

## 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

Describe briefly how the theme selected was implemented within your institution – **max 300 words.**

*Please include (if available) quotes from colleagues or others involved/referenced in the case study.*

Durham University invested £2.5M establishing a Global Challenges Centre for Doctoral Training in 2019. The Centre supports 24 doctoral candidates (14 female, 10 male) citizens of 16 DAC nations. Supervisory teams, 59 staff from 15 departments, and candidates are working on global-challenges projects which have brought together the global north and south into a coherent global-challenge community. Each candidate is investigating a challenge relevant to their nation, aligned with the SDGs, supervised by a multidisciplinary team reflecting the complex multi-dimensional nature of the SDGs. All candidates have a funded placement at a partner organisation in a developing nation, providing insights into the local context of their challenge. Candidates will use the experiences gained at Durham to enable them to return to their home country and implement their knowledge and skills to make a substantive societal impact as future leaders.

This model is unique in the UK where candidates span the whole spectrum of SDGs. Each research project has an interdisciplinary methodology based on global north-south partnerships with 53 organisations. Equitable partnerships have been established to be sustained longer term; placements ensuring two-way flow of information. An extensive range of bespoke training and workshops has been provided to develop research and professional skills. Creating a coherent centre from such a broad diverse range of projects and doctoral candidates from 16 different nations requires a careful structured approach where individual researchers identify very strongly with being global-challenge researchers which provides a common theme across the centre, demonstrating the importance of SDG17. Effective working is maintained through a comprehensive research governance model in place to monitor and evaluate the progress and ODA compliance of all activity. An evaluation framework tracks progress of the cohort every six months. Through this model of governance, monitoring and oversight we can assure long-term success of the centre.

Outline the benefits of integrating this theme.

- 1.** SDG17 emphasises the importance of collaboration. We have demonstrated that our centre is able to provide an effective program of training and support that enables research across all SDGs.
- 2.** In our centre we have created a coherent global community from different countries all working together for the benefit of citizens in their home country. This unity of vision and purpose reflects the overall aims of the 17 SDGs.
- 3.** Our centre clearly demonstrates the impact of research on global challenges, highlighting the substantial role that the university sector has to play in achieving the 2030 ambition of the SDGs.

Outline the barriers (*if any*) encountered in integrating this theme and how you overcame these.

**1.** The global challenges centre consists of a wide variety of candidates, from different counties working on different projects. A key challenge was to create a coherent sense of identity and community as global challenge researchers. This coherence plays an important role in providing peer-support and enabling the candidates to support other projects. Candidates begin to see the inter-related nature of the SDGs and recognise the importance of collaboration embodied in SDG 17.

**2.** The doctoral programme includes many complex aspects including multidisciplinary supervisory teams, challenge based research projects, working with an international partner, having an overseas partner and being in a very diverse community. This was enabled via structured training and support for supervisory teams and candidates to realise maximum impact from PhD projects.

**OPTIONAL** – Include **TWO** images (max.) that are relevant to your SDG case study example. These will be used as part of your case study permission, so please ensure you have permission to use the images. the case study *Insert – Picture and add a brief description of what is included in images.*



Global Challenges doctoral candidate Robert Ssewanyana, also a professional sculptor, working with young people in Uganda using art, creativity and applied sculpture as a vehicle to empower young people on the risks of HIV/AIDS.



Global Challenges candidate Majo Carrasco Tenezaca, an architect from Ecuador, is researching the design of rural housing in sub-Saharan Africa to reduce mosquito-borne malaria. These houses can be raised off the ground, reducing the mosquito density indoors.

Please outline your conclusions and recommendations to others – max 200 words

Our successes at Durham have demonstrated that it is possible to create a coherent centre of research across many SDGs. We have demonstrated that SDG17 plays a key role in this success and that researchers can learn to collaborate and work successfully with those from other disciplines and areas. The complex and embedded nature of the SDGs presents a significant challenge which can be approached with this new method and thinking. The heterogeneous nature of the candidates in our centre is not a concern, and reflects the different nature of the SDGs. Candidates identify very strongly with the key identity of being global challenges researchers. In such a community they develop peer-support networks and are able to support each other's projects, in doing so they begin to formulate a deeper appreciation of the SDG framework and the interconnectedness of the SDGs. We have shown that SDG research can be undertaken successfully by early career researchers, with appropriate support from multidisciplinary supervisory teams. Global challenge research provides an outstanding opportunity to develop and train future leaders through a structured doctoral programme. Universities are ideally placed to develop their own programme based on this successful model.