



# **SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2023**

CONTENT

Message from UCSI Vice-Chancellor	1
Message from Vice President of UCSI Group Sustainability	2
1. Introduction	3
1.1 Vision for Sustainability	3
1.2 Mission for Sustainability	4
2. The University at a Glance	5
2.1 Campuses	5
2.2 Embedding Sustainability Across Academia	5
2.3 Research Arms	6
2.3.1 Centre of Research for Advanced Aquaculture (CORAA)	6
2.3.2 Sustainable Coastal Cities Research Consortium	6
2.3.3 UCSI-Cheras Low Carbon Innovation Hub Research Consortium	6
2.3.4 Tan Sri Omar (TSO) Centre for STI Policy Studies	7
2.4 QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2024	7
2.5 Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs) Kuching and Greater Kuala Lumpur	8
2.6 Research	9
2.6.1 Stanford’s World’s Top 2% of Scientists 2023	9
Prof Dr Richard Peter Bailey	9
Distinguished Prof Dr Phang Siew Moi	10
Assoc Prof Dr Eric Chan Wei Chiang	10
Assoc Prof Dr Shayla Islam	11
Senior Prof Dr Garry Tan Wei Han	11
Assoc Prof Dr Eugene Aw Cheng Xi	12
2.6.2 Ongoing Projects	12
Prof Dr Ong Eng Tek	12
Asst Prof Dr Teng Kah Hou	12
Asst Prof Dr Lai Li Sze	13
Assoc Prof Ts Dr Eugenie Tan Sin Sing	13
2.6.3 A Review of UCSI’s SDG Publication Grants	14
2.7 Academic and Education	16
2.7.1 UCSI University’s Faculty of Applied Science (FAS)	16
2.7.2 UCSI University’s Faculty of Engineering Technology and Built Environment (FETBE)	17

## CONTENT

2.7.3 UCSI University's Institute of Computer Science and Digital Innovation (ICSDI)	18
2.8 UCSI Alumnae Projects Driving Sustainable Change	19
2.8.1 The Picha Project	19
2.8.2 The Other School (Previously known as E-Illuminate)	19
2.8.3 Women Photographers Malaysia (WPM)	20
2.9 UCSI Affiliated Services	20
2.9.1 Faculty of Applied Sciences and Laurent Bleu Medical Centre	20
2.9.2 UCSI University Kuching	21
3. Harmoni-Mesra Campus Programme	22
4. Sustainable Campus Operations	22
4.1 Energy Conservation and Efficiency	22
4.2 Water Conservation	23
4.3 Waste Reduction and Repurposing	24
4.4 Digitisation	24
4.5 Sustainable Transportation	25
4.6 Disabled-Friendly Campus	25
5. UCSI Green Office	26
6. Events and Collaborations	28
6.1 Launching of the International Institute of Science Diplomacy and Sustainability (IISDS)	28
6.2 Launching of the Harmoni-Mesra Campus Programme	29
6.3 UCSI hosts 13th Global RCE Conference	30
6.4 UCSI Cleanup Day	30
6.5 One Hope Vision Screening	31
6.6 Donation Drive for Children's Shelter Home	32
6.7 Star of the Sea Kindergarten, Pangkor Island	32
6.8 Terrafix: Zero Waste Festival - Aquatic Simulation	33
7. Governance	33
7.1 Oversight Task Force on Sustainability	33
7.2 University SDG Steering Committee	34
7.3 Group Sustainability Office (GSO)	34
8. References	35

## Message from UCSI Vice-Chancellor

Let us reflect on UCSI University's journey towards sustainability and our collective commitment to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At UCSI, we take pride in championing these goals at every turn, incorporating our hard work and dedication to environmental sustainability. The "S" in "UCSI" symbolises our journey towards sustainability, with the aim of becoming a benchmark for sustainable practices. Hence, our early adoption of the UN's SDGs signifies our persistent commitment, which we are determined to expand both operationally and academically.

It is our shared duty to safeguard and champion the fundamental essence of the sustainable development agenda—a commitment to leave behind a better and sustainable world to future generations. Academic institutions, irrespective of their public or private nature, play an important role in this shared endeavour.

Since 2018, UCSI has been at the forefront, establishing a 'Knowledge and Sharing Gateway' dedicated to SDGs. Our platform, MySDGStep, serves as a collaborative space, bringing together local and international sustainability advocates.

In 2019, we launched the "Harmoni-Mesra Campus" with the aim of instilling the principles of Rukun Negara (National Principles) and building a network of H-M Campuses. Our university continues to play an important role in nurturing unity in diversity through forums, dialogues and conferences. Moreover, the "UCSI Care" programme has remained resilient in touching the lives of the less fortunate, including orphanages and old folks' homes, bringing them cheer and support during festive seasons.

Furthermore, UCSI is recognised by the United Nations University for Education and Sustainability: RCE Kuching in 2019 and RCE Greater KL in 2021. UCSI proudly stands as the first institution in Malaysia to have earned two RCEs, marking a significant milestone in our pursuit of sustainable practices.

It is also with immense pride that we announce our recognition in the QS Sustainability Ranking 2024, securing the #1 spot for private universities in Malaysia and an impressive #4 worldwide for Environmental Sustainability. This accomplishment reflects our dedication to embedding sustainability into our academic courses and research endeavours.

However, despite the significant strides we have made, we acknowledge the need for accelerated action. As it stands, we are falling short of our goals, and more must be done to address the pressing needs of society.

As we look ahead to 2025, our vision includes a robust integration of sustainability into 70% of faculties programme offerings, with a particular emphasis on responsible consumption. Within our university community, we are committed to nurturing a prosperous, harmonious, progressive, socially responsible and sustainable environment for the well-being of both staff and students.

The introduction of green campus initiatives will further emphasise our commitment as we intend to increase green buildings, enhance energy efficiency, tree replanting, promoting recycling and refining waste management.

As we confront the challenges of leaving a lasting impression and footprint for sustainability in this era, I am confident that UCSI University, with its abundant resources and capabilities, will persist in this journey of transforming mindsets and habits.

Sincerely,

**Prof Datuk Ir Ts Dr Siti Hamisah binti Tapsir**

*UCSI Group CEO and UCSI University vice-chancellor*





## Message from Vice President of UCSI Group Sustainability

Dear UCSI Community,

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I share with you the strides we have made in our collective journey towards sustainability. The advocacy for building and being better global citizens, championed by the University's top management in 2023, reinforces our commitment to shaping a future where sustainability is at the forefront of our actions.

Recognising our profound influence on the 12,000 staff and students, along with the approximately 5,000 new community members joining us each year, we have embarked on initiatives aimed at promoting sustainability across the spectrum of Environment, Social and Governance (ESG).

For starters, the Green Office Campaign, a collaborative effort involving faculties, departments and the Group's subsidiary companies within the campus, has been a significant step forward. Two comprehensive audits were conducted at each office, setting the stage for continuous evaluation and improvement throughout 2024.

Moreover, in our commitment to reduce single-use plastics, we have communicated to all retailers and vendors on campus the gradual elimination of these plastics in early 2024. Encouraging alternatives to plastics is an essential step towards creating a more sustainable campus environment.

Furthermore, our annual SDG Month remains a cornerstone of our sustainability efforts. A month-long exhibition highlighting global environmental issues set the stage for students to pledge for "green events" in over 30 activities. These events adhere to green principles such as the elimination of single-use plastics, reduction of paper printing and the implementation of sustainable waste management practices.

UCSI also had the revival and update of the SDG Quiz 1 and Quiz 2 which serve as powerful tools for educating and raising awareness on SDGs. We have witnessed the engagement of many students, particularly newcomers, as they actively participate in these quizzes for the first time.

UCSI is also strongly promoting unity in diversity through our commitment as a "Harmoni-Mesra" Campus which was further highlighted through two national forums. Esteemed speakers from different faiths and cultures, as well as a keynote speech by the former Minister of Education of Bhutan, emphasised the importance of embracing diversity as a cornerstone of our sustainability efforts.

Our faculty staff and students have played pivotal roles in championing and promoting sustainability within and beyond the campus. Their passion for advocating a more sustainable future is evident in the events and activities they organise. We salute them for their dedication and trust that they will continue to make a difference wherever their paths lead them beyond the gates of UCSI University.

Together, let us continue this journey of transformation, nurturing a culture of sustainability that resonates not only within our campus but also in the wider community.

Sincerely,

**Leong Sat Sing**

*Vice president of UCSI Group Sustainability*



## 1. Introduction

At UCSI University, we don't just acknowledge our impact on the environment – we confront it head-on. As an institution of higher learning, we embrace our duty to shape a sustainable future. This annual sustainability report details our efforts and achievements in integrating sustainable best practices across our campuses in 2023.

Our pledge to sustainability is rooted in a fervent desire to be conscientious global citizens. We understand the finite nature of resources such as water, energy, and materials, and we recognize the profound influence of our choices on the planet's well-being. Our sustainability endeavours are laser-focused on resource conservation, waste reduction, carbon footprint minimisation, and the cultivation of a culture of environmental stewardship within our institution.

