Report on SDG 1: No Poverty at Al-Turath University

Reporting period: calendar year 2025 and academic year 2024-25

Committee: Al-Turath University SDG Impact Committee

Web page: https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/

Introduction

In 2025 Al-Turath University (TU) fought poverty on two fronts: aid that lets low-income students enroll and graduate, and free training, health care and food for poor families in Baghdad. This report is organized by the THE Sustainability Impact Ratings such that each section documents one indicator.

1. Financial aid for low-income students (1.2)

In 2025, 1307 of the university's 28370 full-time-equivalent (FTE) students received significant financial aid because of poverty. The Financial Support Center, founded in 2017, runs this aid. It covers students whose family income would otherwise stop them from enrolling or graduating.

All aid below is provided and administered by the university itself. Applicants submit a form through their department head, provide legal proof of need, and are interviewed by a confidential committee of three professors.

Programme	What the student receives	Who qualifies	Recipients 2025
Free Admission Program	Full tuition waiver for the year, plus academic guidance	Students whose finances prevent them from enrolling	50
Partially Supported Admission	50% of tuition; the rest in instalments or deferred a year	Students who cannot pay full tuition	150
Victims of Terrorism Program	50% tuition discount	Students whose parents were victims of terrorism, verified by a government agency	100
Student Allowance Program	Interest-free loans, monthly stipend, legal services, free use of facilities, bookstore vouchers	Below-average family income; at least 60% from the local community; 50% women	100
Women's Scholarship	200 free meals during studies	Low-income women, Iraqi or international	50
Food Allowance Program	200 free meals	Low-income students, Iraqi or international	150
Study in Iraq Program	Free admission and financial aid	Low income ONLY for international students	18

Evidences: https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/financial-support-center/

https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/study-in-iraq/

2. Admission target for the poorest 20% of households (1.3.1)

Al-Turath University's target is that at least 5% of each year's new students come from the bottom 20% of household incomes in Iraq. In 2025, 1307 new students met this definition.

- **Target:** at least 5% of new entrants from the bottom income quintile, set by university council.
- **How students are identified:** legal proof of financial need, reviewed by a committee of three professors and an interview.
- **How the target is met:** the Free Admission Program waives a full year of tuition for students whose finances would stop them enrolling. Applications are open every year from 12 June to 12 November.

Who else counts: children of victims of terrorism, who also qualify for a 50% discount under the Victims of Terrorism Program. Also, international Students who can apply through our platform

Evidences: https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/financial-support-center/

https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/study-in-iraq/

3. Graduation target for students from the poorest households (1.3.2)

The university's target is that at least 90% of students admitted through its free-admission aid complete their studies. The long-term goal is 100%. The most recent published result is 94%, above target. The 2025 completion rate was 96%.

Measure	Target	Latest published result	2025 result
Completion rate, Free Admission Program students	90%	94%	96%
Completion rate, all students receiving financial aid	100% (long-term)	95%	96%

A Students Guidance Committee in every department gives aided students academic and financial guidance until they graduate.

4. Support for students from low-income families (1.3.3)

Al-Turath University gives low-income students free food, money, legal help and study materials so they can stay in university.

- **Food:** the Women's Scholarship and the Food Allowance Program each provide 200 free meals to low-income students, including international students.
- **Healthcare:** free first aid and detail treatment in Alturath medical center and college of detail health.
- **Money:** the Student Allowance Program pays a monthly stipend and gives interest-free loans.
- **Legal services:** free legal advice is part of the Student Allowance Program.
- **Study costs:** vouchers for the Al-Turath University Bookstore and free use of university facilities.

  Housing and transport: transportation is free inside the campus for all students. For students who involve in Study in Iraq program, the university provides free housing as well, which is thoroughly mentioned in their admission and our website**.** https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/study-in-iraq/

5. Programmes that help the poorest students graduate (1.3.4)

Three continuous programmes, run every year since 2020, help students from the bottom income quintile finish their degrees.

1. **Free Admission Program:** a full tuition waiver plus academic guidance. 94% of its students complete their studies, against a 90% target.
2. **Partially Supported Admission Program:** pays 50% of tuition. Students can pay the rest in instalments or defer it to the next year, so a bad year does not force them to drop out.
3. **Student Allowance Program:** interest-free loans and a monthly stipend for students with below-average family income. At least 60% of places go to students from the local community and 50% to women.
4. **Study in Iraq program**: Free admission, financial aid, and free housing for internation students with low income.

