

1 NO
POVERTY



**Knowledge
breaks poverty**



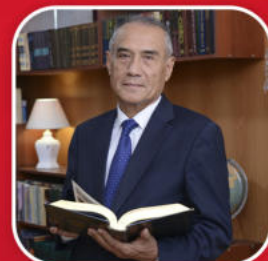


Bridge poverty gaps

UNLOCK ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

BREAK INTERGENERATIONAL POVERTY

“At TSUULL, we believe that health is not just an outcome — it’s a foundation for lifelong learning and human development,”



Shuhrat SIROJIDDINOV

Rector, Alisher Navo'i Tashkent State University of the Uzbek Language and Literature

Poverty eradication, social protection, and inclusive economic empowerment are explicitly integrated into the University Strategic Development Plan 2024–2030, which sets admission targets, financial-support guarantees, and equity-monitoring systems to ensure evidence-based, long-term progress. TSUULL demonstrates a strong institutional commitment to expanding access to higher education for students from the bottom 20% of the national household income distribution. Students from low-income and socially vulnerable backgrounds are identified through the legitimate framework established by the **Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan**, with registration in national social support databases (*Yoshlar Daftari*, *Ayollar Daftari*, *Temir Daftari*) and verification via the **Unified Portal of Interactive Public Services**.

Admission Targets and Support Measures

- Minimum 20% of first-year admissions come from the lowest income quintile, with a stretch target of 30% by 2030.
- Priority is given to low-income students for subsidies, tuition reductions, and need-based scholarships, including enhanced packages for those with exceptional hardship.
- Special outreach to first-generation students, particularly girls and young women from low-income and rural communities, is

Preparatory and Support Programs

TSUULL offers permanent, fully free programs such as language courses, digital literacy training, public talks, and psychological counselling. These initiatives reduce structural barriers, enhance academic readiness, and address challenges like exam anxiety and low self-confidence, ensuring that disadvantaged students are prepared to succeed in higher education.

Through these measures, TSUULL plays a critical national role in **promoting social mobility, reducing poverty, and fostering educational equity**.





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GRADUATION TARGET LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

TSUULL has significantly expanded access to higher education for students from the bottom 20% income group within the framework of its **University Strategic Development Plan 2024–2030**. Their representation increased *from 14% in 2021 to 20% in 2024*, with a target of **30% by 2030**. Student success indicators improved substantially, with annual retention and Bachelor's graduation rates rising from **92% to 99%** and the Master's graduation rate increasing from **91% to 98%**. The completion rate of female students from low-income backgrounds also reached **99%**, reflecting the university's strong commitment to inclusive education. The University Council maintains an integrated database on students' academic progress and socio-economic status in coordination with the national social protection registry.

In addition, the university systematically tracks the post-graduation employment of students from the bottom income quintile and actively facilitates their transition into the labour market through career guidance, professional training, and employer partnerships. Between 2020 and 2024, **719 graduates** from the bottom income quintile completed their studies, and **526** of them **secured employment**, resulting in an average *employment rate of 73%*. This integrated approach not only ensures graduation but also strengthens long-term socio-economic mobility, directly contributing to the achievement of SDG 1.

Year of graduation from bottom income quintile households	Total number of graduates from bottom income quintile households	Total number of graduates from bottom income quintile households employed	Percentage
2020/2021	118	83	70%
2021/2022	147	109	74%
2022/2023	255	192	75%
2023/2024	199	142	72%
Total	719	526	73%



Supporting Students from the Bottom Financial Quintile

TSUULL maintains a strong institutional commitment to students from the bottom financial quintile, creating comprehensive conditions to ensure their successful completion of higher education and graduation. TSUULL implements a systematically structured support framework that guarantees equitable access and fosters academic progression, encompassing financial aid, housing, food security, transportation, digital literacy, preparatory programs, and psychological support.

