



SDG4 - QUALITY EDUCATION

4.3.1 - Does your university as a body provide free access to educational resources for those not studying at the university, e.g. computers, library, online courses, access to lectures, etc?

In 2024, Üsküdar continued building and acting on the policy regarding quality education. One of the biggest highlights of the year was Positive Psychology Talks. Positive Psychology course has been a junior year course for all the students at the university for long years. Thinking it could well serve public as a free educational source, Üsküdar University first created a webpage that included the courses and materials and in 2024, they created a live and interactive version where students got together with the professor through live lectures and followed the course with educational materials. This 8-week course attracted many people with different backgrounds. The news article regarding the closing seminar could be seen at <https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/herkese-acik-pozitif-psikoloji-soylesileri-yogun-katilimla-sona-erdi/48246>



Üsküdar University is committed to public education by making its academic resources widely accessible. All university events, such as conferences and seminars, are broadcast live and permanently archived on its official YouTube channel. Furthermore, the University continues to maintain <https://psikoyorum.tv/>, a comprehensive and up-to-date digital archive of all media appearances by its faculty through 2024 as well. This free resource is categorized by topic, allowing the public to easily find expert educational content on various subjects like addictions or Communication. Üsküdar University Television (ÜÜTV), the NP Brain Hospital's YouTube channel where conferences and seminars, taking place at the university are broadcast live on Youtube channel and saved for later views



(<https://www.youtube.com/@UskudarUniversitesi>), Uskudar University's and NP Hospital's Spotify pages served as sources of free educational content in 2024 since the University policy sees these platforms as central guides to the university's educational materials.

Another prominent source of free educational material that is easy-access for those not studying at the University is ÜÜTV (Üsküdar University Television). This channel is an important part of Üsküdar University Youtube Channel and it is also accessible via psikoyorum.tv. The channel provides educational material on various topics. For instance, some of the programmes recorded and uploaded in 2024 were:

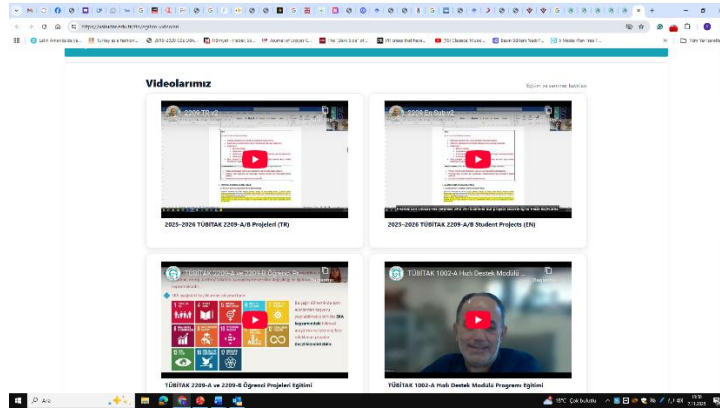
- Sivil Toplumun Sesi - Kıyıdağı Kadınlar (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amgCcQxkk94>)
- Şehir ve Kültür Sohbetleri - Nöro Mimari (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7IyxFLcFkf8>)
- Hayat Boyu Öğrenmek #kadingücü (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dg7iu8tA1H8>

Another important source of free-access educational materials is Üsküdar University's Publishing House. There are many free-access books and conference proceedings on the website of the publishing house. For instance, in 2024, Prof. Dr. Nevzat Tarhan published "Dört Mevsim Güzel İnsan Olmak" Sosyal İnovasyon Model Projesi Eğitici Eğitimi Kitabı – a guide to trainers' training manual on social innovation. This book is free of charge and can be accessed and downloaded via <https://uuyayinlari.com/dort-mevsim-guzel-insan-olmak-sosyal-inovasyon-model-projesi-egitici-egitimi-kitabi>

Another prominent highlight of 2024 was about the library. In 2024, www.openaccess.uskudar.edu.tr was introduced as a complementary feature of the library. All the articles and books by the scholars affiliated with Üsküdar University were uploaded to the platform and can be accessed and downloaded there. This is an important step in providing free access to educational resources for those not studying at university. Furthermore, the fact that Üsküdar University gives a library card to every participant of the Bilim and Fikir Olympics so that high school students who compete in the Olympics can have access to the libraries situated in different campuses of the university is noteworthy. According to the data retrieved from the Corporate Communications Department of the University, a total of 416 high school students were gifted the library card and they had unlimited access to all the libraries and online extensions. Moreover, all the students who visited Üsküdar University during the "Open Campus" days prior to university placements were welcome to visit and spend time at the library. During these days, a total of 5342 students had access to libraries in 2024.



ARGEYEP, Üsküdar University's R&D and Innovation Coordination Office, continued to provide educational resources for those not studying at the university but have interest on innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship. Besides the newsletter that could be subscribed free-of-charge, the office also provides educational videos on how to prepare a project. A full list of the accessible videos can be found at <https://uskudar.edu.tr/tto/egitim-videolari>



In 2024, like the former years, Üsküdar University continued to provide its halls and physical spaces as event halls for different organizations. For more info, please refer to 4.3.2.

