

Academic *Innovation* Fund

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Guide

Background information

The SDGs have been embedded into York University's new University Academic Plan (UAP) "[Building a Better Future: York University Academic Plan 2020-2025](#)." The new UAP sets out a community challenge to elevate York's contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, bringing together students, faculty and staff to work together to build new tools, develop strategies and solutions to global challenges. The UAP serves as a blueprint for action, positioning York U as an agent of positive change in the world facing a convergence of unprecedented trials from climate change, the pandemic, racism and xenophobia, poverty and inequality.

The Academic Innovation Fund (AIF) is looking for proposals that support SDG framed projects within undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

What are United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The United Nations defines the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere. The 17 Goals were adopted by all UN Member States in 2015, as part of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) which set out a 15-year plan to achieve the Goals. The SDG's are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, accessibility, diversity and inclusion, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.

Progress is being made in many places, but, overall, action to meet the Goals is not yet advancing at the speed or scale required. World leaders from across all sectors have been called for a "[Decade of Action](#)" to deliver ambitious action to meet goals and targets of the SDG's by 2030.



Learn more:

The [SDG Academy](#) creates and curates a free massive open online courses and educational materials on sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals. From sustainable cities to human rights to climate action, each of our courses addresses the fundamental challenge facing our world today.

Additional Resources:

- UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>
- Global Goals for SDGs: <https://www.globalgoals.org/>
- 2020 SDGs Progress report: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/>
- Accelerating Education for the SDGs in Universities: <https://blogs.upm.es/education4sdg/prueba-elementor/curricular-lt-actions/>