Housing Support: Dormitories and University-Funded Community Accommodation

allocated funds: 1 705 885 000 UZS

TSUULL ensures safe, stable, and accessible living conditions for students from low-income families through an extensive housing support system. In 2024, 120 students were provided with completely free dormitory accommodation, while an additional 68 students received a 50% reduction in dormitory fees, significantly easing their financial burden and allowing them to continue their studies without interruption. Given that dormitory capacity cannot fully meet the demand, the university also implemented a community-based housing initiative. Through partnerships with local homeowners, 128 low-income students were placed in private homes located in close proximity to the university, with 100% of rental costs covered by TSUULL. This integrated approach guarantees that students from disadvantaged backgrounds have stable and dignified living conditions, enabling them to fully concentrate on their academic progress.

Transportation Support for Students from Low-Income Families

allocated funds: 2 059 200 000 UZS

To reduce financial barriers and ensure equitable access to education, the University introduced a comprehensive transportation support initiative for students from low-income households. At the start of the academic year, the University provided free annual public transportation passes to eligible students, enabling them to commute across the city without incurring additional costs.

This support covered 10.1% of the entire student body, demonstrating the University's sustained commitment to fostering social inclusion, promoting equal learning opportunities, and aligning institutional practices with the

Comprehensive Social Protection and Legal Empowerment for Vulnerable Students

TSUULL ensures that students from low-income families can fully engage with and complete their higher education by providing multi-faceted support. In 2024, the University expanded its institutional assistance through a combination of university-funded programs, donation-based aid, and coordination with national social protection platforms. Beyond material support, TSUULL organizes training sessions and awareness seminars to enhance legal literacy, particularly for socially and economically vulnerable students. These initiatives equip students with essential knowledge of their legal rights, procedures for accessing state benefits, and mechanisms for addressing common legal challenges, thereby strengthening their social protection and promoting empowerment.

Nutritional Support Initiative for Students from Low-Income Families

allocated funds: 6 084 000 000 UZS

As part of the university's commitment to ensuring equal access to education and supporting student well-being, TSUULL continued its Permanent Free Lunch Program. This initiative provided free daily meals to approximately 5% of the university's total student body.

By covering this essential need, the university helped reduce the financial burden on low-income students, allowing them to focus fully on their studies and academic success.

Enhanced Academic Resource Support

TSUULL provides comprehensive support to students experiencing acute socio-economic vulnerability through targeted initiatives that ensure equitable access to essential learning resources. In the reporting period, 5.5% of the student body received all required textbooks and academic materials free of charge. These provisions encompass dictionaries, coursebooks, language-learning tools, and digital access resources, directly mitigating barriers to academic engagement and promoting inclusive, high-quality education in alignment with the university's commitment to eradicating poverty and advancing equitable learning opportunities. In addition, the University regularly organizes competitions and academic challenges with valuable prizes, encouraging active participation, rewarding achievement, and fostering motivation among students from all socio-economic backgrounds.

Comprehensive Tuition Support for Students from Low-Income Families

In 2024, Alisher Navo'i Tashkent State University of Uzbek Language and Literature (TSUULL) ensured full and equitable financial access to higher education for students from low-income families. Within the framework of its institutional anti-poverty strategy, **12% of the total student cohort was granted full tuition coverage**, with all academic fees fully funded by the University (*a total of 5,904,000,000 UZS was allocated*). This financial support extended beyond tuition fees and included the provision of essential academic resources, such as study materials, laboratory expenses, and full access to digital learning platforms, thereby guaranteeing an inclusive and barrier-free educational environment.

To enhance the effectiveness and transparency of its support mechanisms, TSUULL systematically aligns its financial assistance policies with national social protection initiatives, including ***Yoshlar Daftari, Ayollar Daftari, and Temir Daftari***, which serve as formal instruments for identifying and prioritizing students from socio-economically vulnerable backgrounds.

In the **2023–2024 academic year**, **nine students (seven of whom were female)** were awarded highly competitive state and presidential scholarships, including the ***Navoiy State Scholarship, the Presidential Scholarship, and the Islam Karimov State Scholarship***, in recognition of their outstanding academic achievements.

Moreover, **two female students** were selected as participants in the University's Orhun Academic Exchange Programme, which enabled them to pursue tuition-free studies for one academic semester at a partner foreign institution, with complimentary accommodation and meals provided.