Some of the other activities where Üsküdar University contributed and collaborated with different institutions within the “making education accessible for more people” policy include:

- Üsküdar'dan Malatya'ya uzanan eğitim materyali desteği... (Providing educational materials for Malatya)

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/uskudardan-malatyaya-uzanan-egitim-materyali-destegi/48445>



- Üsküdar Üniversitesi Kurucu Rektörü Psikiyatrist Prof. Dr. Nevzat Tarhan, Gençlik Platformu Badi Etkinliğinin düzenlediği “Kariyer Planlama ve Meslek Seçimi” başlıklı çevrimiçi söyleşisinde gençlerle buluştu. (Prof. Dr. Nevzat Tarhan attended an online seminar about choosing the right profession)

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/once-karakter-sonra-kariyer/48230>



- İletişim Fakültesi sosyal sorumluluk projeleri Siirt İkizler Köyü İlkokulu'na kütüphane oldu (Communication Faculty donated books to start a library in Siirt)

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/iletisim-fakultesi-sosyal-sorumluluk-projeleri-siirt-ikizler-koyu-ilkokuluna-kutuphane-oldu/48179>



Last but not least, among many educational sources for those not studying at the University, Üsküdar University's affiliate hospital provides psychological tests. Please see the link to the tests <https://npistanbul.com/psikolojik-testler> . Here on the website there are over 30 tests (academically and scientifically proven scales) and the results are e-mailed to the participants to be able to help people for self-development through free-of-charge facilities. Another free-of-charge material is the YKS Testi (a test students who are about to start University could do to decide on the right department and profession for themselves) was provided by Üsküdar University and more than 1,6 students took the test. Please see <https://uskudar.edu.tr/kariyer-testi> and <https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/yaklasik-16-milyon-aday-bu-testi-cozdu/49123> for the test.

4.3.2. Does your university as a body host events at university that are open to the general public: public lectures, community educational events?

Üsküdar University actively promotes lifelong learning and community engagement through a variety of public events, conferences, and educational programs that are open to everyone, regardless of age, background, or affiliation with the university. These initiatives reflect the University's deep commitment to inclusivity, social responsibility, and the dissemination of knowledge beyond the boundaries of formal education.

Through its academic departments, research centers, and student communities, Üsküdar University regularly organizes national and international conferences, symposiums, and cultural events that address current issues in science, health, and society. These activities encourage community participation and interdisciplinary dialogue, contributing to public understanding and civic awareness. The **Continuing Education Application and Research Center (USEM)** ensures the continuity of these efforts by



supporting publicly accessible educational programs and sustaining the University's mission of lifelong learning.



In 2024, Üsküdar University represented Turkey at the **G20 Neuroscience20 Summit**, contributing to international discussions on neuroscience and behavioral health. This participation demonstrated the University's leadership in global scientific collaboration and its dedication to sharing research findings with the wider community. (Evidence 1: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/uskudar-universitesi-g20-neuroscience20-zirvesinde-turkiyeyi-temsil-etti/57485>)



Another major event was the **9th Science and Idea Festival**, which promoted youth innovation and creativity through open participation and public engagement. The festival provided a platform for high school and university students to present projects that addressed real-world challenges, reinforcing the University's role in nurturing future innovators. (Evidence 2: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/9-bilim-ve-fikir-festivalinde-derece-giren-projeler-umut-vaat-ediyor/48173>)



The “**Rare Diseases Symposium**” organized by the University’s Scientific Research Community brought together experts, students, and members of the public to discuss rare diseases from medical, ethical, and social perspectives. This event emphasized community awareness and encouraged the exchange of scientific knowledge with non-specialist audiences. (Evidence 3: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/nadir-hastaliklar-her-yonuyle-ele-alindi/48129>)



The **1st National Congress on Current Approaches in Nutrition and Dietetics** provided a platform for professionals, academics, and the general public to explore contemporary issues in nutrition science.



The congress reflected the University's aim to share up-to-date research and promote health literacy within society. (Evidence 4: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/1-ulusal-beslenme-ve-diyetetikte-guncel-yaklasimlar-kongresi-yapildi/47916>)



On **International Women's Day**, Üsküdar University hosted the event “**Global Sustainability and Women in Business**”, which explored the intersection of gender equality and sustainable development. The discussions emphasized the importance of women's participation in leadership and decision-making roles, contributing to awareness on gender-sensitive sustainability practices. (Evidence 5: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/kuresel-surdurulebilirlik-ve-is-hayatinda-kadin-ele-alindi/44578>)

During **Elderly Respect Week**, the University organized the seminar “**Healthy Aging and Happiness**”, aimed at promoting physical and mental well-being among older adults. Open to the general public, this event highlighted the value of intergenerational solidarity and active aging. (Evidence 6: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/yaslilara-saygi-haftasinda-saglikli-yas-alıyorum-mutlu-yaslaniyorum-semineri-duzenlendi/44686>)

The commemorative conference “**Ibn Sina: The Sultan of Medicine**” celebrated the life and work of Ibn Sina, linking historical contributions in medicine to modern scientific thought. This open event attracted both academics and the general public, strengthening the bridge between cultural heritage and contemporary science. (Evidence 7: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/dunya-tibbinin-sultani-ibni-sina-anildi/56487>)



Finally, the “**Human, Sufi Thought, and Healing**” conference series organized by the Institute for Sufi Studies offered participants an opportunity to explore the relationship between spirituality, psychology, and well-being. By integrating cultural and academic perspectives, the series deepened public understanding of holistic health approaches.

