SDG 8

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Institutional Impact Report 2026

Al-Iraqia University

Employability • Skills • Entrepreneurship • Green Jobs • Economic Opportunity

Al-Iraqia University supports SDG 8 by connecting higher education to employability, professional skills, entrepreneurship, self-employment and sustainability-related career pathways.

Reporting: year 2025–2026



1. Executive Summary

Al-Iraqia University supports SDG 8 by connecting higher education to employability, professional skills, entrepreneurship, self-employment and sustainability-related career pathways. The report follows the evidence-led structure used in the university's SDG 1 model report and relies on uploaded institutional documentation. Claims are limited to what the supplied evidence supports.

Institutional Capacity & Impact at a Glance

2016	2020 → 2023	74	16,502
Employment Division established	technology incubator established → expanded	graduates associated with green jobs	total graduates, 2022/23–2024/25

The chart presents the distribution of Al-Iraqia University graduates associated with green jobs during the academic years 2022/2023–2024/2025. A total of 74 graduates were identified in sustainability-related employment across different academic disciplines. The highest numbers were recorded in Biology (33 graduates) and Civil Engineering (25 graduates), followed by Geography (10 graduates). These employment areas include sustainable construction, environmental monitoring, biodiversity and ecosystem support, water and sanitation, sustainable transport, and other environmentally related occupations. The results demonstrate the University's contribution to developing graduates with skills relevant to green employment and the transition toward a more sustainable economy.

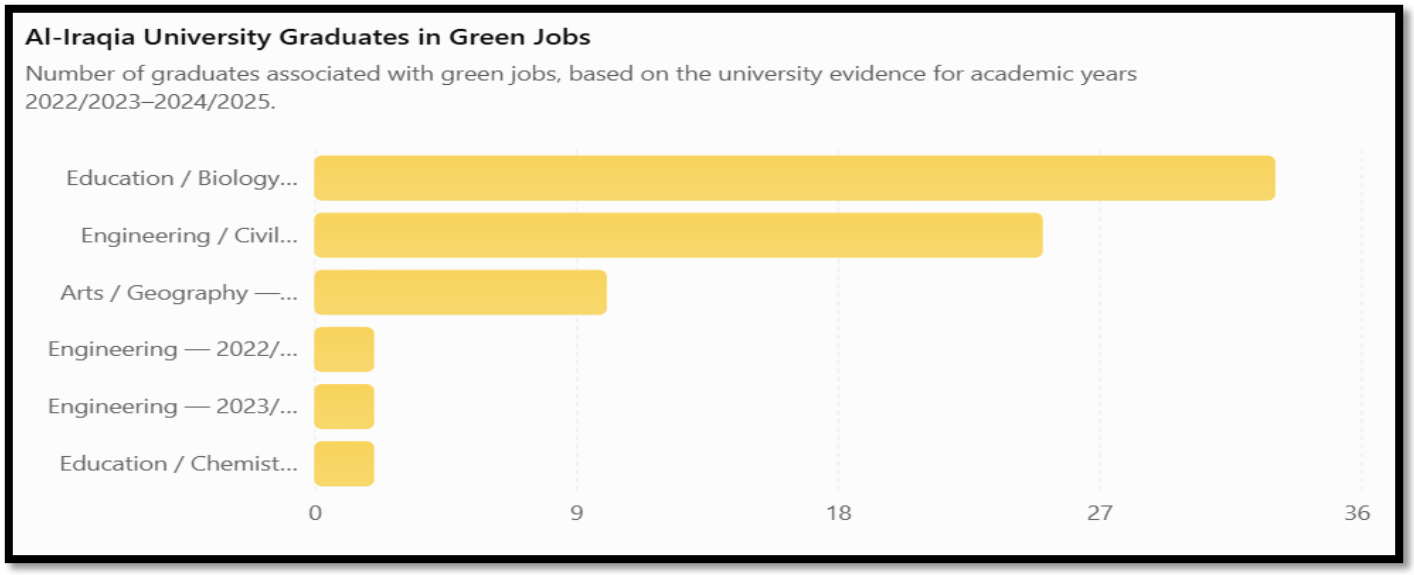


Figure 1. Al-Iraqia University Graduates in Green Jobs (2022–2025).

