SDG-17

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Institutional Impact Report 2026

Al-Iraqia University

International Cooperation • Academic Partnerships • Mobility • Research Collaboration • Public-Sector Engagement

PARTNERSHIP AS AN INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITY

Strengthening cross-border academic cooperation, knowledge exchange, capacity development and public-sector engagement to advance sustainable development.

This report presents Al-Iraqia University's institutional contribution to Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17): Partnerships for the Goals. It consolidates official evidence of the University's international-relations structures, academic agreements, mobility mechanisms, research and knowledge partnerships, and cooperation with public institutions.

The report distinguishes between formal structures, signed agreements, implemented activities and developing partnerships. This evidence-based approach avoids treating a meeting or memorandum alone as proof of impact and instead emphasizes documented mechanisms, implementation and measurable institutional value.

Reporting period: 2025-2026



1. Executive Summary

An evidence-led overview of Al-Iraqia University's partnership ecosystem

Al-Iraqia University advances SDG 17 through a multi-level partnership model that connects institutional governance, international academic cooperation, student and staff mobility, research exchange, professional training, public-sector collaboration and sustainability initiatives. The University's official structures provide a foundation for partnership development, while documented agreements and joint activities demonstrate implementation across academic and societal domains.

Table 1. Verified Evidence of Institutional Partnerships and International Cooperation Supporting SDG 17 at Al-Iraqia University, 2025–2026