Our goal is not only to streamline campus operations and trim costs, but to significantly diminish our environmental footprint and equip our students to spearhead the charge against sustainability challenges.

While we are proud of the steps taken, we know there is always more work to be done. We remain committed to continuously improving to make UCSI University a leader in campus sustainability.



### 1.1 Vision for Sustainability

#### Commitment to carbon neutrality and environmental sustainability

UCSI University has a strong commitment to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and promoting environmental sustainability across its operations. This aligns with the United Nations SDGs and Malaysia's national development plans.

Specific goals include:

- Reducing the University's carbon footprint and improving energy efficiency
- Developing a green campus and sustainable infrastructure
- Supporting research and innovation for low-carbon solutions

#### Focus on social responsibility and community engagement

UCSI aims to foster social responsibility and community engagement around sustainability issues. This includes:

- Organising events to raise awareness on environmental topics
- Engaging different stakeholders (government, industry, NGOs, local communities) in sustainability initiatives
- Embedding sustainability across academic programmes and student experiences

#### Thought leadership on sustainable development

UCSI strives to be a thought leader and contribute intellectual capital on issues like sustainable cities, climate resilience, sustainable energy systems etc. The university has set up dedicated research centres and consortiums as part of this vision.

In summary, UCSI University has made strong commitments across operations, education and research to advance sustainable development in Malaysia and globally. The vision focuses on environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and thought leadership.



## 1.2 Mission for Sustainability



### Create awareness and share knowledge on sustainability

A key part of UCSI's mission is to create awareness, share knowledge and transfer skills related to sustainability across different communities. This includes organising events, developing academic programmes, and engaging with industry or government on these topics.



### Accelerate low carbon development

UCSI aims to contribute intellectual capital and drive research to accelerate low carbon development in Malaysia. This aligns with national policies like the Malaysia Development Plan. The UCSI-Cheras Low Carbon Innovation Hub Research Consortium specifically works towards enabling low carbon cities.



### Promote sustainable resource usage

The University strives to promote sustainable resource usage in areas like energy, waste management and food production. This is done through developing green campuses, supporting research on clean technologies, and community initiatives around topics like composting.



### Engage communities on sustainability efforts

UCSI seeks to engage different stakeholders - students, faculty, partners, local communities etc. on sustainability efforts. The mission is to make sustainability a shared goal across academia and society. Initiatives like "Towards Zero Waste - Feel and Heal" exemplify this community-centric approach.

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## 2. The University at a Glance

### 2.1 Campuses



UCSI University has four (4) campuses, including the main campus in Kuala Lumpur and branch campuses in Sarawak (Kuching), Springhill (Seremban/Port Dickson), and Bangladesh.

The University prioritises sustainable practices across all campus operations. We focus on energy conservation, waste management, water efficiency, digitisation and sustainable transportation. Our buildings are designed to be energy-efficient, utilising renewable energy sources where possible. We implement comprehensive recycling programmes, promote composting, and continually strive to minimise waste generation.



### 2.2 Embedding Sustainability Across Academia



The University offers a wide range of academic programmes including business, health sciences, engineering, digital innovation, and more. As of 2023, 245 courses spanning 15 faculties have incorporated substantial SDG emphasis into their curricula. This includes dedicated subjects that teach students about one or more of the United Nations SDGs, instilling crucial awareness of economic, social, and environmental responsibility.



## 2.3 Research Arms

Innovative research is crucial for generating new knowledge and solutions to pressing sustainability challenges. At UCSI University, we have established four research centres that conduct impactful scholarship and consulting focused on various dimensions of sustainability.

### 2.3.1 Centre of Research for Advanced Aquaculture (CORAA)



CORAA, established in June 2021, is a hub for interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation in aquaculture. It addresses several United Nations SDGs, including SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), and SDG 14 (Life Below Water).

By focusing on these goals, CORAA enhances sustainable aquaculture and impacts the community, economy, and environment positively. Its mission includes fostering innovation and promoting sustainable aquaculture development, aligning with UCSI's broader sustainability goals.



### 2.3.2 Sustainable Coastal Cities Research Consortium



The UCSI Sustainable Coastal Cities Research Consortium is an initiative established by UCSI University to address the challenges faced by coastal cities due to climate change and other environmental issues. The consortium aims to generate knowledge and engage in capacity-building activities to ensure the long-term sustainability of coastal cities.

The consortium's vision is to create self-supporting coastal cities that can adapt to climate change, manage sea-level rise, and support important marine ecosystems. This involves addressing issues such as coastal erosion, rising sea levels, and the impact of these phenomena on human populations and ecosystems. It also focuses on the management of marine debris, which is a significant problem affecting coastal cities and marine ecosystems.

### 2.3.3 UCSI-Cheras Low Carbon Innovation Hub Research Consortium



The UCSI-Cheras Low Carbon Innovation Hub Research Consortium is a UCSI University-led collaboration focused on enabling low carbon development in Cheras, Malaysia. It conducts research and drives innovation in areas like sustainable energy, low carbon infrastructure, community climate action, and sustainable waste and water management.

By bringing together partners across academia, government, industry and local communities, the Consortium advances climate change mitigation and sustainable resource usage aligned with national policies and United Nations Sustainability Goals.

### 2.3.5 Tan Sri Omar (TSO) Centre for STI Policy Studies

The Tan Sri Omar (TSO) Centre for STI Policy Studies, established in 2021, promotes the enhancement of National Science, Technology, and Social Innovation (STSI) capacity. The Centre's work contributes to a 'Harmonious, Prosperous, Progressive and Sustainable Malaysia', aligning with UCSI's sustainability vision. It fosters collaboration with organisations with similar mandates, furthering UCSI's commitment to sustainability.



### 2.4 QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2024

In 2023, the QS Top Universities implemented a major enhancement by introducing sustainability as a new metric in their world university rankings. UCSI ranked fourth globally for Environmental Sustainability.

In this new ranking, UCSI scored relatively well on some key metrics:

#### Environmental sustainability - Score of 95.7

- Indicating strong performance on metrics like greenhouse gas emissions reductions, sustainable buildings, renewable energy use, etc.

#### Knowledge exchange - Score of 74.5

- Reflecting things like research partnerships, community outreach efforts, support for startups, etc.

#### Governance - Score of 74.2

- Evaluating factors like ethics policies, equitable pay and promotion practices, stakeholder engagement in decision-making, etc.



## 2.5 Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs) Kuching and Greater Kuala Lumpur



The Regional Centres of Expertise (RCEs) Kuching and Greater Kuala Lumpur are initiatives by the University, recognised by the United Nations University (UNU), to align education with the United Nations' SDGs.

They serve to connect the community, education, and universities together, moving the agenda of the SDGs where science is connected to the needs of the community. These are the first and only Malaysian private university-hosted RCEs.

### RCE Kuching

RCE Kuching, based in UCSI University's Sarawak campus, primarily focuses on river conservation and sustainable community development. It engages with all sectors in society, especially youth, to raise the sustainability literacy of the rural and urban communities.

The RCE team focuses on the communities at the rivers south of Kuching, which are part of the Sarawak River, to achieve a sustainable environment there. The area is strategic because the Sarawak River is not only a transportation hub and a place for recreational activities such as rafting but also where the tagang system is practised, which is a sustainable way of fishing.

In alignment with the United Nations' SDGs, RCE Kuching's initiatives resonate with SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 15 (Life on Land).



### RCE Greater Kuala Lumpur

RCE Greater Kuala Lumpur (GKL), on the other hand, is a leading centre of excellence for transformative education that develops and empowers multilayers of society together with local and global partners in an equitable and shared sustainable future while protecting the planet.

It has been involved in various initiatives such as the development of an SDG Awareness Quiz for summit participants and co-organising the Sustainability and SDGs Project management workshop. The University also initiated a project, sponsored by WWF-Malaysia, that involves planting three trees for every graduate. This project aims to offset carbon emissions and contribute to environmental sustainability.

Furthermore, the Centre has engaged in activities that foster a culture of peace and unity, such as the Peace and Unity in Diversity Education (PUDE) programme. It seeks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

In alignment with the United Nations' SDGs, RCE Greater Kuala Lumpur's initiatives resonate with SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals).



## 2.6 Research

UCSI University stands as a strong advocate for sustainability, showcasing our commitment through impactful research and publications by our diverse group of professors that major in various fields. These dedicated individuals have actively addressed 16 SDGs outlined by the United Nations, contributing significantly to the global conversation on sustainability.

Notably, our professors' efforts have translated into real-world outcomes, securing over nine million ringgit in both internal and external grants. This substantial financial support highlights the practical impact of our work, reinforcing the quality and relevance of research undertaken at UCSI University.

