/

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Introduction

SDG 7 aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. Achieving this goal requires expanding access to electricity and clean cooking technologies, increasing the share of renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, and strengthening international cooperation in clean energy research and technology.

Key indicators used to measure progress towards SDG 7 include the proportion of the population with access to electricity and clean cooking solutions, the share of renewable energy in total energy consumption, and improvements in energy efficiency. Other indicators assess investment in clean energy infrastructure, access to modern technologies, and international financial support for renewable energy development.

Almaty Management University (AlmaU) contributes to the achievement of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 7 through education, research, institutional partnerships, and sustainable campus development. The University recognises that affordable and clean energy is essential for addressing climate change, supporting economic development, and ensuring the sustainable growth of digital technologies.

AlmaU promotes awareness of renewable energy, energy efficiency, responsible consumption, and the relationship between energy systems and sustainable development. Through academic programmes, research initiatives, public engagement, and cooperation with universities, industry, government, and civil society, the University encourages the development and exchange of knowledge related to the clean energy transition.

As Vice-Chair for External Engagement and Partnerships of the United Nations Academic Impact Hub for SDG 7, AlmaU supports international academic cooperation and contributes to the global dialogue on affordable and clean energy. This role enables the University to strengthen partnerships, promote practical initiatives, and encourage research addressing current and future energy challenges.

AlmaU identifies Campus energy efficiency as a sustainability priority and has discussed plans for a new green Campus in the Almaty Region. Verified energy-audit findings, consumption baselines and emissions inventories are nor included in this report.

AlmaU Appointed Vice-Chair of the UNAI SDG 7 Hub

Almaty Management University has been appointed Vice-Chair for External Engagement and Partnerships of the United Nations Academic Impact Hub for SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy. AlmaU's term will run from March 2026 to December 2027.

The appointment places AlmaU among the universities contributing to the global academic agenda for sustainable energy and strengthens Kazakhstan's participation in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

In its new role, AlmaU will promote the UN 2030 Agenda through public engagement, international academic cooperation, and partnerships with universities, industry, government, and civil society. The University will work with the Central University of Venezuela, Lagos State University in Nigeria, and the Energy Policy and Development Centre at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens in Greece.

The initiative will support the integration of sustainable development principles into educational programmes, research projects, university operations, community engagement, and institutional partnerships. It will also encourage new research and practical initiatives that accelerate the transition to clean energy and support the sustainable development of digital technologies.

AlmaU was selected from among 340 universities for its leadership in promoting sustainable practices and its integration of education, applied research, and community engagement. The University is also continuing its development as an environmentally sustainable and energy-efficient institution and plans to construct a new green campus in the Almaty Region.

The UN Academic Impact network brings together more than 1,700 universities in 150 countries. AlmaU's leadership role within the SDG 7 Hub demonstrates its commitment to international cooperation, affordable and clean energy, and long-term sustainable development.



United Nations Academic Impact

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/unai-sdg-hub-7

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Introduction

SDG 8 aims to promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. Achieving this goal requires creating quality jobs, protecting labour rights, supporting entrepreneurship and innovation, improving resource efficiency, and ensuring equal employment opportunities for young people, women, and vulnerable groups.

Key indicators used to measure progress towards SDG 8 include economic growth and labour productivity, employment and unemployment rates, the proportion of young people not in education, employment, or training, and the prevalence of informal employment. Other indicators assess workplace safety, equal pay, labour rights, access to financial services, and the contribution of sustainable tourism and small enterprises to the economy.

Almaty Management University (AlmaU) contributes to the achievement of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 8 by preparing students and professionals for meaningful employment, responsible leadership, and entrepreneurship. The University recognises that quality education, practical skills, and cooperation with employers are essential for building an inclusive and resilient economy.

Through career-oriented academic programmes, internships, professional development courses, applied projects, and partnerships with businesses and public institutions, AlmaU helps learners acquire competencies relevant to a changing labour market. The University also supports entrepreneurship, innovation, digital skills, and interdisciplinary learning, enabling students to develop ideas that can generate economic and social value.

AlmaU promotes responsible management principles, ethical leadership, workplace inclusion, and sustainable business practices. Student competitions, business case studies, mentoring, and engagement with industry provide practical experience and help students make informed decisions about their careers.

By connecting education with employment, entrepreneurship, and professional development, AlmaU seeks to expand opportunities for decent work and productive participation in the economy. This approach reflects the University's commitment to developing responsible professionals and entrepreneurs who contribute to sustainable economic growth in Kazakhstan and beyond.

AlmaU Brings Industry Together to Develop Adventure Tourism in Kazakhstan

On December 4, 2025, AlmaU hosted the Adventure Travel Meetup, an industry event focused on developing Kazakhstan's national heritage trails and strengthening the country's adventure tourism sector.

Organised by Travel Massive Almaty, the AlmaU School of Management and Tourism, and KazAlpineClub, the event brought together tourism professionals, guides, urban planners, experts, faculty members, and students. Participants discussed opportunities for creating sustainable, accessible, and professionally managed tourism routes.

Experts reviewed international models for heritage trail development and discussed the Alatau Heritage Trail pilot project, "Alatau Amanaty." They presented the results of reconnaissance expeditions and route assessments, along with proposals for infrastructure development, trail management, accessibility, and tourism promotion.

Students from the AlmaU School of Management and Tourism presented more than 15 urban, recreational, and gastronomic routes. They also introduced concepts for visitor centres and digital services, demonstrating the practical application of their knowledge and their contribution to urban and regional tourism infrastructure.

The Adventure Travel Meetup strengthened cooperation between the University, the tourism industry, and the expert community. By supporting professional skills, innovation, and sustainable tourism development, the initiative contributes to employment opportunities, local economic growth, and the preservation and responsible use of Kazakhstan's natural and cultural heritage.





https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-unites-the-industry-to-develop-adventure-tourism-in-kazakhstan/

AlmaU Programmes Among the Leaders in the Atameken Ranking 2026

Almaty Management University was recognised as one of the leading universities in the 2026 ranking published by the Atameken National Chamber of Entrepreneurs. AlmaU's educational programmes achieved strong positions among universities in Kazakhstan, confirming the competitiveness and practical orientation of its academic provision.

The Atameken ranking has evaluated university programmes since 2018. Its assessment focuses on two main areas: the quality of educational programmes and graduates' career prospects. Indicators include graduate employment rates, the time required to enter the labour market, employer demand, and early career outcomes.

AlmaU develops its programmes in close cooperation with businesses and industry experts. This approach helps align education with labour market needs and supports students' transition from university to employment. Approximately 83% of AlmaU graduates secure employment within three months of graduation.

Several programmes showed notable progress in the 2026 ranking. The Marketing programme rose from 10th to 4th place, while the Information Systems programme improved its position by five places compared with the previous year.

The ranking results reflect AlmaU's commitment to educational quality, industry engagement, and sustainable career pathways. By providing students with relevant knowledge and practical skills, the University contributes to productive employment and the development of a competitive workforce in Kazakhstan.



https://almau.edu.kz/ru/programmy-almau-v-tope-rejtinga-atameken-2026/

AlmaU Receives CPA Eurasia Accreditation for the Accounting and Audit Programme

On February 3, 2026, AlmaU held a ceremony marking the international CPA Eurasia accreditation of its Accounting and Audit programme. The accreditation confirms that the programme meets international standards in accounting, auditing, and finance.

Ásel Arynqyzy, Vice-Rector for Academic Development, highlighted the accreditation as an important step in improving educational quality and expanding professional opportunities for students.

Representatives of EICPA and Kazakhstan's professional accounting community participated in the event. Speakers emphasised the programme's practical orientation and its value in preparing students for careers in accounting, auditing, and finance.

During the ceremony, students received the CPA Eurasia certificate and educational materials. The accreditation provides students and graduates with broader career prospects and supports the recognition of their qualifications across Eurasian countries.

By aligning its academic programmes with international professional standards and cooperating with industry organisations, AlmaU strengthens the connection between education and employment and prepares graduates for successful professional development.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-receives-international-cpa-eurasia-accreditation-for-the-accounting-and-audit-program/

AlmaU Completes “Manager Standard” Programme for Oil Services Company Employees

AlmaU’s representative office in Aktau successfully completed the “Manager Standard” corporate professional development programme for employees of Oil Services Company.

Delivered from October 18 to December 21, 2025, the programme comprised 120 academic hours of intensive training. Seven modules introduced participants to contemporary management approaches and practical tools for effective leadership and organisational performance.

The programme was delivered to two groups of company managers, with 20 participants in each group. Particular attention was given to leadership competencies, systemic managerial thinking, and the improvement of operational efficiency.

Participants worked in teams to develop projects addressing real operational challenges within the company. Following their successful final presentations, the proposed solutions began to be integrated into the company’s operational processes.

The initiative demonstrates the value of cooperation between universities and industry in supporting lifelong learning and workforce development. By strengthening managerial competencies and applying learning directly in the workplace, the programme contributes to professional growth, organisational effectiveness, and sustainable economic development.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-s-corporate-program-manager-standard-for-oil-services-company-employees-concludes-in-aktau/

MBA AlmaU Impact Forum Held in Kyzylorda

On March 21, 2026, the MBA AlmaU Impact Forum: “Leaders’ Dialogue” was held in Kyzylorda with the support of the Akimat of Kyzylorda Region. The event brought together entrepreneurs, company executives, business and leadership experts, and graduates of AlmaU’s MBA and DBA programmes.

The forum focused on the contribution of entrepreneurship and business education to the development of the Kyzylorda Region. Participants discussed the transformation of traditional industries, changes in the labour market, and the growing importance of human capital in responding to regional economic challenges.



More than 150 participants from the Kyzylorda Region have completed AlmaU’s MBA and DBA programmes in recent years. They include entrepreneurs, senior executives, healthcare professionals, and public officials who apply their management knowledge across different sectors of the regional economy.

Entrepreneur and personal branding expert Alisher Yelikbayev delivered a presentation on the role of personal branding in impact leadership. AlmaU MBA graduates also shared practical cases demonstrating how education and entrepreneurship can generate positive change in the region.