(Evidence 8: <https://tasavvuf.uskudar.edu.tr/tr/etkinlik-arsivi/604/insan-tasavvuf-dusunce-ve-sif-konferans-serisi-paneli>)



These activities exemplify Üsküdar University’s sustained commitment to making knowledge accessible to all members of society. By maintaining free and open access to its educational and cultural events — and with the ongoing support of USEM to ensure the continuity of lifelong learning — the University continues to contribute to public engagement, social development, and inclusive education in alignment with its mission of service to the community.

4.3.3. Does your university as an educational body host events at university that are open to the general public: executive education programmes (this refers to short courses for people who are not attending the university; this specifically excludes courses like MBA) and/or vocational training?



Üsküdar University maintains a strong commitment to lifelong learning and professional advancement by organizing a wide range of short-term education and vocational training programs open to the general public. These initiatives are designed to enhance professional competencies, foster social awareness, and promote skill-based learning that supports employability and personal development. Through these programs, the University contributes to the dissemination of practical knowledge across different sectors, aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education).

In 2024, the University hosted the “**Effective Speaking and Presentation Techniques**” training for an Azerbaijani delegation. This program focused on improving participants’ communication, persuasion, and public speaking abilities through interactive workshops. It exemplified the University’s dedication to international collaboration and public-oriented training activities. (Evidence 1: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/azerbaycanli-heyete-etkili-konusma-ve-sunum-teknikleri-egitimi/56378>)



A specialized workshop titled “**Basic Communication with Individuals with Psychiatric Disorders**”, conducted by Dr. Elçin Babaoğlu, was organized to support professionals and individuals seeking to develop interpersonal communication skills in mental health contexts. The event contributed to raising awareness about empathy and effective dialogue in healthcare services. (Evidence 2: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/dr-ogr-uyesi-elcin-babaoglu-psikiyatrik-sorunu-olan-birey-ile-temel-iletisim-baslikli-egitim-verdi/57117>)



In collaboration with the Turkish Ministry of Health, Üsküdar University organized the “**Sexual Assault Evidence Collection and Security Training for Trainers**” to strengthen the competencies of health professionals in handling sensitive forensic procedures. This program supported ethical and legal compliance in medical evidence collection and highlighted the University’s contribution to professional responsibility and justice-oriented education.

(Evidence 4: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/cinsel-saldirida-delil-toplama-ve-delil-guvenligi-egitici-egitimi-duzenlendi/48184>)

Through these open-access vocational and executive education initiatives, Üsküdar University strengthens the link between academia and society. By offering professional development opportunities to diverse audiences, the University ensures that knowledge, ethics, and skills remain accessible to all individuals seeking lifelong learning and societal contribution.

4.3.4 – Does your university as a body undertake educational outreach activities (e.g. tailored lectures or demonstrations) beyond campus, e.g. in local schools, in the community, including voluntary student-run schemes?

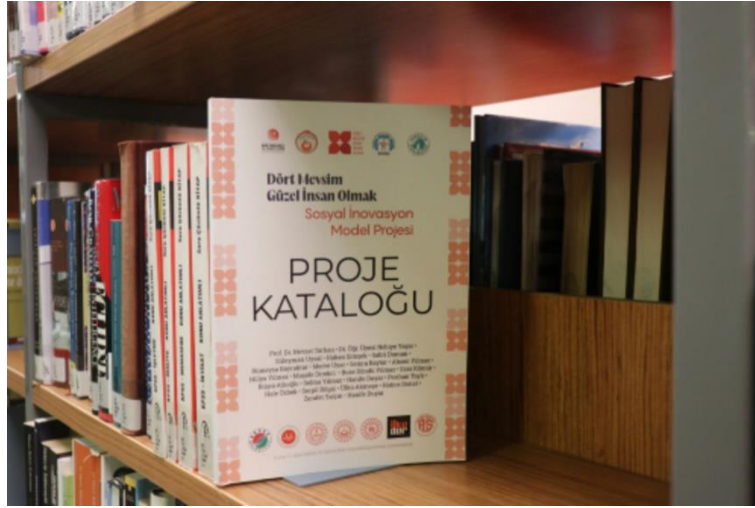
Üsküdar University actively engages in a variety of educational outreach activities beyond its campus. Our institution is deeply committed to extending its educational mission beyond the boundaries of its campus. The university actively participates in a wide range of outreach initiatives designed to share knowledge, promote lifelong learning, and strengthen its connection with the wider community. Through collaborative projects, public seminars, workshops, and partnerships with schools, organizations, and local institutions, Üsküdar University fosters an environment where education, research, and social responsibility come together to create meaningful impact well beyond its physical location.

