

**SUMGAYIT STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**SUSTAINABILITY POLICY ON DONATIONS AND FUNDING**



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## Overview

Sumgayit State University (SSU) adopted this policy based on the University's Charter, internal disciplinary rules, other normative acts, the legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and international standards. At SSU, a commitment to academic excellence, innovative research, and sustainable development is paramount.

This policy outlines the principles guiding the acceptance and management of donations, emphasizing the importance of ethical practices, transparency, and sustainability in fundraising efforts.

## Policy Purpose

This policy aims to establish a framework for the ethical and sustainable management of donations and funding at SSU. By ensuring that financial resources align with the university's mission and values, SSU seeks to promote academic growth, community engagement, and environmental responsibility. The policy ensures that all donations and funding sources align with SSU's mission and core values, reinforcing the university's commitment to academic integrity, social responsibility, and environmental stewardship. By establishing guidelines for the acceptance and utilization of donations, the policy promotes sustainable development initiatives that benefit both the university and the wider community, including projects addressing social, economic, and environmental challenges.

## Core Principles

1. **Accountability and Transparency**
  - SSU is committed to openly reporting all sources of donations, adhering to national laws and international best practices.
  - Regular audits will be conducted to ensure accountability and transparency in financial management.
2. **Ethical Considerations**
  - Donations must align with SSU's core values. The university retains the right to refuse funds from sources that conflict with its ethical standards or pose risks to the environment or society.
3. **Focus on Environmental Sustainability**
  - Priority will be given to projects that support sustainability initiatives, such as renewable energy, waste reduction, and biodiversity conservation.
4. **Promoting Equity and Inclusivity**
  - Donations should enhance inclusivity and provide equal opportunities for all members of the university community, particularly those who are underrepresented.
5. **Commitment to Long-term Impact**
  - SSU prioritizes funding initiatives that yield sustainable benefits in academic, social, and environmental contexts, ensuring lasting positive outcomes.

## **Objectives of the Policy**

- To enhance educational and research efforts related to sustainability.
- To cultivate partnerships with organizations aligned with SSU's sustainability vision.
- To responsibly allocate resources to projects that are environmentally and socially beneficial.

## **Criteria for Accepting Donations**

Donations will be assessed based on the following criteria:

1. **Evaluation of Donor Sources**
  - The donor's background will be scrutinized to ensure compliance with ethical and sustainability standards.
2. **Specification of Purpose**
  - Donors are required to clearly define the intended use of their contributions, ensuring alignment with SSU's sustainability and academic objectives.
3. **Non-Conditional Donations**
  - Donations must not impose conditions that could undermine the university's autonomy or academic integrity.

## **Allocation and Reporting of Donations**

1. **Fund Allocation**
  - Funds will be allocated based on priority needs, including research, infrastructure, scholarships, and community outreach, with an emphasis on sustainability.
2. **Monitoring Impact**
  - SSU will implement mechanisms to track the impact of funded projects, ensuring they align with sustainability goals.
3. **Reporting Practices**
  - Annual reports will detail the use and impact of donations and funding, maintaining transparency with stakeholders.

## **Engagement and Partnerships**

1. **Acknowledgment of Donors**
  - SSU will publicly recognize contributions, respecting donor preferences while adhering to university policies.
2. **Encouragement of Collaborations**
  - Partnerships with corporations, NGOs, and international organizations will be encouraged, provided they align with SSU's sustainability commitments.

## **Policy Review and Compliance**

This policy will undergo a review every three years to ensure it remains relevant to evolving sustainability practices and legal requirements. Any violations will be addressed according to university governance procedures.

## **Implementation Strategies**

1. **Oversight Mechanisms**
  - A dedicated team will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy, ensuring adherence to established principles.
2. **Training for Fundraising Staff**
  - Fundraising personnel will receive training on sustainable fundraising practices to equip them with essential skills for effective policy implementation.
3. **Strategies for Donor Engagement**
  - Methods will be developed to engage donors who share the university's dedication to sustainability, fostering long-term relationships through consistent communication and appreciation of contributions.

## **Education and Community Engagement**

1. **Campus Awareness Campaigns**
  - Initiatives will be implemented to promote understanding of sustainable funding and donation principles among the university community through educational workshops and events.
2. **Feedback Channels**
  - Input from students, faculty, and staff regarding fundraising decisions and policy implementation will be encouraged to foster inclusivity.
3. **Collaboration with Other Institutions**
  - SSU will partner with other universities and organizations to share best practices and resources related to sustainable fundraising.