The forum created a platform for dialogue between business, education, government, and professional communities. By supporting leadership development, entrepreneurship, and lifelong learning, the initiative contributes to human capital development, productive employment, and sustainable regional economic growth.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/mba-almau-impact-forum-held-in-kyzylorda/

AlmaU Hosts International Case Championship “CrackIt 2026”

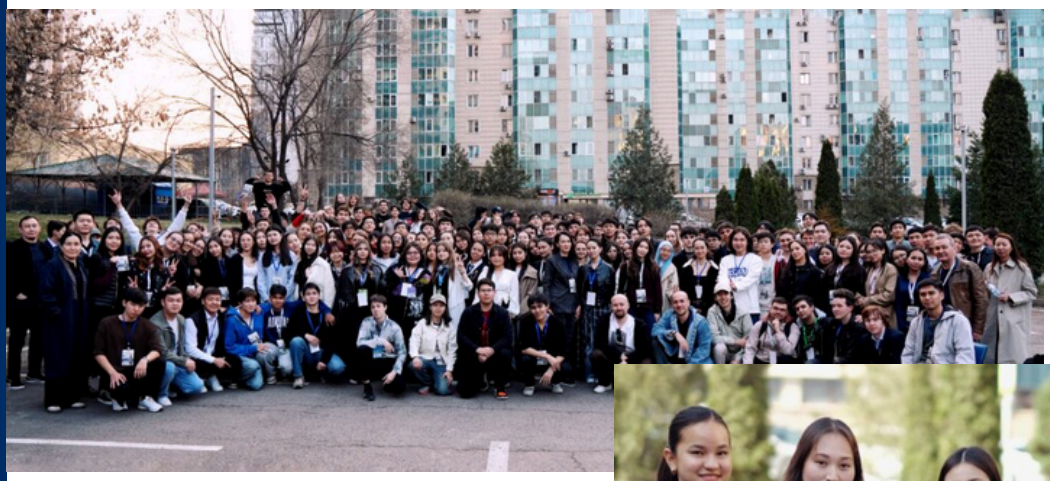
On March 27, 2026, AlmaU hosted the international case championship “CrackIt 2026,” organised by the AlmaU Institute of Entrepreneurship. The event brought together school, college, and university students from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan.

A total of 250 participants formed 59 teams to develop solutions for real business challenges presented by Verigram, BIART, Mars Petcare, Kcell, and NYM. Through this practice-oriented format, participants strengthened their analytical thinking, teamwork, project management, problem-solving, and presentation skills.

The winning teams were Adeptus from AlmaU in the Verigram case, Team from the Academy of Civil Aviation in the BIART case, Top One from the International Information Technology University in the Mars Petcare case, Crackers from AlmaU in the Kcell case, and AUCA from the American University of Central Asia in the NYM case.

The championship expanded cooperation between AlmaU and its industry partners while strengthening international engagement among young people across Central Asia. It also created opportunities for participants to apply academic knowledge, interact with businesses, and develop competencies relevant to their future careers.

By connecting education, industry, and young talent, “CrackIt 2026” reinforced AlmaU’s role as a platform for practice-oriented learning and contributed to preparing future professionals capable of addressing real-world business challenges.





https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-hosted-the-international-case-championship-crackit-2026/

MBA Impact Forum 2026 Held in Astana

Astana hosted MBA Impact Forum 2026, bringing together business leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, experts, and members of the AlmaU MBA alumni community. The forum marked the 30th anniversary of the AlmaU Graduate School of Business, the first institution in Kazakhstan to launch an MBA programme.

The event focused on business growth in an era of uncertainty, values-based leadership, and the contribution of business education to the real economy. Speakers emphasised that the impact of an MBA or DBA programme extends beyond formal qualifications by creating professional communities that exchange knowledge, experience, and practical solutions.

International experts discussed how artificial intelligence, automation, digitalisation, and biometric technologies are transforming business operations and the labour market. Particular attention was given to the changing demand for entry-level professionals and the need for universities to equip graduates with skills that remain valuable in an AI-driven economy.

The forum also explored the importance of human qualities such as trust, empathy, critical thinking, and responsible decision-making. Participants considered how business leaders can combine technological innovation with human-centred values and sustainable approaches to workforce development.

A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the AlmaU Graduate School of Business and BIArt School of Creative Industries. The event also introduced a new lifelong membership model designed to support continuous learning and long-term professional development.

MBA Impact Forum 2026 strengthened dialogue between education and business and highlighted the role of leadership, innovation, and lifelong learning in promoting productive employment and sustainable economic growth.





https://almau.edu.kz/en/mba-impact-forum-2026-held-in-astana-celebrating-30-years-of-gsb-almau-discussing-ai-challenges-and-signing-a-memorandum-with-biart/

AlmaU Hosts Annual Altyn Tamga and Altyn Alma Awards Ceremony

On June 23, 2026, AlmaU held its annual Altyn Tamga and Altyn Alma Awards Ceremony at the Atrium Grand Hall. Organised by the Students Development Center, the event brought together students, faculty members, and staff to recognise outstanding leadership, initiative, professionalism, creativity, and service to the university community.

The Altyn Tamga Awards honoured achievements across ten categories. Arnur Kairly was named Student of the Year, Daniil Potseluiko received the Graduate of the Year award, and Assem Kassybayeva was recognised as Entrepreneur of the Year. Other awards celebrated student activism, international engagement, design, video production, projects, and student clubs.

The annual Altyn Alma Awards recognised students who made a meaningful contribution to student life. The categories included Leader of the Year, Staff Member of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Artist of the Year, Promotional Project of the Year, and Couple of the Year.

During the ceremony, award recipients reflected on their experiences and acknowledged the support of mentors, teams, friends, and families. Their stories demonstrated the importance of dedication, collaboration, and continuous personal development.

The Altyn Tamga and Altyn Alma Awards strengthen a culture of achievement and engagement at AlmaU. By recognising leadership, entrepreneurship, volunteering, creativity, and teamwork, the initiative encourages students to develop practical skills, pursue new ideas, and make a positive contribution to university life and the wider community.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-hosted-the-annual-altyn-tamga-and-altyn-alma-awards-ceremony/

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Introduction

SDG 9 aims to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation. Achieving this goal requires investment in reliable transport, energy, and digital infrastructure, support for research and technological development, and expanded access to finance and markets for small enterprises.

Key indicators used to measure progress towards SDG 9 include the quality and accessibility of infrastructure, manufacturing value added and employment, investment in research and development, and the number of researchers. Other indicators assess access to financial services, the environmental efficiency of industry, technological capabilities, and access to mobile and internet networks.

Almaty Management University (AlmaU) contributes to the achievement of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 9 through education, applied research, entrepreneurship, digital transformation, and cooperation with industry. The University recognises that innovation and resilient infrastructure are essential for economic competitiveness, social development, and the transition towards a sustainable economy.

Through academic programmes, laboratories, research projects, business case competitions, and partnerships with companies and public institutions, AlmaU helps students and professionals develop skills in technology, analytics, innovation management, and entrepreneurship. Practice-oriented learning enables participants to apply their knowledge to real economic, social, and infrastructure challenges.

AlmaU also supports dialogue between academia, business, government, and international partners on the future of transport, logistics, artificial intelligence, digital services, and sustainable infrastructure. These activities encourage knowledge exchange, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the development of innovative solutions relevant to Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

By connecting education and research with industry needs, AlmaU seeks to strengthen innovation capacity, support responsible technological development, and prepare specialists for emerging sectors of the economy. This approach reflects the University's commitment to resilient infrastructure, sustainable industrial growth, and inclusive innovation.

AlmaU Brings Leaders Together to Shape the Future of Logistics in Kazakhstan

On December 5, 2025, AlmaU hosted the Second International Scientific and Practical Conference, "Integration of Science, Education and Business: The Path to Leadership in Logistics." The event brought together industry experts, government representatives, international businesses, and academics to discuss the strategic development of Kazakhstan's transport and logistics sector.

Participants examined major infrastructure projects and Kazakhstan's growing role as a reliable investment partner and transit hub. Particular attention was given to the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route, or Middle Corridor, which has experienced significant growth in container traffic between China and Europe.

The conference also addressed the digitalisation of transport and the creation of seamless logistics chains connecting Asia and Europe. Experts discussed the use of data analytics, blockchain, multimodal services, and other technologies to improve transparency, security, traceability, and operational efficiency.

Workforce development was another central theme. Speakers noted that employment growth in Kazakhstan's transport sector could create demand for 75,000 additional jobs by 2030. Emerging professions include BIM specialists, digital logistics operators, drone pilots, and supply-chain data analysts.

Participants highlighted the importance of dual education, stronger cooperation between universities and businesses, and the development of technical and interpersonal skills. Industry representatives shared examples of workplace learning at terminals and warehouses, demonstrating how investment in students can reduce adaptation time and create a qualified talent pipeline.

The conference strengthened cooperation between science, education, government, and business. By supporting infrastructure development, technological innovation, and workforce preparation, the initiative contributes to Kazakhstan's ambition to become a major logistics hub connecting China, Europe, and Central Asia.



https://almau.edu.kz/ru/almau-obedinyaet-liderov-chtoby-vmeste-sozdat-budushhee-logistiki-kazahstana/

AlmaU Opens the AI Lab Center for Artificial Intelligence

On December 11, 2025, AlmaU officially opened the AlmaU AI Lab Center for Artificial Intelligence at the School of Digital Technologies and Economics. The new platform connects education, research, industry, the public sector, and entrepreneurship.

The Center promotes the concept of "Tolyq AI," inspired by Abai's philosophy of "Tolyq Adam." This approach views artificial intelligence as a technology that should be guided by ethics, human values, and social purpose.

The AI Lab's first priority is to modernise education and strengthen the University's research capacity. The Oqulabs and Delicatest platforms have already been integrated into academic programmes to automate the assessment of complex assignments, analyse student behaviour, detect academic dishonesty, and provide objective performance analytics. The Center's research infrastructure also includes two mini-supercomputers provided by ASUS and ZERDE Business Solutions.

The second priority is the development of practical solutions for industry and the public sector. A pilot project with Kostanay Minerals produced an AI model for predicting ore moisture levels, demonstrating the potential to improve production efficiency. The Center also plans to develop solutions for transport, environmental protection, urban safety, agriculture, and resource management.

The third priority is technological entrepreneurship. Students from across Kazakhstan will be able to create AI products, join startup competitions and acceleration programmes, access partner data and funding, and implement their solutions in companies and public institutions.

