



**ACIBADEM**

---

MEHMET ALİ AYDINLAR  
UNIVERSITY

# Sustainability Report

## 2023

## About Acibadem University

Acibadem University (ACU), established in 2007 by the Acibadem Health and Education Foundation, is a thematic institution specializing in health sciences. With a mission to train future healthcare professionals, ACU offers dynamic and contemporary educational programs designed to cultivate competence, research acumen, and ethical values. Its academic team emphasizes innovation and scientific thinking, fostering leaders with cultural and social sensitivity and a commitment to lifelong learning.

The University's state-of-the-art Kerem Aydınlar Campus, spanning 100,000 square meters on Istanbul's Asian side, provides students with a privileged educational experience. The campus is equipped with cutting-edge research laboratories and facilities such as the Clinical Simulation and Advanced Endoscopic - Robotic Surgery Training Center (CASE), globally recognized as one of the most comprehensive medical training centers. These resources complement ACU's focus on being a research-oriented university at the forefront of health, life, and social sciences.

ACU also actively promotes global engagement through its Erasmus+ Exchange Programme, offering students opportunities to study at esteemed partner universities across Europe. In alignment with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the University extends its mission beyond education and research to encompass community service, creating a positive impact on society. With a vision to be a global leader in pioneering and innovative research and education, ACU continues to emphasize excellence in education, research, and service.

## United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, the United Nations Member States issued a universal call to action through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aiming to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all by 2030. This agenda integrates the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, which emphasize the interconnected nature of social, economic, and environmental progress. Actions in one area influence outcomes in others, underscoring the need for a balanced and holistic approach to sustainable development.

As one of Turkey's leading health-focused universities, Acibadem University (ACU) extends its mission to encompass community service, education, and research while fostering the creation and dissemination of knowledge. The University recognizes that institutions of higher learning play a pivotal role in driving societal progress, and ACU embraces this responsibility through its

comprehensive engagement in teaching, research, and outreach activities. Furthermore, ACU is committed to establishing a sustainable campus and collaborating with stakeholders to achieve the SDGs.

ACU's Core Values<sup>1</sup> and 2019-2023 Strategic Plan<sup>2</sup> are closely aligned with these global goals. Reflecting its dedication to sustainability, the University launched its first sustainability webpage<sup>3</sup> and report<sup>4</sup> in 2022, marking a systematic effort to highlight its progress and initiatives. Additionally, ACU updated its Academic Research Information System (AVESIS)<sup>5</sup> to include a "Sustainable Development Module,"<sup>6</sup> ensuring that academic and outreach activities are tracked and aligned with individual SDGs. These efforts demonstrate ACU's holistic approach to contributing to a sustainable and equitable future.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/university/about/vision-mission-corevalues>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/doc/stratejik\\_plan-2019-2023.pdf](https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/doc/stratejik_plan-2019-2023.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.acibadem.edu.tr/surdurulebilirlik>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/sites/default/files/document/acu-sustainability-report.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://avesis.acibadem.edu.tr/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://avesis.acibadem.edu.tr/surdurulebilirlik>

## SGD Related Activities within Acibadem University in 2023



Acibadem University (ACU) prioritizes equitable access to education by providing robust scholarship and financial aid programs supported by the Acibadem Health and Education Foundation<sup>7</sup> and Kerem Aydınlar Foundation. These initiatives aim to support students from all socioeconomic backgrounds, enabling them to pursue their academic and professional goals without financial barriers. Through the foundation, ACU offers a variety of scholarships tailored to meet the diverse needs of its student population across a range of

academic levels<sup>8</sup>.

Merit-Based Scholarships are awarded to students with exceptional academic achievements, covering full or partial tuition fees based on their success in the university entrance examination. This ensures that high-performing students can continue their education without financial concerns.

Need-Based Scholarships are designed to assist students facing financial difficulties, providing partial or full tuition coverage and assessed based on the student's economic background to ensure support reaches those who need it most.

Graduate Program Scholarships are focused on life sciences and health sciences basic sciences programs, these scholarships encourage advanced studies in strategic areas prioritized by ACU. Graduate students in thesis-based programs often receive full tuition coverage, fostering research and innovation.

On-Campus Employment Opportunities: Financial aid at ACU extends beyond scholarships. The University offers part-time on-campus internship opportunities to provide students with economic support, practical experience and skill building opportunities. Thereby, students can earn an income to cover part of their living expenses and reduce reliance on external financial assistance. Through

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/university/about/acibadem-health-and-education-foundation>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/assets/akademik/enstituler/sbe/subat/ing/acibadem-mehmet-ali-aydinlar-university-scholarship-regulation-for-masters-with-thesis-and-doctorate.pdf>

working in ACU, they are offered hands-on experience and professional development. Working through internships in research labs, administrative offices, and campus facilities help students develop transferable skills, enhancing employability.

By integrating scholarships, financial aid, and part-time employment opportunities, ACU demonstrates its unwavering commitment to creating a learning environment where economic barriers do not impede academic success. These initiatives support the University's vision of fostering a diverse and talented student body, aligned with the principles of equity and sustainability.

### 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



As a health-focused institution, Acibadem University (ACU) prioritizes interdisciplinary research and innovation in health and life sciences. ACU engages in research projects in health and life sciences, resulting in many high quality publications (>300) aligned with its mission<sup>9</sup>. Additionally, the Institute of Health Sciences offers a diverse array of health-focused and interdisciplinary graduate programs at both the [M.Sc.](https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/academic/graduate-programs/graduate-school-of-health-sciences) and Ph.D. levels, fostering advanced studies and innovation in

strategic areas<sup>10</sup>. The aforementioned projects are supported by the advanced research infrastructure of the Kerem Aydınlar Campus, which includes state-of-the-art laboratories and specialized facilities like the Clinical Simulation and Advanced Endoscopic - Robotic Surgery Training Center (CASE) and the AAALAC accredited Experimental Animals Application and Research Center (ACU-DEHAM). These projects and publications contribute significantly to advancements in knowledge in life sciences, medical knowledge and healthcare practices.

