



# No Poverty

## SDG 1

### Report on SDG 1

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## Introduction

Baku Slavic University (BSU) is firmly committed to eliminating poverty through education and ensuring that no student is excluded from academic opportunities due to socioeconomic hardship. In alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), the University has developed a comprehensive institutional framework that safeguards equal access to admission, financial aid, academic support, and welfare services for students belonging to the bottom 20% of household income groups or other socially vulnerable categories.

BSU recognizes that students from low-income families, internally displaced households, orphaned youth, students with disabilities, and children of war veterans face significant barriers in accessing and completing higher education. To address these inequalities, the University has established a coordinated system of policies, strategic programmes, financial mechanisms, and social protection measures designed to ensure that economic hardship never becomes an obstacle to academic success. BSU also accommodates international students from low- and lower-middle-income countries, ensuring their access to academic, social, and housing support services on an equal and inclusive basis.

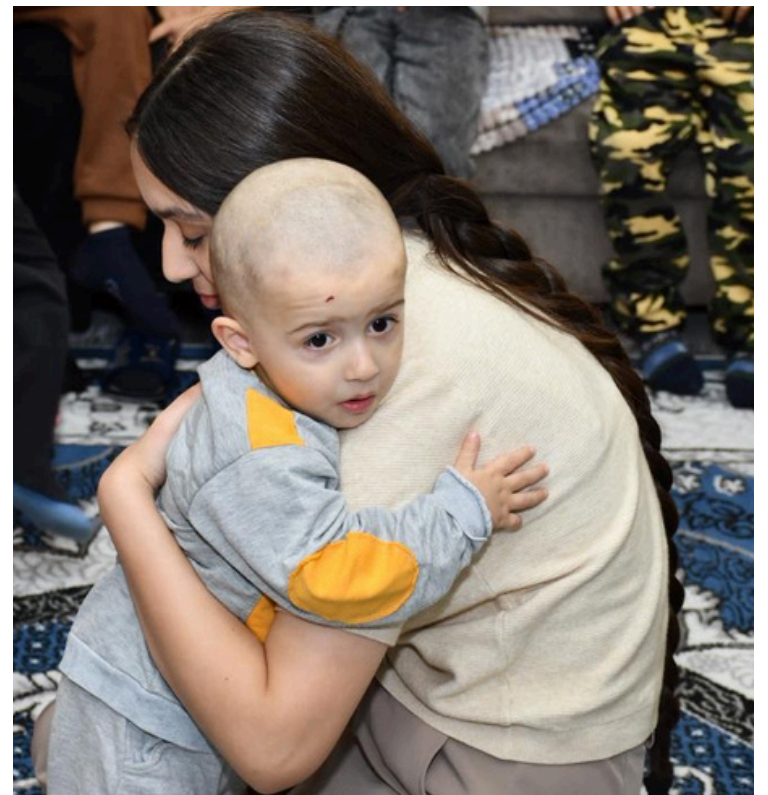


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## Definition of Target Group

BSU identifies the “bottom 20% income group” as students from households with limited financial means or belonging to one or more socially vulnerable categories, including:

- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from conflict-affected regions;
- Children of Karabakh war veterans and disabled veterans;
- Orphans and students deprived of parental care;
- Students with disabilities or chronic health conditions;
- Students from officially registered low-income families.



These groups are recognized as belonging to the lowest household income quintile and receive special consideration in BSU’s admission, financial aid, and housing policies.



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## Current Situation

The University currently supports a substantial number of students from socioeconomically vulnerable backgrounds. During the 2024 year:

- Total students from privileged/low-income groups: 948
- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): 797
- Children of war veterans and disabled veterans: 42 (including 2 veteran students)
- Orphans and students deprived of parental care: 80
- Students with disabilities: 29
- Newly admitted vulnerable students: 188

These figures demonstrate BSU's strong institutional capacity and commitment to supporting disadvantaged groups through inclusive admission and social protection initiatives.





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## Institutional Policy Framework

BSU's social inclusion agenda is anchored in several institutional policies and governance instruments:

Social Support and Equal Opportunities Policy (BSU-SSP/2024)

This policy establishes institutional objectives to ensure that students from low-income, displaced, or socially vulnerable backgrounds can access and complete higher education without financial barriers. It guarantees equal access to academic programmes, scholarships, and support services across all faculties.

Inclusive Education and Student Welfare Policy

This policy embeds social inclusion into academic governance and ensures that faculties identify, track, and support students from low-income backgrounds. It mandates welfare assistance, academic mentoring, and accommodations for students with disabilities.

Financial Aid and Scholarship Regulations

Approved by the University Academic Council, this regulation outlines formal procedures for tuition fee waivers, differentiated fee schedules, need-based scholarships, and emergency financial assistance.



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## Student Engagement and Mentorship Policy

This policy fosters academic integration through structured mentorship programmes, assigning faculty mentors and peer advisors to students from vulnerable backgrounds.

## Governance and Monitoring

The Student Affairs Office, supported by the International Relations Office, monitors:

- Number and percentage of students from the bottom 20% income group
- Scholarship and welfare fund allocation
- Retention and completion rates
- Impact of poverty reduction initiatives





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## Community and Student Engagement

The Student Trade Union Committee and the Student Youth Organization play an important institutional role in supporting students' social welfare, protecting their rights, and ensuring their meaningful participation in cultural, educational, and extracurricular activities. These bodies provide direct assistance to students facing social or economic challenges, help resolve welfare-related issues, coordinate leisure and community-building initiatives, and promote equal access to university life for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Their work strengthens BSU's broader social inclusion framework and reinforces the University's commitment to ensuring equitable access, student welfare, and meaningful participation for all learners.