During the opening ceremony, AlmaU signed cooperation memorandums with Almaty HUB, the Akimat of Almaty, Teachers Lab, and Tech People Community. By combining research infrastructure, applied innovation, education, and entrepreneurship, the AI Lab contributes to Kazakhstan's digital transformation and the development of an inclusive innovation ecosystem.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/the-almau-ai-lab-center-for-artificial-intelligence-opens-at-almau/

AlmaU Student Launches Three Mobile Applications on the App Store

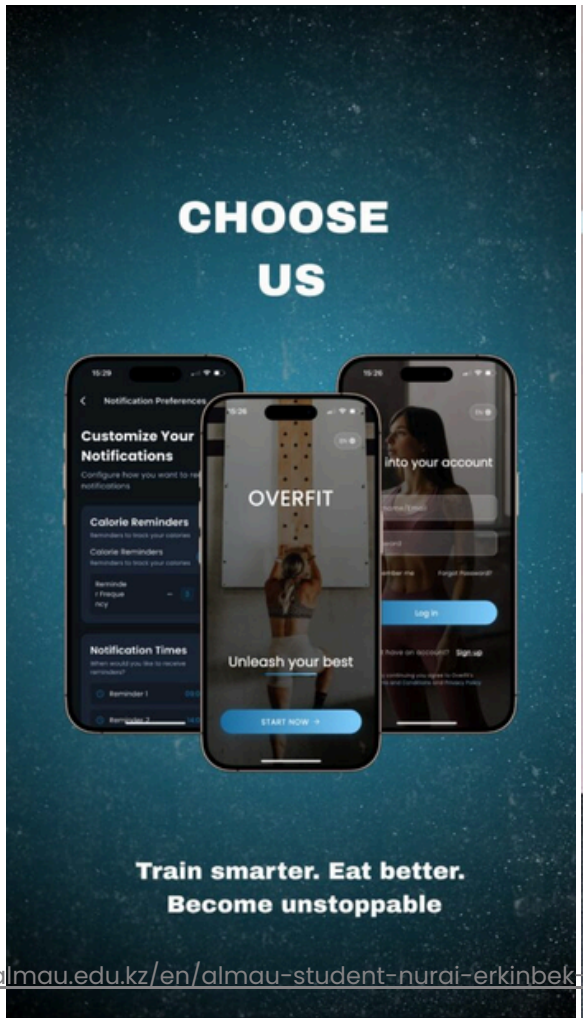
Nurai Erkinbek, a second-year student in AlmaU's Content Marketing and Data Analysis programme, independently developed and published three mobile applications on the App Store. Her projects combine artificial intelligence, education, nutrition, and mobile gaming.

Overfit uses artificial intelligence to identify food ingredients from photographs, estimate calorie content, track nutrition goals, and support users through an AI assistant. Go.com is an AI-powered platform designed to teach beginners how to play Go. Chess Royal is a fantasy-style mobile chess game featuring animated 3D pieces and an immersive game environment.

Nurai managed the complete development cycle for each product, including concept development, programming, design, marketing, strategy, and promotion. To build the applications, she learned to integrate specialised game engines and use Blender to create 3D models and animations.

Go.com received approximately 100 downloads during its first week and later reached around 200 installations. Its users come from several countries, including Kazakhstan, China, and the United States.

The projects demonstrate how AlmaU's interdisciplinary approach can support student innovation and technological entrepreneurship. By combining technology, data analytics, marketing, and content creation, students can develop digital products and introduce them to global markets.





https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-student-nurai-erkinbek-launches-three-mobile-applications-on-the-app-store/

AlmaU Hosts International Conference on the Future of Higher Education in the AI Era

On March 18, 2026, AlmaU hosted the First International Scientific and Practical Conference, “Digital Education in the Era of Artificial Intelligence.” The event brought together government representatives, university leaders, researchers, and practitioners from Kazakhstan and other countries.

Vice Minister of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan Dinara Shcheglova presented the AI-Sana national initiative and outlined government priorities for developing AI competencies, supporting scientific research, and creating a sustainable digital ecosystem for higher education.

International experts from the United Kingdom, Finland, Malaysia, Australia, and other countries contributed to discussions on the transformation of teaching, learning, assessment, and competency development under the influence of artificial intelligence.

The programme covered the integration of AI into educational processes, digital and research competencies, personalised learning pathways, online education, academic integrity, ethics, and the governance of generative artificial intelligence. Participants also examined practical cases in which AI serves not only as an automation tool but also as a partner in learning and decision-making.

The conference strengthened international and cross-sector cooperation on digital education and responsible technological development. It also reinforced Kazakhstan’s growing role as a platform for discussing global educational innovation and the future of higher education.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/the-future-of-higher-education-in-the-era-of-artificial-intelligence-discussed-at-almau/

AlmaU Develops a Digital Twin for University Management

AlmaU's School of Digital Technologies and Economics is developing a digital twin of the University - a dynamic digital model integrating key institutional processes into a single analytical environment.

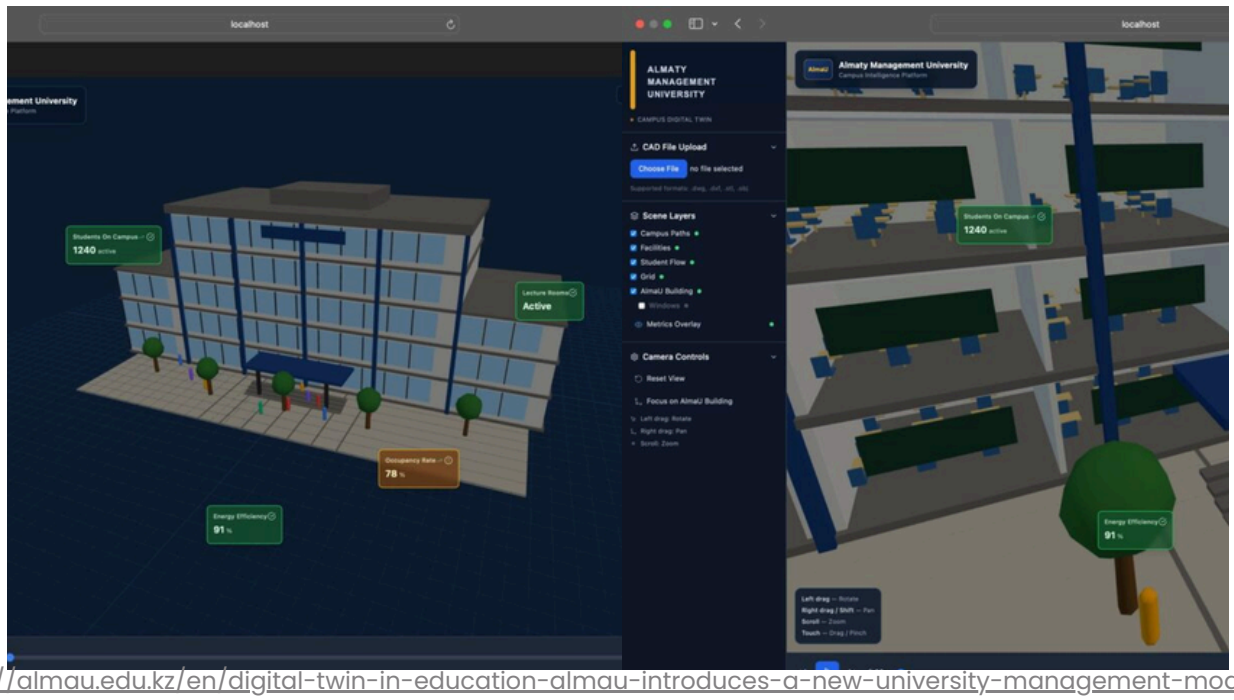
The platform combines data on facilities, classroom use, academic schedules, faculty workloads, campus movement, student performance, financial indicators, and institutional KPIs. Unlike conventional information systems, it enables real-time analysis, three-dimensional visualisation, scenario modelling, and the testing of management decisions before implementation.

The digital twin will support more efficient use of classrooms and infrastructure, improved scheduling, balanced faculty workloads, and early identification of academic risks. It will also enable personalised learning recommendations, enrolment modelling, evaluation of new academic programmes, and forecasting of institutional performance.

The system integrates existing learning management, enterprise resource planning, access control, and IoT data sources. Artificial intelligence, predictive analytics, behavioural analysis, and optimisation algorithms provide users with dashboards, interactive maps, a 3D campus model, and natural-language query tools.

The project has progressed from concept development to pilot implementation. Its architecture, core data model, and user experience concept have been completed, while initial visualisation and analytical scenarios are operating in test mode. The University expects the system to increase infrastructure utilisation by 15-30% and reduce operational costs.

In the longer term, the digital twin could support student startups, academic research, and the development of commercial solutions for other educational institutions. By applying industrial digital twin technology to higher education, AlmaU is creating an innovative foundation for evidence-based management and a new digital education ecosystem.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/digital-twin-in-education-almau-introduces-a-new-university-management-model/

Seventh Yessenov Data Lab Summer School Concludes at AlmaU

AlmaU and the Shakhmardan Yessenov Science and Education Foundation jointly organised the seventh Yessenov Data Lab educational intensive for data analysts. The four-week Summer School brought together 20 competition winners selected from 159 applicants across Kazakhstan.

Participants worked with contemporary tools including GPT, Claude, Jupyter Notebook, and Codex. Using real datasets, they developed projects, created AI agents, and studied large language models, machine learning, natural language processing, and AI-assisted software development.

The first two weeks of the programme were delivered online by Kazakhstani professors Kuanysh Abeshev and Timur Bakibayev. The final two weeks took place at AlmaU and included guest lectures by international experts Saed Hussain from the United Kingdom and Carl Illustrisimo from the United States.

The Yessenov Foundation fully covered participants' tuition, accommodation, and meals, helping students and young researchers from different cities and universities access advanced training. Nineteen graduates joined the YDL alumni community, which now includes more than 130 data specialists from across Kazakhstan.

Operating since 2018, Yessenov Data Lab has become an important national platform for developing competencies in data science, artificial intelligence, and machine learning. The programme strengthens Kazakhstan's technological talent base and prepares young specialists to contribute to research, innovation, and the digital economy.









https://almau.edu.kz/en/the-7th-summer-school-for-data-analysts-concluded-at-almau/

AlmaU Submits Three Projects to the Almaty Akimat Scientific Grant Competition

AlmaU submitted three applied research proposals to the 2026 Scientific Grant Competition organised by the Akimat of Almaty. The proposals were selected for their potential for practical implementation, scaling, and commercialisation.