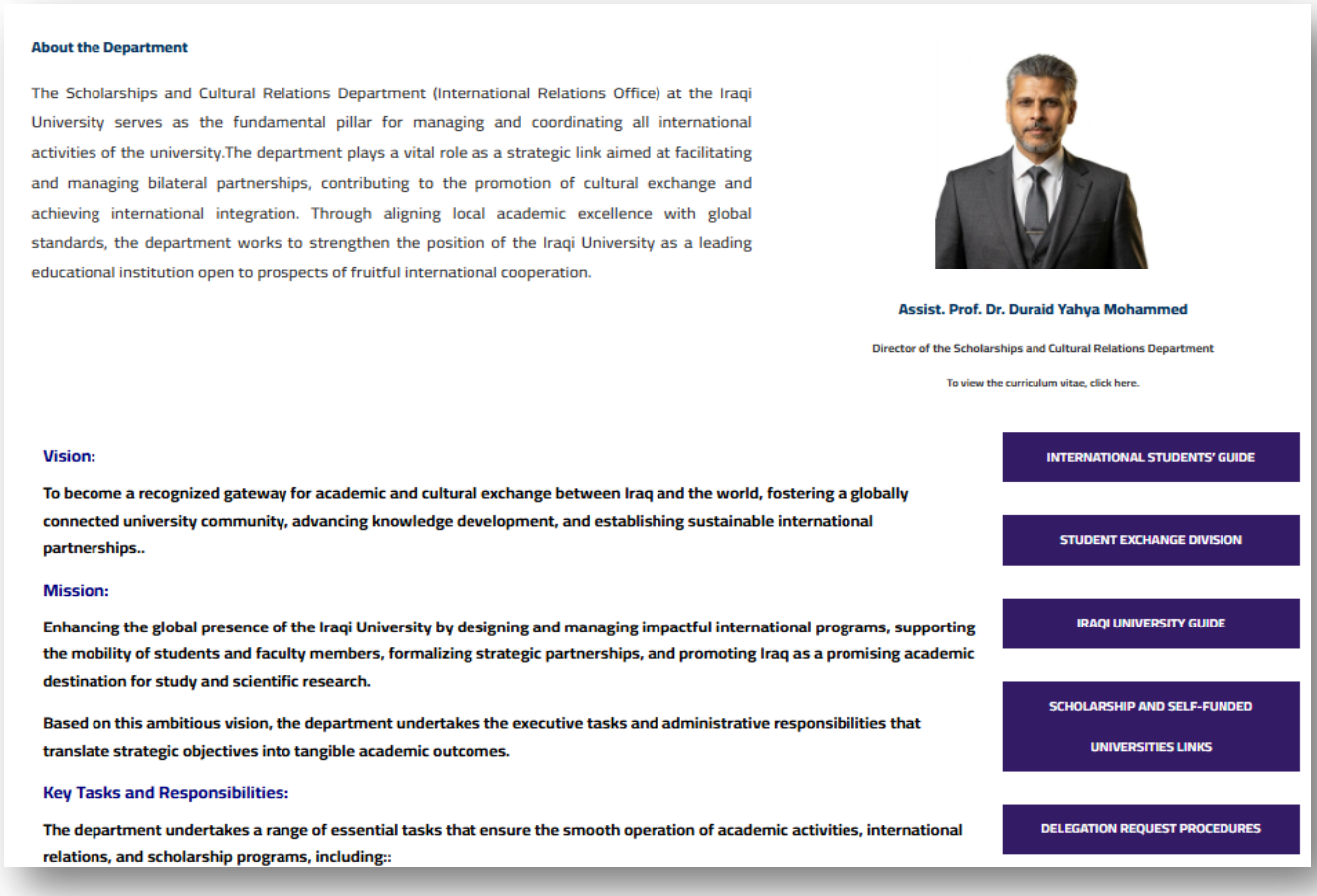
No.	Date / Period	Partnership Area	Verified Evidence	SDG 17 Relevance	Evidence Status	Official Source
1	**Academic Year 2025–2026**	**International Scholarships**	Al-Iraqia University offers a **fully funded scholarship programme for international students** at Bachelor's, Higher Diploma, Master's and PhD levels. The official page states that the programme is open to non-Iraqi students from around the world and covers tuition fees and accommodation.	Promotes international access to higher education, academic exchange and cross-border educational cooperation.	**Official programme – 2025/2026**	https://en.aliraqia.edu.iq/missions-cultural-relations/scholarships
2	**Academic Year 2025–2026**	**International Postgraduate Education**	The Scholarships and Cultural Relations Department publishes the University's **postgraduate study plan for non-Iraqi students for 2025–2026**.	Strengthens international student engagement and supports the internationalization of postgraduate education.	**Official institutional evidence**	https://aliraqia.edu.iq/uni-sci-admin/scr-dep
3	**30 May 2025**	**International Academic Cooperation – Iran**	A delegation headed by the President of Al-Iraqia University travelled to the Islamic Republic of Iran **as part of the University's plan to activate previously concluded agreements**.	Demonstrates follow-up and movement toward implementation of existing international agreements rather than merely signing agreements.	**Documented 2025 activity**	https://en.aliraqia.edu.iq/category/university-news
4	**18 June 2025**	**International Academic Cooperation – United Kingdom**	A University delegation headed by the Assistant President for Scientific Affairs discussed **academic cooperation with the Iraqi Cultural Attaché in London**.	Supports international academic networking and the development of external institutional relationships.	**Documented 2025 activity**	https://en.aliraqia.edu.iq/academic-news
5	**20 Nov. 2025**	**International Grants & Research Cooperation**	The College of Education hosted a workshop entitled **"International Grants: Opportunities for Scientific Research and Academic Cooperation,"** organized by the Scholarships and Cultural Relations Department. It addressed international programmes and grant opportunities available to students and researchers.	Builds institutional capacity to participate in international research, funding and academic cooperation.	**Implemented 2025 activity**	https://edu.aliraqia.edu.iq/ar/987522091
6	**3 Dec. 2025**	**Government & Environmental Partnership**	Al-Iraqia University received a delegation from the **Iraqi Ministry of Environment**. Discussions covered environmental and development projects, modern irrigation systems, renewable energy, sustainable transport, waste management and recycling. The University also emphasized continued coordination and joint cooperation with the Ministry.	Strong evidence of a university–government partnership addressing sustainable development and environmental priorities.	**Documented 2025 cooperation**	https://aliraqia.edu.iq/en/987522998/
7	**16 Dec. 2025**	**National Institutional Cooperation**	Al-Iraqia University participated in the annual graduation ceremony for Iraqi universities organized by the Al-Abbas Holy Shrine. The University states that the participation supports openness to national academic activities and strengthens cooperation with Iraqi educational institutions.	Demonstrates national institutional networking and engagement with educational and societal partners.	**Documented 2025 activity**	https://aliraqia.edu.iq/987523216/
8	**20 Jan. 2026**	**Iraq–Malaysia Academic Cooperation**	A senior University delegation in Kuala Lumpur discussed expanding cooperation with Malaysian universities in **student training, student exchange, Study in Iraq, joint thesis supervision and joint research grants**.	Directly supports international academic partnerships, research cooperation, mobility and knowledge exchange.	**Documented 2026 partnership development**	https://aliraqia.edu.iq/987523548/
9	**2025–2026**	**International Relations Governance**	The Scholarships and Cultural Relations Department provides the institutional framework for international cooperation. Its responsibilities include developing MoUs and strategic cooperation agreements with international universities and managing international academic partnerships.	Provides the governance mechanism needed to establish, manage and sustain international partnerships.	**Established institutional structure**	https://aliraqia.edu.iq/en/uni-sci-admin/scr-dep/
10	**2025–2026**	**Student Exchange**	The University maintains a dedicated **Student Exchange Division** responsible for strengthening cooperation with Arab and international universities and managing student exchange and international coordination.	Institutionalizes academic mobility and international knowledge exchange.	**Established institutional structure**	https://aliraqia.edu.iq/uni-sci-admin/scr-dep
11	**2025–2026**	**Student Exchange Capacity**	The official University page explicitly states that the Student Exchange Division consists of **two staff members (2)** responsible for implementing student exchange programmes and local and international coordination.	Provides measurable evidence of dedicated human resources supporting international mobility and partnerships.	**Verified quantitative evidence**	https://aliraqia.edu.iq/uni-sci-admin/scr-dep
12	**2025–2026**	**MoUs & Strategic Cooperation**	The University's international-relations structure is responsible for preparing and following up **MoUs, cooperation letters and twinning agreements** with international and Iraqi universities, ministries and state institutions, including coordination for their approval and implementation.	Demonstrates an established institutional mechanism for creating and implementing multi-stakeholder partnerships.	**Established institutional mechanism**	https://aliraqia.edu.iq/uni-sci-admin/scr-dep
13	**2025–2026**	**Joint Academic Activities**	Officially documented partnership areas include **joint supervision of postgraduate students, joint academic events and conferences, and structured academic-course equivalency pathways**.	Supports knowledge exchange, collaborative education and sustained university-to-university cooperation.	**Documented partnership framework**	https://aliraqia.edu.iq/uni-sci-admin/scr-dep