#### Healthcare Services

The Acibadem University Healthcare Center provides accessible and comprehensive outpatient services to students, staff, and faculty, ensuring the well-being of the university community. Operating from Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., the center addresses common health concerns and, when necessary, refers patients to the Acibadem Healthcare Group—a network of hospitals and outpatient facilities equipped with advanced diagnostic and treatment technologies.

Presence of the Student Relatives Identification System allows ACU students and their immediate family members to access discounted healthcare services offered by the Acibadem Healthcare Group. All university personnel benefit from comprehensive insurance coverage, with the option to extend their coverage through a group health insurance policy, further ensuring healthcare access.

#### Psychological Counseling and Guidance

<sup>9</sup> <https://avesis.acibadem.edu.tr/surdurulebilirlik>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/academic/graduate-programs/graduate-school-of-health-sciences>

Recognizing the importance of mental health, ACU provides professional psychological counseling services through the Psychological Counseling and Guidance Unit. A licensed psychologist visits the campus on designated days to offer one-on-one counseling sessions to students, helping them manage stress, address personal challenges, and improve their overall well-being. This service is a vital resource, supporting students' mental health and academic success.

### **Social, Cultural, and Sporting Activities**

Aligned with SDG 3, Acibadem University highlights its integrated approach to education and development by fostering a vibrant environment for social, cultural, and sporting activities. These initiatives are managed and supported by the Health, Culture, and Sports Directorate, ensuring that students and staff have access to enriching experiences that promote mental, physical, and emotional well-being.

### **Student Clubs and Activities**

ACU hosts a diverse range of student clubs, offering opportunities for social, cultural, academic, and sporting engagements. In 2023, student clubs organized 74 activities, including cultural events, sports tournaments, and scientific meetings in collaboration with academic departments and research centers. These activities align with the University's mission to cultivate socially responsible, culturally aware, and ethically grounded leaders.

- Support for Student Clubs:
  - Clubs receive guidance, venue allocation, and budgetary assistance for their activities.
  - Partnerships with external institutions (e.g., hotels, transport services, and restaurants) enhancing the scope of events.
  - Activities are organized following the Acibadem University Student Clubs Directive, ensuring equitable access and high-quality experiences.
- Awareness and Participation:
  - Events are promoted via email, the University website (news, announcements, and events sections), and social media channels, ensuring all students have equal opportunities to participate.

### **Cultural and Sporting Facilities**

ACU's 3,500-square-meter Sports Center<sup>11</sup>, located on the Kerem Aydınlar Campus, provides world-class facilities to support physical and mental health (Figure 1):

- A semi-Olympic swimming pool and a fitness center cater to diverse fitness needs.
- Facilities include basketball courts, a running track, squash courts, spinning and Pilates studios, and a Reformer Pilates area.
- Personalized health and fitness assessments are available to ensure tailored support for individual goals.



Figure 1. Sports Center on Campus

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/universite/ogretim-eleman-el-kitabi/kampus-olanaklari/spor-merkezi>





Figure 2. Conference Center on Campus

The Conference Center <sup>12</sup> (Figure 2) at Acibadem University is a versatile facility designed to accommodate a wide range of academic, social, and professional events. Spanning an indoor area of 1,700 square meters, the center includes a 750-seat auditorium featuring a 102-square meter stage equipped with advanced sound and acoustics systems to ensure exceptional event experiences.

With its state-of-the-art infrastructure and cutting-edge technical equipment, the center is equipped to host international events, supported by two simultaneous translation cabins for multilingual conferences.

The facility also includes:

- Three backstage rooms to support event logistics.
- A spacious 500-square meter foyer, ideal for pre-event gatherings, exhibitions, or receptions.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/student/life-at-acu/conference-center>

- Three modular salons, each capable of seating 30 people. These salons can be used individually or combined into a larger space accommodating up to 90 attendees by removing the partitions.

The Conference Center is not only a hub for university-hosted academic and cultural events but is also available for external organizations, as well as student club activities.

These facilities provide students and staff with opportunities to maintain active lifestyles, contributing to both physical fitness and stress reduction. The Sports Center uses a membership system. Membership is discounted for the University employees and students.

Student clubs also engage in academic and research-driven activities, collaborating with the University departments to host scientific meetings, workshops, and seminars. These initiatives reflect ACU's core mission of nurturing ethically driven, socially aware individuals with lifelong learning habits. By combining academic and extracurricular activities, ACU creates a supportive environment that enhances both personal and professional growth.

The University actively seeks feedback from students and clubs to improve the scope and quality of its activities. While monitoring and evaluation systems are being developed to systematically track outcomes, ongoing adjustments based on student and staff feedback ensure that activities remain relevant and effective.

These efforts reflect the University's strategic goals of fostering a supportive academic environment. By integrating healthcare, sporting, cultural, and social opportunities into campus life, ACU contributes to the overall well-being of its community. These initiatives promote mental, physical, and emotional health, aligning with SDG 3 by ensuring the sustainable delivery of health-promoting activities within an inclusive and innovative campus environment. Through these efforts, ACU reaffirms its commitment to fostering a healthier and more engaged community.



Acibadem University (ACU) is committed to delivering exceptional education and training in health and life sciences, aligning with global standards and the principles of Goal 4: Quality Education. ACU integrates cutting-edge research and training facilities, innovative programs, and interdisciplinary collaboration to prepare its students for emerging global challenges<sup>13</sup>. The Clinical Simulation and Advanced Endoscopic - Robotic Surgery Training Center (CASE) remains one of the most advanced

simulation-based medical training centers in the world. In 2023, CASE hosted a variety of hands-on training sessions and workshops in advanced endoscopic and robotic surgery techniques. These programs, attended by both domestic and international healthcare professionals, demonstrated the center's capacity to deliver world-class medical training. The center's infrastructure and expertise ensure that healthcare professionals acquire the technical and practical skills necessary to excel in their fields Figure 3.

