

SDG Accord Case Study



*Student volunteers at a garden working bee with Otago Community Hospice.*

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## 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

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## Summary:

Social Impact Studio is a hub for social impact through creativity and innovation – a place where University of Otago students, staff, faculty and community work together to design and implement projects that benefit our society and environment.

The work of the Social Impact Studio is underpinned by the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Social Impact Studio has developed new projects and programmes that help tackle some longstanding community challenges in social issues like belonging, purpose, quality education, mental health and well-being.

These projects have students at the helm, with all their passion, spark and creativity enabling students to be part of a positive social change which may involve volunteering in the community, building their leadership skills, or supporting their peers through hard times.

### [UniCrew Volunteers](#)

Get involved with the wider Dunedin community through a variety of opportunities.

### [Aspire Programme](#)

Be a buddy to a Year 7 or 8 student.

### [Reading Oasis](#)

Share your love for reading.

### [Leadership Award](#)

Channel your leadership skills towards positive social change.

### [Silverline](#)

A creative and unexpected student mental health and well-being initiative

### [Global Citizenship](#)

Explore the implications of good citizenship, community roles, equity and empowerment in a diverse and cross-cultural environment.

## Outline the 3 key benefits of integrating this theme:

- 1.** the hub helps grow a strong and sustainable culture of positive social impact will involve building long-term relationships. This includes relationships with community and not-forprofit organisations, student organisations, the University, alumni, and the media.
- 2.** the hub creates collectively impact sustainable progress within their workplace, colleges, kitchens or food outlets, while having a bit of fun along the way.
- 3.** the hub enables students to be part of a positive social change which may involve volunteering in the community, building their leadership skills, or supporting their peers through hard times.

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## **Outline the barriers or challenges encountered in integrating this theme and how we overcame these:**

1. Time commitment: We know students have to juggle many commitments. We therefore try to have as wide a range of volunteer roles as possible so there is something for everyone, no matter what their availability. Whether they only have a couple of hours to volunteer at a one-off event, or a free afternoon every week to help at a food bank, we hope to help them find something that interests you. Many of our roles can take place at a time that is convenient for the students (e.g. on evenings or weekends). There is also a rise in 'virtual' or 'e'-volunteer roles, which they can fulfil at home and in their own time.
2. Engagement. Social Impact Studio is a voluntary programme. Not every student knows about what volunteer opportunities are available to them. To get the students and staff's involved, staff are in a great position to inform students about volunteering and the Social Impact Studio. University of Otago staff are welcome to use the services of the Social Impact Studio. Social Impact Studio staff can deliver this information through a guest lecture, volunteer tutorial or workshop.

## **Conclusions and recommendations**

With each student, academic, and organisation we meet through the Social Impact Studio, we see an opportunity to connect their degrees, research and teaching, and community work with the Sustainable Development Goals. We support and enhance social impact activities in Otago, but our efforts extend to regional, national and international communities.

View our ongoing activities here <https://www.otago.ac.nz/social-impact-studio/index.html>