- A dedicated Scholarships and Cultural Relations structure manages international cooperation, international students, exchange activity and external academic relations.
- The Erasmus+ unit provides a formal mechanism for international project coordination and mobility with partner institutions in Iraq and abroad.
- International cooperation is documented with institutions and networks in Spain, Malaysia and the United Kingdom, alongside broader scientific-platform cooperation.
- Partnerships with Iraqi health and environmental authorities connect academic activity with clinical training, environmental management and public-sector priorities.
- The strongest institutional evidence is structural and activity-based; future reporting should add systematic outcome indicators for each active partnership.

Executive assessment

The University demonstrates a credible institutional foundation for SDG 17. The next maturity step is to move from documenting partnership activity to consistently reporting partnership outputs, beneficiaries and outcomes.

Official evidence: https://aliraqia.edu.iq/en/uni-sci-admin/scr-dep/



About the Department

The Scholarships and Cultural Relations Department (International Relations Office) at the Iraqi University serves as the fundamental pillar for managing and coordinating all international activities of the university.The department plays a vital role as a strategic link aimed at facilitating and managing bilateral partnerships, contributing to the promotion of cultural exchange and achieving international integration. Through aligning local academic excellence with global standards, the department works to strengthen the position of the Iraqi University as a leading educational institution open to prospects of fruitful international cooperation.

2. Institutional Partnership Governance

Formal structures that enable sustained cooperation

The Department of Scholarships and Cultural Relations provides the University with an identifiable administrative structure for international engagement. Its documented responsibilities include international cooperation, international students, exchange activities and coordination with external academic institutions. Within the department, the European Union Projects Unit (Erasmus+) supports project implementation and coordination with academic partners inside and outside Iraq.