# NINE UCSI SCIENTISTS MAKE THE WORLD'S TOP 2%

Listed in Stanford's World's Top 2% Scientists 2023

### 2.6.1 Stanford's World's Top 2% of Scientists 2023

In 2023, nine academics from UCSI University were listed among the World's Top 2% of Scientists by Stanford University. A number of their pioneering research projects have made significant contributions to the United Nations SDGs.



#### Prof Dr Richard Peter Bailey

Prof Dr Richard Peter Bailey's research primarily focuses on the promotion of healthy lifestyles in schools. His work is particularly relevant in the context of worsening health behaviours among children, which pose a significant public health problem.

Current health challenges increasingly relate to non-communicable diseases and associated behaviour and lifestyle choices, including physical inactivity and poor diet.

Dr Bailey's research aligns with the SDGs in several ways:



Dr Bailey's research targets to reduce mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health and well-being, both of which are addressed by promoting healthy lifestyles in schools.



His work ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes lifelong learning opportunities for all. This goal includes a target to build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability, and gender-sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive, and effective learning environments for all.



Dr Bailey contributed to Nike's globally impactful "Designed to Move" campaign as a strategic advisor. He helped shape the campaign's key goals of promoting physical activity and healthy lifestyles among children worldwide. Applying research-backed insights, Dr Bailey guided the development of age-appropriate programming to get more kids under 10 moving through play and exercise.

As for his work with UNESCO, he was involved in updating the UNESCO Charter on Physical Education, Physical Activity, and Sport. The updated charter aimed to emphasise the right of every human being to have access to sport, play, and exercise.





### Distinguished Prof Dr Phang Siew Moi, FASc

Distinguished Professor Dr Phang's research is centred on phycology, the study of algae and seaweeds, and its potential applications in various fields such as food, energy, medicine, climate change, and industrial biomaterials.

This research has significant implications for sustainability and aligns with several United Nations SDGs:



Dr Phang's work explores how algae can be used to produce renewable energy sources like biodiesel, bioethanol, biogas, and biohydrogen.



Her research in algal biotechnology fosters innovation and contributes to building resilient infrastructure. For example, her work has led to the production of unique fibres from red algae, such as nanocellulose. It is renewable, biocompatible, non-toxic, has a reactive surface, low density, and more. These characteristics make it an excellent additive for developing composite construction materials.



Dr Phang's work on identifying useful biochemicals from indigenous algal sources promotes responsible consumption and production. She has developed a range of products from seaweeds, including those with antimicrobial, antiviral, anticancer, antioxidative, anti-inflammatory, antidiabetic, and anti-fouling properties.



Her research on climate change, including studies on how organisms respond and adapt to climate change, contributes to this goal. She has also conducted research on the emissions of halocarbons, particularly from seaweeds, to estimate their contributions to global warming.



Dr Phang's research supports the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, particularly algae and seaweeds. Her work includes studying commercially valuable, endangered, and ecologically important species, which directly supports this goal.



Dr Phang has been involved with the Seaweed Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) Malaysia, which is a collaborative research initiative. Her work involves research and development activities that contribute to sustainable development, particularly in the context of ocean thermal energy and the utilisation of marine resources such as seaweed.



### Assoc Prof Dr Eric Chan Wei Chiang

Dr Chan's research has primarily focused on the exploration of natural resources for their potential benefits to human health and the environment.

Dr Chan's research aligns with several United Nations SDGs:



His work on wood vinegar contributes by exploring natural resources for potential health benefits. The use of wood vinegar in food preservation and skincare could lead to the development of safer, more natural products, promoting healthier lives and well-being.



By investigating the uses of a by-product of charcoal making, Dr Chan's work promotes the efficient use of resources and waste reduction, key aspects of responsible consumption and production. Furthermore, his study on flowering plants contributes to the understanding and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.



### Assoc Prof Dr Shayla Islam

Dr Shayla Islam's research is primarily centred on improving the way video data is transmitted for telemedicine applications, with a particular focus on the capabilities provided by 5G technology and the Internet of Things (IoT).

In simpler terms, she is working on making it easier and more efficient to send and receive video data for medical purposes, such as remote consultations or monitoring, especially using the latest internet technologies.

Her work has been pivotal in improving the reliability and efficiency of video data streaming in telemedicine applications. This means that she has helped make the process of sending and receiving video data for medical purposes more dependable and less resource-intensive.

This is crucial for healthcare delivery, as it allows doctors to consult with patients remotely, monitor their condition, and provide timely care, even when they are not physically present in the same location.

Dr Islam's research aligns with several United Nations SDGs:



Dr Islam's work on improving the efficiency and reliability of video data transmission for telemedicine applications directly contributes to enhancing healthcare delivery. This means that her research helps to promote good health and well-being by making it easier for people to access medical care remotely, which is particularly important in areas where healthcare facilities may be scarce or difficult to reach.



Dr Islam's innovative approach to data transmission contributes to building resilient infrastructure and fostering innovation. In simpler terms, she has developed new methods for transmitting video data that are more efficient and reliable, which helps to improve the infrastructure for telemedicine and encourages further innovation in this field.



### Senior Prof Dr Garry Tan Wei Han

Senior Professor Dr Garry Tan Wei Han's research delves into the metaverse, an evolving digital universe that blends our physical world with virtual reality to create immersive, shared experiences online.

His contributions have been key in shedding light on how marketing and logistics operate in this novel digital environment, which is becoming increasingly important for businesses and consumers alike.

Dr Tan's research is in line with several United Nations SDGs:



Dr Tan explores how the metaverse can be harnessed by businesses for economic advancement. His insights into effective marketing strategies within the metaverse are valuable for companies looking to grow sustainably in the digital economy.

His research on consumer adoption of mobile payments relates to expanding access to digital financial services and enabling economic opportunities.

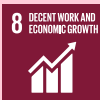


### Assoc Prof Dr Eugene Aw Cheng Xi

Assoc Prof Dr Aw's research primarily focuses on the influence of social media influencers on consumer behaviour, particularly in relation to purchase intention.

His work has been instrumental in understanding the dynamics of influencer marketing and its impact on consumer decision-making processes.

Dr Aw's research aligns with several United Nations SDGs:



His work on influencer marketing contributes to understanding how businesses can leverage social media influencers for economic growth.

By providing insights into effective influencer marketing strategies, his research supports businesses in their efforts to achieve sustainable economic growth.

## 2.6.2 Ongoing Projects

The University is also actively advancing sustainability through a suite of projects initiated in 2023, each tailored to address a variety of SDGs. Below, we highlight four of these key initiatives that are currently in progress:



### Prof Dr Ong Eng Tek

*Research project: Profiling Science Process Skills and Attitudes towards Science for Quality Education among Orang Asli Primary School Students*

This project, currently under the stewardship of Prof Ong Eng Teck, is an initiative aimed at uplifting the educational landscape for the Indigenous People (IP) or Orang Asli of Malaysia. Despite the country's significant strides in education, a considerable portion of the Orang Asli community continues to grapple with socio-economic challenges that hinder their access to quality education.

The project, anchored by UCSI's research endeavours, focuses on enhancing science and mathematics education for these communities. The approach involves profiling the science process skills of the students and fostering a positive attitude towards science. The ultimate goal is to bridge the educational gaps that exist and improve the overall well-being of Malaysia's indigenous population.



By ensuring that all children, including those from marginalised communities, have access to quality education, the project is making a significant contribution towards the achievement of this global goal.



### Asst Prof Dr Teng Kah Hou

*Research project: Elucidation of Ultrasound and Catalyst Effect on Water Electrolysis by Capillary Feed Technique for Sustainable Hydrogen Production*

This initiative is a part of UCSI's dedicated research efforts aimed at advancing sustainable hydrogen production. Its primary focus is on the development of innovative technologies that not only make hydrogen production more cost-effective but also enhance its efficiency.



By focusing on the development of cost-effective and efficient hydrogen production technologies, the project contributes significantly to fostering environmental sustainability.

Furthermore, it propels the hydrogen industry towards becoming a practical and affordable solution for a wide range of applications, thereby contributing to the achievement of these global goals.



Asst Prof Dr Lai Li Sze

Research project: *Elucidation of self-healing mechanism for the development of adaptive 3D printed membrane in CO2 separation*

This research initiative, led by Dr Lai, is a part of a broader effort to combat climate change by reducing CO2 emissions, a significant contributor to greenhouse gases.

Traditional methods of CO2 separation using polymeric membranes have limitations due to their structure and properties. This project aims to overcome these limitations by using 3D printing, an innovative and flexible method, to create membranes for CO2 separation.

If successful, this study could lead to the development of durable and highly effective membranes for CO2 separation. This is crucial in our journey toward achieving net-zero carbon emissions and could create new jobs in the manufacturing and installation of this technology.



By developing innovative and effective solutions for CO2 separation, the project contributes significantly to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, thereby playing a crucial role in the global fight against climate change.



