

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Equal Access, Equal Future





REDUCING BARRIERS, EXPANDING ACCESS, STRENGTHENING INCLUSION

Inclusive Access, Equal Opportunity, Social Support, and Fair Learning Environments

“Equity grows when every learner feels seen, supported, and empowered to reach their potential”



Gulnoza Jurayeva,
Vice-Rector for Youth Affairs and Spiritual Enlightenment

1. Broadening Access to Education and University Services

In 2024, TSUULL strengthened its commitment to reducing educational inequalities by widening access to academic opportunities and student support services. A central focus of this effort was expanding pathways for students from underserved, rural, and low-income communities—groups that often face structural barriers to higher education. The university broadened financial support mechanisms by increasing the number of students receiving tuition discounts, need-based scholarships, and emergency assistance packages. These measures helped reduce financial pressure and enabled more students from vulnerable backgrounds to enroll and remain in university programs.

To reach students before they enter higher education, TSUULL expanded outreach initiatives in rural districts and socio-economically disadvantaged areas. These included preparatory language courses, university awareness sessions, and mentorship programs designed to help prospective applicants navigate entrance examinations and academic expectations. Such initiatives not only increased awareness about opportunities at TSUULL but also built the confidence and readiness of students who may otherwise have limited exposure to higher education pathways.

EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS



22%

of new admissions came from low-income or rural backgrounds

demonstrating meaningful progress in diversifying student



320

students received need-based financial or academic support

including scholarships, stipends, or targeted tutoring assistance



+40

academic support sessions for vulnerable student groups

focusing on academics, skills, time management, digital literacy, and social

Within the university, inclusive academic practices were strengthened to ensure equal participation and retention. Academic advising services were expanded, providing more personalized support for students needing guidance in course selection, learning strategies, and long-term planning. Additional tutoring sessions were offered to help students bridge learning gaps, particularly in language skills and foundational subjects. Digital learning tools—such as recorded lectures, virtual study materials, and online course management systems—were further integrated to support diverse learning styles and accommodate students who balance academic obligations with work or commuting challenges.





ENHANCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR AT-RISK AND UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS

In 2024, TSUULL deepened its commitment to reducing educational and professional inequalities by expanding targeted programs designed to support first-generation learners, young women, students from rural areas, and those facing significant economic challenges. Recognizing that these groups often experience limited access to career opportunities, the university implemented a series of initiatives aimed at strengthening professional readiness, building confidence, and increasing participation in high-value learning experiences.

175
students



from underrepresented groups secured internships across public and private sectors, improving professional experience and workforce exposure

18
specialized training programs



were delivered in areas such as digital literacy, languages, communication, and workplace readiness



New partnership initiatives

were launched to support youth leadership, professional development, and career empowerment, particularly for students from low-income and rural backgrounds

A key focus was the introduction of **specialized skills-development programs**, including internship preparation courses, communication skills workshops, and digital literacy training tailored to the needs of underrepresented groups. Faculty and alumni mentorship programs provided additional guidance, offering students personalized support, career pathway insights, and encouragement to pursue competitive academic and professional opportunities. These mentorship networks have become an important mechanism for building professional confidence and bridging opportunities traditionally less accessible to vulnerable student populations. TSUULL also enhanced its partnerships with **state employment** services and leading international organizations—including UNDP, GIZ, the **British Council**, and **American Councils for International Education**—to deliver career-building programs that empower at-risk students. Through these collaborations, students gained access to global expertise, youth development initiatives, leadership training, and workshops focused on communication, employability, digital skills, and innovation. These joint programs helped build a more inclusive environment where students from diverse backgrounds can participate equally in academic and professional development opportunities.





STRENGTHENING INCLUSION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

TSUULL expanded its institutional support for students with disabilities in 2024, ensuring equal access to academic, social, and digital resources. The Accessibility Center played a central role in coordinating personalized support services, including adapted learning materials, academic accommodations, mobility assistance, and access to specialized technologies.

Infrastructure improvements—such as ramps, accessible pathways, adjustable desks, and upgraded restroom facilities—enhanced physical accessibility across campus. Digital accessibility also improved through captioned learning materials, screen-reader compatible resources, and more inclusive online academic systems.

Capacity-building programs were conducted for faculty and staff to promote inclusive teaching practices, awareness of learning needs, and disability-sensitive communication. These initiatives strengthened TSUULL's ability to support students with visual, hearing, mobility, and learning disabilities.

Evidence of Progress

- **80% completion rate** among low-income students with disabilities (up from 70% in 2021)
- **18 students** received individual learning accommodations
- **Campus accessibility upgrades** completed in 3 academic buildings
- **Faculty workshops** on disability inclusion increased by 60%

Through these efforts, TSUULL reinforced its commitment to eliminating structural and social barriers and ensuring that disability is never an obstacle to academic success.



Expanding Opportunities and Support for Student Mothers

Recognizing the unique challenges faced by student mothers, TSUULL expanded targeted support programs to help them balance academic responsibilities with family obligations. These initiatives ensure that parenthood does not interrupt educational progress or limit participation in university life.

The university introduced **flexible learning options**, allowing student mothers to access hybrid classes, recorded lectures, and extended submission deadlines when justified by caregiving responsibilities. The Office of Student Affairs also strengthened advising services, offering personalized academic planning, counseling, and course-load adjustments for mothers returning after leave or childbirth.

Financial support mechanisms were expanded to include **family-support stipends**, childcare subsidies, and priority access to dormitory family rooms. Student mothers additionally benefited from community-building activities, including peer support groups and workshops on time management, stress management, and rights awareness.