This governance architecture is important to SDG 17 because it embeds partnership development within institutional responsibilities rather than relying solely on isolated events. It creates a platform through which agreements, mobility, international projects and academic relationships can be coordinated and sustained.

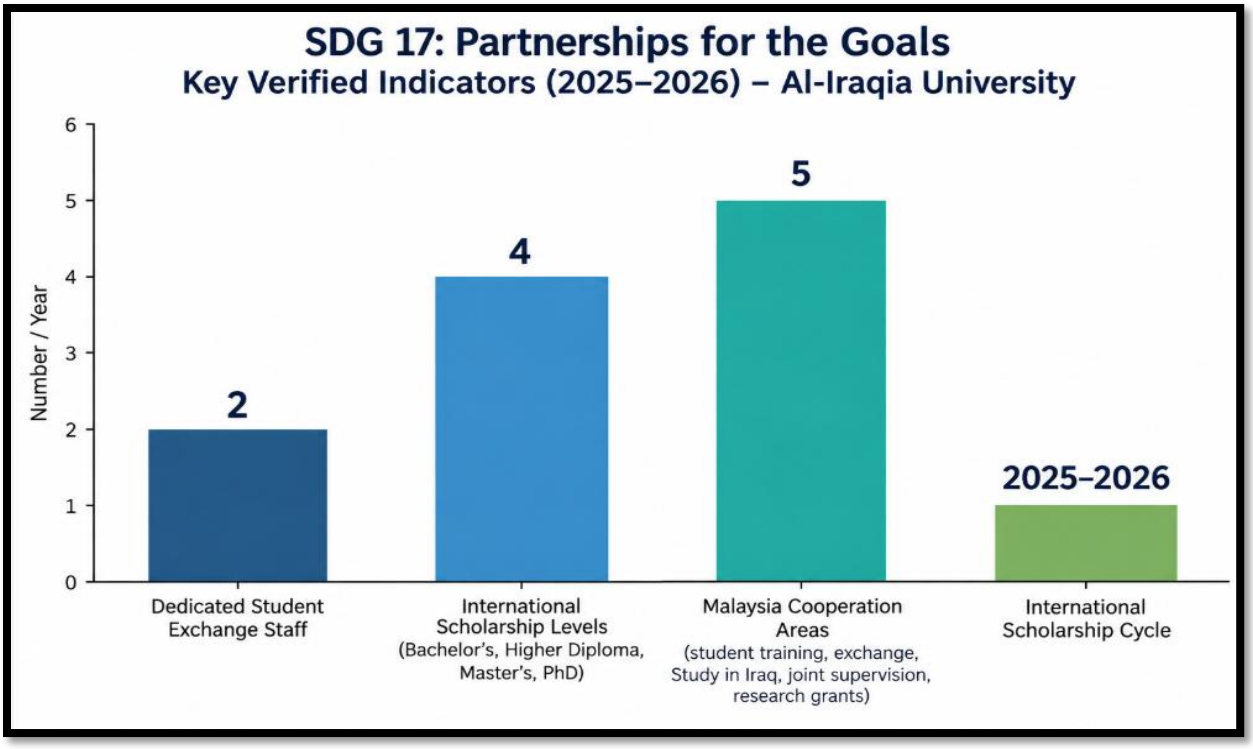


Figure 1. Key verified indicators of international partnerships and academic cooperation supporting SDG 17 at Al-Iraqia University, 2025–2026.

The verified indicators demonstrate the diversity of Al-Iraqia University's institutional mechanisms supporting SDG 17 during 2025–2026. Evidence includes dedicated staff for student exchange, international scholarships across four academic levels, and five documented areas of academic cooperation with Malaysian institutions. These indicators demonstrate the breadth of international partnership activity.

Institutional significance

A dedicated administrative home for partnerships strengthens continuity, accountability and the University's capacity to translate external relationships into academic and societal value.

Official evidence: https://aliraqia.edu.iq/en/uni-sci-admin/scr-dep/

3. Erasmus+ and Academic Mobility

International projects, exchange and capacity development

The University's Erasmus+ unit is documented as a mechanism for managing international projects and coordinating with academic institutions in Iraq and abroad. Its role supports the development of international partnerships, mobility opportunities and institutional capacity through structured external engagement.