Institutional contribution at a glance

- **Employability and Labor-Market Preparation:** The Rehabilitation, Employment and Follow-up Division supports students and graduates through training and employment opportunities, job fairs, employer engagement, field visits, soft-skills workshops and labor-market follow-up.
- **Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment:** The Technology Incubator Unit was established in 2020 and transformed in 2023 into the Technology Incubators and Ecosystem Division.

- **Green Jobs and Sustainable Careers:** For the last three academic years, the university evidence identifies 74 graduates associated with green jobs out of 16,502 graduates.
- **Skills, Research and International Exposure:** Sustainability-related teaching, research activity and international academic cooperation reinforce workforce readiness.

2. Employability and Labor-Market Preparation

The Rehabilitation, Employment and Follow-up Division supports students and graduates through training and employment opportunities, job fairs, employer engagement, field visits, soft-skills workshops and labor-market follow-up. This creates an institutional bridge between academic study and productive employment.

3. Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment

The Technology Incubator Unit was established in 2020 and transformed in 2023 into the Technology Incubators and Ecosystem Division. Its documented functions include incubation, infrastructure support, intellectual-property awareness, initial funding support, investor linkage and promotion of entrepreneurship and self-employment.

4. Green Jobs and Sustainable Careers

For the last three academic years, the university evidence identifies 74 graduates associated with green jobs out of 16,502 graduates. The documented fields include sustainable infrastructure, green building, water and sanitation, GIS, environmental monitoring, biodiversity support and environmental laboratory work. The corresponding reported percentage is 0.44%.

5. Skills, Research and International Exposure

Al-Iraqia University strengthens skills development, research capacity, and international academic exposure through cooperation with international universities and institutions. Collaboration with the University of Salford in the United Kingdom has supported training in research-group management, competitive research proposals, international research grants, academic supervision, and collaborative research.

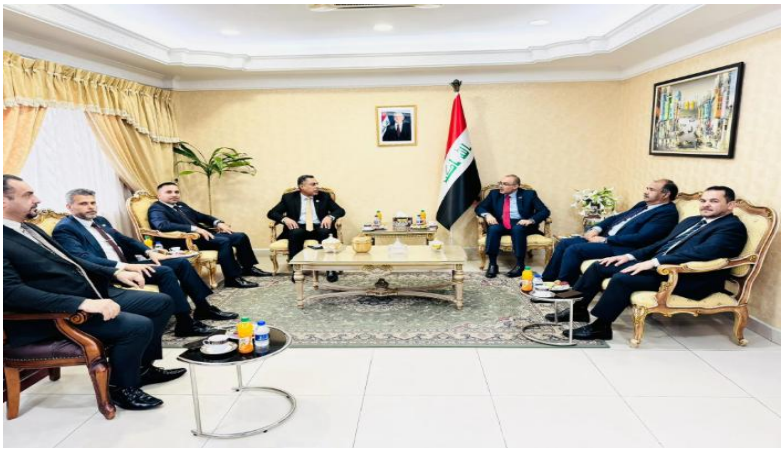
The University has also cooperated with Sultan Idris Education University in Malaysia in research methodology and academic publishing training, strengthening the research skills of academics, researchers, and postgraduate students.

In addition, Al-Iraqia University promotes international engagement through initiatives involving student training and exchange, joint research grants, and co-supervision of postgraduate research. These activities strengthen academic and professional competencies, enhance institutional research capacity, and better prepare students and researchers to contribute effectively to the labor market and sustainable economic development.

