2025 / ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

SDG 1 | No Poverty

Khazar University · Baku, Azerbaijan

REPORTING PERIOD JANUARY–DECEMBER 2025

Institutional Approach

Khazar University addresses the economic barriers that may limit access to higher education through its published financial-assistance arrangements, scholarship opportunities and partnerships that connect students with education-financing information, professional development and employment-related networks. This report brings together the University's documented initiatives during 2025 and organises them around research, student support and community engagement.

25 / 50 / 75%	**104**	**Nearly 50**
Published merit-based tuition awards	EUROSTUDENT survey respondents	Career Fair participating organisations

1.1 Research on poverty

Research is an important part of Khazar University's efforts to support sustainable development. Khazar University contributes to research addressing poverty, financial inclusion, income inequality and sustainable economic development. Its Scopus-indexed research includes studies exploring how financial technologies, financial stability and access to financial services influence economic opportunities and income distribution.

In earlier research, researchers affiliated with Khazar University published studies examining the relationship between FinTech, financial inclusion and income inequality in African economies, as well as the impact of financial inclusion and stability on economic growth. Other research explored the economic value of water resources in Baku, contributing to broader discussions on resource management and sustainable development.

During 2025, research activities also addressed emerging challenges related to energy poverty and inclusive financing. Studies by Kou et al. and Eti et al., developed through the publication process in 2025 examined innovative financing mechanisms, energy accessibility and strategies for reducing energy poverty. Further researchs explored renewable energy investments in underserved communities, sustainable banking and financial approaches to addressing economic vulnerability. These studies reflect the University's expanding research interests in inclusive and sustainable development.

These research activities demonstrate the University's engagement with economic and social challenges relevant to poverty reduction and provide a foundation for further interdisciplinary research and international academic collaboration.

1.2 Proportion of students receiving financial aid to attend university because of poverty

Khazar University's published Financial Aid policy outlines tuition-related support based on examination performance and several family or personal circumstances. The listed provisions cover students from martyr families, families of people disabled during the Karabakh war, students who have lost both parents or a parent during their studies, households with two or more children enrolled at Khazar University, employee families and eligible alumni.



The University's financial-assistance framework provides several routes through which students can seek relief from educational costs. The circumstances-based provisions and merit-based awards serve distinct purposes and are therefore described separately.

In its 2024–2025 call, the Nailekhanim Foundation Scholarship announced one competition-based full scholarship for an academically outstanding female master's or doctoral applicant, with an application deadline of 1 June 2025. The published eligibility criteria focused on academic merit and commitment to postgraduate study.

The Khazar University International Scholarship Program 2025/2026 also advertised tuition scholarships covering 25%, 50% or 75% for applicants across bachelor's, master's and doctoral programmes, alongside a full-scholarship pathway for eligible female postgraduate students.

1.3 University anti-poverty programmes

Khazar University's published assistance framework identifies family and personal circumstances that may create barriers to entering higher education. The policy provides context for how the University approaches access and affordability for prospective students.

The published Financial Aid policy also recognises hardship that can arise after enrolment, including the loss of a parent during a student's studies. Addressing changes in family circumstances forms part of the University's broader approach to educational continuity.

Support for participation in higher education may involve living and travel costs in addition to tuition. The 2025/2026 international scholarship announcement described a full-scholarship package for eligible female postgraduate students that included tuition, transport and a monthly stipend. These advertised benefits represent a broader support package than tuition relief alone.

On 27 November 2025, the Quality Assurance Center and Career and Alumni Center jointly hosted an information session with the Education Student Loan Fund for first- and second-year students. A Fund specialist explained the credit mechanisms, application requirements, grace periods and support packages, and responded to students' questions. The session provided practical guidance on an available educational-financing route.

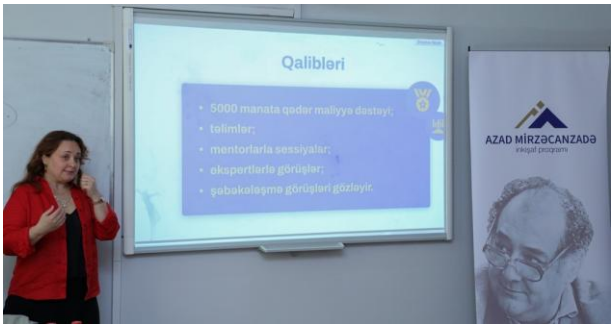




Khazar University communicated international scholarship opportunities that were open to applicants regardless of citizenship. **The 2024–2025 Nailekhanim Foundation call** and the **2025/2026 International Scholarship Program** offered pathways for eligible international students to seek postgraduate or tuition support. The publicly described selection conditions for these calls included academic criteria.

1.4 Community anti-poverty programmes

On 10 October 2025, the Career and Alumni Center arranged an information session on the Azad Mirzajanzade Development Program for students and graduates. Programme representatives outlined application procedures, mentorship and training stages, and mechanisms through which project ideas could seek financial support. A previous participant shared his experience with the audience.





The same session introduced attendees to external opportunities for project development and funding. It raised awareness of financial pathways available through the development programme, rather than documenting direct start-up grants awarded by Khazar University.

The University's participation in the EUROSTUDENT survey on 7–8 April 2025 contributed information on students' social conditions and experiences. In total, 104 Khazar University students participated, including 96 undergraduate and eight postgraduate students. The data collection addressed educational experiences, social circumstances, career expectations and psychological well-being.





EUROSTUDENT formed part of a wider national research initiative conducted by the Center for Sociological Research at the request of the Ministry of Science and Education. The University's participation added student perspectives to a dataset relevant to higher-education policy discussions. This contribution concerned research participation and information gathering.



On 11 April 2025, the University's Career and Alumni Center met with the Baku Regional Employment Branch of the State Employment Agency to discuss job fairs, youth employment, occupational training and practical experience. The collaboration connected students and graduates with potential employment-support networks.

On 23 May 2025, Career Fair 2025 brought together nearly 50 companies and organisations at the Neftchilar campus. Employer representatives spoke with students and graduates about vacancies and internships, collected CVs and conducted preliminary interviews. These activities supported employability and were complementary to, rather than substitutes for, targeted anti-poverty support.





Selected Activities in 2025

2025	ACTIVITY
11 Apr	State Employment Agency cooperation meeting
16 Apr	KPMG Azerbaijan Audit Career Day
17 Apr	“Maarifchi” internship programme session
8 May	Innab Data Analytics seminar
23 May	Career Fair 2025
24 Oct / 12 Dec	AIESEC global opportunities sessions
30 Oct	Career Guidance seminar
13 Nov	PepsiCo internship and recruitment meeting
25 Nov	Avrasiya Translation Center career seminar
26 Nov	SOFAZ sustainable economic development session

2025 Overview

Across 2025, Khazar University maintained a published financial-aid framework, publicised scholarship opportunities, improved access to information about education loans, and brought students and graduates into contact with employers and development programmes. These documented activities form part of the University’s continued work to broaden educational and professional opportunity. The sustainability report presents them according to their established scope, without attributing outcomes that have not been meas