In addition, two TSUULL undergraduate graduates, with institutional endorsement and support, successfully obtained the national "El-Yurt Umidi" Scholarship, permitting them to undertake fully funded Master's degree programmes at the University of Reading (United Kingdom). This prestigious scholarship comprehensively covers tuition fees, accommodation, living expenses, and associated academic costs.

Collectively, these measures demonstrate TSUULL's sustained and strategic commitment to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) by systematically eliminating financial barriers to higher education, expanding access to international academic mobility, and fostering long-term social and economic advancement for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.



LOW OR LOWER MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES STUDENTS SUPPORT

Our university implements targeted programs to support students from low and lower-middle income countries, providing tuition waivers, scholarships, grants, and subsidized accommodation, meals, and transportation. These measures remove financial barriers and promote equal access to higher education, aligning with SDG 1 and SDG 4. In 2024, 45 students from Afghanistan and Pakistan, including bachelor's and doctoral candidates from conflict-affected or low-income regions, received full financial coverage, academic mentorship, language courses, and social inclusion support.

Country	Level of study	Total students	Male	Female	% of supported cohort	Primary vulnerability category	Support coverage	Expected duration
Afghanistan	Bachelor's	20	12	8	44.4%	Conflict-affected regions; refugees	100% (full)	4 years
Afghanistan	Doctoral	13	10	3	28.9%	Orphans; low-income backgrounds	100% (full)	3 years
Pakistan	Bachelor's	12	7	5	26.7%	Low-income; rural and remote areas	100% (full)	4 years
TOTAL		45			100%			

Additionally, the Educational Center for Afghan Citizens in Termez, operating as a TSUULL branch, has prepared over 700 bachelor's and master's graduates entirely free of charge since 2020. These initiatives demonstrate TSUULL's commitment to poverty reduction, educational equity, and empowerment of vulnerable international students.





TSUULL provides comprehensive support for the creation of financially and socially sustainable start-ups developed jointly by its students and representatives of the local community, with a strong focus on poverty reduction and income generation.

Through its Start-Up Support Hub, the University delivers entrepreneurship training, mentoring, business incubation and access to facilities for projects in the fields of language, culture, education, creative industries and IT technologies. In 2024, TSUULL allocated 250,000,000 UZS to support high-potential joint start-ups aimed at sustainable business development.

IMPACT AND OUTCOMES



32 start-ups supported since 2022

jointly by students and members of the local community



42% of beneficiaries are female entrepreneurs, many from low-income or rural backgrounds



12 start-ups have achieved commercial sustainability, employing over 50 individuals

jointly by students and members of the local community



4 start-ups have received national-level recognition through youth innovation contests

Special attention is given to empowering local youth, unemployed women and low-income residents by providing free training, expert consultation, workspace and practical guidance. Since its establishment, the initiative has supported more than 32 start-ups developed jointly by students and members of the local community, several of which have evolved into self-sustaining micro-enterprises.



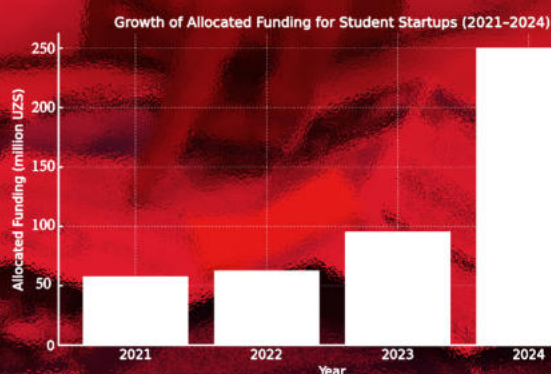
TSUULL TALKS ON

We open up a dialogue with the students community to raise awareness on all aspects of Sustainable Development Goals

INTERNATIONAL RANKING BASED

We participate in international ranking programs to assess our performance in SDGs. The results are published by Times Higher Education and UI

These activities demonstrate TSUULL's direct contribution to inclusive economic development and the implementation of SDG 1 – No Poverty and SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth.