The submitted projects are:

- Almaty Predictive Culture Analytics - an AI-powered predictive analytics system for Almaty's cultural institutions, led by Tatiana Soldatenko, PhD and Associate Professor at AlmaU.
- Zabota.asia: De-identified Registries for Local Research - a no-code digital platform for de-identified patient registries and AI-supported analysis of treatment outcomes for chronic non-communicable diseases, led by Aida Salimzhankyzy Omir, PhD.
- HYDROROCK Smart Tree Irrigation - an intelligent underground irrigation system using IoT sensors and digital monitoring to improve water efficiency and support sustainable urban greening, led by Darhan Yerezhep, PhD and Associate Professor.

Each project is designed for a 12-month implementation period, with requested funding amounting to KZT 34.8 million.

The initiatives address three priority areas for Almaty: the digital transformation of the urban environment, healthcare and social sustainability, and the Green Almaty agenda. By connecting academic research with practical urban challenges, the projects demonstrate AlmaU's contribution to innovation, digital infrastructure, and sustainable city development.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-submits-three-projects-to-the-almaty-akimat-scientific-grant-competition/

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Introduction

SDG 10 aims to reduce inequality within and among countries. Achieving this goal requires promoting the social, economic, and political inclusion of all people, regardless of age, gender, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, economic status, or other characteristics.

Key indicators used to measure progress towards SDG 10 include income growth among the lowest-income groups, the proportion of people living below half of the median income, and the prevalence of discrimination. Other indicators assess labour income, social protection, representation in decision-making, migration policies, and financial flows to developing countries.

Almaty Management University (AlmaU) contributes to the achievement of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 10 by promoting inclusion, equal opportunity, and access to education. The University recognises that reducing inequality requires removing barriers that prevent individuals and communities from participating fully in education, employment, and public life.

Through scholarships, educational grants, flexible learning formats, community programmes, and international partnerships, AlmaU seeks to expand access to knowledge and professional development. The University supports students from different social, cultural, and economic backgrounds and encourages an environment based on dignity, respect, and equal participation.

AlmaU also promotes inclusive education and dialogue on the needs of people with disabilities and other groups facing social or institutional barriers. Conferences, research, student initiatives, and partnerships help raise awareness of accessibility, diversity, employment opportunities, and inclusive leadership.

By combining educational access, institutional support, community engagement, and international cooperation, AlmaU aims to create pathways for personal and professional development. This approach reflects the University's commitment to a fairer society in which every person can develop their abilities and contribute meaningfully to sustainable development.

AlmaU Hosts the Second Day of the World Congress on Inclusive Education

On October 16, 2025, Almaty Management University hosted the second day of the World Congress on Inclusive Education. The event brought together experts, educators, and researchers from Kazakhstan, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, India, the Netherlands, Malaysia, Zambia, Qatar, and other countries.

The Congress served as an international platform for discussing inclusion, leadership, educational innovation, and the development of learning ecosystems in which every child and young person can realise their potential.

The second-day panel sessions focused on youth voices and participation, preparing young people with disabilities for employment in the hospitality industry, and raising expectations and developing potential in post-secondary education.

Participants discussed the importance of active youth engagement, expanded employment opportunities, and professional self-realisation for people who face educational and social barriers. They also examined how inclusive approaches can strengthen a sense of belonging, reveal each learner's abilities, and create equal opportunities for education and employment.

By hosting the Congress, AlmaU strengthened international dialogue and cooperation in inclusive education. The event reflected the University's commitment to equal access, diversity, human-centred leadership, and the creation of an open and equitable educational environment.









https://almau.edu.kz/ru/vtoroj-den-vsemirnogo-kongressa-po-inkljuzivnomu-obrazovaniju-prohodil-na-baze-almau/

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Introduction

SDG 11 aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. Achieving this goal requires improving access to affordable housing, safe transport, public spaces, essential services, and participatory urban planning while reducing the environmental impact of cities.

Key indicators used to measure progress towards SDG 11 include access to adequate housing and public transport, the proportion of urban residents living in informal settlements, air quality, waste management, and access to safe and inclusive green spaces. Other indicators assess disaster resilience, protection of cultural and natural heritage, and public participation in urban development.

Almaty Management University (AlmaU) contributes to the achievement of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11 through education, applied research, community engagement, and partnerships focused on urban development. The University recognises that sustainable cities require cooperation between government, business, academia, and local communities.

Through student projects, public lectures, research initiatives, and cooperation with the Akimat of Almaty and other organisations, AlmaU supports the development of practical solutions for urban mobility, tourism, environmental protection, resource management, public safety, and digital infrastructure.
The University also encourages students and researchers to explore sustainable urban planning, inclusive public spaces, responsible tourism, smart technologies, and the preservation of cultural and natural heritage. These activities connect academic knowledge with the real needs of cities and their residents.

By combining innovation, interdisciplinary learning, and community partnership, AlmaU seeks to contribute to a more accessible, resilient, and environmentally responsible urban environment. This approach reflects the University's commitment to improving quality of life and supporting the sustainable development of Almaty and other communities in Kazakhstan.

Preservation of Cultural Heritage

On March 13, 2026, the AlmaU Open Library hosted the cultural meeting “Shezhireli Qulaq Küy.” The event was jointly organised by the QulaqKüi platform, the AlmaU Student Development Center, and the Tolyq Adam Institute.

The programme included a screening of the documentary film “Ustaz-Shakirt,” dedicated to mentorship in the art of küy. The film demonstrated how Kazakhstan’s intangible cultural heritage is preserved through the transmission of knowledge, artistic skills, and spiritual values from one generation to the next.

Traditional küy master Bılal Ysqaqov Alpanuly spoke about the history of küy and the mentor-student tradition. He performed several compositions, shared his experience of learning from Shaikhy, the grandson of the renowned küyshi Tättimbet, and presented the University with the book “Dombra Sazy.”

The event was open to all AlmaU students and employees, providing accessible opportunities to engage with Kazakhstan’s musical heritage. By creating an inclusive cultural space, the meeting strengthened community connections and encouraged younger generations to appreciate and continue national traditions.





https://almau.edu.kz/en/cultural-meeting-shezhireli-qulaq-kuy/

AlmaU Launches Urban Development Training Programme for Civil Servants

On April 6, 2026, the AlmaU Institute of Urban Studies launched an intensive professional training and retraining programme for civil servants working in architecture, urban planning, construction, land relations, housing, and public utilities.

Implemented under an assignment from First Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Roman Sklyar, the programme aims to strengthen professional competencies in sustainable urban management and improve the quality of planning decisions across the country.

The course covers territorial planning, international urban development practices, zoning and land-use instruments, infrastructure financing, and digital technologies for city planning. Participants represent relevant government departments from all regions of Kazakhstan.

The programme combines theoretical instruction with applied learning. Field sessions at the Almaty Center for Labor Mobility and the ONAY! transport holding allow participants to work on real cases involving transport analysis, infrastructure management, and participatory urban design. Training is delivered in two cohorts and concludes with professional retraining certificates.





https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-launches-training-program-for-civil-servants-in-urban-development/

Uly Dala Academy Opens at AlmaU to Preserve and Reinterpret Steppe Heritage

On April 24, 2026, AlmaU officially opened the Uly Dala Academy, an interdisciplinary research centre dedicated to studying and reinterpreting the heritage of steppe civilisation in response to contemporary global challenges.

The Academy brings together scholars, educators, cultural figures, public leaders, and international experts in history, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, literature, and related disciplines. Its mission is to transform cultural heritage into a modern educational and intellectual resource through research, academic programmes, youth leadership, public dialogue, and creative industries.

The Centre's work will focus on three areas: Dalalyk Philosophia (Steppe Philosophy), examining humanity's place in the world; Dalalyk Oylau (Steppe Thinking), exploring concepts of space, time, movement, and balance; and Dalalyk Baskaru (Steppe Governance and Leadership), studying historical models of social organisation and leadership.

The opening programme addressed identity, historical memory, ancient Turkic writing, runic heritage, environmental responsibility, and humanitarian cooperation among the peoples of Central Asia. Participants also discussed how traditional approaches to land stewardship, resilience, and social balance can inform contemporary education and sustainable development.

The event included recognition of senior scholars who have contributed to national science and heritage preservation, as well as the presentation of new historical publications donated to the AlmaU Library. These activities support the transmission of knowledge between generations and expand public access to research on the Great Steppe.

The Uly Dala Academy contributes directly to SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, particularly Target 11.4 on protecting cultural heritage. By preserving historical knowledge and integrating it into education, research, and public dialogue, AlmaU strengthens cultural identity and supports inclusive, resilient communities connected to their heritage.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/philosophy-of-steppe-thinking-uly-dala-academy-opens-at-almau/

AlmaU Completes Comprehensive Urbanism Programme for Public-Sector Managers

From April 6 to 24, 2026, the AlmaU Urban Studies Institute delivered a large-scale professional training programme for public servants on behalf of the Ministry of Industry and Construction of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Across two cohorts, 47 managers and specialists completed the programme. Participants included deputy akims and heads of departments responsible for housing and utilities, construction, architecture, and land management from several regions and cities of Kazakhstan.

The programme addressed current urban governance priorities, including implementation of the new Construction Code, development of design codes, strategic planning, transport policy, applied urbanism, and landscape architecture. Participants received practical tools and implementation frameworks relevant to their work in regional and municipal government.

Training combined classroom instruction with field-based learning. In cooperation with NIIP Almatygenplan, the Almaty City Development Center, ONAY, and other professional organisations, participants examined smart transport systems, real-time urban monitoring, and the use of big data for evidence-based decision-making.

The AlmaU Urban Studies Institute integrates international and local practices to support the transition from fragmented decision-making to systemic urban governance. The experience gained through the programme will help public-sector managers develop more accessible, resilient, and sustainable urban environments in Kazakhstan's regions.





https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-completes-comprehensive-urbanism-programs-for-public-sector-managers/

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Introduction

SDG 12 aims to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. Achieving this goal requires using natural resources efficiently, reducing waste and pollution, promoting sustainable business practices, and encouraging individuals and organisations to make responsible consumption choices.

Key indicators used to measure progress towards SDG 12 include material consumption and resource productivity, food loss and waste, recycling rates, and the environmentally sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste. Other indicators assess sustainable public procurement, corporate sustainability reporting, environmental education, and support for more responsible production practices.

Almaty Management University (AlmaU) contributes to United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12 through education and responsible management training. Campus wide waste generation, recycling and landfill quantities are not provided in this report and require separate verified operational records.

