

University Impact Rankings for the SDGs

The contribution of universities to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be assessed in a variety of ways. A recent attempt to measure and rank these contributions was made by the Times Higher Education in its 2020 [University Impact Rankings](#). This impact ranking evaluates the contribution of 766 Universities worldwide to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the UN ([UN SDG's](#)). This contribution by Universities consists of *research, outreach* and *stewardship* related to the 17 SDG's.

Noting the methodological and philosophical challenges and limitations of all rankings, **Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam was ranked 39th worldwide.** The strength of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam can be found at

SDG 13 Climate Action: 2nd on the World Ranking

SDG 09 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: 32th on the World Ranking

SDG 05 Gender Equality: 37th on the World Ranking

SDG 17 can be seen as an overarching goal, ranked **64th on the World Ranking.**

Notable is the overall result, ranked 39th on the World Ranking, compared to other rankings. Additionally to the solid scores from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in the quantitative orientated rankings focusing on research output en excellence, like the Shanghai Ranking (103th position) and Leiden Ranking (85th position, based on pp10), this University Impact Ranking focuses on the characteristic profile of the VU concerning societal connection and sustainability. VU Amsterdam has a clear vision and a clear set of ambitions when it comes to sustainability, as can be read in the [VU Strategy 2020 – 2025](#). Sustainability is an integral part of teaching and research, operations management and the buildings at the VU campus. Our core values are stewardship, responsibility and consideration for future generations. VU Amsterdam strives to maintain its current position amongst the top 10 most sustainable universities worldwide.



THE Impact ranking, based on the SDGs	NL Ranking	World Ranking ▲
SDG13: Climate Action	1	2
SDG9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	2	32
SDG5: Gender Equality	1	37
Overall ranking	1	39
SDG17: Partnership for the Goals	1	64
SDG4: Quality Education	2	67
SDG12: Responsible Consumption and Production	2	82
SDG15: Life on Land	4	86
SDG16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	2	86
SDG6: Clean Water and Sanitation	2	87
SDG14: Life below Water	3	101
SDG2: Zero Hunger	1	101
SDG7: Affordable and Clean Energy	2	101
SDG1: No Poverty	2	201
SDG10: Reduced Inequalities	2	201
SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	2	201
SDG3: Good Health and Wellbeing	3	201
SDG8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	2	301