



POLICY STATEMENT ON SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CURRICULUM

- The University of Aberdeen has, as part of its Aberdeen 2040 strategy, established 'Sustainable' as one of four strategic themes alongside 'Inclusive', 'Interdisciplinary' and 'International'.
- The University recognises that, alongside careful custodianship of its physical estate, the main sustainability legacy of the institution will be realised through the impact of its education and research, and the contribution of its graduates as active, global citizens.
- The University's commitment to sustainability can be seen in various aspects of our education and scholarship. These include:
 - a. Conducting research and supporting scholarship in sustainable development and, through the provision of a range of curriculum and co-curriculum options, providing a learning environment in which students can develop the skills and knowledge necessary to contribute to a sustainable society.
 - b. Placing graduate attributes, in the form of the My Skills framework, at the heart of its approach to the development of a curriculum and co-curriculum approach that prepares its students for employment, further study, and citizenship.
 - c. Establishing five core Interdisciplinary Research Challenges that identify collaborative scholarship and the addressing of societal challenges as being integral to our institutional research strategy.
 - d. Embracing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and using them as a framework to help articulate the role of the University in tackling societal challenges through our education, research and operations.
- These institutional commitments to collaborative, interdisciplinary education and research, to the development of graduate attributes, and to engagement with the SDGs, are exemplified through the development of an evolving portfolio of courses and degree programmes with demonstrable linkages to sustainability and the SDGs.
- Alongside a wide range of courses and programmes in traditional sustainability disciplines, interdisciplinary Sixth Century courses provide students with opportunities to discuss the challenges facing society, and to do so alongside students and academics from areas beyond their main degree discipline.
- Aside from the formal curriculum, a series of co-curricular initiatives encourage participation in community projects and volunteering, with active citizenship recognised and celebrated through initiatives such as the My Skills framework.

We will:

- provide an educational and research environment in which societal challenges are discussed and through which active citizenship is supported and encouraged;
- continue to place skills at the heart of the development of our students as active citizens and embed sustainability and global citizenship as skills within the MySkills framework;
- continue to provide a wide range of interdisciplinary courses and programmes that encourage reflection and discussion of the full range of global challenges facing society;
- recognise and promote the contribution the University is making to the national and international demand for academic responses to the challenges of sustainability e.g. through our annual SDG reports;
- support academic staff to embed content relating to sustainability within new and existing courses and programmes;

- maintain the sustainability indicators used in the prospectus to identify courses and programmes with sustainability content across the institution;
- introduce mechanisms to encourage academic colleagues to consider and share how sustainability can be included and embedded when developing new courses;
- establish a process to encourage academic colleagues to consider which of the SDGs are addressed as part of courses and programmes, helping to effectively map our curriculum against the SDGs;
- establish a teaching award to recognise innovation in the teaching or assessment of skills for sustainability in any programme.

Metadata			
Title	Statement on Sustainability in the Curriculum		
Author / Creator	Fraser Lovie (Head of Sustainability) for the Vice-Principal (Education)		
Owner	University Education Committee (UEC)		
Date published / approved	June 2013		
Version	Approved Edited	Jun 2013 Oct 2024	Senate (UCTL, May 2013) UEC (Oct 2024)
Date for next review	2026/27		
Audience	All		
Related documents	Aberdeen 2040 Strategy		
Subject / Description	The statement outlines how the University's curriculum and the parallel development of graduate attributes, informed by research activity and research themes, supports the institutional commitment to sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals.		
Equality Impact Assessment	n/a		
Section	Academic Affairs (Registry) with Estates & Facilities (Sustainability)		
Strategic Theme	Aberdeen 2040 (Sustainable)		