#### Klinik Simülasyon Eğitim Merkezi



#### İleri Düzey Endoskopik-Robotik Cerrahi Eğitim Merkezi

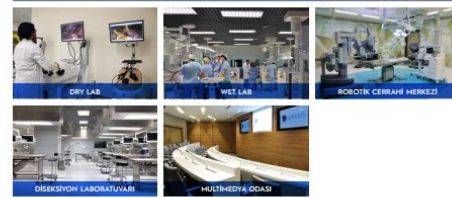


Figure 3. CASE infrastructure

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/universite/merkezler-ve-kurullar/arastirma-merkezleri>

Acibadem University Continuous Education and Development Center (ASEGEM)<sup>14</sup>, serves as a vital platform to promote lifelong learning and professional development, aligning with Acibadem University's mission of addressing contemporary educational needs. ASEGEM provides a diverse range of programs aimed at enhancing competencies, fostering personal growth, and meeting the demands of a knowledge-driven society.

In 2023, ASEGEM organized 40 distinct courses and training sessions, amounting to a total of 1,521 hours of instruction (Figure 4). These programs were attended by 1,893 participants, including healthcare professionals, university students, and external stakeholders. The center's offerings encompassed various thematic areas, including health-related professional education, personal development programs, and workshops aimed at introducing high school students to healthcare professionals.

ASEGEM leverages the expertise of Acibadem University and the Acibadem Healthcare Group to deliver cutting-edge training. Programs such as "Healthy and Happy Living," "Academic Development," "Language School," "Management School," and "Sports Management Programs" cater to a wide audience, ranging from university students to professionals across different educational backgrounds. By doing so, ASEGEM contributes significantly to the University's mission of reaching diverse segments of society and enhancing workforce capabilities.

---

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/centers/asegem>



Figure 4. Cognitive Neuroscience Internship Program of Asegem

### Focus Areas and Impact

1. **Professional and Academic Training:** ASEGEM's healthcare and academic development programs are designed to foster advanced skills and competencies. These initiatives support the continuous professional development of health practitioners and educators, ensuring they remain competitive in an ever-evolving field.
2. **Engagement with High School Students:** ASEGEM extends its impact to younger audiences through activities that introduce high school students to healthcare professions, providing them with early exposure to the industry.
3. **Community Contributions:** By organizing diverse programs and leveraging institutional expertise, ASEGEM plays a critical role in enhancing societal well-being, skill development, and access to knowledge.

The School of Medicine<sup>15</sup> stands at the forefront of medical education, delivering a rigorous curriculum that integrates foundational knowledge with practical training. The faculty emphasizes a student-

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/academic/undergraduate-programs/school-of-medicine>

centered approach, supported by clinical exposure and participation in research projects. Students are equipped with the necessary skills and ethical grounding to address real-world medical challenges. Complementing this is the Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences<sup>16</sup>, which offers diverse programs focusing on the intersections of technology, engineering, and health sciences. The faculty fosters innovation by incorporating cutting-edge technology into the curriculum and providing opportunities for interdisciplinary research and collaboration. In 2023, students from the faculty participated in various projects aimed at tackling challenges in biomedical engineering, artificial intelligence in healthcare, and sustainable technologies.

ACU enriched its curriculum with new courses emphasizing sustainability and interdisciplinary approaches, preparing students to address complex global health and environmental challenges. The Institute of Health Sciences<sup>17</sup> expanded its graduate programs at the M.Sc. and Ph.D. levels, fostering advanced studies that promote critical thinking and problem-solving. These programs integrate theoretical knowledge with practical applications, ensuring that students are well-prepared to lead in their fields.

The University's commitment to global collaboration is reflected in its partnerships with international institutions. Through the Erasmus+ Exchange Program and bilateral agreements, ACU facilitates student and faculty exchanges, enhancing the learning environment with cross-cultural perspectives. These collaborations not only expand academic horizons but also prepare students for international careers in health and technology.

The Kerem Aydınlar Campus, with its state-of-the-art facilities, supports ACU's academic mission. Modern classrooms, advanced research laboratories, and specialized centers such as CASE and ASEGEM provide a comprehensive environment for education and research. In 2023, these resources contributed to increased enrollment in graduate programs and enhanced participation in international academic opportunities.

By integrating advanced training facilities, interdisciplinary collaboration, and global partnerships, Acibadem University continues to deliver high-quality education in health, life sciences, and engineering. These efforts align with the objectives of Goal 4: Quality Education, empowering students to become ethical, innovative, and globally competent leaders in their fields.

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/academic/undergraduate-programs/faculty-of-engineering-and-natural-sciences>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/academic/graduate-programs/graduate-school-of-health-sciences/programs>





Acibadem University (ACU) upholds gender equality as a core institutional value, actively integrating it into its policies, programs, and community engagement initiatives. The University's Gender Equality Committee<sup>18</sup> has developed the Acibadem University Gender Equality Action Plan<sup>19</sup>, which outlines a framework for fostering inclusivity and addressing gender-based disparities. Complementing this, the University has published the Policy Document on Preventing Gender-Based Discrimination, Violence, and

Harassment<sup>20</sup>, as well as a Gender-Sensitive Language Guide<sup>21</sup>, ensuring institutional practices reflect its commitment to equality. To support its mission of promoting gender equality, ACU has implemented several key initiatives:

- **Awareness and Education:** Regular workshops, seminars, and campaigns are organized to educate the university community about gender equality, discrimination, and inclusivity.
- **Policy Implementation:** The Gender Equality Committee operates autonomously to ensure the effective implementation of policies related to equality and fairness in academic and administrative domains.
- **Safe Environment:** ACU has established clear mechanisms for reporting and addressing instances of gender-based violence, harassment, and discrimination, fostering a safe and supportive campus environment.
- **Academic and Community Engagement:** ACU also aligns its academic and outreach efforts with SDG 5 by:
  1. Encouraging gender equality themes in research and educational programs.
  2. Supporting the participation of women in leadership roles and decision-making processes within the University.
  3. Extending its gender equality initiatives to community service projects, ensuring a broader societal impact.

