

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



10.6.6 Does your university as a body provide mentoring/counselling/peer support programmers to support students, staff, faculty from underrepresented groups)?

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Yes, UBT offers a comprehensive range of mentoring programs and initiatives to support students, faculty, and staff from underrepresented groups, demonstrating its strong commitment to inclusivity and equity across all levels of the university.

UBT Education Support Centre

The Educational Support Center (ESC) provides targeted services for students with various disabilities, including physical, learning, hearing, and visual impairments; autism; attention deficit disorder (ADD); communication disorders; and psychiatric conditions. Upon registration, the center assesses their unique needs and implements appropriate accommodations to facilitate their academic success.

In addition, every student at UBT, including those from underrepresented groups, is assigned an academic advisor. These advisors play a crucial role in helping students adjust to university life by providing personalized guidance and support across all aspects of their academic journey and campus experience. This ensures that students have a trusted resource to assist them in navigating challenges, setting goals, and maximizing their potential.

The ESC also organizes peer tutoring services to assist students who may need additional academic support, helping them meet their educational goals.

The center extends its services to students from low-income families, including those enrolled through orphanage associations. It provides psychological and social counseling, monitors their academic progress, and ensures that necessary accommodations are in place to help them succeed.

UBT regularly evaluates the impact and effectiveness of its mentoring and counseling programs, gathering feedback from students, faculty, and staff to inform improvements and ensure alignment with best practices (See Evidence No.1 Education support Centre).

Scholarships for students with Disabilities

UBT further supports inclusivity through its 25% scholarship discount for students with disabilities, alleviating financial barriers and enabling these students to focus on their academic journey. This initiative underscores UBT's dedication to providing equal opportunities for all, fostering an environment where every student can thrive.

UBT International Students office

UBT's Board of Trustees has recently approved the establishment of the International Students Office. This initiative comes in response to the Kingdom's efforts to attract more international students to Saudi universities through the introduction of a study visa and the development of the "Study in Saudi" platform. These developments are expected to significantly increase the number of international students at UBT, complementing the international student population the university already hosts.

The International student's office will play a pivotal role in providing critical support to international students, with a particular focus on those from less developed countries. Its primary objectives include:

- Helping students adjust to life at UBT through comprehensive orientation programs and ongoing guidance.
- Creating opportunities for cross-cultural interactions to enrich the campus community. Offering tailored support to address academic, social, and administrative challenges, ensuring students experience a smooth transition into university life (Evidence No.2 International students office).

HR Department, Labour committee, UBT training Center

UBT places significant emphasis on supporting its faculty, particularly those from underrepresented groups, through various initiatives led by the Human Resources Department and the Labor Committee (See Evidence No. 2 UBT labor Committee). These entities work together to ensure that faculty members receive personalized guidance and assistance to enhance their overall experience at UBT. UBT's Training Center organizes workshops and training sessions for faculty and staff, focusing on topics such as professional grow and well-being. These initiatives aim to create an inclusive and thriving workplaces for all members of the academic community.

Through these comprehensive programs and initiatives, UBT demonstrates its unwavering commitment to fostering an inclusive environment. By addressing the needs of underrepresented groups, providing financial assistance, and ensuring access to support services, UBT creates a community where every individual has the resources and opportunities to succeed.