In SDG 17 terms, mobility is more than student travel: it is a mechanism for transferring knowledge, strengthening professional networks, exposing participants to different academic systems and building durable institutional relationships. The University also provides support structures for Arab and international students, reinforcing two-way academic engagement.

- International project coordination and partner communication.
- Student and staff mobility and exchange opportunities.
- Support for international students and intercultural academic engagement.
- Capacity development through exposure to partner institutions and practices.

Evidence interpretation

The official structure confirms institutional capacity for mobility and international projects. Annual reporting of participant numbers, destinations, duration and outcomes would provide stronger evidence of scale and impact.

Official evidence: https://aliraqia.edu.iq/uni-sci-admin/scr-dep/

4. International Academic Partnerships

Formal agreements and cross-border knowledge exchange

Al-Iraqia University has documented international engagement through formal agreements and academic cooperation. A bilateral memorandum of understanding with Rey Juan Carlos University in Spain provides evidence of formal university-to-university cooperation. In Malaysia, a 2026 university delegation discussed student training, student exchange, the Study in Iraq initiative, joint supervision of theses and joint research grants, reflecting a broad partnership agenda that extends across education, research and mobility.

The University also coordinated an intensive course in research methodology and academic publishing with Sultan Idris Education University in Malaysia, demonstrating how international cooperation can move from relationship-building to concrete academic capacity development.

Partner / Context	Mode	Documented focus	Evidence maturity
Rey Juan Carlos University, Spain	MoU	Bilateral academic cooperation	Formalized
Malaysian universities	Institutional engagement	Training, exchange, joint supervision, research grants	Developing / multi-area
Sultan Idris Education University	Joint academic activity	Research methodology and publishing skills	Implemented activity

Official evidence: https://ae.aliraqia.edu.iq/19060/

Official evidence: https://aliraqia.edu.iq/987523548/

Official evidence: https://aliraqia.edu.iq/en/category/general/page/6/

5. Partnerships in Medical Education and Health

Connecting university learning with health-sector practice

The College of Medicine demonstrates a practical partnership model with Iraqi health institutions. In July 2024, the College discussed cooperation with the Baghdad Al-Rusafa Health Directorate to coordinate student training in hospitals and health centers. By September 2024, practical training for fourth-stage medical students was documented at Al-Sulaikh Second Health Center in cooperation with the directorate, showing progression from coordination to implementation.

The College has also explored international academic cooperation in medical education, including discussions with Queen Mary University of London. Such engagement can strengthen curriculum development, assessment practice, research links and professional exchange when translated into sustained joint activities.

Implementation evidence

The health-sector evidence is particularly valuable because it documents an operational activity - student clinical training - rather than only an intention to cooperate.

Official evidence: https://medic.aliraqia.edu.iq/25860/

Official evidence: https://medic.aliraqia.edu.iq/26000/



Figure 2. Cooperation between Al-Iraqia University College of Medicine and the Baghdad Al-Rusafa Health Directorate to support practical medical training and institutional partnership.

6. Government and Public-Sector Partnerships

Partnerships that connect academic capacity with national priorities

Al-Iraqia University extends partnership activity beyond higher education through cooperation with government institutions. In December 2025, the University received a delegation from the Iraqi Ministry of Environment to discuss the university environment, environmental and development projects, modern irrigation, renewable energy, sustainable transport, waste management and recycling. The meeting emphasized continued coordination and joint cooperation to raise environmental awareness and improve resource and energy management.

This type of partnership illustrates the cross-cutting function of SDG 17: collaboration provides a mechanism through which policy priorities, academic expertise and operational campus practice can reinforce progress across multiple Sustainable Development Goals.