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/university/about/gender-equality>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/sites/default/files/document/2023/acu-tocep-2022.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/sites/default/files/document/2023/tocek-politika-metni.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/sites/default/files/document/2023/toc-dil-tutum-belgesi.pdf>



Acıbadem University has implemented several environmental sustainability measures aimed at reducing water consumption and optimizing water usage efficiency. These initiatives align with the University's commitment to sustainable campus management and environmental awareness. To minimize unnecessary water consumption, aerators have been installed in sinks, and siphon chambers have been redesigned for optimal performance. A significant feature of the University's

sustainability infrastructure is its gray water system (Figure 5), which ensures the effective reuse of water for irrigation and sanitation purposes.

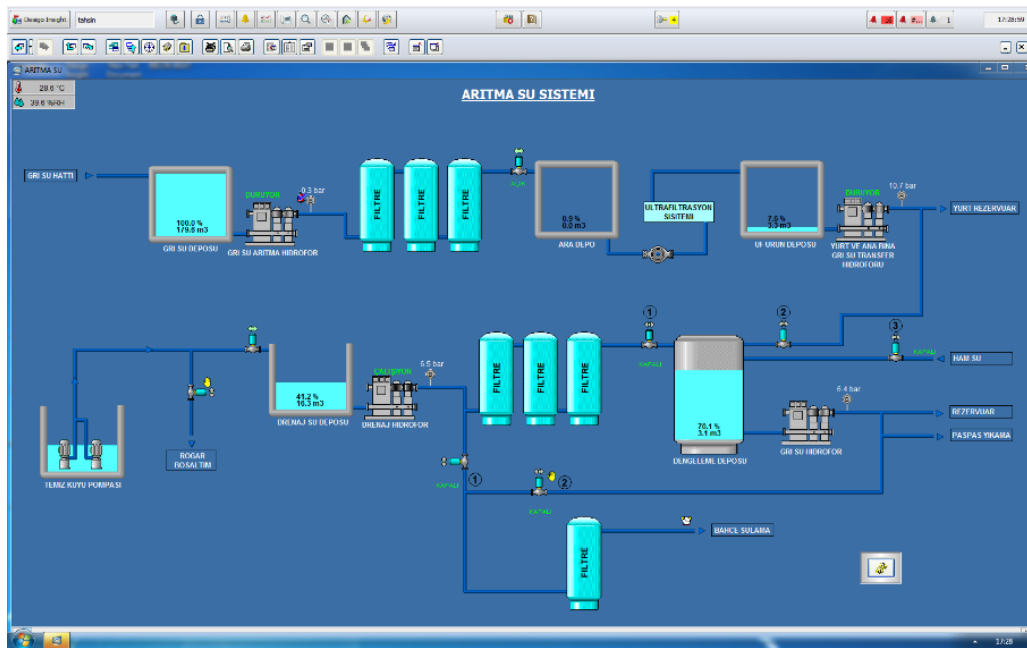


Figure 5. Schematic representation of the control unit for gray water system on campus

The system operates as follows:

**Collection and Filtration:** Handwashing water from sinks is collected in an in-house 100-ton tank. It is then filtered through sand filters and stored in stainless steel tanks with a 10-ton capacity.



**Ultrafiltration and Storage:** The filtered water undergoes an ultrafiltration process and is stored in a 40-ton tank, where it is chlorinated.

**Reuse Applications:** The treated water is distributed to the campus garden irrigation system and used in all WC reservoirs, contributing significantly to water savings.

Additionally, the University collects rainwater and foundation drainage waters, which are processed in a similar manner. After filtration and chlorination, this water is utilized for garden irrigation and WC reservoirs, further reducing dependency on fresh water sources.

As part of its broader commitment to environmental sustainability, free drinking water stations are provided throughout campus corridors, encouraging the reduction of single-use plastic consumption. These measures collectively enhance the University's efforts to conserve natural resources and promote a sustainable, eco-friendly campus environment.

## 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Acıbadem University (ACU) demonstrates a strong commitment to renewable energy and energy efficiency through several initiatives aimed at reducing its environmental footprint and promoting sustainable practices. The Kerem Aydınlar Campus is equipped with renewable energy systems, including solar and wind energy facilities (Figure 6). The University operates a solar power plant with 13,000 panels on a 67,000 m<sup>2</sup> site in Manisa Alaşehir (Figure 7). Together with rooftop solar panels and wind energy systems on

campus, these installations ensure that all the electricity consumed by the University is sourced from renewable energy, achieving nearly zero carbon emissions.



Figure 6. Solar panels on the roof top.



Figure 7. Alaşehir Solar Power Plant of ACU.

These initiatives contribute to a reduction equivalent to the planting of 300,000 trees and prevent the emission of approximately 7,500 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, supporting the global effort to combat climate change.

Additionally, ACU has implemented a series of energy-saving measures. These include:

**LED Lighting Systems:** Efficient LED lighting has been installed across the campus to reduce electricity consumption.

**Automated Energy Management:** The University uses an automated system to monitor and optimize heating, cooling, and lighting. This system also provides real-time diagnostics and backup solutions, real time data from the panels are shared with the community (Figure 8).



Figure 8. Daily energy production follow-up panels shared in real-time at the campus.