Firstly, Social Contribution Coordination Office strategically prioritizes engaging with the community through educational activities that the members of the institution specializes in beyond the campus. This office coordinates all the strategic decisions and implementations in terms of social contribution collaborating with different faculties and centers of the University. For a full list of the office’s 2024 activities, please see the link: <https://toplumsalkatki.uskudaruniversitesi.edu.tr/2024-yili-etkinlikleri>

Moreover, the university conducts community-wide projects such as the "Four Seasons Beautiful Family School" to provide family education and holds public seminars like the "Aphasia language and brain seminar." As part of the "Being Beautiful in All Seasons" project, implemented in collaboration



with Üsküdar University and the Antalya Governorship, 40 experts from the Antalya Governorship received training on family and values. The experts also published a book, "Family Stories in All Seasons," based on real family stories. Further information can be found at <https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/dort-mevsim-guzel-insan-olmak-projesi-hayata-gecirildi/45122>



Another proof of educational outreach activities is “Aphasia language and brain seminar”. In 2024, the Online Aphasia Therapy Program was adapted into Turkish within the Department of Language and Speech Therapy at Üsküdar University Health Sciences Institute to support the communication skills of individuals with aphasia. The adaptation of the Online Aphasia Therapy Program into Turkish stands out as a significant example of the university's educational and social contribution, combining educational and social benefits. This project, aimed at supporting the communication skills of individuals with aphasia, demonstrates Üsküdar University's efforts to raise educational awareness not only within academic settings but also by reaching diverse segments of society. Please see the link <https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/afazili-bireylere-cevrimici-terapi-destegi/56539> with the link to the free online therapy programme on the page. This Project, among many others, is a concrete demonstration of the university's active involvement in educational awareness and social contribution activities through innovative and community-focused projects that expand educational access.



Uskudar University also works directly with local schools, offering training on topics like behavioral addictions across numerous institutions. Aside from school visits or hosting high schools for get-togethers or seminars on different topics, the university also supports voluntary student-run initiatives, exemplified by the "Little Hands, Big Hopes" social responsibility project, where students organized an event and delivered donations to middle school students. In one of the school visits in 2024, Üsküdar University Faculty of Communication Advertising Department Assistant Professor Burak Çeber met with students at Zeynep Kamil Vocational and Technical Anatolian High School: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/bilincli-ve-verimli-teknoloji-kullanimi-nasil-olmalı/57931>





Çeber explained the importance of conscious use of technology, stating that technology should be used for productive purposes rather than consumption, and shared precautions that can be taken against digital threats. The seminar, organized as part of Üsküdar University's ongoing efforts to promote public awareness and digital literacy, addressed a number of crucial topics related to the challenges and risks of today's digital world. During the event, Çeber emphasized pressing issues such as data theft, privacy violations, cyberbullying, gaming addiction, cyber fraud, and online manipulation, providing attendees with valuable insights into how these threats affect individuals and society. In addition to discussing these key concerns, Çeber shared a practical example of cyber fraud, offering a real-world perspective on how such incidents unfold and how they can be prevented. Through educational programs and seminars like this one, Üsküdar University demonstrates its strong commitment to educational outreach, community engagement, and raising public awareness, helping individuals of all ages develop safer and more responsible digital practices beyond the classroom.

Social responsibility projects play a vital role in shaping students into conscious, empathetic, and active members of society. These initiatives allow students to apply their academic knowledge in real-world contexts, fostering a sense of responsibility, collaboration, and civic awareness. Engaging in social responsibility projects helps students understand the impact they can have on their communities, encouraging them to become individuals who contribute positively to social well-being throughout their lives.

At Üsküdar University, this understanding holds special significance. The university strongly believes that a lifelong contribution to society begins during the university years, when students are not only gaining knowledge but also forming their values and worldview. By integrating social responsibility into education, Üsküdar University cultivates a culture of empathy, ethical awareness, and active citizenship, ensuring that its students graduate as professionals who are committed to serving humanity. In this way, the university fulfills its mission of combining scientific learning with social consciousness—preparing individuals who will continue to make meaningful contributions to society well beyond their academic journey. One of the 2024 examples is "Little Hands, Big Hopes Project". As part of the social responsibility project of the Visual Communication Design Department of Üsküdar University's Faculty of Communication, the event titled "Little Hands, Big Hopes" was held with the support of the "Hold My Hand" Association. Üsküdar University students and scholars met with students from Kastamonu Atabeyli Middle School to share the collected donations with the little hands.

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/uskudar-ailesi-kucuk-ellere-buyuk-umut-oldu/47882>



Üsküdar University is highly attentive and sensitive to special occasions and commemorative days that are related to the various departments and fields within the institution. The university actively recognizes and celebrates these important days through academic events, seminars, exhibitions, and awareness activities that highlight the significance of each discipline. As a 2024 example, on World Occupational Therapy Day, Üsküdar University Health Sciences Institute Occupational Therapy and Music Therapy Application and Research Center (MÜTEM) organized the "4th Evidence-Based Occupational Therapy Practices" scientific program. The program, led by Prof. Dr. Sevda Asqarova, Head of the Occupational Therapy Department, was attended by expert occupational therapists in the field. For further information, please see <https://uskudar.edu.tr/haber/dunya-ergoterapi-gununde-4uncu-kanita-dayali-ergoterapi-uygulamalari-etkinligi-gerceklestirildi/57461> This approach not only strengthens the sense of unity and belonging among students and faculty but also emphasizes the university's dedication to acknowledging the professional and social values associated with each department. By honoring these meaningful occasions, Üsküdar University demonstrates its commitment to fostering awareness, professional identity, and a culture of respect and appreciation within the academic community.

