

Encourage applications by women in under-represented subjects (Jan – Dec 2024)

Introduction

Gulf University (GU) is committed to advancing gender equality and empowering women in all areas of higher education, particularly within disciplines where women are traditionally under-represented, such as engineering, information technology, and applied sciences. In alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 and Bahrain’s Vision 2030, the university implements focused outreach and mentorship programs designed to encourage female participation in science, technology, engineering, and innovation. Through collaborative efforts between the College of Engineering, the Sustainability and Development Makers Center (SDM-C), and the Community Engagement and Continuing Education Center (CECEC), GU organizes workshops, school visits, national campaigns, and scholarship initiatives that inspire girls to pursue careers in STEM and leadership fields. These sustained actions reflect GU’s institutional commitment to creating inclusive pathways for women, reducing gender disparity in technical disciplines, and nurturing the next generation of female innovators and leaders.

Initiative / Program	Description & Target Group	Linked SDGs	Evidence Source
Women in Engineering” Campaign (College of Engineering + SDM-C)	Conducted during Sustainability Week 2024 – featured female faculty and alumnae showcasing careers in Interior Design Engineering, Electrical & Mechanical Engineering, and smart-energy technologies. The campaign included panel talks and mentoring sessions for female high-school students.	SDG 4, 5, 9	SDM-C Annual Report 2024–25 (pp. 45–47); Sustainability Report 2024–25 (Standard 6)
Girls in Tech – Future Innovators” Workshop	Hands-on AI and coding bootcamp hosted by GU ICT Center and Bahrain Women in Technology Network, introducing female students to robotics and AI design.	SDG 5, SDG 9	ICT Center Event Report 2024 (photos & attendance list)
Collaboration with Ministry of Education – School Outreach	CECEC & Engineering College jointly organized STEM Career Orientation sessions for female secondary-school students from public schools (Manama & Riffa). Focus: “Engineering as a Career for Women.”	SDG 4, 5, 17	CECEC Annual Report 2024–25 (pp. 98–101)
“She Builds the Future” Design Challenge	Interior Design Engineering students mentored female high-schoolers to design sustainable homes using green materials; top teams awarded GU scholarships.	SDG 4, 5, 11, 13	College of Engineering Event Report 2024 & SDM-C Records
Participation in National “Women in STEM Bahrain” Campaign	GU partnered with the Supreme Council for Women and UNDP Bahrain to promote STEM careers among young women via social-media and awareness events.	SDG 5 & 17	MoU with SCW (2024); GU News Portal coverage

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CECEC Mentorship for Girls in Entrepreneurship	CECEC runs mentoring under the Entrepreneurship & Innovation Program , guiding female students and alumni to launch startups in tech, finance, and sustainability.	SDG 5, 8, 9	CECEC Annual Report 2024–25 (p. 59–61)

Keypoints

- Female enrolment in Engineering programs increased from 32 % (2023–24) to 38 % (2024–25).
- Average participation of female students in STEM-related workshops: 140 + participants (2024).
- Three active MoUs supporting women in under-represented fields (SCW, UNDP, MoE).
- <https://www.gulfuniversity.edu.bh/centers/sustainability-and-development-makers-center/>
- <https://www.gulfuniversity.edu.bh/3d-flip-book/sustainability-report-2024-25/>
- https://www.gulfuniversity.edu.bh/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/SDG10_Reduced-Inequalities_2024-2025.pdf
- <https://www.gulfuniversity.edu.bh/3d-flip-book/cece-annual-report-2024-2025/>