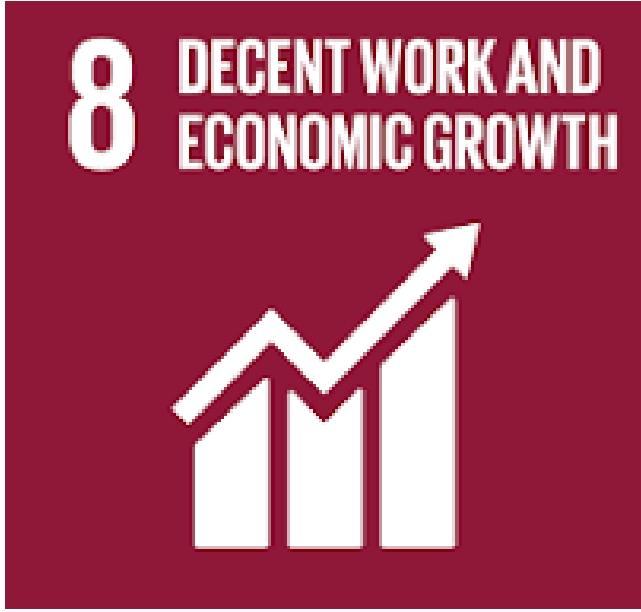
Recycling of Waste Heat: Waste heat generated during energy production is reused for heating campus buildings, further enhancing energy efficiency.

ACU's campus buildings have received LEED Gold Certification (Figure 9), an internationally recognized benchmark for green building design, construction, and operation. This certification underscores the University's commitment to sustainable infrastructure and resource-efficient practices.



Figure 9. Leed Gold Certificate

Through these efforts, Acibadem University aligns with SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, reducing its carbon footprint and fostering a sustainable campus environment.



Acibadem University is committed to supporting its academic staff by providing clear guidelines and equitable employment practices. The Academic Staff Handbook<sup>22</sup>, prepared by the University Rectorate, has been in effect since the 2020-2021 academic year as a core component of the Periodic Academic Performance Evaluation process. This handbook forms an integral part of teaching staff contracts and serves as a comprehensive resource for academics, covering a wide range of topics including the

University's history, rights and responsibilities of employees, leave policies, fringe benefits, salaries, and payment procedures. To ensure relevance and accessibility, the handbook is updated online annually.

In adherence to the Higher Education Law No. 2547 and Law No. 7243<sup>23</sup>, Acibadem University guarantees that all academic employees receive at least the living wage. Salaries for academic staff are aligned with the standards defined by the state, reflecting the University's commitment to fair and equitable compensation practices. These efforts underscore Acibadem University's dedication to maintaining a supportive and transparent working environment for its academic community.

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/university/instructors-handbook/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/mevzuat?MevzuatNo=2547&MevzuatTur=1&MevzuatTertip=5>

## 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Acibadem University actively fosters research and innovation through dedicated operational structures and support mechanisms, enabling both academic staff and students to engage in impactful research activities. The Technology Transfer Office<sup>24</sup> serves as a central hub for managing and supporting research activities across the institution. Its responsibilities include disseminating funding opportunities, managing research projects, coordinating infrastructure needs, and fostering

collaborations between the University and industry partners. Additionally, the Office plays a key role in raising awareness about Intellectual and Industrial Property Rights (IP) and supporting commercialization efforts.

To streamline research-related processes, the University employs workflow systems accessible to academic staff via the intranet. These systems provide detailed guidance and resources for researchers and entrepreneurs, including partnerships facilitated through the University's Bio-Design Centre and Acibadem Incubation Centre. The latter supports entrepreneurial ventures with training, mentorship, and consultancy services.

The University's internal research funds are managed by two commissions:

Scientific Research Projects Commission<sup>25</sup>: Oversees funding allocation for research projects, ensuring alignment with institutional priorities and strategic goals.

Academic Activity Support Commission<sup>26</sup>: Provides financial support for academic-related activities, such as conference participation and publications. A prestigious research infrastructure is available at Acibadem University open to researchers and industry partners<sup>27</sup>. In 2023, ACU Test and Analysis unit has been opened to offer services (Figure 10) complying to international standards to both academia and industry<sup>28</sup>.

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/arastirma/teknoloji-transfer-ofisi>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/research/abapko>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/research/afdk>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/research/research-laboratories/basic-research-laboratories>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/test-analiz-birimi/hakkinda/acutab-katalogu>



Figure 10. ACUTAB test and analysis flyer

In 2023, the University fully introduced electronic systems such as BAPSIS to enhance the tracking and management of research projects. This has resulted in improved efficiency and accessibility for researchers applying for internal and external funding.

The Technology Transfer Office (TTO) is central to fostering collaboration between Acıbadem University and industry, driving innovation through strategic partnerships. The TTO provides comprehensive support to researchers in preparing project proposals for prestigious funding programs such as TÜBİTAK, Horizon Europe, and other national and international funding opportunities. Beyond project development, the TTO actively assists with patent applications and the commercialization of research outputs, ensuring that innovative discoveries are transformed into impactful solutions. In 2023, Acıbadem University enhanced its industrial engagement through the KOSGEB TEKMER initiative, which serves as a platform for supporting startups and entrepreneurs in the development of health technologies. This initiative has further strengthened the University's role as a key player in bridging academia and industry, fostering innovation, and contributing to advancements in the healthcare sector.





Acibadem University demonstrates a strong commitment to inclusivity and accessibility, ensuring that individuals with disabilities can fully participate in academic, administrative, and social life on campus. Through its Disabled Students Unit <sup>29</sup> and comprehensive infrastructure, the University takes significant steps to create an inclusive and supportive environment, aligned with SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities. **Disabled Students Unit:** The Disabled Students Unit, established under the directive approved by the University Senate on

June 29, 2021, is grounded in Article 15 of the Law on the Disabled (Law No. 5378, dated 1/7/2005) and the Higher Education Institutions Disabled Counseling and Coordination Regulation and published on the University's website<sup>30</sup>.