Through academic programmes, public lectures, student initiatives, and partnerships, AlmaU promotes awareness of responsible consumption, waste reduction, water efficiency, sustainable business, and ESG principles. These activities help students and employees understand the environmental and social consequences of everyday and organisational decisions.

The University also works to integrate sustainability into its institutional practices by improving resource efficiency and encouraging a campus culture based on conscious consumption. Participation in environmental initiatives and cooperation with external organisations support the practical implementation of responsible water use, waste management, and sustainable procurement.

By combining education, operational improvements, research, and public engagement, AlmaU seeks to reduce its environmental impact and prepare responsible professionals capable of advancing sustainable production and consumption. This approach reflects the University's commitment to efficient resource use and long-term environmental responsibility.

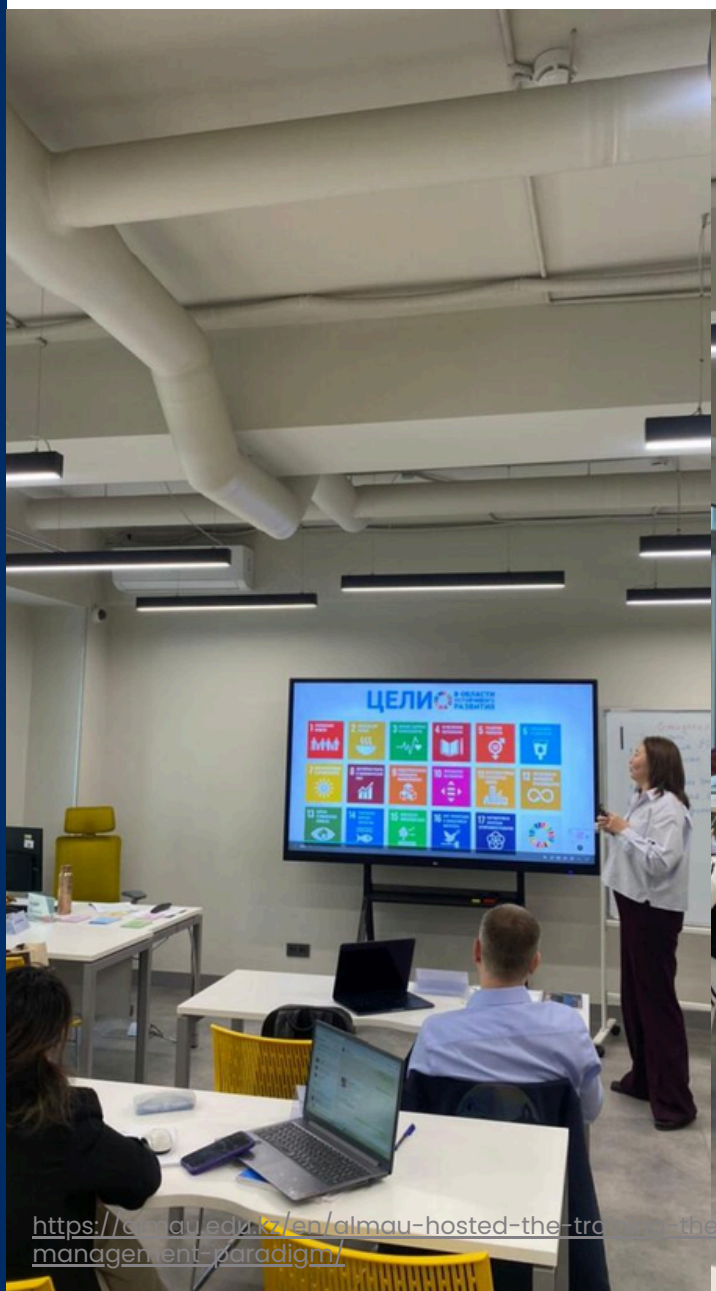
AlmaU Hosts Training on ESG as a New Management Paradigm

On May 15-16, 2026, AlmaU hosted the two-day professional training programme “The Future of Sustainable Business: ESG as a New Management Paradigm.”

The programme brought together executives and specialists from the financial and insurance sectors, international economic cooperation institutions, and corporate finance. Participants represented areas including strategic development, corporate governance, investment, and sustainability.

The training combined professional dialogue with practical exchange. Participants discussed industry cases and explored how environmental, social, and governance principles could be integrated into organisational strategies, management systems, investment decisions, and daily operations.

The programme supports learning on responsible business management and ESG principles relevant to SDG12. Through professional education and cross-sector dialogue, AlmaU supports the development of responsible business models that consider environmental impact, social responsibility, and long-term economic value.





https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-hosted-the-training-the-future-of-sustainable-business-esg-as-a-new-management-paradigm/

13 CLIMATE ACTION



Introduction

SDG 13 calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Achieving this goal requires reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening resilience to climate-related hazards, integrating climate measures into policies and planning, and expanding education and international cooperation.

Key indicators used to measure progress towards SDG 13 include deaths and economic losses caused by climate-related disasters, the adoption of national adaptation and mitigation strategies, and the integration of climate action into public policy. Other indicators assess climate finance, institutional capacity, early-warning systems, and climate change education.

Almaty Management University (AlmaU) contributes to the achievement of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 13 through climate-related education, applied research, international cooperation. The University recognises climate change as an environmental, economic, and social challenge requiring interdisciplinary and collaborative solutions.

Through academic programmes, public lectures, research projects, and student initiatives, AlmaU promotes awareness of climate risks, adaptation, resilience, responsible resource use, and sustainable development. These activities help students and professionals understand the relationship between climate change, water security, energy, urban development, business, and public policy.

AlmaU's participation in the UN Climate Change Universities Partnership Programme strengthens opportunities for students and faculty members to contribute to international research and applied projects in climate adaptation. It also supports the exchange of knowledge and good practices with universities and experts worldwide.

By combining education, research, partnerships, and community engagement, AlmaU seeks to strengthen climate literacy and support practical responses to climate-related challenges. This approach reflects the University's commitment to preparing responsible leaders and contributing to a more resilient and sustainable future for Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

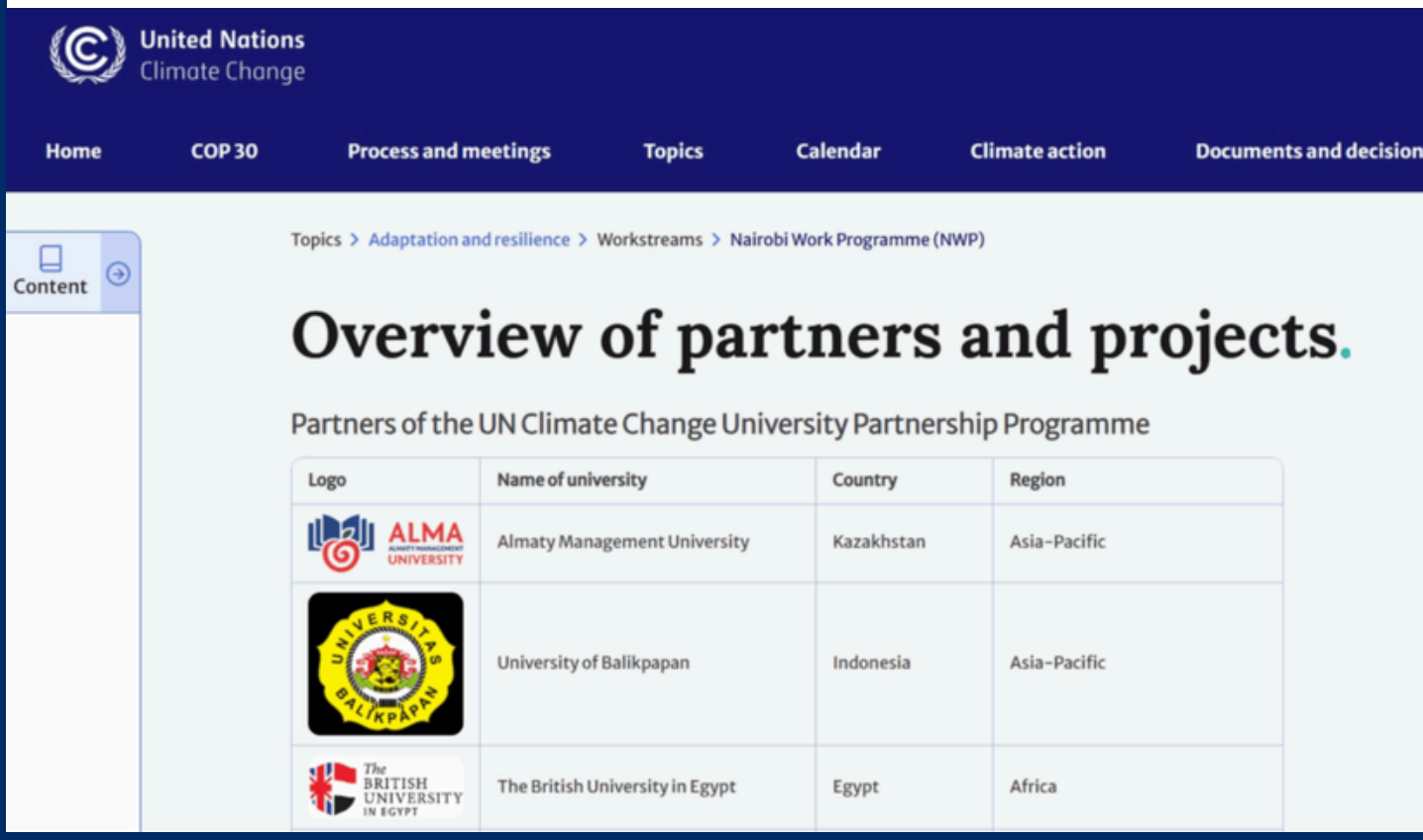
AlmaU Joins the UN Climate Change Universities Partnership Programme

Almaty Management University has officially joined the UN Climate Change Universities Partnership Programme, a global initiative of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that connects universities working on climate change adaptation.

Participation in the programme creates new opportunities for AlmaU students and faculty members to contribute to international initiatives focused on climate resilience, adaptation planning, and sustainable development.

The partnership is expected to creare opportunities for student research and projects on climate adaptation and resilience. AlmaU will also gain access to an international network of academic institutions and experts, supporting the exchange of knowledge, research findings, and good practices.