Assoc Prof Ts Dr Eugenie Tan Sin Sing

Research project: *The Impact of Microplastics Exposure on Infant's Gastrointestinal System*

This research initiative by Dr Tan is a response to a pressing concern: the infiltration of microplastics (MPs) into the daily food consumed by infants, which aligns with SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being).

Microplastics ingestion is suspected to be a major route through which these tiny plastics enter our bodies, accumulating in the gut. This is particularly concerning for infants, given their underdeveloped stomachs and unstable gut bacteria. The research at UCSI seeks to fill this knowledge gap by studying how infants get exposed to MPs based on their feeding patterns.

The goal of this project is not just to understand the problem but to take action. The team aims to work with the Ministry of Environment and Water, as well as the Ministry of Health, to develop targeted strategies to mitigate the impact of microplastics on infants' health.



By investigating the impact of microplastics on infants' health and working towards the development of strategies to mitigate this impact, the project contributes significantly to promoting good health and well-being for all, especially the most vulnerable, such as infants.



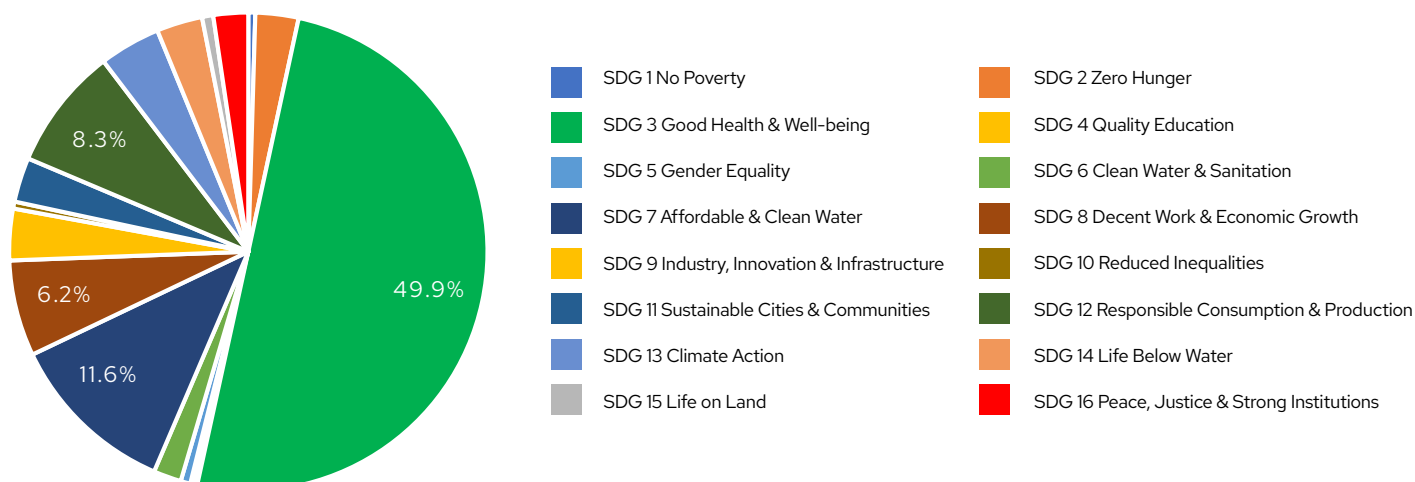


### 2.6.3 A Review of UCSI's SDG Publication Grants

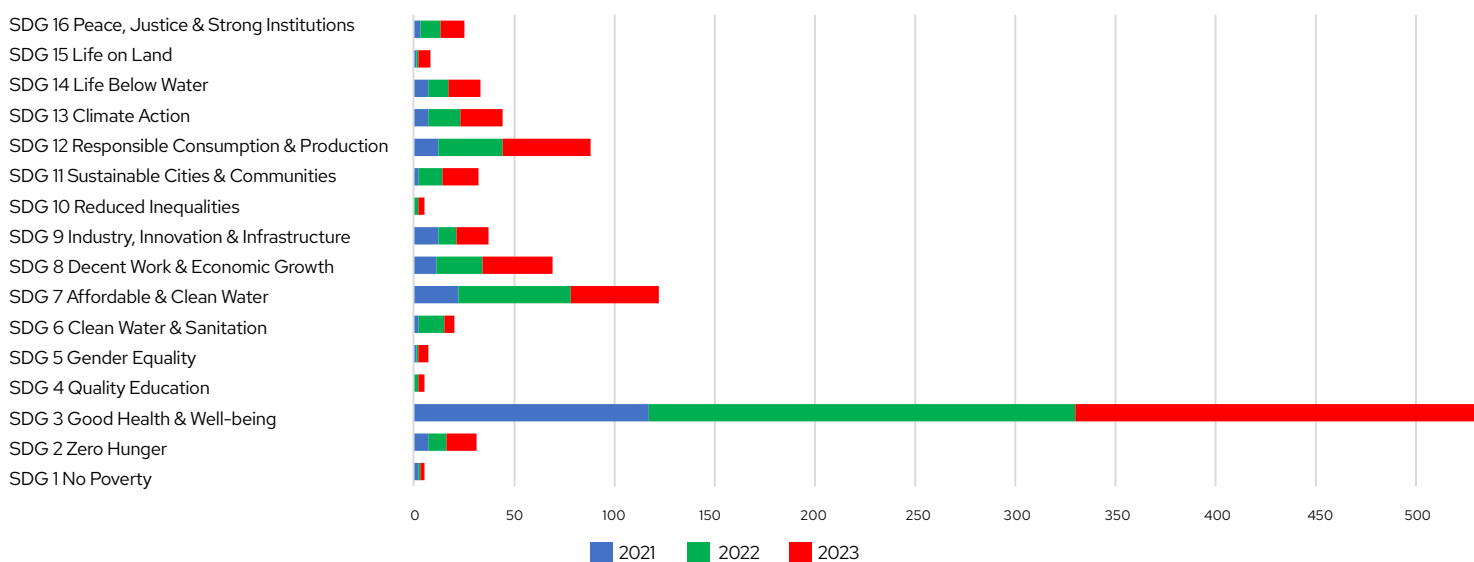
SDG	2021	2022	2023 *	TOTAL
SDG 1 No Poverty	2	1	2	5
SDG 2 Zero Hunger	7	9	15	31
SDG 3 Good Health & Well-being	117	213	202	532
SDG 4 Quality Education	0	2	3	5
SDG 5 Gender Equality	1	1	5	7
SDG 6 Clean Water & Sanitation	2	13	5	20
SDG 7 Affordable & Clean Water	22	56	44	122
SDG 8 Decent Work & Economic Growth	11	23	35	69
SDG 9 Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure	12	9	16	37
SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities	0	2	3	5
SDG 11 Sustainable Cities & Communities	2	12	18	32
SDG 12 Responsible Consumption & Production	12	32	44	88
SDG 13 Climate Action	7	16	21	44
SDG 14 Life Below Water	7	10	16	33
SDG 15 Life on Land	1	1	6	8
SDG 16 Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	3	10	12	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>1,063</b>



#### Total Publications by SDGs (2021-2023)



#### SDG Publications by Year (2021-2023)



## FRGS National Project (2019 -2023)

<b>1 NO POVERTY</b> No. of Approved Projects: 0 Percentage (%): 0 Amount (RM): 0	<b>2 ZERO HUNGER</b> No. of Approved Projects: 0 Percentage (%): 0 Amount (RM): 0	<b>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</b> No. of Approved Projects: 30 Percentage (%): 57 Amount (RM): 4184311	<b>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</b> No. of Approved Projects: 4 Percentage (%): 8 Amount (RM): 481472
<b>5 GENDER EQUALITY</b> No. of Approved Projects: 0 Percentage (%): 0 Amount (RM): 0	<b>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</b> No. of Approved Projects: 1 Percentage (%): 2 Amount (RM): 108700	<b>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</b> No. of Approved Projects: 2 Percentage (%): 4 Amount (RM): 251500	<b>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</b> No. of Approved Projects: 0 Percentage (%): 0 Amount (RM): 0
<b>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b> No. of Approved Projects: 3 Percentage (%): 6 Amount (RM): 333910	<b>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</b> No. of Approved Projects: 0 Percentage (%): 0 Amount (RM): 0	<b>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</b> No. of Approved Projects: 3 Percentage (%): 6 Amount (RM): 251100	<b>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</b> No. of Approved Projects: 6 Percentage (%): 11 Amount (RM): 719954
<b>13 CLIMATE ACTION</b> No. of Approved Projects: 3 Percentage (%): 6 Amount (RM): 295746	<b>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</b> No. of Approved Projects: 1 Percentage (%): 2 Amount (RM): 127800	<b>15 LIFE ON LAND</b> No. of Approved Projects: 0 Percentage (%): 0 Amount (RM): 0	<b>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</b> No. of Approved Projects: 0 Percentage (%): 0 Amount (RM): 0
<b>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</b> No. of Approved Projects: 0 Percentage (%): 0 Amount (RM): 0	<b>Total</b> No. of Approved Projects: 53 Percentage (%): 100 Amount (RM): 6,754,493.00		