The Unit comprises representatives from each academic department, administrative staff, and specialists, operating under the guidance of the Vice Rector. Its responsibilities include:

- Identifying the academic, social, and physical needs of students with disabilities.
- Planning, implementing, and improving initiatives to meet these needs.
- Monitoring the progress and satisfaction of disabled students from registration to graduation, ensuring individualized support through collaboration with relevant departments.

In the 2022–2023 academic year, the Unit conducted one-on-one meetings with newly enrolled disabled students, providing them with information and resources tailored to their needs. Specific accommodations, such as the provision of custom-designed furniture in accessible restrooms, were made based on student feedback.

#### **Accessible Campus Infrastructure:**

Acibadem University's disability-friendly campus is designed to facilitate academic, administrative, and research activities for individuals with disabilities.

Key features include:

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/ogrenci/acuda-yasam/engelli-ogrenci-birimi>

<sup>30</sup> <https://kms.kaysis.gov.tr/Home/Goster/179806?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>



**Restrooms:** A total of 18 accessible restrooms, with 9 in Block A, 8 in Block C, and 1 in the conference hall.

**Parking:** Designated free disabled parking areas close to building entrances.

**Ramps and Automated Doors:** Accessible ramps and button-operated doors at all building entrances.(Figure 11)

**Elevators:** Equipped with embossed buttons for visually impaired users.

**Cafeteria:** Wheelchair-accessible tables and turnstiles, with adequate space for mobility devices.

**Classrooms and Library:** Wheelchair-friendly classroom layouts, fully accessible library facilities, and elevators connecting all floors.

**Special Library Services:** Library staff are trained to assist users with disabilities, and the library includes dedicated restrooms for disabled users.

### **Academic Support and Inclusive Policies**

The University ensures that students with disabilities receive the necessary academic support:

- Additional time and accommodations for exams are provided based on individual needs, such as large-print exam papers or assistance from designated staff during exams.
- Access to computer labs and internet for online exams is ensured for students facing technological disadvantages.

The Distance Learning Center (UZEM) is working to improve the accessibility of course materials by diversifying resources to include audio recordings, videos, presentations, and reading materials as part of the efforts to enhance accessibility extend to educational technology.

To increase awareness of disabilities and inclusivity, the "Disability and Life" course was introduced as a university elective during the 2021–2022 academic year, with 50 students initially enrolling, and this number rising to 103 students in 2022–2023.

Awareness events and workshops involving both students and staff are regularly organized to foster institutional and societal understanding of disability-related challenges.

By integrating accessibility into its infrastructure, policies, and educational practices, Acıbadem University demonstrates its dedication to SDG 10, reducing inequalities and promoting inclusivity at all levels of academic and campus life.

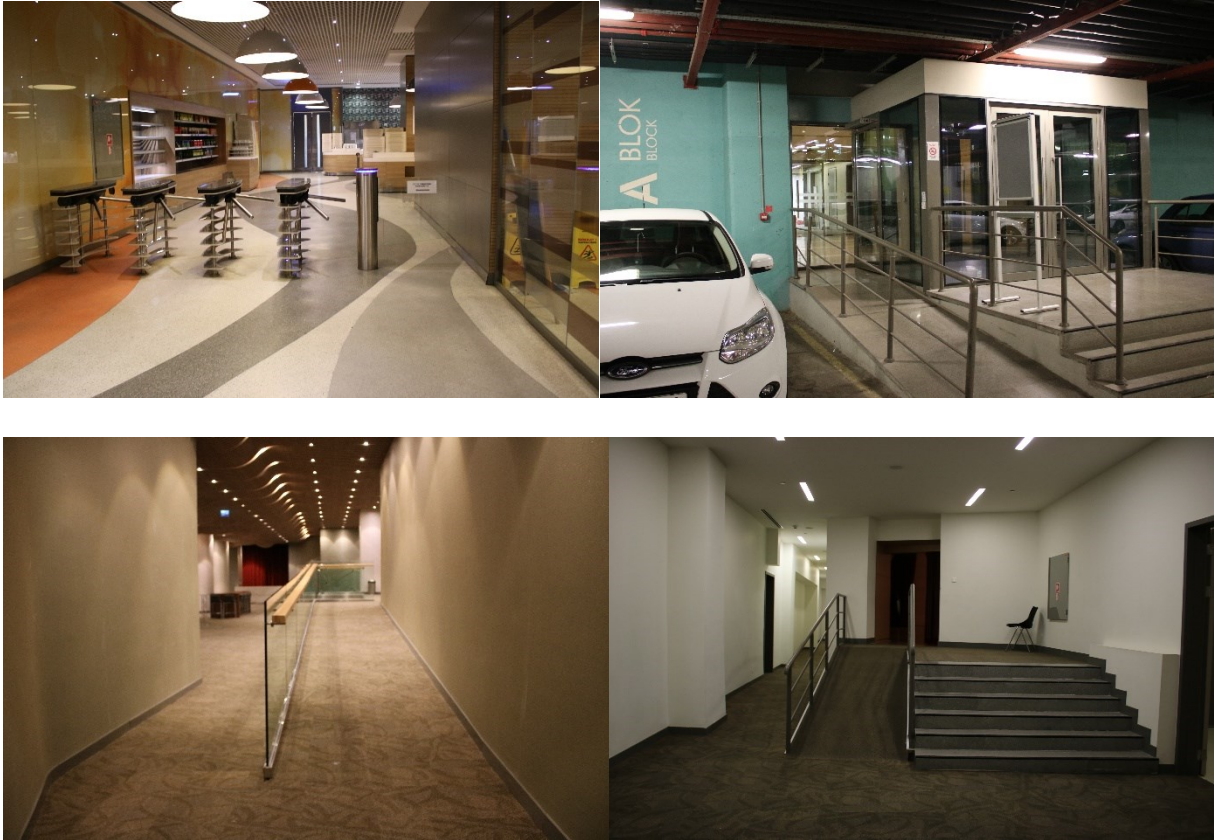


Figure 11. Ramps and turnstiles on campus.

## GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Acıbadem University is committed to promoting sustainable transportation options for its community. The campus is conveniently located near the Küçükbakkalköy Metro Station, part of Istanbul's M8 Bostancı–Parseller Metro Line, which began operations on January 6, 2023. This line enhances connectivity by linking with the M4 Kadıköy–Sabiha Gökçen Airport Metro Line at Kozyatağı Station, facilitating efficient travel across Istanbul's Asian side.

In support of eco-friendly transportation, the University provides dedicated bicycle parking spaces on campus, encouraging cycling among students and staff. Additionally, a designated area in the closed parking lot is reserved for electric vehicles, equipped with a fast-charging station to support the growing adoption of electric mobility(Figure 12). These initiatives reflect the University's ongoing efforts to integrate sustainability into its transportation infrastructure, reducing its environmental impact and supporting a greener, more connected community.

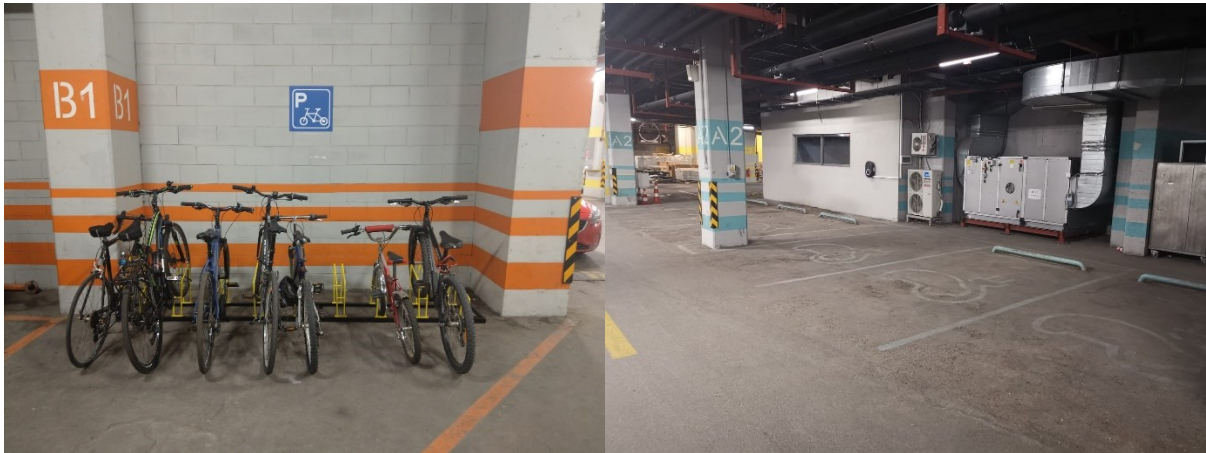


Figure 12. Bicycle parking spaces and electrical vehicle charging stations on campus



Acibadem University actively promotes waste recycling and sustainable waste management across its campus. All buildings and units are equipped with recycling bins, strategically placed to encourage the segregation of waste. The campus is divided into three main blocks: Block A (12 floors), Block B (10 floors), and Block C (9 floors). Each corridor is equipped with 4 sets of recycling and waste bins, and the campus hosts a total of 50 larger waste bins and 7 containers (Figure 13).



Figure 13. Sample recycling bins on campus for waste, paper, plastics, battery and organic wastes.

The University has achieved significant certifications for its environmental initiatives. It holds a Zero Waste Certification (Figure 14) from the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning<sup>31</sup>, as well as a LEED Gold Certification from the globally recognized Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program for green buildings (Figure 9). All waste management plans and reports are registered in the Zero Waste Information System maintained by the Ministry. Since 2019, Acibadem University has recorded approximately **46 tons of recyclable waste**, including paper, metal, plastic, glass, oil, and organic waste (Figure 15).

<sup>31</sup> <https://sifiratik.gov.tr/>



Figure 14. Zero waste certificate.



[GB1]

Figure 15. Acıbadem University's total recyclable waste and its composition recorded in the Zero Waste Management System since 2019.

### Digital and Specialized Waste Management

To reduce paper consumption, the University employs a digital document management system (EBYS)<sup>32</sup>, minimizing reliance on printed materials. Electronic waste is collected and disposed of through licensed recycling companies, ensuring compliance with environmental regulations.

Waste oil generated on campus is decomposed in special tanks using microorganisms. The treated waste is then delivered to licensed companies, while water from the process is safely discharged into

<sup>32</sup> <https://ebys.acibadem.edu.tr/>



the sewer system. Additionally, tea and coffee waste collected from across the campus is composted and repurposed for use in the campus garden<sup>33</sup> (Figure 16).



Figure 16. Tea-coffee waste compost processing.

### Medical and Laboratory Waste

Acibadem University adheres to strict protocols for handling medical and laboratory toxic waste. These materials are collected and disposed of according to the Waste Directive of the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning, in collaboration with the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (Figure 17). The Acibadem Health Group's Environment Unit supports and coordinates these processes.

