



The SDG Accord

The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals

Integration of SDGs in

- ☐ Institutional governance/strategic level
- ☒ SDGs in research
- ☐ SDGs in campus operations
- ☐ SDGs in curriculum development
- ☐ SDGs in student engagement activities
- ☒ SDGs into community activities
- ☐ SDGs at a whole-institution level

Focus on

- ☒ Goal 1 - No poverty
- ☒ Goal 2 - Zero hunger
- ☐ Goal 3 - Good health and wellbeing
- ☐ Goal 4 - Quality education
- ☐ Goal 5 - Gender equality
- ☐ Goal 6 - Clean water and sanitation
- ☐ Goal 7 - Affordable and clean energy
- ☐ Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth
- ☐ Goal 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- ☐ Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities
- ☐ Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities
- ☐ Goal 12 - Responsible consumption and production
- ☐ Goal 13 - Climate action
- ☐ Goal 14 - Life below water
- ☐ Goal 15 - Life on land
- ☐ Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions
- ☐ Goal 17 - Partnerships for the goals

Outline the benefits of integrating this theme:

- 1.** Provides opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration, bringing together researchers and non-academic partners to improve understanding of the circumstances and challenges faced by disadvantaged communities and to evaluate interventions designed to address them.
- 2.** Demonstrates the value of GCU's 'common good' mission by enriching the relevance and utility of research when it is co-produced by GCU researchers in conjunction with non-academic partners, stakeholders, and communities. Improves the relevance and usefulness of research that is coproduced by researchers, stakeholders and communities
- 3.** Provides opportunities for researchers at all stages of their career/studies to engage in impactful research to tackle poverty and the problems it presents

Outline the barriers or challenges encountered in integrating this theme and how you overcame these:

- 1.** GCU is committed to undertaking research which makes an impact beyond academia. We do this by working with policy makers, campaign groups and community stakeholders. An example of this is the Wise Centre's research. Gender analysis and the relevance of gender equality objectives is not universally considered relevant to all policy domains, particularly finance, budgetary processes and economic policy. Securing the 'stickiness' of the concept of gender budgeting has been challenging, but progress has been made through demonstrating the alignment across policy processes including the Scottish Budget, National Performance Framework, and commitment to 'equality mainstreaming.' Leadership of the Scottish Government's Equality and Budgets Advisory Group, and other direct engagement across government and the Scottish Parliament, as well as working with civil society organisations have been central to securing engagement and progress.
- 2.** Research and community action often speak different languages. Our experience in supporting external partners to realise their potential sensitises us to the need to engage individuals and organisations on their terms, conveying how our academic expertise is pertinent to their everyday practice.
- 3.** While celebrating disciplinary expertise and seeking to advance the frontiers of academic knowledge within, we promote interdisciplinary collaboration by focusing our research efforts through Units and Centres that are focused on tackling social problems.

Conclusions and recommendations

1. Many organisations and tiers of government are focusing attention on the challenge of SDG 1. The complex and multi-dimensional nature of the poverty requires input from many academic fields.
2. Government is increasingly concerned to approach the problem of poverty through interventions that are structured beyond and across departmental boundaries. In this emerging environment, academic contributions are likely to be most effective when inter-disciplinary ways of working are pursued.
3. Practitioners welcome the contributions that academic research can make to inform, appraise, and evaluate. Contributions that are sensitive to contemporary challenges and lived experiences are highly valued by those fashioning solutions to the problems that poverty presents.