4.3.5 – Does your university as a body have a policy that ensures that access to these activities is accessible to all, regardless of ethnicity, religion, disability, immigration status or gender?

Üsküdar University implements its institutional governance and academic procedures through a comprehensive **policy framework** that ensures equality, accessibility, and inclusiveness across all



educational and community activities. These **policies** define the University's strategic commitments and operational principles, guiding academic, administrative, and social practices to promote equitable participation and nondiscrimination in every aspect of institutional life.

Policies represent overarching institutional commitments that align Üsküdar University's governance system with its core values of human rights, academic freedom, sustainability, and fairness. They provide the foundation upon which all educational, research, and social processes are structured, ensuring that opportunities are accessible to everyone regardless of ethnicity, religion, disability, gender, or immigration status. Through these policies, the University systematically embeds the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly **SDG 4 (Quality Education)**, into its governance and quality assurance mechanisms.

Complementing these institutional policies, **Directives** serve as detailed internal policy instruments that regulate the structure, responsibilities, and operational procedures of specific academic or administrative units. They translate the University's policy principles into concrete actions and implementation frameworks. Each directive establishes clear procedures for inclusiveness, transparency, and participation, ensuring that quality education and accessibility are consistently upheld at the operational level.

To demonstrate this inclusive and equitable framework, Üsküdar University's **policies and directives** can be categorized into two main groups:

Policies and Directives created or revised between 2021–2025, reflecting the University's ongoing efforts to strengthen inclusivity, sustainability, and accessibility.

Long-standing Directives approved before 2021 that remain in force, representing the institutional foundation for continuous commitment to equality and quality in education.

POLICIES:

Üsküdar University implements a comprehensive set of institutional **Policies** that define its strategic vision, operational principles, and commitment to inclusive and equitable quality education. These policies guide decision-making across academic, administrative, and social domains, ensuring that all institutional processes uphold transparency, fairness, and accessibility for every member of the university community. Each policy reinforces the University's dedication to human rights, equality, and lifelong learning, creating a cohesive framework that promotes excellence in education and social responsibility.

Policies Created in 2024



In 2024, Üsküdar University developed and adopted a series of comprehensive institutional policies designed to strengthen its inclusive education ecosystem and align university governance with the principles of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4: Quality Education).

These policies demonstrate the University's proactive approach to ensuring equitable access to education, research, and community engagement, while embedding sustainability, digital transformation, and global collaboration into institutional practices. Together, they form a coherent policy framework that promotes accessibility, diversity, and continuous improvement in educational quality across all academic and administrative processes.

Key examples include:

- **Governance Policy (2024)**

The Governance Policy ensures transparent, ethical, and participatory decision-making across all institutional processes. By fostering accountability, equality, and inclusiveness in governance structures, it creates a foundation where educational and administrative opportunities are accessible to all members of the university community. This approach reinforces the principles of equitable and high-quality education.

<https://cdn.kalite.uskudar.edu.tr/content/files/yonetim-politikasi-251006044604.pdf>

- **Research and Development Policy (2024)**

Through this policy, Üsküdar University promotes ethical, innovative, and socially responsible research practices that contribute to scientific progress and community welfare. The policy encourages inclusive participation in research and ensures that knowledge production supports the continuous improvement of educational quality and equal access to learning opportunities.

<https://cdn.kalite.uskudar.edu.tr/content/files/arastirma-gelistirme-politikasi-251006044229.pdf>

- **Education and Training Policy (2024)**

This policy guarantees fair and equal access to high-quality education for all students, regardless of personal or social circumstances. It emphasizes student-centered learning, inclusivity, and lifelong learning opportunities, aligning educational practices with the values of accessibility and excellence that define quality education.

<https://cdn.kalite.uskudar.edu.tr/content/files/egitim-ogretim-politikasi-251006044304.pdf>

- **Sustainability Policy (2024)**

The Sustainability Policy embeds environmental, social, and economic sustainability principles into the university's teaching, research, and operations. By integrating sustainability awareness and responsible



citizenship into educational practices, the policy strengthens the university's role in preparing learners for an equitable and sustainable future.

<https://cdn.kalite.uskudar.edu.tr/content/files/surdurulebilirlik-politikasi-251006044428.pdf>

- **Community Engagement Policy (2024)**

Üsküdar University's Community Engagement Policy promotes active participation in social responsibility projects and partnerships that benefit society. By extending learning beyond the classroom and encouraging equal participation in community initiatives, it helps bridge educational inequalities and supports inclusive learning for all.

<https://cdn.kalite.uskudar.edu.tr/content/files/toplumsal-katki-politikasi-251006044448.pdf>

- **Internationalization Policy (2024)**

This policy advances global collaboration, intercultural learning, and fair access to international opportunities for students and staff. It promotes diversity and equity in international mobility and academic exchange, ensuring that global education experiences are inclusive and accessible to all members of the university community.