The partnership contributes directly to SDG 13: Climate Action by strengthening education, research capacity, and international cooperation on climate adaptation. It also supports the participation of young people and the academic community in developing practical responses to the global challenges created by climate change.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-has-become-part-of-the-un-climate-change-universities-partnership-programme/

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



Introduction

SDG 14 aims to conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas, and marine resources. Achieving this goal requires reducing water pollution, protecting aquatic and coastal ecosystems, addressing ocean acidification, preventing overfishing, and strengthening scientific cooperation and environmental governance.

Key indicators used to measure progress towards SDG 14 include levels of marine pollution and coastal eutrophication, the health and protection of aquatic ecosystems, the sustainability of fish stocks, and the coverage of protected marine areas. Other indicators assess research capacity, access to marine resources for small-scale fishers, and implementation of international law relating to oceans and seas.

Almaty Management University (AlmaU) contributes to the achievement of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 through environmental education, applied research, public awareness, and partnerships supporting the protection of water-related ecosystems. The University recognises that the health of seas, lakes, rivers, and connected ecosystems is essential for biodiversity, food security, climate resilience, and community well-being.

Through lectures, student projects, research initiatives, and cooperation with environmental organisations, AlmaU raises awareness of water pollution, biodiversity loss, climate impacts, and responsible resource management. Particular attention is given to the environmental challenges facing Kazakhstan and Central Asia, including the Aral Sea region and the Caspian Sea.

AlmaU encourages interdisciplinary approaches that connect environmental science, management, public policy, technology, and community participation. These activities help students and researchers develop practical solutions for ecosystem restoration, pollution reduction, sustainable water use, and environmental monitoring.

By combining education, research, volunteering, and external partnerships, AlmaU seeks to strengthen environmental responsibility and support the protection of aquatic ecosystems. This approach reflects the University's commitment to preserving natural resources and promoting sustainable relationships between communities and water environments.

AlmaU Receives Bronze Smart Water Zone Recognition

Almaty Management University received the Bronze Smart Water Zone 2026 recognition for introducing responsible water-use practices and contributing to sustainable water resource management.

The Smart Water Zone project is supported by Coca-Cola, the Green Urban Association, GPI Group, and the Information and Analytical Center for Water Resources. The initiative helps organisations reduce their water footprint, adopt sustainable water management practices, and strengthen environmental awareness.

The Bronze recognition confirms that AlmaU has taken practical steps towards more responsible water consumption. The University continues to integrate ESG and sustainability principles into its campus operations and educational environment.

The AlmaU Sustainable Development Center, supported by Vice-Rector for International Relations Sholpan Tazabek, made a significant contribution to the initiative. Participation in Smart Water Zone forms part of the University's wider efforts to promote environmental responsibility and efficient resource use.

The recognition reflects AlmaU's contribution to SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation and SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. The University will continue developing initiatives that encourage responsible water use and foster a sustainable campus culture.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-receives-bronze-smart-water-zone-recognition/

15 LIFE ON LAND



Introduction

SDG 15 aims to protect, restore, and sustainably use terrestrial ecosystems, manage forests responsibly, combat desertification, reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss. Achieving this goal requires coordinated action to conserve natural habitats, restore degraded land, and ensure that ecosystems are considered in planning and development.

Key indicators used to measure progress towards SDG 15 include forest coverage, the proportion of protected terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, land degradation, biodiversity loss, and the conservation status of threatened species. Other indicators assess sustainable forest management, invasive species control, restoration activities, and financial support for biodiversity protection.

Almaty Management University (AlmaU) contributes to the achievement of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 15 through environmental education, ecosystem restoration, volunteering, research, and community partnerships. The University recognises that healthy terrestrial ecosystems are essential for climate resilience, food and water security, public health, and sustainable economic development.

AlmaU's environmental initiatives include planting saxaul on the dried seabed of the Aral Sea to restore degraded land, combat desertification, and reduce dust storms. The University also supports urban greening and the preservation of native species through projects such as the AlmaU Alumni Alley, where Malus sieversii apple trees were planted in Medeu Park.

Through student projects, field activities, public lectures, and cooperation with government, business, and environmental organisations, AlmaU promotes biodiversity conservation and responsible land management. These initiatives allow students to connect academic knowledge with practical environmental action.

By combining education, research, volunteering, and institutional partnerships, AlmaU seeks to support ecosystem restoration and develop a new generation of environmentally responsible leaders. This approach reflects the University's commitment to protecting Kazakhstan's natural heritage and strengthening the resilience of terrestrial ecosystems.

AlmaU Alumni Alley Opens in Medeu Park

On May 16, 2026, the AlmaU Alumni Alley was officially opened in Medeu Park. The new public space brings together alumni, students, University employees, and their families around the values of continuity, environmental responsibility, and long-term connection with AlmaU.

During the event, graduates from different years and University employees planted 100 Malus sieversii apple trees. This native species is closely connected with the natural identity of Almaty and represents an important part of Kazakhstan's living heritage.

Participants placed personalised tags on the saplings, linking each tree to an individual story and contribution to the University community. AlmaU Rector Timur Buldybayev planted the first tree, establishing a new tradition intended to strengthen relationships between generations of graduates.

The Alley contributes to the greening of Medeu Park and creates a shared place of memory, community engagement, and environmental stewardship. It will remain an accessible space where alumni and other members of the AlmaU community can return in the years ahead.









https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-alumni-alley-opened-in-medeu-park/

AlmaU's Aral Sea Restoration Project Receives International ESG Award

Almaty Management University received the international Trophées des Entreprises 2025 award for its environmental and social project "Syr qorǵany – sekseýil." Presented by the France–Kazakhstan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the award recognised AlmaU in the Actions RSE/ESG category for its contribution to environmental restoration, social responsibility, and sustainable development.

The project is a volunteer initiative aimed at restoring saxaul ecosystems on the dried seabed of the Aral Sea, combating desertification, and reducing the spread of salt and dust storms. Saxaul plays an important role in stabilising degraded soils, protecting biodiversity, and strengthening the environmental resilience of the Aral Sea region.

As historical background, in March 2024, AlmaU students, entrepreneurs, and international volunteers planted 5,100 saxaul saplings. In 2025, University volunteers joined an international environmental campaign organised by the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and Freedom Bank, contributing to the planting of a further 8,000 saplings across 60 hectares.

Over two years, the project resulted in the planting of 13,100 saxaul saplings and engaged more than 160 participants from Kazakhstan, other Central Asian countries, Europe, and the United States. It also encouraged wider corporate participation, with organisations such as Freedom Holding and KazMunayGas supporting efforts to restore saxaul forests.

The initiative applies a university living-lab model that combines field-based environmental action, research, education, and volunteering. It enables students to develop practical knowledge of ecosystem restoration while working alongside businesses, public organisations, and international partners.

The project directly contributes to SDG 15 by restoring degraded land, combating desertification, and supporting the recovery of terrestrial ecosystems. It also advances climate adaptation and environmental leadership, demonstrating how universities can mobilise communities and partnerships to protect vulnerable natural environments.







https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-received-the-international-trophees-des-entreprises-2025-award-for-a-unique-esg-project-aimed-at-restoring-the-aral-sea-region/

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Introduction

SDG 16 aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, ensure equal access to justice, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. Achieving this goal requires reducing violence, protecting fundamental rights, strengthening the rule of law, combating corruption, and ensuring transparent and participatory decision-making.

Key indicators used to measure progress towards SDG 16 include levels of violence, public access to justice, the protection of children and vulnerable groups, the effectiveness and transparency of public institutions, and public confidence in decision-making processes. Other indicators assess corruption, access to information, inclusive representation, legal identity, and the protection of fundamental freedoms.

Almaty Management University (AlmaU) contributes to the achievement of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16 through education, research, public dialogue, institutional partnerships, and the development of responsible leadership. The University recognises that peace, justice, ethical governance, and strong institutions are essential foundations for sustainable social and economic development.

Through academic programmes, public events, expert discussions, and student initiatives, AlmaU promotes legal literacy, ethical decision-making, civic responsibility, respect for human rights, and inclusive participation. The University also provides platforms where representatives of government, business, academia, civil society, and youth can exchange knowledge and develop solutions to contemporary social and institutional challenges.

AlmaU seeks to strengthen a university culture based on integrity, accountability, openness, and respect. By integrating these principles into education, research, management, and community engagement, the University helps prepare responsible professionals and leaders capable of contributing to fair, peaceful, and inclusive societies.

Through cooperation with national and international partners, AlmaU supports knowledge exchange, institutional development, and initiatives that strengthen public trust and social cohesion. This approach reflects the University's commitment to advancing justice, responsible governance, and effective institutions in Kazakhstan and beyond.

AlmaU Hosts International Conference on Public Trust and Social Capital

On December 12, 2025, Almaty Management University hosted the VI International Conference “Public Trust and Social Capital.” The event served as a platform for dialogue among government representatives, researchers, civil society organisations, journalists, experts, and young people.

The conference was held within the research project “Public Trust and Social Capital among the Youth of Kazakhstan: Mechanisms of Formation in the University Environment.” Participants discussed youth policy, civic and political engagement, generational differences in attitudes towards institutions, and the influence of artificial intelligence and new media on public trust.

Representatives of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and the Parliament of Kazakhstan highlighted AlmaU’s contribution to research on public attitudes, institutional trust, information behaviour, and social capital. International and national experts examined how cooperation among government, academia, business, civil society, and youth can strengthen public dialogue and support more inclusive decision-making.

A key part of the conference was the presentation of the AlmaU Trust Barometer 2025. The study found that 85% of young people use social media, although these platforms receive the lowest level of trust. Almost half of young respondents called for change, while more than 40% did not believe they could influence social processes. More than 70% identified education as the main driver of change, with universities remaining the only institution to maintain stable levels of trust.

Panel discussions addressed the factors shaping young people’s trust, opportunities for civic and political participation, the role of quality education and living conditions, and the ways institutions can engage more effectively with younger generations. The conference also examined approaches to retaining human capital and developing evidence-based youth policies.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/vi-international-conference-public-trust-and-social-capital-how-the-trust-index-has-changed-among-the-youth-of-kazakhstan-2/

AlmaU Hosts Annual Round Table on Anti-Corruption and Responsible Governance

On February 27, 2026, AlmaU hosted its Annual Round Table “Countering Corruption in the Context of Institutional Reforms and Globalisation: Compliance, Legislation, and Anti-Corruption Education.”