Link: https://aliraqia.edu.iq/en/987523427/

Link: https://medic.aliraqia.edu.iq/987522173

Link: https://aliraqia.edu.iq/987523548



6. SDG 8 Evidence and Impact Matrix

Impact area	Verified university evidence	Contribution to SDG 8
Employment services	Dedicated division; training, job fairs and employer engagement	Improves transition from education to work.
Entrepreneurship	Incubator and ecosystem support	Encourages enterprise creation and self-employment.
Green jobs	74 graduates linked to green employment	Develops workforce pathways aligned with sustainability.
Graduate output	16,502 graduates over three years	Contributes skilled human capital to the economy.
International capacity	Research and publishing collaboration; exchange programs	Strengthens professional and research competencies.

7. Professional Training and Institutional Cooperation

Al-Iraqia University's College of Medicine strengthens professional capacity and career development through cooperation with healthcare institutions and specialized professional bodies. The College's engagement with Al-Shaab Teaching Hospital supports the development of clinical training opportunities and the enhancement of professional competencies in the medical field.

In addition, efforts toward accrediting Al-Shaab Teaching Hospital as a training center for the Iraqi Board in Internal Medicine contribute to expanding structured postgraduate and professional training opportunities. Such initiatives strengthen the connection between academic education and the workplace, enhance medical competencies, and support the preparation of qualified professionals for sustainable employment in the healthcare sector.

These activities demonstrate the University's contribution to skills development, professional training, and improved pathways from higher education to decent and productive employment.

Link: https://medic.aliraqia.edu.iq/26585/



Figure 2. Institutional Cooperation and Professional Training Development.

8. Entrepreneurship and Innovation for Decent Work and Sustainable Economic Growth

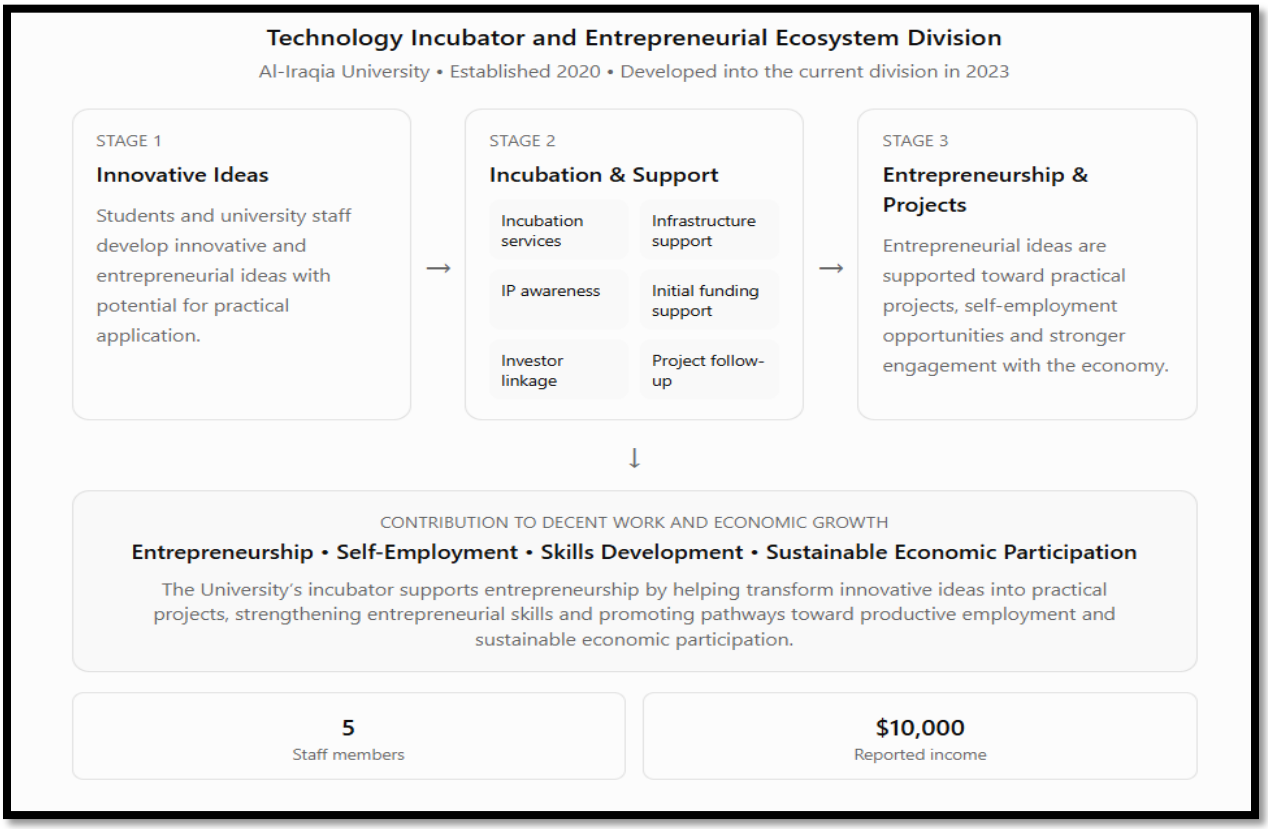
Al-Iraqia University promotes entrepreneurship and productive economic participation through its Technology Incubator and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Division. Originally established as the Technology Incubator Unit in 2020 and developed into its current organizational structure in 2023, the Division provides an institutional framework for supporting innovative and entrepreneurial ideas generated by students and university staff.