<https://cdn.kalite.uskudar.edu.tr/content/files/uluslararasilasma-politikasi-251006044504.pdf>

- **Distance Education Policy (2024)**

The Distance Education Policy ensures that education remains accessible through flexible, digital learning environments. It supports learners who face geographical, physical, or personal barriers, fostering equal participation in higher education and enabling lifelong learning through technology-enhanced education.

<https://cdn.kalite.uskudar.edu.tr/content/files/uzaktan-egitim-politikasi-251006044522.pdf>

In addition, several new institutional policies entered into force in 2025, further strengthening Üsküdar University's inclusive education and equality framework. These include the **Policy on Preventing Discrimination and Harassment**, the **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy**, and the **Policy for Students with Disabilities**. Each of these policies reinforces the University's commitment to creating a safe, equitable, and accessible learning environment for all members of its community. Although they have already been implemented institutionally, they will be submitted as formal evidence in the next reporting cycle, as the current submission covers policies established or revised up to the year 2025.

Together, these policies form a cohesive institutional framework that ensures inclusivity, equity, and excellence across all dimensions of education, research, and community life at Üsküdar University. By systematically addressing governance, teaching quality, sustainability, social contribution, and



international collaboration, the University reinforces its holistic commitment to providing equal access to lifelong learning opportunities for all. This integrated policy structure not only supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education) but also exemplifies Üsküdar University's vision of fostering an inclusive academic environment where diversity, innovation, and social responsibility are actively promoted and sustained.

DIRECTIVES:

Üsküdar University issues comprehensive institutional Directives to regulate academic, administrative, and social operations across the University. Each directive establishes clear procedures and responsibilities for specific offices, ensuring inclusiveness, transparency, and equitable participation in educational and community activities. These internal policies play a crucial role in promoting equality of access regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender, disability, or immigration status.

Directives Created or Revised Between 2021–2025

Between 2021 and 2025, Üsküdar University introduced or revised several directives to strengthen its inclusive education framework and align its internal policies with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4: Quality Education). These updates reflect the University's commitment to sustainability, gender equality, health promotion, and digital accessibility.

Key examples include:

- **Üsküdar University Islamic Environmental Ethics Forum Directive (created 2021)** – establishes a structured framework for fostering environmental ethics from an Islamic perspective. It promotes ecological awareness, sustainability education, and interdisciplinary collaboration between social sciences, theology, and environmental studies. Through seminars, projects, and student engagement, the Forum contributes to inclusive education by integrating moral responsibility, ethical reflection, and sustainability consciousness into the university community.

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/islam-cevre-ahlaki-forumu-yonergesi.pdf>

- **Üsküdar University Special Student Directive (created 2022)** – regulates the procedures and principles for students attending courses at Üsküdar University or other institutions under a special student status. It enhances academic mobility and equal opportunity for learners who face health or personal challenges, allowing them to continue their education flexibly. This directive ensures that no student is disadvantaged due to individual circumstances, directly supporting equitable access to quality education.

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/uu-ozel-ogrenci-yonergesi-son-005.pdf>



- **Üsküdar University Gender Equality Action Plan (2022–2026)** – serves as a strategic framework to promote gender equity across all university structures and operations. It sets out objectives for preventing discrimination, empowering women in leadership, and ensuring equal participation in academic, administrative, and research environments. The plan strengthens the University’s commitment to SDG 5 (Gender Equality) while reinforcing SDG 4 through inclusive educational practices.

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/uskudar-universitesi-toplumsal-cinsiyet-esitligi-eylem-plani-2022-2026.pdf>

- **Üsküdar University Addiction Prevention Coordination Unit Directive (created 2024)** – defines the organizational structure and responsibilities of the coordination unit dedicated to addiction prevention. The directive emphasizes education, awareness, and collaboration to safeguard the mental and physical health of students and staff. It supports inclusive participation by addressing behavioral, digital, and substance-related risks that can hinder access to learning opportunities.

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/uskudar-universitesi-bagimlilikla-mucadele-koordinasyon-birimi-calisma-yonergesi-24-10-2024.pdf>

- **Üsküdar University Sustainability Coordination Office Directive (created 2024)** – institutionalizes sustainability within academic, administrative, and community activities. It coordinates university-wide initiatives on environmental responsibility, green campus practices, and sustainability-focused education. The directive ensures that sustainable development principles are embedded into curricula and campus culture, advancing lifelong learning opportunities in line with SDG 4 and SDG 13.

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/uskudar-universitesi-surdurulebilirlik-koordinatordugu-yonergesi.pdf>

- **Üsküdar University International Student Admission Directive (updated 2024)** – outlines transparent, fair, and inclusive admission criteria for international students. The directive ensures that students from diverse cultural, linguistic, and socioeconomic backgrounds can access higher education without discrimination. It reinforces the University’s global engagement and commitment to diversity and inclusion within its academic community.

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/uluslararasi-ogrenci-kabulu-yonergesi-2024.pdf>

- **Üsküdar University Distance Education Directive (updated 2022)** – regulates the delivery of online and hybrid education at the University. It ensures that digital platforms, materials, and teaching methods are designed to provide equal access for all learners, including those with



disabilities or remote geographic locations. The directive plays a vital role in promoting educational accessibility, innovation, and continuity of learning under all conditions.