The event brought together representatives of academia, the judiciary, prosecution authorities, the legal profession, representative bodies, civil society, and the fields of compliance and sustainable development. Students from AlmaU’s Law programme also participated, connecting legal education with current institutional challenges and professional practice.

Participants emphasised that effective anti-corruption measures require cooperation among government, business, academia, and civil society. The discussions focused on strengthening legislation and oversight institutions, improving law enforcement practices, protecting whistleblowers, developing corporate compliance systems, and applying international standards of transparency and accountability.

The round table also examined practical corruption-prevention tools in the context of digital transformation. Experts discussed the use of blockchain and artificial intelligence to improve transparency, the digitalisation of judicial administration, public monitoring, electoral integrity, parliamentary oversight, and mechanisms for increasing accountability at the local level.

Particular attention was given to anti-corruption education. AlmaU’s Institute of Law presented approaches to integrating anti-corruption modules into academic programmes and developing student competencies in compliance, legal responsibility, professional ethics, and academic integrity. During a dedicated session, students presented research on public procurement, sector-specific corruption risks, lobbying, international practices, and the role of young people in promoting a culture of zero tolerance for corruption.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/annual-round-table-on-anti-corruption-issues-was-held-at-almau/

AlmaU Hosts International Conference on Political Transformation in Central Asia

On April 7, 2026, AlmaU hosted the II International Conference “Great Powers and Political Transformation in Central Asia: Challenges and Prospects for Liberalism.” The event brought together researchers, experts, government representatives, and students to discuss political stability, institutional development, and the long-term future of Central Asia.

Opening the conference, AlmaU Vice-Rector for Science Renata Kudaybergenova and Anar Dutbaeva, Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan in Almaty, emphasised the importance of strengthening dialogue between academic research and professional practice.

The first session examined Central Asia’s relations with the European Union and the United States. International experts provided critical perspectives on Western policies in the region, while students of the International Relations and Economics programme presented analytical reports and contributed to discussions on current global and regional developments.

The second session focused on the role of Russia and China in Central Asia’s political transformation. Participants examined geopolitical processes, international law, the strategies of global powers, and the effects of external crises on the region’s stability and institutional development.

Discussions addressed the influence of major powers on regional stability, the transformation of political ideas and institutions, economic challenges arising from global change, and the role of international cooperation in shaping Central Asia’s future. Student participation supported intergenerational dialogue and encouraged young people to engage critically with international affairs and public policy.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/ii-international-sonference-on-political-transformation-in-central-asia-held-at-almau/

AlmaU Hosts the 4th International Conference on the Eurasian Political Economy of Development

From June 4 to 7, 2026, AlmaU hosted the 4th International Conference on the Eurasian Political Economy of Development. Renata Kudaybergenova, Vice-Rector for Research and Commercialisation at AlmaU, welcomed the participants on behalf of the University.

The conference brought together leading scholars in political science and economics from Kazakhstan, Germany, the United Kingdom, the United States, China, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, and Russia. This international participation created a platform for academic exchange and comparative discussion of political, economic, and institutional development across different national contexts.

Participants presented research on the resilience of political systems, the influence of historical legacies on contemporary political processes, social media and political communication, international development assistance, cross-border trade, social preferences, and market efficiency.

Keynote presentations addressed the role of technocracy in modern government and the economic dimensions of social identity. These topics contributed to a broader discussion of effective governance, institutional resilience, public decision-making, and the relationship between political institutions and social development.







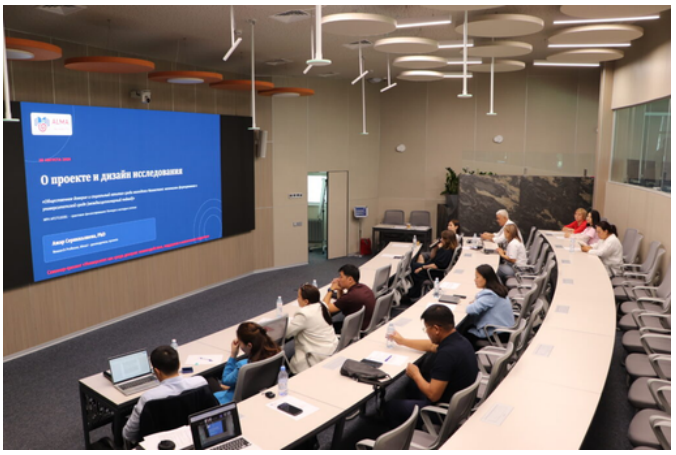




https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-hosted-the-4th-international-conference-on-the-eurasian-political-economy-of-development/

AlmaU Presents Research on Trust and Social Capital among University Students

On August 28, 2026, AlmaU hosted the training seminar “The University as an Environment of Trust: Student Interaction, Support, and Engagement.” The event brought together researchers and higher education practitioners to examine how trust and social capital are developed within university communities and how research findings can be translated into institutional practice.



The seminar was organised as part of the research project “Public Trust and Social Capital among Youth in Kazakhstan: Mechanisms of Formation in the University Environment.” The project is supported by the Science Committee of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan through the Young Scientists Grant Competition.



The research team conducted nine expert interviews and 11 focus groups with students from national, private, and regional universities across Kazakhstan. The findings were also considered alongside data from a nationwide youth survey, providing a broader understanding of trust, participation, and interaction in higher education.



The study found that educational institutions are among the three most trusted institutions for people aged 18–35 in Kazakhstan. Researchers also identified three common models of university–student relations: administrative, service-oriented, and community-based.



Representatives of universities from across Kazakhstan reviewed the findings and developed practical recommendations for strengthening trust on campus. Particular attention was given to improving the transparency of university procedures, establishing independent mechanisms for reviewing student appeals, and creating meaningful opportunities for students to participate in university life and institutional decision-making.

https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-presents-research-findings-on-trust-and-social-capital-among-student-youth/

AlmaU Brings Together Youth and Institutions to Strengthen Public Trust

On September 11, 2026, AlmaU hosted the hybrid seminar "Youth and Institutional Trust: From Research to Decisions." The event brought together representatives of academia, government agencies, the diplomatic community, civil society, and youth organisations to discuss trust in educational and public institutions.

The seminar was organised within the research project "Public Trust and Social Capital among the Youth of Kazakhstan: Mechanisms of Formation in the University Environment." The project is supported by the Science Committee of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan through the Young Scientists Grant Competition.

AlmaU Senior Lecturer and sociologist Serik Beisembayev presented findings on the factors influencing young people's trust in institutions. The first panel discussion examined how universities can create environments based on openness, support, fairness, and meaningful interaction with students. Participants also considered institutional practices that can either strengthen or undermine trust.

The second panel focused on youth participation in Kazakhstan. Representatives of research institutions and civil society organisations discussed the factors motivating young people to engage in public life, emerging forms of youth activism and self-organisation, and ways to ensure that participation extends beyond one-off events or symbolic representation.

The seminar enabled young people and institutional representatives to exchange perspectives and consider how research evidence can be translated into practical decisions. Its outcomes will inform recommendations for universities and youth organisations across Kazakhstan.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-brings-together-youth-and-institutions-to-discuss-building-public-trust/

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Introduction

SDG 17 aims to strengthen the means of implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development. It recognises that progress towards the 2030 Agenda depends on cooperation among governments, universities, businesses, civil society organisations, international institutions, and local communities.

Key indicators used to measure progress towards SDG 17 include financial and technical assistance, international cooperation in science and technology, access to knowledge, capacity-building, trade, and the availability of reliable data. Other indicators assess multi-stakeholder partnerships, policy coordination, and cooperation between developed and developing countries.

Almaty Management University (AlmaU) contributes to the achievement of SDG 17 through international academic cooperation, cross-sector partnerships, joint research, student and faculty mobility, knowledge exchange, and engagement with business, government, civil society, and international organisations.

The University maintains partnerships supporting educational activities, research collaboration and stakeholder dialogue, with specific examples documented in the following pages.

AlmaU also serves as a platform for dialogue among diverse stakeholders. By bringing together representatives of universities, public institutions, companies, non-governmental organisations, and local communities, the University supports the exchange of expertise and the development of collaborative solutions aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Through long-term partnerships based on equality, shared responsibility, and mutual benefit, AlmaU seeks to strengthen institutional capacity and increase the impact of education and research. This approach reflects the University's commitment to international cooperation and collective action as essential conditions for achieving sustainable development in Kazakhstan, Central Asia, and beyond.

AlmaU Strengthens Global Academic Partnerships at the IAUP Regional Conference

From January 12 to 14, 2026, AlmaU President Assylbek Kozhakhmetov participated in the Regional Conference of the International Association of University Presidents in Putrajaya, Malaysia. The event brought together university presidents and rectors from the Asia-Pacific region, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and the Americas.

Held under the theme "Global Connections & Collective Growth," the conference explored the transition from competition towards cooperation, partnership, and shared development in international higher education. Participants discussed the transformation of internationalisation, the role of universities in the era of artificial intelligence, new approaches to academic mobility, and the responsibility of higher education institutions to generate measurable social and economic impact.

In his address, Assylbek Kozhakhmetov presented AlmaU's vision of modern internationalisation based on the exchange of values, intercultural dialogue, jointly developed academic programmes, and responsible leadership. He also highlighted the concept of an impact-driven university that contributes to society, the economy, sustainable development, and innovation.

A key outcome of the conference was the signing of a cooperation agreement between AlmaU and INTI International University. The partnership provides a framework for academic exchanges, joint educational and research projects, and expanded international opportunities for students and faculty.

It was also announced that AlmaU would host the next IAUP Regional Conference from June 11 to 13, 2026. This responsibility reflects the University's growing role as a platform for international academic dialogue and collaborative initiatives.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/president-of-almau-participates-in-iaup-regional-conference-in-malaysia-and-signs-agreement-with-inti-international-university/

AlmaU Strengthens Partnerships with France in Education and Business

On February 26, 2026, AlmaU hosted a business breakfast attended by members of the France–Kazakhstan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, representatives of the Consulate General of France, and members of the Franco-Kazakh business community.



The event provided a platform for strengthening cooperation between academia and business, discussing joint projects, and developing long-term partnerships in education, entrepreneurship, and professional development.

AlmaU maintains academic partnerships with leading French universities and business schools, including ESSEC Business School, emlyon business school, Excelia Business School, and Burgundy School of Business. Each year, approximately 30 AlmaU students study in France, while around 15 French students come to AlmaU. Cooperation also includes faculty exchanges, joint academic modules, and double-degree programmes.