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## Financial and Academic Opportunities

BSU provides extensive financial, academic, and welfare support to ensure that students from low-income households can pursue higher education without interruption.

### **Tuition Fee Exemptions and Discounts**

Students from IDP families, orphans, and disabled groups receive full or partial tuition exemptions. Students from low-income families may access installment-based payment schemes.

### **Scholarships and Grants**

BSU awards annual Merit and Social Need-Based Scholarships, with additional support for children of Karabakh war veterans. Students experiencing sudden financial hardship may receive one-time emergency financial aid.

### **Educational Student Loan Fund (ESLF)**

The University assists students from the bottom 20% income group in accessing the national, state-backed ESLF loan system, offering low-interest financial support.

### **Living and Welfare Support**

Subsidized canteen meals, transportation allowances, and prioritized dormitory placement are offered to socially disadvantaged students. Students with disabilities benefit from accessible infrastructure, specialized equipment, and academic flexibility.



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## Trade Union Committee

Trade Union Committee of Baku Slavic University (BSU) plays an important institutional role in supporting students from low-income, disadvantaged, and vulnerable backgrounds. As a statutory body within the University, the Committee provides targeted social assistance, coordinates welfare support programmes, and ensures that economically disadvantaged students receive additional care throughout their academic journey.

The Committee offers various forms of social support, including assistance for students from internally displaced families, orphans, students with disabilities, and those facing sudden financial hardship. It collaborates closely with the Student Affairs Office and the Social Support Fund to distribute material aid, organize subsidized cultural and educational activities, and provide financial relief during emergencies. The Trade Union Committee also monitors the living conditions of students, provides support for dormitory-related issues, and advocates for fair access to university resources for economically vulnerable groups.

Through its welfare-oriented initiatives and protection mechanisms, the Trade Union Committee significantly contributes to BSU's efforts to ensure that no student is excluded due to financial hardship.



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## Academic Mentoring and Psychological Support

To promote academic success and retention among vulnerable students, BSU provides a multi-layered support system:

- Faculty mentorship for every low-income student
- Free psychological counseling services focusing on adaptation, stress
- Peer tutoring initiatives
- Study skills workshops designed to prevent dropouts and improve academic outcomes

## Admission Prioritization and Outreach

BSU ensures equitable access by offering priority consideration to applicants from low-income, orphaned, or displaced backgrounds. During admission campaigns, outreach teams visit schools and communities in disadvantaged areas to provide guidance and encourage students from poor households to pursue higher education. Public materials and the University's website clearly communicate BSU's open and inclusive admission policy, affirming equal access to all prospective students regardless of socioeconomic circumstances.



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## Community and Partnership Opportunities

BSU collaborates with governmental and non-governmental organizations to expand support for low-income students. Through partnerships with the Ministry of Science and Education, NGOs, and social foundations, the University identifies vulnerable youth and delivers targeted assistance.



BSU participates in national programmes such as Green World and Social Equality, while also organizing community-based activities including volunteer mentorship programmes, social awareness campaigns, and skill-building workshops that empower young people in disadvantaged communities.



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## **Financial Aid and Social Protection Measures**

### Meal Subsidy Programme

Eligible students receive financial assistance two to three times per year to support food and basic living costs.

### One-Time Graduation Support

Orphaned students receive a grant at graduation to support their transition to independent living.

### Dormitory Support

BSU operates four dormitories providing free or subsidized accommodation for low-income, IDP, orphaned, and disabled students.



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## Health Services

Baku Slavic University ensures accessible and reliable on-campus health services for all students, including those from low-income and socially vulnerable backgrounds. The University operates fully equipped medical rooms in both of its academic buildings, providing continuous access to essential health support. Each medical room is staffed by certified physician and qualified nurse who offer first-aid assistance, basic medical examinations, health monitoring, and immediate response to urgent cases.



BSU annually organises free medical examinations for students, academic staff, and administrative employees.



## Opportunities Beyond Financial Support

BSU ensures that vulnerable students benefit from broader developmental opportunities, including:

- Participation in international exchange programmes with fee waivers
- Access to student-led research and innovation projects
- Free language and ICT skills courses
- Entrepreneurship training
- Participation in SDG-focused student societies and leadership initiatives





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## KPI Framework (2024–2026)

BSU's measurable targets include:

- Increasing low-income student enrollment from 707 to 730 by 2026
- Raising annual admission of low-income students from 188 to 200
- Improving completion rates by 3–5 basis points
- Expanding financial aid coverage by 10–15%
- Ensuring 100% dormitory access for eligible students

## Long-Term Strategic Vision (2025–2030)

BSU aims to:

- Increase representation of the bottom 20% income group to 25% of total enrollment
- Establish a permanent Social Equality Fund
- Provide free digital devices and internet vouchers to low-income students
- Strengthen partnerships with UN agencies, EU delegations, and NGOs
- Scale up community engagement and empowerment initiatives



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## Conclusion

Through a well-defined policy framework, comprehensive financial aid mechanisms, targeted welfare measures, academic and psychological support systems, and strategic partnerships, Baku Slavic University ensures that students from the bottom 20% household income group have full access to equitable and sustainable higher education.

With real outcomes such supported students, recurring meal subsidies, graduation grants, four dedicated dormitories, and a strong long-term strategy, BSU demonstrates a fully institutionalized commitment to eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities across all levels of its educational and social support systems.

### **Approval Authority**

Higher Education Center, Baku Slavic University

### **Responsible Units for Monitoring and Future Updates**

Higher Education Center