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/uu-uzaktan-ogretim-yonergesi.pdf>

- **Üsküdar University Science Awards Directive (created 2023)** – aims to make scientific achievements that benefit society more visible and recognized. The directive ensures that award processes are transparent, inclusive, and accessible to all members of the university community, including students, staff, and external stakeholders. It promotes participation across disciplines and emphasizes fairness, ethical responsibility, and the protection of personal data. This policy reinforces inclusivity and equal opportunity within academic and research-related activities, in line with SDG 4 (Quality Education).

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/bilim-odulleri-yonergesi12-10-2023.pdf>

- **Üsküdar University Science and Idea Festival Directive (updated 2022)** – establishes the organization of an annual project competition open to all high school students in Turkey, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education. The directive ensures equal participation from public and private schools without discrimination based on region, background, or socioeconomic status. It promotes creativity, collaboration, and scientific inquiry while providing all participants with recognition and access to university facilities and mentorship opportunities. The festival fosters inclusivity, fairness, and accessibility in pre-university science education, aligning with SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)

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- **Üsküdar University Scholarship Directive (revised multiple times between 2021–2025)** – establishes the framework for scholarship and financial aid opportunities designed to promote equal access to higher education. The directive aims to enhance educational quality and ensure opportunity equity for all students, regardless of socioeconomic background, disability status, or nationality. It includes a wide range of scholarships such as disability, international student, financial need, merit, and special deprivation grants, ensuring that no student is excluded due to personal or financial circumstances. By guaranteeing financial accessibility and inclusion, the directive directly supports SDG 4 (Quality Education) and reflects Üsküdar University's long-term commitment to fairness and equal participation in education.

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/burs-yonergesi-04-08-2025.pdf>

- **Üsküdar University Erasmus Student Learning, Internship, and Staff Mobility Directive (updated 2024)** – defines the procedures and principles for student and staff mobility within the Erasmus+ program. The directive guarantees fair, transparent, and inclusive access to



international learning and internship opportunities for all participants, regardless of nationality, gender, religion, disability, or socioeconomic background. It also provides additional support mechanisms for participants with disabilities and disadvantaged backgrounds. This policy strengthens global engagement, intercultural learning, and equal opportunity in education, fully aligning with SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/uuyng019-erasmus-ogrenci-ogrenim-staj-ve-personel-hareketliligi-yonergesi-rev2.pdf>

- **Üsküdar University Library and Documentation Directive (updated 2022)** – regulates the organization, responsibilities, and access rules of the University Library and Documentation Department. The directive guarantees open and equitable access to printed and digital resources for all university members, alumni, and external users, regardless of status or background. It ensures that students, academic and administrative staff, and researchers can access educational materials both on campus and remotely, while protecting fair use and data integrity. The 2022 revision further strengthened digital accessibility and inter-library collaboration, reflecting Üsküdar University’s commitment to inclusive and quality education in line with SDG 4 (Quality Education).

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/kutuphane-ve-dokumantasyon.pdf>

- **Üsküdar University Student Clubs Directive (created 2024)** – defines the establishment, operation, and governance of all student clubs within the University. The directive explicitly prohibits discrimination based on language, religion, race, ethnicity, nationality, or gender, ensuring equal participation in cultural, academic, artistic, and social activities. It also mandates the inclusion of at least one international student in each club’s founding members and management board, guaranteeing representation of diverse backgrounds. By promoting inclusive participation, cultural diversity, and student engagement, this directive directly supports SDG 4 (Quality Education) and reflects Üsküdar University’s commitment to equitable access and nondiscrimination in extracurricular and community life.

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- **Üsküdar University Student Research Projects Directive (created 2023)** – establishes the framework for supporting student-led research projects across all faculties and disciplines. The directive ensures equal opportunity for all undergraduate and graduate students to participate in scientific research activities, regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender, disability, or socioeconomic background. Project applications are evaluated through transparent and merit-based criteria, and selected projects receive financial and academic support from the University.



This policy promotes inclusion, academic excellence, and equitable access to research opportunities, contributing directly to SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

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In addition, several new directives have already been implemented to further strengthen the University's inclusive and equitable education framework. These include the **Learning and Teaching Coordination Office Directive**, the **Social Transcript Directive**, the **Community Engagement Directive**, and the **Science Communication Coordination Office Directive**. Although these directives have already come into force, they will be included as formal evidence in the next reporting cycle, as the current submission covers policies established or revised up to the year **2025**. This ongoing development clearly demonstrates Üsküdar University's sustained institutional commitment to accessibility, social contribution, and continuous improvement in educational quality.

Together, these directives establish a comprehensive and inclusive framework that governs academic, administrative, and social dimensions of life at Üsküdar University. Each directive—whether focused on sustainability, gender equality, research, student mobility, or digital accessibility—strengthens the University's capacity to provide high-quality education that is accessible to all. By systematically updating and expanding its internal governance between 2021 and 2025, the University has ensured that participation in education, research, and campus engagement remains open to everyone, without discrimination or limitation. In this way, Üsküdar University actively advances the objectives of **SDG 4 (Quality Education)** by promoting equity, lifelong learning, and continuous improvement across every level of institutional practice, reinforcing its long-term vision of an inclusive, fair, and forward-looking academic community.