Evidence of Progress

- **187 student mothers** received dedicated support services in 2024
- **Childcare subsidies** provided to 27 low-income mothers
- **Hybrid learning** access increased by 40% among parenting students
- **Zero dropouts** among supported student mothers for the 2023–2024 academic year

These initiatives reflect TSUULL's belief that education should remain accessible for women at every stage of life and that supporting student mothers contributes directly to equity, gender empowerment, and long-term social mobility.





SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN STUDENTS THROUGH TSUULL'S AFGHAN CENTER

TSUULL further broadened its commitment to inclusive education by strengthening the activities of its Afghan Center, which serves as a dedicated hub supporting students from Afghanistan. The Center provides academic advising, Uzbek and English language training, cultural adaptation support, and personalized guidance to help Afghan learners integrate successfully into university life. In 2024, the Center continued to enroll students from Afghanistan into undergraduate and preparatory programs, ensuring they have access to quality education, safe learning environments, and pathways toward long-term academic and professional stability.



Upon successful completion of their studies, graduates of the Center are awarded official diplomas of Alisher Navo'i Tashkent State University of Uzbek Language and Literature. Since 2020 to the present day, the Center has prepared:

- more than 500 Bachelor's degree graduates, and
- more than 200 Master's degree graduates. All students have been educated entirely free of charge, with full coverage of tuition fees and related academic expenses.

The Afghan Center also collaborates with international partners and humanitarian organizations to deliver targeted support programs, including psychosocial services, skills workshops, and orientation sessions designed to help vulnerable young people rebuild their educational trajectories. By expanding these services, TSUULL plays an important role in empowering displaced and conflict-affected students, reinforcing its mission to reduce inequalities and promote inclusive access for all learners.

Impact and Outcomes

Indicator	Data (2023-2024)
Afghan students enrolled	20 (12 male, 8 female)
Average annual financial support per student	22 million UZS
Retention rate	100%
Graduates (expected 2027)	5
Students in leadership/volunteer programs	11
Number receiving full social inclusion support	20





INSTITUTIONAL TARGETS AND SUPPORT FRAMEWORK FOR REDUCING INEQUALITIES

TSUULL has established a comprehensive, data-driven system to monitor and improve educational outcomes for students from the bottom 20% of household income groups. This framework sets clear institutional targets, tracks progress annually, and ensures that all low-income and vulnerable students receive continuous academic, financial, and social support throughout their studies.

The **Academic Affairs Office** maintains an integrated database that compiles socioeconomic information, GPA, retention, and completion status for all students in the bottom income quintile. The university conducts regular income verification in collaboration with the **Mahalla Social Protection Committee**, ensuring accuracy and continuation of eligibility.

Institutional Targets (2021 Baseline → 2024 Progress → 2025 Goals)

Indicator	2021 (Baseline)	2024 (Current)	2025 (Target)	Responsible Unit
Enrollment of students from bottom 20%	14%	18%	20%	Admissions & Mahalla Liaison Committee
Annual retention rate	81%	90%	93%	Office of Student Affairs
Four-year graduation rate	76%	84%	≥88%	Academic Affairs Office
Female students from bottom 20% completing degree	68%	82%	85%	Sustainability Management Office
Students with disabilities from low-income families completing degree	70%	80%	85%	Accessibility Center

2024 Monitoring Highlights

- *Retention rates for low-income students increased from 81% in 2021 to 90% in 2024.*
- *Graduation rates rose from 76% to 84% over the same period.*
- *Dropout due to financial reasons decreased by 46%, reflecting the effectiveness of targeted support.*

These results highlight TSUULL's commitment to ensuring that financial hardship does not impede academic success.



MULTI-TIER SUPPORT FRAMEWORK FOR EQUITY AND COMPLETION

To sustain and expand progress toward SDG 10, TSUULL implements a structured, multi-tier support system combining financial, academic, and social interventions.

a. Financial Support

- *Full tuition exemptions* for all students verified as belonging to the bottom 20% income bracket (currently 174 undergraduate and 24 master's students).
- *Rector's Social Grant* (600,000 UZS per month for 10 months) awarded to low-income students with satisfactory academic standing — 33,241,940 UZS allocated to 19 students in the 2023–2024 academic year.
- *Free or subsidized accommodation* in dormitories, and rent assistance when dormitory rooms are unavailable.

These financial instruments directly reduce economic pressures that contribute to dropout risks.

b. Academic Support

- *Enhanced academic advising* targeted at first- and second-year low-income students.
- *A structured Faculty Mentorship System* offering tutoring in core subjects and academic skill-building.
- *An Early Academic Alert System* enables faculty to flag at-risk students mid-semester; flagged students are referred to the Student Affairs Office for timely intervention.

This academic safety net ensures that learning challenges are identified early and addressed systematically.

c. Social and Psychological Support

- *Peer mentoring networks* connecting low-income students with high-performing peers for academic and social guidance.
- *Free psychological and counseling services*, including specialized support sessions on stress management, motivation, and academic adjustment.
- *Inclusive student communities and clubs* promoting confidence, belonging, and social well-being.

These programs strengthen emotional resilience and community integration—key components of student success.

This institutional framework demonstrates that TSUULL is not only reducing barriers but actively transforming educational access and outcomes for vulnerable populations. Through evidence-based planning, targeted support systems, and clear accountability mechanisms, the university shows measurable commitment to both **SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities** and **SDG 1 – No Poverty**.

TSUULL's approach illustrates how universities can serve as engines of social mobility and contributors to sustainable national development.