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TSUULL'S COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMMES: ENHANCING ACCESS, INCLUSION, AND OPPORTUNITIES

University implements a comprehensive set of community support programmes aimed at reducing inequality, expanding access to essential services, and strengthening social and economic resilience. Through free and fully inclusive initiatives, the University supports youth from low-income families, socially disadvantaged women, older adults, and persons with disabilities by equipping them with practical skills, emotional resilience, and improved access to education, employment, and social participation.

TSUULL delivers completely free digital literacy courses for socially vulnerable women, youth from low-income families, and older adults in order to reduce the digital divide and expand access to online services and income-generation opportunities. As a result, participants have strengthened essential digital skills, improved access to employment and freelance opportunities, gained confidence in using e-government and online payment systems, and enhanced their overall economic participation and long-term resilience.

In addition, the University provides free and confidential psychological support services through its Psychology Services Centre for youth from low-income families, socially vulnerable women, and older adults in order to strengthen emotional well-being, reduce social isolation, and support social and academic stability. As a result, participants have developed stronger emotional awareness, improved communication and coping skills, enhanced mental well-being and self-confidence, and demonstrated greater resilience and reintegration into education, family life, and employment.





In order to foster inclusive education and community resilience, TSUULL provides **free sign language courses** to promote social inclusion and communication accessibility for people with hearing impairments and other vulnerable groups, including students and families from low-income backgrounds. The programme strengthens communication skills, improves social participation, and expands access to educational and professional opportunities. As a result, families and community members report better interaction, increased confidence, and stronger social cohesion.

We provide free language courses in **English, Arabic, Turkish, Korean, and German** for youth from low-income families, supporting their access to higher education and improving future educational and employment prospects. The programme develops practical language skills, academic readiness, and intercultural competence through quality instruction, workshops, and online learning resources. As a result, participants demonstrate improved language proficiency, increased confidence and motivation for further studies, broader cultural awareness, and stronger pathways to higher education and employment.

Through its integrated, inclusive, and community-oriented approach, **TSUULL** significantly enhances access to education, digital skills, psychological well-being, employability, and social participation. These programmes contribute directly to poverty reduction, the empowerment of vulnerable populations, and the development of sustainable and resilient communities,



POLICY ENGAGEMENT FOR POVERTY REDUCTION AT MULTIPLE LEVELS

University actively contributes to poverty reduction policy-making at the global, national, regional, and local levels through the strategic engagement of its leadership and academic community.

Rector of the University, Sirojiddinov Shuhrat Samariddinovich, serves as a deputy in the national parliament and as a member of the Tashkent City Permanent Commission on Industry, Transport, Construction, Utilities, and Public Services. In these capacities, he participates in legislative and municipal decision-making processes related to social development, inclusive urban planning, and poverty reduction at the national and regional levels. His regular visits to local mahallas provide first-hand insight into the socio-economic challenges faced by vulnerable populations, ensuring that community needs are reflected in national and regional policy discussions.

Vice-Rector for Research, Innovation and International Cooperation, Nozliya Normurodova, contributes to shaping higher education and human capital development policies. As a permanent member of the El-yurt umidi Foundation Grant Awarding Commission and a HERE within the Erasmus+ Programme expert, she supports inclusive academic mobility, strengthens international cooperation, and promotes equitable access to advanced education and research opportunities at the national and global levels. Her involvement aligns national higher education strategies with global standards and inclusive development frameworks.

Many university professors serve as official members of the Scientific and Technical Council under the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Through their expert participation, the University contributes to the development and evaluation of educational reforms, innovation strategies, and evidence-based policies that promote social mobility, reduce inequality, and strengthen human capital at the national and regional levels.



TSUULL operates a Community Support HUB in partnership with neighbouring mahallas (Tepa, Belariq, Konstitutsiya and Shoxjahon). This HUB coordinates joint efforts with the University Council, University Youth Parliament, Student Union, Board of Trustees, and Gender Equity Committee to identify vulnerable families and youth and to provide targeted support. These measures include access to preparatory and language courses, digital and financial literacy training, psychological counselling, sign language courses, and employability skill development, contributing to sustainable community-based poverty reduction at the local level.

Through this multi-level engagement, TSUULL plays an active role in shaping inclusive policies, strengthening social protection mechanisms, and supporting poverty reduction in all its dimensions, in line with SDG 1