### No. of Approved External Grants



## FRGS National Project (2022 -2023)

<b>1 NO POVERTY</b> No. of Approved Projects: 0 Percentage (%): 0 Amount (RM): 0	<b>2 ZERO HUNGER</b> No. of Approved Projects: 3 Percentage (%): 2 Amount (RM): 62783	<b>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</b> No. of Approved Projects: 39 Percentage (%): 27 Amount (RM): 1030414	<b>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</b> No. of Approved Projects: 15 Percentage (%): 10 Amount (RM): 219359
<b>5 GENDER EQUALITY</b> No. of Approved Projects: 2 Percentage (%): 1 Amount (RM): 27850	<b>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</b> No. of Approved Projects: 3 Percentage (%): 2 Amount (RM): 45458	<b>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</b> No. of Approved Projects: 5 Percentage (%): 3 Amount (RM): 47743	<b>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</b> No. of Approved Projects: 13 Percentage (%): 9 Amount (RM): 93307
<b>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b> No. of Approved Projects: 16 Percentage (%): 11 Amount (RM): 244682	<b>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</b> No. of Approved Projects: 1 Percentage (%): 1 Amount (RM): 5833	<b>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</b> No. of Approved Projects: 5 Percentage (%): 3 Amount (RM): 60028	<b>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</b> No. of Approved Projects: 18 Percentage (%): 13 Amount (RM): 260534
<b>13 CLIMATE ACTION</b> No. of Approved Projects: 4 Percentage (%): 3 Amount (RM): 87047	<b>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</b> No. of Approved Projects: 4 Percentage (%): 3 Amount (RM): 73717	<b>15 LIFE ON LAND</b> No. of Approved Projects: 6 Percentage (%): 4 Amount (RM): 120957	<b>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</b> No. of Approved Projects: 6 Percentage (%): 4 Amount (RM): 44467
<b>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</b> No. of Approved Projects: 4 Percentage (%): 3 Amount (RM): 55838	<b>Total</b> No. of Approved Projects: 144 Percentage (%): 100 Amount (RM): 2,480,017.00		

### No. of Approved External Grants



## 2.7 Academic and Education

### 2.7.1 UCSI University's Faculty of Applied Science (FAS)



Building upon the fundamental principles instilled in students at the Faculty of Applied Science (FAS), UCSI University stands at the forefront of advancing a sustainable future through its academic programmes. The faculty's dedication to addressing and contributing to the SDGs is exemplified in its comprehensive approach towards sustainability in education.

Students in the Faculty of Applied Science at UCSI delve into SDGs right from the foundational level. It addresses and contributes to the fulfilment of SDGs 3 and 7.



Good Health and Well-Being (SDG 3), finds its connection in this course, as basic chemistry is the foundation of medicinal and pharmaceutical advancements. These advancements play a crucial role in healing and curing ailments, thereby nurturing good health.



Moreover, Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7), is realised through the application of chemistry in pioneering new materials for renewable energy such as sorghum, cassava and lignocellulose. These materials are researched to produce renewable fuels like ethanol and biodiesel, as well as chemicals such as 1,3-propanediol and biodegradable materials like polylactic acid. This innovation drives the creation of more energy-efficient solutions in industries and propels the advancement of green fuel technology.

Environmental Biotechnology and Sustainability is a subject taken by those pursuing a degree programme in BSc (Hons) Biotechnology.



This course addresses Climate Action (SDG 13) and Life Under Water (SDG 14). This is because environmental biotechnology research improves air and water quality and is also used in enhancing the removal of pollutants, both on land and underwater.



## 2.7.2 UCSI University's Faculty of Engineering Technology and Built Environment (FETBE)



The Faculty of Engineering Technology and Built Environment (FETBE) at UCSI University stands as a support of sustainable engineering education, exemplified by its innovative courses that aligns with many of the SDGs.

Power System Management and Smart Grid is a course within the Electrical and Electronics Engineering Bachelor's degree programme. It aims to provide students with a thorough understanding of the technical intricacies related to power systems planning, incorporating the latest advancements in equipment technology. Beyond the technical aspects, the curriculum also covers economic, financial and societal factors influencing supply and demand in the field. The course aligns with SDGs 7 and 9.



To actively contribute to Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7), the curriculum integrates practical activities, with a specific focus on environmental impact analysis. Students engage in tasks such as identifying and measuring the environmental impacts of power system management decisions, including assessing carbon footprint, emissions and ecological considerations. These activities not only encourage technical skills but also contribute to achieving SDG 7 by promoting interconnected, reliable and sustainable power systems.



Additionally, the curriculum emphasises the evaluation of economic and environmental impacts associated with power system planning decisions. Students are guided to navigate the delicate balance between economic viability and environmental sustainability. This extends the course's focus to promoting innovation in the power sector and building resilient infrastructure, aligning with the objectives of Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9) to encourage inclusive and sustainable industrialisation.

Safety, Health and Environment is a course undertaken by most engineering students in their second-year degree programme. Its goal is to cultivate students' analytical skills in safety, health and environmental concepts to ensure they are well-prepared for modern professional practices that promote a healthier environment. The course aligns with SDGs 6 and 11.



Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6) is addressed as students acquire knowledge in occupation, safety and health, making them better equipped to work in environments where water and sanitation facilities are managed. Furthermore, the course includes modules on various pollution control and prevention techniques at different levels of environmental degradation, which also corresponds to SDG 6. This ensures the availability of clean water and the reduction of water pollution.



Moreover, Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11) is also considered, as the course emphasises safety practices in various settings, including urban areas. This involves understanding and implementing safety measures in construction, transportation and other urban development projects. The course also highlights health and well-being, covering topics related to occupational health and safety to ensure that urban development projects prioritise the well-being of workers and residents. Additionally, the course brings attention to environmental sustainability, aligning with SDG 11's goal of sustainable urbanisation. Students are exposed to environmental impact assessments for construction or development projects, teaching them how to evaluate the environmental impact of urban projects and propose mitigation strategies. This knowledge is essential in creating environmentally friendly and sustainable urban spaces.



## 2.7.3 UCSI University's Institute of Computer Science and Digital Innovation (ICS DI)



In the ever-evolving landscape of technology, UCSI University's Institute of Computer Science and Digital Innovation (ICS DI) is dedicated to shaping a future where digital advancements exist hand in hand with a sustainable and inclusive future on a global scale. One of the ways to achieve this is by aligning many of their courses with the SDGs in order to train our students from the ground up.

The Mobile Commerce course, attended by Year 2 and Year 3-degree students in Computer Science or Business Information Systems, focuses on practical learning outcomes aligned with SDGs 8, 9, 10, 12 and 17.



Throughout the course, students gain a comprehensive understanding of mobile commerce principles, technologies and strategies. This knowledge is essential for fostering economic growth and entrepreneurship, directly supporting the objective of Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8). By equipping individuals with skills to utilise mobile technologies in business transactions, the course actively promotes sustained and inclusive economic development, creating opportunities for decent work and entrepreneurship.



Furthermore, the curriculum aligns with Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9) by exploring how mobile technologies can improve infrastructure and drive innovation. Students explore the development and implementation of mobile payment systems, mobile marketing strategies and other innovative mobile commerce solutions. This emphasis on innovation aligns with the goal of building resilient infrastructure, encouraging creativity and supporting sustainable industrialisation.



In addition, the course addresses Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10) by examining the role of mobile commerce in reducing economic disparities. Mobile commerce has the potential to enhance access to economic opportunities for marginalised communities and individuals. By exploring inclusive mobile commerce strategies and technologies, the course aims to contribute to reducing inequality, ensuring that the benefits of economic growth are widely distributed and accessible to all members of society. In essence, the Mobile Commerce course actively supports SDGs by fostering economic empowerment, innovation and inclusivity.

The Mobile Device Technology and Applications course is part of the third-year curriculum for students pursuing a Bachelor of Computer Science in Mobile Computing and Networking. This course directly relates to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 17.



In this course, students will gain a solid understanding of mobile device technologies, covering hardware components, operating systems and application development frameworks. This knowledge aligns with Quality Education (SDG 4), ensuring that students receive relevant and current information to navigate the dynamic digital landscape. Access to quality education in mobile technology is crucial for preparing a workforce capable of using mobile solutions to address societal challenges.



Moreover, the course contributes to Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9) by empowering students to actively participate in developing innovative mobile applications and technologies. Through practical projects and exercises, learners acquire skills in designing and implementing mobile applications that tackle real-world problems. This emphasis on innovation aligns with the goal of promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, nurturing creativity and supporting the development of resilient and adaptable infrastructure.



Additionally, the course promotes Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17) by fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing within the technology sector. Students have opportunities to work together on projects, engage in industry partnerships and connect with the wider community of mobile application developers. By encouraging collaboration and partnerships, the course aims to build a network of individuals who can collectively contribute to achieving sustainable development goals, highlighting the significance of global cooperation for a more inclusive and sustainable future.

