Taking Action at International Level
SDGs as a catalyst to reorient internationalisation

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7th ASEF Rectors' Conference & Students' Forum
Higher Education Taking Action towards the Sustainable Development Goals:
Perspectives from Europe and Asia
University of Sydney profile

• Australia’s oldest university, established in 1850
• 70,000 students, 59% female, 40% international
• One of the world’s leading comprehensive universities: more than 400 areas of study and 30 subjects ranked in the global top 50
• Aim to give 50% of our students a mobility opportunity by 2020
• Home to more than 90 research centres with a strong multidisciplinary focus
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An internationally-focused strategy

A culture of research excellence
Be the leading research-intensive university in Australia with outstanding researchers, networks and partnerships that improve the lives of our local and global communities

A distinctive Sydney education
Deliver an undergraduate education that is unique in Australia so that our graduates have the skills, knowledge and values to lead in a rapidly changing world

A culture built on our values
Foster an aspirational culture that enables each member of the University to thrive
A catalyst for change

“We but mirror the world. If we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. We need not wait to see what others do.”
Working towards SDGs

Sustainability on campus

Solar powered lamp posts incorporating low-cost zinc-bromide batteries outside the Great Hall at Sydney University.

The battery technology has been developed by Gelion Technologies, a spin-off from Sydney Nano Institute.

The fleet of mobile lighting systems is intended to improve campus sustainability and increase night-time safety on campus.
Working towards SDGs: multidisciplinary solutions

Charles Perkins Centre
Tackling obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease

Planetary Health Platform
Studying how natural systems support civilisational health

Sydney Environment Institute
Studying the relationship between human communities and the natural world

Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases and Biosecurity
Tackling emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases

University of Sydney Nano Institute
Transforming Sydney into a global hub for discovering and harnessing new science at the nanoscale.

Member of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities and the Worldwide Universities Network
Working towards SDGs: innovative partnerships

Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Taronga Wildlife Conservation)

“You will be able to lead behavioural change in the community for sustaining our planet’s biodiversity.”
Working towards SDGs: using our global partnerships

Collaboration between Sydney, Edinburgh and UC Davis
Working towards SDGs: gender equity
Working towards SDGs: student engagement
Global classrooms

A common course for students at King’s College, University of Toronto, University of Sydney.

Course will be jointly designed and co-taught by instructors from partner institutions.

An option is to focus course on one Sustainable Development Goal (Gender, Health, Environment, etc.) each year.

Students enrolled in the course will “attend” the same lectures by instructors in partner institutions, using technology to facilitate this.
Our challenge: To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals sustainably
Recommendations

1: Universities should continue to support the objectives of the SDGs and develop sustainable strategies, individually and in partnership with other universities, for making progress towards the goals.

2: Universities should drive sustainability through their own actions

3: Universities should reduce their carbon footprint by developing online platforms for collaboration