

AZERBAIJAN STATE UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS (UNEC)

**UNEC ANTI-POVERTY SUPPORT
AND INCLUSION POLICY**

UNEC Anti-Poverty Support and Inclusion Policy

1. Purpose

Affirms UNEC's commitment to eradicating poverty through equitable access, student support, and empowerment. Highlights education as a transformative tool for social mobility and national development.

2. Scope

Covers all UNEC students (domestic and international), faculty, staff, and administrative units responsible for delivering and monitoring anti-poverty measures.

3. Context and Alignment

Positions UNEC's actions within Azerbaijan's 2030 Socio-Economic Development Strategy, State Programme on Education Development, and the global SDG 1 agenda.

4. Policy Objectives

- Ensure equitable access for students from low-income households.
- Provide diverse financial aid and support programmes to remove economic barriers.
- Promote retention, academic success, and graduation.
- Support post-graduation employment or entrepreneurship opportunities.
- Build partnerships with government, NGOs, and international organizations to enhance inclusion.

5. Policy Statements

5.1 SDG 1.1 – Community Engagement and Poverty Alleviation

UNEC supports local communities through workshops, entrepreneurship programs, and financial literacy initiatives targeting low-income households.

5.2 SDG 1.2 – Employment and Economic Empowerment

The University's Career Center offers internships, apprenticeships, and mentorship programs. Entrepreneurship support includes training, seed funding, and business development guidance.

5.3 SDG 1.3 – University Anti-Poverty Programmes

UNEC implements structured scholarship and support schemes for economically disadvantaged students:

1. General Stipend Programme

- Awarded annually based on academic performance and financial need.
- Covers partial tuition and provides monthly stipends.

2. Special Grants for Orphans / Students Who Lost Parents

- Full tuition coverage, monthly stipend, and access to housing and counseling services.

3. “Brilliant Minds” Scholarship

- For high-achieving students from low-income backgrounds.
- Encourages academic excellence and innovation.

4. Success Examination & Success Bursary Scheme

- After first-year evaluations, high-performing students receive a bursary to support continued study.

5. Heydar Aliyev International Scholarship Programme

- For international students from partner countries.
- Covers tuition, living expenses, and integration support.

6. Intergovernmental Education Grant

- Targets students from low and lower-middle income countries.
- Offers full tuition, monthly stipend, and mentorship.

7. Scholarships for Students with Special Needs

- Tuition waiver, monthly stipends, and tailored support services.

8. Post-Graduation Financial Aid Scheme

- One-time payment of 3,500 AZN to graduates from disadvantaged backgrounds who secure employment or start a business within one year.

Selection Process:

- Transparent application through UNEC’s Financial Aid Office.
- Evaluation based on academic merit, financial need, personal circumstances, and potential social impact.

- Annual review ensures equitable distribution and alignment with institutional priorities.

5.4 SDG 1.4 – Partnerships and Outreach for Economic Inclusion

Collaboration with government bodies, NGOs, and international partners to extend access and financial support beyond national borders.

6. Implementation Mechanisms

- Financial Aid Office manages scholarship allocations and disbursements.
- Student Affairs provides counseling, housing support, and monitoring.
- Academic Departments identify at-risk students for targeted assistance.

7. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting

- KPIs: % of low-income students admitted, retention rates, graduation rates, post-graduation employment or entrepreneurship.
- Annual reports presented to Rectorate and publicly available.

8. Review and Continuous Improvement

- Policy reviewed every three years, updated based on socio-economic trends and student needs.
- Stakeholder consultations ensure relevance and effectiveness.

9. Alignment with National and Global Priorities

- Contributes to Azerbaijan’s inclusive education agenda, social mobility targets, and global SDG 1 achievement.
- Reflects UNEC’s commitment to social responsibility, equity, and sustainable development.

Annex – Detailed UNEC Scholarship Programmes (2024)

Scholarship / Grant	Eligibility	Coverage / Benefits	Purpose / Impact
General Stipend	All students meeting academic + financial need criteria	Partial tuition + monthly stipend	Reduce financial barriers, encourage performance
Special Grants for	Orphans or students	Full tuition,	Ensure vulnerable

Scholarship / Grant	Eligibility	Coverage Benefits /	Purpose / Impact
Orphans / Students Who Lost Parents	with parental loss	monthly stipend, housing, counseling	students can complete studies
Brilliant Minds	High-achieving, low-income students	Tuition reduction + stipend	Reward excellence, promote innovation
Success Examination & Bursary	Students passing success exams after Year 1	Merit-based bursary	Encourage academic retention and performance
Heydar Aliyev International Scholarship	Outstanding international students from partner countries	Full tuition + living stipend	Enhance global access and internationalization
Intergovernmental Education Grant	Students from low/lower-middle income countries	Tuition + monthly stipend + mentorship	Expand global inclusion and capacity building
Special Needs Scholarships	Students with disabilities or special needs	Tuition waiver + stipend + support services	Ensure equitable access and academic success
Post-Graduation Financial Aid	Graduates from low-income backgrounds employed/self-employed within 1 year	One-time 3,500 AZN grant	Support transition to economic independence