## 2.8 UCSI Alumnae Projects Driving Sustainable Change

### 2.8.1 The Picha Project



The Picha Project is a social enterprise founded in 2016 by UCSI University graduates Suzanne Ling, Lee Swee Lin, and Lim Yuet Kim - who were also featured on the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list in 2018. The Picha Project aims to empower marginalised refugee communities in Malaysia by providing them income opportunities through home cooking and food catering.

The project partners with refugee chefs, mainly mothers, to cook meals which are then marketed and delivered by Picha Project to customers. This provides the refugees with a sustainable livelihood, helps them rebuild their lives, and allows their children to continue education.

By the end of 2023, Picha Project has:



Provided **RM1.4 million** cumulative income to refugees



Enabled **91%** of **Picha Chefs'** children ages 6 to 17 to attend school



Helped **80%** of their chefs cover their monthly rental

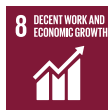


Saved **35,000** plastic boxes

Picha Project revolves around two key United Nations SDGs:



Provides income opportunities and financial sustainability for marginalised refugee families.



Creates meaningful employment for refugees through food preparation and catering operations.

### 2.8.2 The Other School (*Previously known as E-Illuminate*)



The Other School is a social enterprise co-founded by Teoh Min Chia, a UCSI University alumna. The project aims to provide a sustainable solution for refugee learning centres in Malaysia that face funding and operational challenges.

In May 2018, there were 157,580 refugees and asylum seekers registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Malaysia, 41,690 of whom were children below the age of 18. These children, having fled war and persecution in their home countries, are not accorded the right to proper education. The Other School addresses this issue by hiring experienced teachers to teach at the centres full-time in three locations in Cheras. The curriculum includes English, Maths, and Science.

The Other School contributes to sustainability by building a model that ensures the continuity of education for refugee children. The organisation also tries to equip students with vocational and entrepreneurship skills, with the aim of nurturing independent young people who are capable of becoming change-makers within their community. This includes upcycling workshops run by the students and board game sessions that are open to the public, for a fee. These activities not only provide a source of income but also allow the children to hone their communication skills.

By the end of 2023, The Other School has:



Facilitated daily classes, impacting **up to 200** refugee students.



Invested **RM354,400** in hiring full-time teachers for the refugee learning centre.

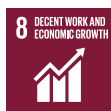


Engaged **5,000** learners through their corporate programme.

The Other School aligns with several key United Nations SDGs:



Provide inclusive and equitable quality education for refugee children.



Equip students with vocational and entrepreneurship skills



Focus on a marginalised and often disadvantaged group.

### 2.8.3 Women Photographers Malaysia (WPM)



Women Photographers Malaysia is an initiative co-founded by UCSI University alumna, Annice Lyn that plays a significant role in empowering women in the field of photography. It provides a supportive community and platform for women photographers to showcase their work, share knowledge, and gain visibility in an industry where they are often underrepresented. WPM organises events such as workshops, meetups, and exhibitions, which are instrumental in developing skills and creating opportunities for women photographers.

The Forbes 30 under 30 Asia 2018 inductee also has collaborated with National Geographic on creative works. Her photography has been featured as part of National Geographic's Southeast Asian storytellers programme, where she has captured the beauty of Southeast Asia through her visual art and documentary photography.

Furthermore, Lyn is also a professional in the field of architecture—an industry traditionally dominated by men. The architecture industry has long been characterised by gender disparities, with challenges such as unequal pay, glass ceilings, and a lack of representation in leadership positions.

Lyn's dual roles as a co-founder of WPM and as an architect exemplify her commitment to SDG 5, Gender Equality. By succeeding in architecture and advocating for women through WPM, Lyn challenges gender norms and contributes to the empowerment of women in both fields. Her work and advocacy promote the importance of gender equality, inspire other women to pursue their professional ambitions, and demonstrate that women can excel in roles traditionally held by men.

## 2.9 UCSI Affiliated Services

### 2.9.1 Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Laurent Bleu Medical Centre

UCSI University's Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences collaborated with Laurent Bleu Medical Centre to develop an innovative line of mangosteen-derived health products. Rich in antioxidants, the extracts from the mangosteen peel and fruit are distinguished by their multitude of health benefits.

The fruit is notably high in vitamin C and folate, which are associated with anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer, anti-aging, and anti-diabetic properties. Additionally, these extracts offer protective benefits against ultraviolet-B radiation, contributing to skin health.

By upcycling mangosteen peel and fruit extracts, the partnership is creating sustainable products that align with key SDGs:



The health benefits of the mangosteen, including its anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer, anti-aging, and anti-diabetic properties, directly contribute to promoting good health and well-being. By developing products that harness these benefits, UCSI and Laurent Bleu are helping to improve health outcomes and enhance the quality of life for individuals.



By utilising the mangosteen, a naturally occurring resource, in their product line, UCSI and Laurent Bleu are promoting responsible consumption and production. The use of natural ingredients in health and wellness products reduces the reliance on synthetic compounds, which can have negative environmental impacts.





### 2.9.2 UCSI University Kuching

UCSI University Kuching, which shares the same building as UCSI Hotel Kuching, has incorporated various innovative and eco-friendly features in its design and construction to include:



Naturally ventilated lobby using wind funnels for airflow without air-conditioning



Rainwater harvesting system to collect and reuse water



External shading fins and energy efficient lighting to reduce solar heat gain and electricity usage



Minimising construction waste through reduced excavation and dumping



Use of low carbon construction materials to lower carbon footprint

Additionally, the architecture is designed to blend with nature, rather than displace it. The 2.5-acre site with 300,000 square feet built-up area houses 168 rooms equipped with modern amenities.





### 3. Harmoni-Mesra Campus Programme



UCSI University's Harmoni-Mesra programme is an initiative aimed at promoting inclusivity and harmony within the university's campuses. The programme was launched with the release of the Harmoni-Mesra book, which serves as a guide to fostering a harmonious and inclusive campus environment.

The Harmoni-Mesra programme aligns with several of the United Nations' SDGs:



By promoting inclusivity, the Harmoni-Mesra programme works towards reducing inequalities based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, or any other status.



The programme fosters a peaceful and inclusive campus environment, which aligns with SDG 16's aim to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

### 4. Sustainable Campus Operations

The University prioritises sustainable practices across campus operations. We focus on:



Energy conservation and efficiency



Water conservation



Waste reduction and repurposing



Digitisation



Sustainable transportation



Disabled-friendly facilities

#### 4.1 Energy Conservation and Efficiency

The University's initiatives:



100% LED lighting across campus buildings to reduce electricity consumption.



Solar panels are installed to harvest renewable energy.



Motion-sensing lights in car parks to minimise unnecessary energy consumption.



Room lights and air conditioners require staff card activation, preventing energy waste.

Total Electricity Used (kWh)						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Block A, B, C, and D	4455133	2513210	1651308	1366695	1888866	2049519
Block G	2372411	3829763	2975145	2472056	2887708	3576423
<b>Total</b>	<b>6827544</b>	<b>6342973</b>	<b>4626453</b>	<b>3838751</b>	<b>4776574</b>	<b>5625942</b>

*Table 1.0: Electricity consumption data from 2018 to 2023*

In 2018, the University's total electricity usage was 6,827,544 kWh. Through a combination of strategic planning and concerted efforts to improve efficiency and reduce consumption, total electricity usage in 2023 declined to 5,625,942 kWh.

This represents a significant electricity reduction of **1,201,602 kWh or 17.59%**. These electricity savings can be attributed to successful sustainability initiatives implemented across campus buildings and operations.

## 4.2 Water Conservation

The University's initiatives:



Rainwater harvesting systems to collect and store rainwater for reuse in toilet flushing.



Tap restrictors are fixed in toilet faucets to reduce water flow, preventing excess water usage.



Reminders placed near bathroom taps to encourage mindful water usage and conservation.

Water Usage (m3)						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Block A, B, C, and D	105795	68998	37948	9990	15318	26325
Block G	36000	35161	30714	21546	31091	54569
<b>Total</b>	<b>141795</b>	<b>104159</b>	<b>68662</b>	<b>31536</b>	<b>46409</b>	<b>80894</b>

*Table 2.0: Water consumption data from 2018 to 2023*

In 2018, the University's total water usage was 141,795 m3. Through efforts to reduce usage and wastage, total water consumption declined significantly to 80,894 m3 in 2023.

This represents an impressive water savings of **60,901 m3 or 42.92%**. This major reduction in water usage can be attributed to successful conservation initiatives implemented across campus.

## 4.3 Waste Reduction and Repurposing

The University's initiatives:



Waste segregation stations across campus for recycling and composting to minimise waste sent to landfills.



Implementation of a policy to reduce the use of single-use plastics in campus food outlets.