   Evidences: https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/financial-support-center/

   https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/study-in-iraq/

6. Support for students from low and lower-middle income countries (1.3.5)

Through its Study in Iraq scheme, Al-Turath University gives international students full and half scholarships. The university has hosted students from more than 7 countries. In 2025, 18 scholarship holders came from countries the World Bank classes as low or lower-middle income: Syria (9), Sudan (3), Yemen (3).

Scholarship	What it covers	Condition
Full scholarship	100% of tuition for the whole degree, plus a monthly stipend for housing, living costs and travel for outstanding students	Keep the minimum GPA
Half scholarship	Part of tuition; the rest paid in four instalments a year	Upgraded to a full scholarship after a first year graded Excellent

Low-income international students can also apply for the Women's Scholarship and the Food Allowance Program, which are open to non-Iraqi students.

Evidence: https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/study-in-iraq/

7. Start-up assistance for the local community (1.4.1)

Al-Turath University gives local people free training, mentoring and use of its facilities to start their own small businesses. Two programmes take applicants every year.

- **Carpenter Training Program:** three months of free hands-on training in the university's carpentry workshop for local workers, with free use of its equipment. Trainees per year: 2025 (40). Applications open 1–15 December.
- **Women's Handicrafts Cooperative:** free training for local women in traditional and modern crafts such as textiles and jewellery. It also teaches small-business management, marketing, digital sales and e-commerce. Members get materials, workspace on campus and a place in a cooperative that sells through the university marketplace. Applications open 20 November to 10 December.

Evidence: https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/financial-support-center/community-support-programs/

8. Financial assistance for local start-ups (1.4.2)

Trainees of the Carpenter Training Program receive a US$2,500 grant from the university to open an independent business. In 2025, 40 grants were paid.

Evidence: https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/financial-support-center/community-support-programs/

9. Programmes improving access to basic services (1.4.3)

The university delivers free health care, food and nutrition directly to poor families, orphans and underprivileged children in Baghdad.

- **Free dental care and support for children, 2025:** the College of Dentistry hospital treated more than 60 children with Down syndrome, orphans and underprivileged children, free of charge. The children and their companions also received meals on campus, new clothes and a gift each. Specialist professors provided the care, supervised by the Dean of Dentistry, Dr. Tahani Al-Sandouk.
- **Free Food Basket Program:** free food baskets for poor families in the local community, mainly during Ramadan, plus more than 1,000 meals a year for hospitals, orphanages and nursing homes. The programme has run since 2009. https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/financial-support-center/community-support-programs/
- **Training for staff of orphans' schools, July 2025:** the Continuing Education Center trained heads of school health units and principals of Al-Farah Model Schools in school health and in helping their pupils integrate into society. Partners were the Ministry of Education's Department of Environmental Education and School Health and the Swedish Center for Cognitive and Behavioral Therapy. https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2024/11/29006/
- **Annual free dental campaigns:** 4th- and 5th-year dental students treat low-income residents free of charge, under expert supervision. https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2023/06/annual-community-dental-services/

All of these services are supplied directly by the university's own colleges and staff.

10. Participation in anti-poverty policy-making (1.4.4)

In 2025 Al-Turath University worked with national government bodies on social policy. Evidence of a direct role in anti-poverty policy is still needed for each level.

Level	2025 activity
Local (Baghdad)	Cooperation with Baghdad Governorate (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/cultural-relations/)
Regional	Work with regional community to enforce national programs (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/10/erasmus/)
National	July 2025: worked with the Ministry of Education and the Prime Minister's Office supervisory committee for the Al-Farah Model Schools on training staff of these schools (workshop).
Global	Al-Turath University hosted a specialised training course in cooperation with the European Union Delegation to Iraq. The course focused on developing skills in preparing

Level	2025 activity
	international project proposals under the Erasmus+ programmes and on strengthening links between Iraqi and European universities. It also enabled participants to exchange experience in capacity building and international academic cooperation. (https://uoturath.edu.iq/en/2025/12/erasmus-2/)