The Division provides a range of support mechanisms, including incubation services, infrastructure support, intellectual property awareness, initial funding support, investor linkage, and follow-up of incubated projects. These services are designed to facilitate the development of innovative ideas into practical and potentially viable projects while strengthening entrepreneurial knowledge and skills within the university community.

Through these activities, Al-Iraqia University supports entrepreneurship and self-employment pathways and strengthens the capacity of students and staff to participate productively in the economy. The initiative therefore contributes to the principles of decent work and sustainable economic growth by fostering innovation, entrepreneurial skills, and opportunities for productive economic participation.

Activity Objective:

To foster an institutional environment that supports entrepreneurship and innovation by developing entrepreneurial skills, incubating promising ideas, facilitating access to technical and financial support, and promoting pathways toward self-employment, productive work, and sustainable economic participation.



9. Green Employment Outcomes and Workforce Readiness

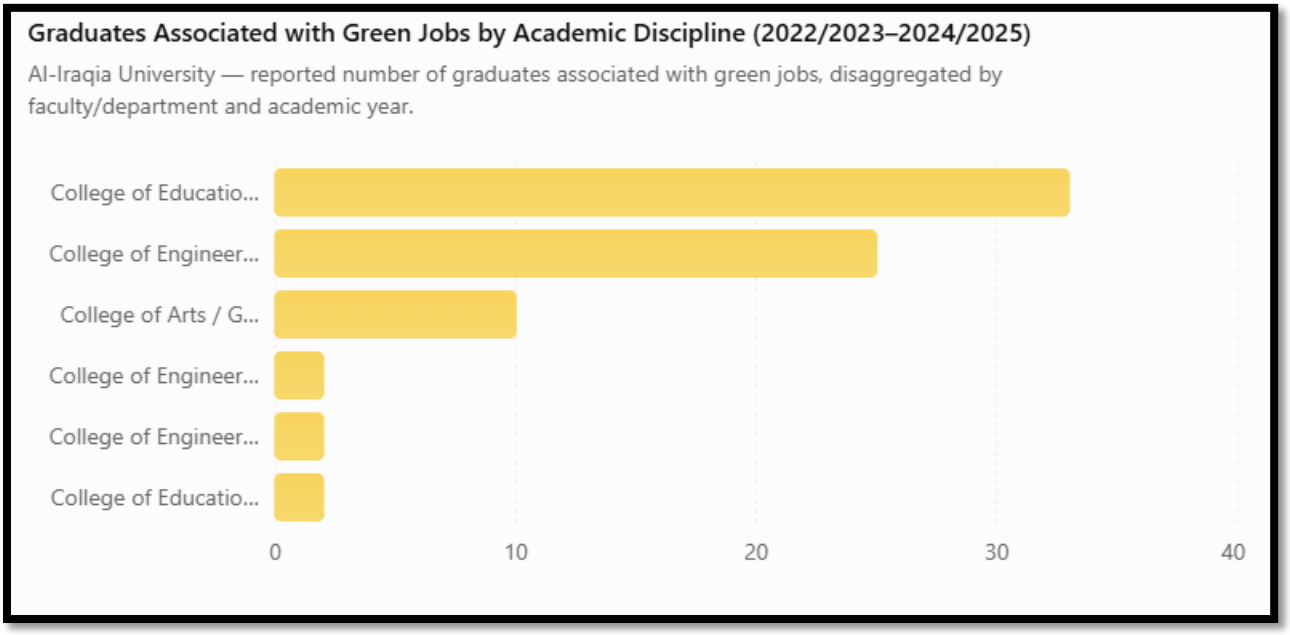
The chart presents the distribution of Al-Iraqia University graduates associated with green jobs during the academic years 2022/2023–2024/2025. University records identify 74 graduates associated with sustainability-related employment out of a total of 16,502 graduates during the reported period.

The largest number was recorded in Biology, with 33 graduates, followed by Civil Engineering with 25 graduates and Geography with 10 graduates. A further six graduates were reported across Engineering in 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 and Chemistry in 2024/2025.

The reported employment areas reflect a diverse range of environmentally relevant professional activities. These include biodiversity and ecosystem support, environmental laboratory work, water and soil testing, green building and sustainable construction, water and sanitation infrastructure, sustainable transport, geographic information systems (GIS), environmental monitoring, urban and land-use planning, environmental chemistry, water-quality testing, and pollution analysis. The distribution demonstrates that sustainability-related employment outcomes extend across several academic disciplines rather than being concentrated in a single field. Engineering contributes skills related to sustainable infrastructure and resource efficiency, while Biology and Chemistry support environmental monitoring and analysis, and Geography contributes expertise in spatial analysis, planning, climate, and natural-resource management.