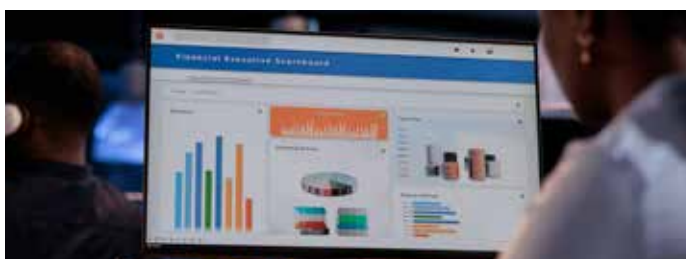
Partnership with Recycler and CAREton organisations for recycling programme implementation, collection, and processing.

Year	Number of Waste Bags Collected (per month)	Weight per Waste Bag (kg)	Average Weight of Waste Collected (kg)	Total Waste Collected (tonne)
2018	26	5	93	912.09
2019	26	5	68	8.84
2020	8	5	30	1.2
2021	12	5	30	1.8
2022	20	5	80	8
2023	26	5	100	13

Table 3.0: Waste collection data from 2018 to 2023

In 2018, the University's total waste collected was 12.09 tonnes. By 2023, this figure rose to 13 tonnes, representing a 0.91 tonne or 7.54% increase. This minute surge in waste collection can be attributed, in part, to the introduction of new on-campus retailers during this period.

## 4.4 Digitisation



Monitoring of recruitment numbers, course approval status and expenditures using the University's digital dashboard.



Learning management system for academic purposes.



Digital processes such as purchase requisition, manpower requisition, staff leave application, Co-op portal, student withdrawal, etc.



Cashless and ticketless parking systems



## 4.5 Sustainable Transportation

The University's initiatives:



Electric buggy units are available for on-campus mobility assistance.



Scheduled shuttle buses provide transportation for staff and students to campus, promoting carpooling and contributing to sustainable commuting practices.



Campus buildings located within walking distance to prioritise pedestrian mobility.

## 4.6 Disabled-Friendly Campus

UCSI University provides accessible facilities including lifts, ramps and disability parking to create an inclusive campus for all. These enhance quality of life and independence for disabled individuals while promoting social integration.

Incorporating accessibility aligns with sustainability principles of adaptability, efficiency and reduced retrofitting. It encourages environmentally friendly and energy efficient designs too.

Improved accessibility enables sustainable transport modes, supporting UCSI's broader sustainability goals.



Outdoor and indoor disabled-friendly lifts



Wheelchair ramps



Disabled parking space





## 5. UCSI Green Office

The UCSI Green Office coordinates campus sustainability initiatives including energy conservation, waste management, and water efficiency programmes. It raises sustainability awareness through education campaigns and workshops.

Additionally, the office partners with external stakeholders like the Business Council for Sustainable Development Malaysia on training programmes. These efforts align with and support UCSI University's broader commitment to sustainability, as demonstrated by top rankings and formal policies.

By putting concepts into action, the Green Office complements UCSI's formal sustainability education centres. In summary, the office helps drive tangible sustainability progress through coordination, education, partnerships and on-the-ground environmental programmes.

# UCSI GREEN OFFICE CHECKLIST

**1**

### Use Less Papers

- Photocopy on both sides of a sheet of paper.
- Set printer by default to print both sides.
- Do not discard single-printed sheets but use the unused page.
- Avoid printing, unless it is necessary.
- Use presentation software or dry-erase boards for presentations rather than flip charts.

**2**

### Conserve Energy and Water

- Shut off all taps tightly, and report any drips to building maintenance personnel.
- Shut windows tightly to conserve coolness.
- Use natural light where possible
- Turn off the lights if no one will be in the office, especially for more than 1 hour.
- Turn off the aircon if no one will be in the office for more than 2 hours.
- Turn off the main switch of office equipment, especially overnight and on weekends.
- Enable screen sleep mode (automatic shut-off after ten minutes of inactivity) on all networked copiers/printers.
- Check the thermostats and maintain a temperature not lower than 21°C.

## 3

## Choose ReUsables

- Bring your lunch in reusable containers.
- Purchase takeaways with own reusable containers where possible.
- Reuse packaging supplies. Give more consideration to suppliers who use recyclable packaging and packaging with recycled content.
- Try to repair broken items before discarding them as garbage.
- Use reusable mugs, plates, and cutlery in your pantry.
- Buy office supplies that support environmental cause.
- Ensure that sugar, salt, condiments, and beverages (including water) are provided in bulk containers to reduce waste.
- Before purchasing office furniture such as file cabinets, desks, etc., check to see if GLMO has any surplus items.

## 4

## Recycle and Compost

- Recycle paper, beverage containers, corrugated cardboard and newspapers.
- Establish a designated area for recycling/donating unused office supplies.
- Recycle all electronic/universal waste including: computers, laptops, printers, A/V, CDs, audio tapes, batteries, phones (cell and office), pagers, and inkjet printer cartridges.
- Collect organic material for composting.

## 5

## Green Attitudes

- Set up a ReUse area in your workplace.
- When you no longer have a use for something (such as binders, file folders, paper clips, diskettes, and boxes) place it in ReUse area or pass it on to co-workers instead of discarding it.
- Post and read environmental notices on the office bulletin board.
- Participate in sustainability events.
- Share environmental tips with co-workers.
- Have some plants in the office and take care of them.
- Include information about your office/departmental environmental policies and goals for the new hires.
- Use public transport and carpool.
- Encourage walking instead of using vehicles.



## 6. Events and Collaborations

### Sustainability Summary

#### 6.1 Launching of the International Institute of Science Diplomacy and Sustainability (IISDS)



On 29th August 2023, UCSI launched the International Institute of Science Diplomacy and Sustainability (IISDS). The institute aims to function as a think tank, bridging the scientific community with policymakers in the ASEAN region and beyond. Its focus areas include environmental diplomacy, global health, food security, as well as international trade and finance. Among its missions is the training of a new cadre of young diplomats, government officials and corporate leaders in the art of science diplomacy. The ultimate goal is to equip them with the ability to apply this knowledge in international relations, particularly in multilateral treaty negotiations overseeing global issues. UCSI believes that employing the art of science diplomacy among political leaders, policymakers and scientists holds the potential to generate reasonable solutions, given that sustainability challenges demand extensive multilateral cooperation.



IISDS has organised numerous events, with one of the most noteworthy being an invitational lecture titled "Science Diplomacy in the Era of Sustainability," delivered by Rita Colwell. She holds the distinction of being the first female Director of the National Science Foundation, having served during the presidencies of Bill Clinton and George Bush. Another significant event hosted by IISDS was a dialogue on "Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Through Science Diplomacy," initiated by Her Excellency Madam Irina Bokova. Madam Bokova, the former director-general of UNESCO, made history as the first female to lead the agency. The event featured distinguished panellists, including the former Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, His Excellency Dr Yongyuth Yuthavong and founder and president of Science Diplomacy Centre, Professor Paul Arthur Berkman, among others.





IISDS also hosted a conference on sustainability, serving as a platform to raise public awareness about the latest challenges and trends in sustainability. The event aimed to stimulate academic research on sustainability and SDG-related activities. The panellists invited to promote awareness and understanding of sustainability included acclaimed scientists, sustainability experts and farm owners such as Mr. Roberto Benetello, the director and founder of the Business Council of Sustainability Development, Dato' Dr Saw Leng Guan, farmer curator of Penang Botanic Gardens and Ruben Yap, a farm owner, among others. In addition to presentations covering various aspects and experiences related to SDGs, attendees were provided with insight into Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) and its significance. The presentations emphasised why industries are actively pursuing compliance with ESG standards. The panellists also highlighted the diverse ways in which both SDGs and ESGs can have an impact.

## 6.2 Launching of the Harmoni-Mesra Campus Programme



On 21st June 2023, UCSI introduced the Harmoni-Mesra Campus Programme for Malaysia, an initiative outlining the essence of harmony and kindness. Designed to cultivate unity, empathy and harmony, this programme draws inspiration from the fifth principle of the Rukun Negara, emphasising warmth and empathy. Ultimately, it serves as a catalyst for nurturing unity within Malaysia's diverse ethnic landscape. Offering practical examples for crafting a brighter future for future generations, the book's launch distinguished the university as a Harmoni-Mesra campus. With over 30% of UCSI's student body comprising international students from more than 130 nations, it is important for UCSI University to embody the values of a Harmoni-Mesra campus. Anchored in SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, the Harmoni-Mesra Campus Programme for Malaysia aligns with these global goals.