Directives Approved Before 2021 (Still in Force)

In addition to the directives created or updated in recent years, Üsküdar University maintains several long-standing directives that remain valid and continue to guide institutional practice. Although approved prior to 2021, these documents remain **in full effect**, ensuring the continuity of principles such as equality, accessibility, and ethical governance.

Examples include:

- **Üsküdar University Directive on Education, Teaching, and Examination Practices for Students with Special Needs (created 2019)** – ensures that students with disabilities and special educational needs have equal access to learning and assessment processes. It provides guidelines for reasonable accommodations, accessible materials, and flexible examination



methods, promoting equity, inclusion, and full participation in education in line with SDG 4 (Quality Education).

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/uu-ozel-gereksinimli-ogrenciler-icin-egitim-ogretim-ve-sinav-uygulamalari-yonergesi.pdf?1>

- **Üsküdar University Directive on Courses Conducted with Digital Teaching Support (created 2020)** – regulates the procedures and principles for providing digital learning support across all academic programs. The directive ensures equitable access to educational content and assessments through online platforms, enabling flexible, inclusive, and technology-enhanced learning environments in line with SDG 4 (Quality Education).

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/derslerin-dijital-ogretim-destegi-ile-yurutulmesine-iliskin-esaslar.pdf>

- **Üsküdar University Digital Transformation Coordination Office Directive (2020)** – defines the structure, duties, and responsibilities of the office responsible for advancing the university’s digital transformation. The directive promotes the integration of emerging technologies such as AI, virtual reality, and digital learning tools into education, ensuring accessible, flexible, and innovative teaching environments. By fostering digital literacy, supporting inclusive online education, and enhancing research and collaboration, it contributes directly to SDG 4 (Quality Education).

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/derslerin-dijital-ogretim-destegi-ile-yurutulmesine-iliskin-esaslar.pdf>

- **Üsküdar University Directive on the Organization and Working Principles of the Office for Students with Disabilities (created 2013, revised 2018)** – establishes the structure and responsibilities of the Disability Support Office, ensuring that students with disabilities have equal access to education, physical spaces, and social participation. The directive provides procedures for accessibility arrangements, support services, and awareness programs, promoting inclusion and equal opportunity in all learning environments in line with SDG 4 (Quality Education).

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/uu-engelli-ogrenciler-birimi-yapilanmasi-ve-calisma-esaslari-yonergesi.pdf?1>

- **Üsküdar University Psychological Counseling Unit Directive (created 2015)** – establishes the structure, scope, and responsibilities of the Psychological Counseling Unit under the Directorate of Health, Culture, and Sports. The directive ensures that all students have access to psychological guidance, orientation, and personal development support, fostering emotional



well-being, academic success, and social inclusion. By providing equitable access to counseling and mental health services, it reinforces an inclusive and supportive educational environment in line with SDG 4 (Quality Education).

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/uu-psikolojik-danismanlik-birimi-yonergesi.pdf?1>

- **Üsküdar University Directive on the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination (created 2017, revised 2018 and 2020)** – establishes preventive and corrective mechanisms to protect all members of the university community from sexual harassment, psychological pressure (mobbing), and discrimination. The directive defines clear procedures for complaints, investigation, and confidentiality, while promoting awareness and education through regular training programs. By safeguarding dignity, equality, and mental well-being, it ensures that academic and social environments remain inclusive and respectful, fully supporting SDG 4 (Quality Education).

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/taciz-yonerge-revize-son-senato-23-01-2020-003.pdf>

These earlier directives form the institutional foundation of Üsküdar University's inclusive education framework, complementing the newer policies developed during the 2021–2025 period. Together, they create a coherent and sustainable system that guarantees the continuity of equality, accessibility, and ethical governance across all academic and administrative structures. These directives demonstrate the University's long-term dedication to fostering a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment that accommodates the needs of all individuals, including those with disabilities, special educational requirements, or psychosocial challenges. They also underline Üsküdar University's proactive stance in preventing discrimination and ensuring equal participation in educational, social, and digital spaces. By maintaining and continuously improving these long-standing directives, the University reinforces its institutional culture of inclusion and quality, embodying the principles of **SDG 4 (Quality Education)** through both enduring stability and forward-looking innovation.

Collectively, these institutional policies and directives form a coherent and inclusive governance system that ensures equality, accessibility, and continuous improvement across all dimensions of education, research, and community engagement at Üsküdar University. By systematically aligning its internal framework with the principles of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education), the University guarantees that all learners—regardless of ethnicity, religion, disability, gender, or socioeconomic status—can fully participate in academic and social life. The combination of long-standing directives and recently developed policies demonstrates a balance between institutional continuity and forward-looking innovation. This holistic approach reflects Üsküdar University's



enduring commitment to inclusivity, ethical governance, and lifelong learning, positioning the institution as a model of equitable and quality education within higher education both nationally and globally.