Participants highlighted the role of universities as a bridge between students and the business community. French companies operating in Kazakhstan require professionals who understand both international standards and the economic context of Central Asia, making collaboration between universities and employers particularly important.

During the meeting, participants announced an initiative to expand double-degree programmes, reduce the gap between higher education and industry, and develop joint educational programmes aligned with the needs of businesses. The event concluded with an open discussion of prospective academic and corporate projects.





https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-strengthens-partnership-with-france-in-education-and-business/

AlmaU Expands Global Partnerships in the United States

From February 16 to 22, 2026, an AlmaU delegation visited New York, Washington, D.C., and Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, to strengthen existing partnerships and establish new connections with leading academic and policy institutions in the United States.

A central part of the visit was a meeting with the leadership of Lehigh University. The parties discussed the development of AlmaU's Global Impact Collaboratory, an interdisciplinary platform designed to integrate academic courses, applied research, and community engagement across Central Asia.

Inspired by Lehigh University's experiential learning model and Impact Fellowship programmes, the Collaboratory is intended to support practical projects addressing social, technological and environmental challenges. AlmaU and Lehigh University also exchanged a memorandum on tuition-free academic mobility and identified the next steps for advancing their cooperation.

The delegation met with Lehigh student teams implementing projects in Kazakhstan through the Global Social Impact Fellowship programme. It also visited the Wilbur Powerhouse and Mountaintop Campus innovation spaces to study approaches to establishing interdisciplinary laboratories and makerspaces at AlmaU.

In New York, the delegation held meetings with Columbia University, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, and the Principles for Responsible Management Education initiative of the UN Global Compact. Discussions addressed the integration of sustainability principles into AlmaU's academic programmes and opportunities for students to participate in international projects. The delegation also visited Parsons School of Design to explore creative learning environments and project-based education.

During the AIEA 2026 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., AlmaU representatives met with George Washington University, Indiana University, Babson College, and other institutions to discuss joint research, academic exchanges and new educational programmes.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-delegation-expands-global-partnerships-in-the-u-s-from-negotiations-in-washington-to-the-vision-of-a-makerspace-and-global-impact-collaboratory/

AlmaU Expands International Collaboration through Science, Technology, and Social Innovation

On May 22, AlmaU hosted the National Seminar "Artificial Intelligence in Medicine" in partnership with Lehigh University, Shashkin Clinic, and Seshadri Lab through the Creative Inquiry initiative. Participants discussed the application of artificial intelligence in medical practice and opportunities to improve access to technology-enabled healthcare in Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

From May 18 to 30, AlmaU hosted the Global Social Impact Fellowship field research programme. Students from AlmaU and Lehigh University collaborated on practical projects addressing local and regional challenges.

The projects included an educational game promoting environmentally responsible behaviour among children; accessible technologies for improving indoor air quality; research on local food security and supply chains; a wearable device for detecting swallowing difficulties in post-stroke patients; and digital tools supporting the monitoring and management of Parkinson's disease. Some initiatives also involved cooperation with the International Information Technology University and Lingnan University in Hong Kong.

Participation in these projects allowed students to gain practical research experience and strengthen competencies in critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, intercultural communication, digital literacy, and leadership. Upon completing the programme, participants received international Global Social Impact Fellowship certificates.

AlmaU also continued developing the Central Asian Researchers Network in partnership with American Councils for International Education. The initiative seeks to strengthen research capacity across Central Asia, promote international scientific cooperation, and support researchers in producing internationally recognised publications using advanced artificial intelligence tools.





https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-expands-international-collaboration-through-science-technology-and-social-initiatives/

AlmaU Mentors Support International Global Social Impact Fellowship Projects

AlmaU representatives contributed to the implementation of the Global Social Impact Fellowship, an international programme conducted in partnership with Lehigh University in the United States.

The programme brought together students, researchers, faculty members, and experts from different countries to develop practical and sustainable solutions to social, environmental, healthcare, and technological challenges in Kazakhstan. AlmaU representatives served as mentors, helping student teams connect academic knowledge with local needs and contexts.

Dinara Tumabekova, Assistant Professor at AlmaU, mentored the Central Asian Researchers Network team. Daulet Sabyr, Director of the Center for Applied Artificial Intelligence in Industry, supervised the Swello and Save Tuba projects, while Zhaniya Khaibullina, Director of the Center for Sustainable Development, guided the PureSpaces team.

During the programme, mentored teams conducted field research and stakeholder engagement related to their project topics. The mentoring process also supported intercultural collaboration, ethical community engagement, and the creation of approaches adapted to Kazakhstan's social and institutional context.

Following the programme, Dinara Tumabekova and Daulet Sabyr received Certificates of Achievement recognising their successful mentorship and contribution to the Global Social Impact Fellowship fieldwork.





https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-strengthens-international-partnership-through-faculty-participation-in-the-gsif-program/

AlmaU Hosts International Leadership Programme for University Executives

From June 13 to 15, 2026, AlmaU hosted the international intensive programme “Impactful Leadership for Rectors & University Executives.” The event brought together university presidents, rectors, senior executives, and international experts to address emerging leadership challenges in higher education.

The programme was delivered in partnership with the International Association of University Presidents and the Canadian consultancy Higher Education Strategy Associates. By combining regional perspectives with international expertise, the initiative created a platform for professional exchange, institutional capacity-building, and the development of collaborative solutions.

Over three days, participants examined leadership and institutional impact, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, relations between university executives and governing boards, and decision-making under uncertainty. Discussions also addressed servant leadership and ways to balance support for individual employees with the strategic needs of institutions.

A dedicated workshop focused on building sustainable international partnerships. Participants considered how universities can identify risks, prevent imbalances, establish shared objectives, and create mutually beneficial cooperation from the early stages of collaboration.

The programme featured university leaders and experts from IAUP, AlmaU, Caucasus University, Higher Education Strategy Associates, and LearningPlanet Institute. Practical workshops, panel discussions, and experiential activities enabled participants to exchange tested approaches to institutional transformation, responsible innovation, and crisis leadership.





https://almau.edu.kz/en/university-leaders-discussed-the-challenges-of-the-future-at-the-international-intensive-program-impactful-leadership-for-rectors-amp-university-executives/

IAUP and AlmaU Bring Together the Global Academic Community in Central Asia

On June 12–13, 2026, Almaty hosted the first International Association of University Presidents Regional Conference in Central Asia. Organised by AlmaU under the theme "Impact-Driven Universities: Education, Leadership and Societal Change," the event brought together more than 100 university leaders, government representatives, international organisations, and experts from over 20 countries.

The conference was organised in partnership with IAUP and supported by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Kazakhstan, Phoenix Philanthropy Group, the British Council, QS Quacquarelli Symonds, the Eurasian Chapter of the Principles for Responsible Management Education, and the Almaty Tourism Bureau.

Participants discussed the role of universities in addressing global and regional challenges through education, research, innovation, entrepreneurship, and community engagement. Key themes included international quality standards, sustainable development, artificial intelligence, responsible leadership, private higher education, academic mobility, graduate employability, and cooperation among universities, governments, and businesses.

The conference highlighted the growing role of Central Asia in shaping the international higher education agenda. University leaders examined how global standards can be adapted to national and regional contexts while preserving institutional identity, cultural heritage, and responsiveness to local needs.

A special feature of the programme was the presentation of the international publication Universities after AI: A Blueprint for the Next Generation Institutions of Learning. The discussion explored how universities can use artificial intelligence to enhance human potential, transform teaching and research, and prepare students for rapidly changing professional and social environments.

More than 40 memoranda of understanding were signed during the conference. The agreements are intended to support joint academic programmes, student and faculty mobility, collaborative research, institutional capacity-building, and the exchange of effective practices among universities worldwide.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/the-future-of-higher-education-discussed-in-almaty-iaup-and-almau-bring-together-the-global-academic-community/

AlmaU Improves Its Position in the THE Impact Rankings 2026

AlmaU improved its position in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2026, moving from the 1001–1500 band to the 801–1000 band among universities worldwide.
The THE Impact Rankings assess universities' contributions to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through education, research, institutional practices, community engagement, and partnerships. AlmaU's improved position reflects the University's systematic approach to integrating sustainable development across its activities.

The 2026 THE Impact Rankings results indicate AlmaU's improved overall ranking band, including quality education, health and well-being, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities, responsible consumption, climate action, life on land, strong institutions, and partnerships for sustainable development.

The University achieved particularly strong results in three areas:
SDG 8 — Decent Work and Economic Growth;
SDG 5 — Gender Equality;
SDG 15 — Life on Land.



The result reflects the collective contribution of AlmaU's students, faculty, staff, and partners. It recognises the University's efforts to develop an inclusive educational environment, implement social and environmental initiatives, strengthen responsible institutional practices, and cooperate with external stakeholders.

https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-improves-its-position-in-the-the-impact-rankings-2026-global-ranking/

AlmaU Associate Professor Named Academic Fellow of ICMCI

Tatyana Soldatenko, Associate Professor at AlmaU's Graduate School of Business and Institute of Entrepreneurship, has received the international Academic Fellow distinction from the International Council of Management Consulting Institutes.

The Academic Fellow designation recognises academic leaders who have contributed to the development of management consulting through research, education, and professional practice. It also acknowledges efforts to prepare future professionals and strengthen cooperation between universities and the consulting industry.

Tatyana Soldatenko became the second ICMCI Academic Fellow in Central Asia. The first recipient of this distinction in the region was AlmaU President Assylbek Kozhakhmetov. This achievement reflects AlmaU's growing contribution to the international development of management education and professional consulting standards.

Academic Fellow status provides access to ICMCI's global network of researchers, educators, and practising management consultants. It creates new opportunities for joint research, the exchange of international practices, the integration of innovative approaches into academic programmes, and the development of professional partnerships.

ICMCI represents national management consulting institutes in more than 50 countries and promotes international standards and ethical principles in the profession. In Central Asia, this work is supported by the Chamber of Management Consultants of Central Asia through education, professional training, and certification programmes.



https://almau.edu.kz/en/almau-associate-professor-tatyana-soldatenko-named-an-academic-fellow-of-the-international-council-of-management-consulting-institutes-icmci/



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We thank our colleagues and partners for contributing to the initiatives documented in this report. For enquiries reporting boundaries, data sources or supporting evidence, please contact the University.

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