## 6.3 UCSI hosts 13th Global RCE Conference



On 2nd November 2023, UCSI hosted the sharing sessions and the closing event of the 13th Global RCE Conference convened in Kuala Lumpur. This year's RCE Conference centred on the theme "Whole Community Approach for ESD (Education for Sustainable Development)," with a strong emphasis on providing an invaluable platform for mutual exchange and encouraging advancements in education for sustainable development. The overarching objective of this year's conference was to facilitate experience-sharing and networking among RCEs, stakeholders and participants. Attendees aimed to gain valuable insights and knowledge to effectively integrate ESD practices within their respective communities, thus contributing to the broader goal of constructing sustainable societies. A total of 49 countries and 52 RCEs participated in the event, with 18 countries and 17 RCEs attending in person, while the remainder joined online. UCSI is the only Malaysian university that runs two Regional Centres of Expertise (RCE) to promote sustainable development at the local level by the United Nations University – the academic and research arm of the UN. Based in Kuala Lumpur and Kuching, the two RCEs promote Quality Education (SDG 4), Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6), Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), Climate Action (SDG 13), Life on Land (SDG 15), as well as Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16).

## 6.4 UCSI Cleanup Day



The "Beach Cleanup" event, held on July 6th as a lead-up to the World Cleanup Day in September, achieved significant success with a huge impact on environmental and coastal habitat preservation. College and university-level students actively participated in this initiative, with a notable presence from the University of Queensland students on an exchange programme with UCSI and enthusiastic participation from Sri UCSI Springhill Private School students. Organised by ICE-UCSI, the event saw the dedicated efforts of 107 enthusiastic volunteers who collectively removed an impressive 224.59 kilograms of rubbish from the Port Dickson beach. Volunteers meticulously sorted the trash into dry and wet waste categories, including 2 bags of plastics, 3 bags of paper and even 1 bag filled with cigarette butts. The "Beach Cleanup" event underscored the importance of collective efforts in preserving natural resources and promoting sustainable practices. Initiatives like these lay the groundwork for a greener and more sustainable future.



On September 16th, UCSI joined 193 countries in organising the World Cleanup Day programme. Over 100 staff and students from UCSI University and UCSI College came together to clear uncleared rubbish from around the campus compound and at Mangrove Point in Port Klang. The programme was a resounding success, effectively cleaning up the surrounding areas of both locations and instilling a passion for environmental sustainability and encouraging good waste disposal habits among our students. Moreover, it is noteworthy that these Cleanup Programmes directly align with the SDGs of Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12), Climate Action (SDG 13), Life Below Water (SDG 14) and Life on Land (SDG 15), showcasing a holistic commitment to addressing global challenges and contributing to a more sustainable and resilient future.

## Student Events on Sustainability

### 6.5 One Hope Vision Screening



Aimed at promoting eye health awareness within the community, UCSI School of Optometry offered free eye screening at the Tong Sim Senior Citizen Centre, involving 6 of our lecturers and 12 of our Optometry students. This initiative specifically targeted the elderly residents, with 42 individuals benefiting from this screening process. Among the elderly participants, 40 were identified with potential eye health concerns and were subsequently referred to the UCSI Eye Centre for additional assessments, including refractive error evaluations and comprehensive eye examinations. Those diagnosed with eye diseases received referrals to ophthalmologists for a thorough and holistic eye check. To address near vision correction needs, free eyeglasses or reading glasses were prescribed as necessary. This initiative directly addresses the SDGs of Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3).



## 6.6 Donation Drive for Children's Shelter Home



UCSI organised a donation drive in support of Pusat Jagaan Beribuan Kasih, a welfare home catering to orphans and vulnerable children. We contributed various essential items, including food, clothing, shelf medicines, sanitizers, school supplies and cleaning equipment, among others. Our primary objective was to raise awareness within the university community about the impactful community work we are involved in, focusing on promoting community service, social well-being and awareness.

Furthermore, our initiative aimed to extend support and care by providing these essential items to the children, offering reassurance and assistance to the Home, particularly during emergencies and crises. This outreach not only strengthened the sense of civic engagement among the UCSI University community, including students, academics and the management team but also aligned with SDGs, specifically addressing No Poverty (SDG 1) and Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3).

## 6.7 Star of the Sea Kindergarten, Pangkor Island



Star of the Sea Kindergarten, situated on Pangkor Island, is dedicated to educating children aged 4 to 6. Unfortunately, the kindergarten has not undergone any maintenance or renovation for the past 40 years, leading to a gradual deterioration in both safety features and overall conditions. Recognising the need for improvement, the UCSI School of Architecture and Built Environment collaborated with various partners to enhance the functionality, aesthetics and overall experience of this educational space. The primary objective was to create a revitalised environment tailored to the specific needs of the kindergarten, ensuring an enriched learning and play experience for the children. In-depth analysis of the existing layout and elements was conducted to pinpoint areas requiring enhancement, and the studio proposed well-considered design interventions accordingly. The design approach incorporated modern design principles, sustainable practices and innovative solutions, all while preserving the essence and character that define the kindergarten's identity through the "new vernacular" theme. This project actively contributes to SDGs, particularly Quality Education (SDG 4) and Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11).



## 6.8 Terrafix: Zero Waste Festival – Aquatic Simulation



The Environmental and Social Responsibilities (ESR) Office of Youth Beyond Boundaries (YBB) at UCSI organised a Zero Waste Tunnel event on UCSI's campus. The purpose was to create a simulated environment that provided participants with a glimpse of the impact of a polluted ocean, showcasing various types of waste commonly found in such conditions. More than 300 students passed through the tunnel, and many participants expressed that it posed an inconvenience, aligning with our goal to raise awareness about the challenges of waste pollution. Following the tunnel experience, participants engaged in a quiz to assess their understanding of the information presented and their insights gained from the simulation of a plastic-polluted ocean. The primary learning outcome of this activity was to heighten awareness by exposing students to the harsh reality of a polluted ocean, all while addressing the SDGs of Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12) and Life Below Water (SDG 14).

## 7. Governance

Our sustainability governance enables the strategic, accountable, and evolving management of our sustainability efforts. It provides guidance, coordination, monitoring, and transparency in undertaking sustainability initiatives that align with the University's vision and mission.

Key governance bodies include:



Oversight Task Force on  
Sustainability



SDG Steering  
Committee



Group Sustainability  
Office

### 7.1 Oversight Task Force on Sustainability



The UCSI Oversight Task Force, also known as the Sustainability Oversight Task Force, is a body within the UCSI Group responsible for reviewing and overseeing the organisation's sustainability initiatives and progress. Its primary role is to evaluate the sustainability reports submitted by all subsidiaries and departments of the UCSI Group, which are due annually. These reports cover various areas such as campus operations, projects and events, social initiatives, academic activities, and research.

The task force is tasked with suggesting improvements and providing support to enhance the progress of these initiatives. By doing so, it contributes to the organisation's overall sustainability efforts and ensures that the UCSI's operations align with the principles of sustainable development and the SDGs set by the United Nations.

## 7.2 University SDG Steering Committee



The UCSI University SDG Steering Committee is a body within the Institution that is dedicated to promoting and implementing the United Nations' SDGs within the University's operations, research, and training. The committee is responsible for developing strategies, policies, and an annual operating plan that align with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors.

The committee's activities are diverse and encompass a wide range of sustainability initiatives. For instance, it organises events related to sustainable development, in collaboration with various departments and companies within the UCSI Group.

The committee also encourages student involvement in sustainability initiatives, providing them with leadership experience under various focus areas. Furthermore, the committee provides technical advice and ensures the financial sustainability of the Secretariat Office, which is likely involved in coordinating and supporting the committee's activities.

## 7.3 Group Sustainability Office (GSO)

The UCSI Group Sustainability Office (GSO) is a department within the UCSI Group that is responsible for developing, overseeing, and implementing sustainable policies and practices within the organisation.

The GSO's principal objective is to promote Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles and continually improve and set higher standards in these three vital areas. The office focuses on environmental impact, including carbon emissions and energy efficiency, social responsibility, and corporate governance.

The GSO's activities are aligned with the SDGs set by the United Nations. The office prioritises sustainable practices in campus operations, focusing on energy conservation, waste management, water efficiency, and digitisation.

UCSI has been governing with sustainability in mind, crafting policies to address pertinent issues, and establishing guidelines to steer its community towards a more sustainable future.

Among these policies are the:

### **Sustainability Policy**

[https://www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/sites/default/files/ucsi\\_sustainability\\_policy.pdf](https://www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/sites/default/files/ucsi_sustainability_policy.pdf)

### **Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption Policy**

[https://www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/sites/default/files/anti-bribery\\_and\\_anti-corruption\\_policy\\_rev\\_00.pdf](https://www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/sites/default/files/anti-bribery_and_anti-corruption_policy_rev_00.pdf)

### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy**

[https://www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/sites/default/files/equality\\_policy.pdf](https://www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/sites/default/files/equality_policy.pdf)

### **Health and Safety Policy**

<https://www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/sites/default/files/health-and-safety-policy.pdf>

### **Sexual Harassment Policy**

[https://www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/sites/default/files/sexual\\_harassment\\_policy.pdf](https://www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/sites/default/files/sexual_harassment_policy.pdf)

### **Code of Conduct Policy**

[https://www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/sites/default/files/code\\_of\\_conduct.pdf](https://www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/sites/default/files/code_of_conduct.pdf)

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