- Health-sector cooperation for student training and applied learning.
- Environmental cooperation around resource management, energy, transport and waste.
- Institutional coordination that connects university expertise with public-sector priorities.
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Official evidence: https://aliraqia.edu.iq/en/987522998/

7. Research Collaboration and Knowledge Partnerships

Scientific networks as a mechanism for shared capacity

Research partnerships strengthen SDG 17 by enabling universities to exchange expertise, share methods, build scholarly networks and undertake joint academic activities. Al-Iraqia University has documented scientific cooperation with the IRID international platform, including academic and research cooperation, exchange of expertise, joint educational and technical activities, and specialized training.

The University also organized an international scientific conference with the platform that brought together more than 900 Arabic-speaking academic researchers representing universities across multiple countries. This demonstrates the University's capacity to convene knowledge networks at scale and use partnership platforms to support scientific exchange.

Knowledge-partnership value

International research networks can amplify institutional impact by connecting local expertise to wider scholarly communities, increasing opportunities for co-production, training and dissemination.

Official evidence: https://en.aliraqia.edu.iq/10368/

Official evidence: https://en.aliraqia.edu.iq/9427/

8. Institutional SDG 17 Evidence Matrix

A structured assessment of documented partnership mechanisms

Impact Area	Verified Institutional Evidence	SDG 17 Contribution	Evidence Status
Partnership governance	Scholarships and Cultural Relations Department; Erasmus+ unit	Institutionalizes international cooperation and project coordination	Established
Academic mobility	Exchange and international-student support structures	Enables knowledge transfer and intercultural academic engagement	Established structure
International agreements	Rey Juan Carlos University MoU	Formalizes university-to-university cooperation	Formalized
Malaysia engagement	Training, exchange, joint supervision and research-grant discussions	Broadens international academic and research networks	Developing
Medical partnerships	Cooperation with Baghdad health institutions; implemented student training	Connects education with public health practice	Implemented
Environmental partnerships	Coordination with Ministry of Environment	Links university practice with environmental policy priorities	Documented cooperation
Research networks	IRID agreement and international conference	Strengthens scientific exchange and international knowledge networks	Implemented / historical

Overall assessment: The evidence demonstrates a diversified partnership portfolio spanning governance, mobility, formal agreements, applied health-sector cooperation, environmental engagement and scientific networks. The strongest next step is systematic outcome reporting that connects each partnership to measurable outputs, beneficiaries and sustained results.

9. Alignment with SDG 17 Partnership Principles

How the documented evidence contributes to the goal

The University's evidence aligns most clearly with the partnership principles of knowledge sharing, capacity building, multi-stakeholder cooperation and international academic collaboration. Rather than assigning unsupported quantitative claims to individual UN indicators, this report maps documented institutional activity to the broader partnership functions that SDG 17 seeks to strengthen.

Partnership Principle	University Evidence	Institutional Value
Knowledge and expertise exchange	International academic agreements, research networks, visiting expertise	Builds shared academic and research capacity
Capacity building	Erasmus+ coordination, research-methodology training, clinical training	Strengthens student, staff and institutional capabilities
Multi-stakeholder partnerships	Cooperation with health and environmental authorities	Connects academic work with public-sector needs
International cooperation	Spain, Malaysia, UK-related engagement and international scientific networks	Expands institutional reach and cross-border collaboration

Reporting principle

Where the official evidence documents discussions or planned cooperation, the report describes these as developing partnerships rather than completed outcomes. This preserves evidence integrity and strengthens the credibility of institutional reporting.

10. Priority Actions for 2026-2027

Moving from partnership activity to measurable partnership impact

1. Partnership portfolio dashboard: Publish active agreements, partner type, responsible unit, implementation status, outputs and renewal dates.

2. Mobility metrics: Report incoming and outgoing students, staff mobility, duration, destinations, disciplines and participant outcomes.

3. Agreement-to-output tracking: Link each active MoU to joint courses, publications, projects, supervision, training, conferences or community outcomes.

4. Research collaboration metrics: Track co-authored publications, joint grants, co-supervised theses and international research teams.

5. Public-sector impact reporting: Document beneficiaries and measurable results from health, environmental and other government partnerships.

6. Partnership quality review: Introduce an annual review distinguishing inactive, developing, active and high-impact partnerships.

7. Evidence repository: Maintain dated official webpages, agreements, photographs, reports and responsible-unit contacts for every major SDG 17 claim.