From the perspective of decent work and sustainable economic growth, these outcomes provide evidence of the University's contribution to developing graduates with competencies relevant to environmentally responsible occupations and emerging areas of the labor market. The data therefore indicate a connection between academic preparation, workforce skills, and participation in sustainability-related employment.

Data Sources: Registration and Student Affairs Department; Habilitation and Employment Division; Studies and Planning Department.



10. Innovation, Applied Technology, and Skills Development

Al-Iraqia University promotes innovation and practical skills development by providing opportunities for students and academic staff to present applied engineering and technological projects. These activities connect academic knowledge with practical applications and encourage the development of technical, problem-solving, and innovation-oriented competencies.

The images illustrate the presentation and demonstration of engineering and technology-based projects, including renewable energy applications, electrical and electronic systems, and practical prototypes. Such activities provide an environment for knowledge exchange and strengthen interaction between students, academics, university leadership, and relevant stakeholders.

By supporting applied projects and technological innovation, the University contributes to developing professional competencies and preparing students for future employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. These initiatives strengthen the connection between higher education, innovation, workforce readiness, and productive economic participation.

Activity Objective:

To enhance students' technical and professional skills through applied projects, encourage innovation and practical problem-solving, and strengthen the connection between academic education, entrepreneurship, and future employment opportunities.

Link:
https://www.facebook.com/100057399282133/posts/1142372237686075/?mibextid=wwXIfr&rdid=5LNwRFZnTGsbTfX5#