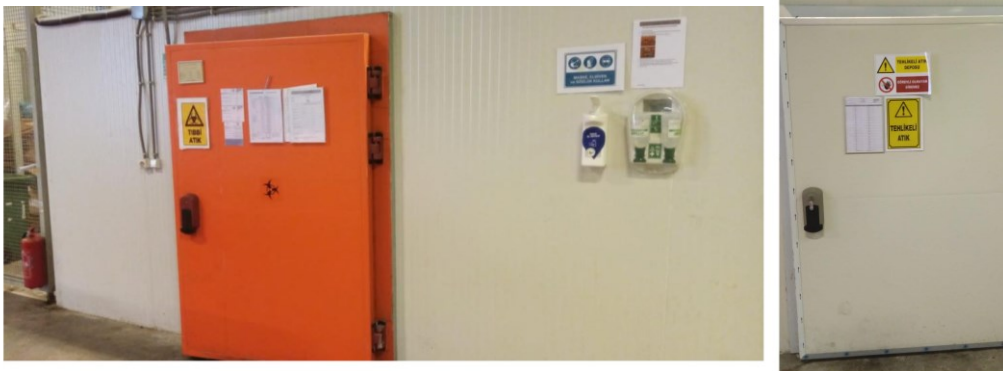


Figure 17. Medical and toxic waste temporary storage units

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/haberler/fabienne-dumoulin-cay-kahve-biyo-atiklarini-solucan-gubresine-donusturuyor>

The University's AAALAC-certified Experimental Animals Application and Research Center (ACU-DEHAM)<sup>34</sup> operates an incinerator for the safe disposal of experimental animal tissue and carcasses, ensuring compliance with international ethical standards.

### **Innovative Waste Recycling Initiatives**

The University also recycles wastewater from its energy production processes, repurposing it for heating campus buildings. These efforts, combined with comprehensive waste management strategies, demonstrate Acibadem University's commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.

Through these initiatives, Acibadem University fosters a culture of environmental responsibility, contributing to a greener and more sustainable future.

---

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/centers/acudeham/about-us>



Acibadem University's commitment to SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals is demonstrated through its robust Community Contribution Policy, systematic organizational structures, and collaborative projects that engage a wide range of stakeholders. These efforts are coordinated under the framework of the Community Contribution Commission, established in December 2021 to oversee and develop the University's contributions to societal well-being. The Commission ensures that all community engagement activities align

with the University's Strategic Plan and policies.

#### **Strategic Framework and Governance**

The Community Contribution Commission, operating under the Rectorate, coordinates contributions from all academic and administrative units to develop and implement community-focused projects. In 2023, the strategic goals defined for community engagement in the 2024–2028 Strategic Plan were reviewed and updated to align with current needs. The Community Contribution Commission Work Procedures and Principles, finalized in 2023, formalize the Commission's structure, member selection, responsibilities, and operational guidelines, ensuring a sustainable and effective process for managing community engagement activities.

#### **International Collaborations**

The University's International Office facilitates partnerships with universities and organizations worldwide. Through programs like Erasmus+, students and academic staff have access to exchange opportunities with institutions across Europe, the Americas, Asia, and beyond. These programs foster cross-cultural understanding and enhance academic and research collaboration.

#### **Industry-Academia Collaboration**

Acibadem University has established strong connections with industry partners through its Technology Transfer Office (TTO) and TEKMER Technology Development Center. These platforms support research commercialization, health technology innovation, and entrepreneurship. Notable collaborations include partnerships with TÜBİTAK, Horizon Europe, and regional health technology firms. In 2023, TEKMER facilitated the development of 18 enterprises, achieving a 93% occupancy rate.



### **Integration of Social Responsibility in Academia**

Acibadem University integrates community engagement and social responsibility into its academic programs. Faculties and schools include social responsibility and community contribution-themed courses in their curricula. For instance:

- The Faculty of Pharmacy conducted numerous social responsibility projects and seminars in 2023, enhancing students' awareness of societal issues.
- The Psychology Department carried out various community-focused activities, including mental health seminars and support programs.

### **Community Projects and Awareness Campaigns**

In 2023, the University organized and participated in several impactful community projects:

- ASEGEM conducted training programs such as “Interview Techniques with Abused Children”, addressing critical social issues and providing practical tools for professionals.
- ASUMA hosted the Symposium on Artificial Intelligence and Violence, exploring the intersection of technology and societal challenges.
- ACURARE led events for Rare Diseases Day, promoting awareness and fostering collaboration among healthcare professionals and patients.
- The Hack for Rare ALS Hackathon brought together interdisciplinary teams to develop innovative solutions for rare diseases, exemplifying the University’s commitment to leveraging technology for social impact

### **Monitoring and Reporting:**

The University maintains a robust system for tracking and reporting community contribution activities. Annual reports and evaluations ensure accountability and provide a basis for continuous improvement. For example: The 2023 Community Contribution Activities Report documents the range and impact of projects conducted throughout the year indicators for community engagement are regularly monitored and updated as part of the University’s Strategic Plan Implementation and Monitoring Tasks.

The university communications office provides information to internal and external stakeholders, the society, through e-mail, printed and electronic educational materials, social media accounts, and various multi-purpose activities. Additionally, written and verbal communication is conducted on a voluntary basis with individuals and institutions. Internal and external stakeholders are kept informed

of University activities, student and lecturer achievements, awards and promotions. News content is organized and shared regularly through university social media accounts:

I n s t a g r a m : <https://www.instagram.com/acibademuniversitesi>

T w i t t e r : <https://twitter.com/acibademuniv>

F a c e b o o k : <https://www.facebook.com/acibademuniversitesi/>

L i n k e d i n : <https://tr.linkedin.com/company/acibademuniversity>

Y o u T u b e : <https://www.youtube.com/user/AcibademUniversitesi>

S p o t i f y : <https://open.spotify.com/user/onhunmmruzmmx918lxd1xq67>

A monthly Campus e-Bulletin was also published and distributed to the University and Acibadem Healthcare Group. Moreover, the university's @Campus Magazine provides information on academic and social activities, interviews, and information on upcoming campus events. It is distributed free of charge throughout the campus and university hospitals.

Acibadem University plans to expand its partnerships and community engagement initiatives by:

- Increasing collaborations with NGOs, municipalities, and international organizations.
- Enhancing social responsibility projects across all academic units.
- Organizing regular meetings and workshops with students and community stakeholders to foster institutional and societal awareness.

Through these structured efforts, Acibadem University exemplifies the importance of partnerships in achieving sustainable development, making significant contributions to both local and global communities in alignment with SDG 17.