# SDGacademy

An Initiative of the Sustainable
Development Solutions Network

## CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)
### For the University Partnership Program, SDG Academy

*Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Applications will be approved by early September 2018 for universities that intend to offer courses beginning January 2019. Applications will be approved by early March 2019 for universities that intend to offer courses beginning September 2019. Once accepted into the program, our university partners will continue to have access to courses and services for each academic year that advisory fees are paid (see below).*

## BACKGROUND

The SDG Academy creates and curates high-quality educational content on sustainable development to build the next generation of practitioners working to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDG Academy is the flagship education initiative of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), founded in 2012 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General.

Delivered as massive open online courses (MOOCs), mini-series, live webinars, and curated resources, our content is available for a diverse global audience. We bring together the world's foremost experts to offer a comprehensive core curriculum on issues integral to the sustainability of our planet – including health, education, climate change, agriculture and food systems, sustainable investment and other related fields.

Every course is structured in a way that is most suitable for the online learning experience of individual students. All content is in English, targeted at an upper undergraduate or lower graduate level and includes video chapters with English transcripts, reading materials, assessment questions and activities. The materials can be reorganized, re-sequenced, and pieced together from multiple courses to meet the specific needs of participants.

Our University Partnership Program (UPP), works with universities, academic institutions and education programs to integrate SDG Academy course material into existing and new programs on sustainable development around the world. Institutions that are part of the University Partnership Program receive privileged access to SDG Academy materials in a format suitable to the needs of the institution, as well as pedagogical and technical support from the SDG Academy team in the implementation of the material in a blended learning program. Program participants receive group and one-on-one consultations with SDG Academy staff during various key stages of course development and delivery. Resources such as teaching guides, tool kits and best practice manuals are made available to participants.

## AIMS

The University Partnership Program is a tool for building capacity and resources to teach about sustainable development. It can be tailored to a university's needs and offers a range of implementation methods from blended learning to full online immersion. The program aims to help universities:

1) Advance knowledge on sustainable development
2) Increase access to high quality educational content
3) Establish a searchable library of electronic material
4) Integrate innovative content and tools into existing frameworks of learning
5) Produce a catalog of blended learning activities
6) Create an alumni pool that will carry learning into the future
7) Deepen the skills of instructors teaching on sustainable development

## PROGRAM OFFERING

### PRIVILEGED ACCESS TO SDG ACADEMY CONTENT:
All SDG Academy courses are available for universities to use, even if they are not currently running. Materials include: video chapters with English transcripts, reading materials, assessment questions, and activities. All content is in English and is targeted at an upper undergraduate or lower graduate level.

### PEDAGOGICAL SUPPORT FOR BLENDED LEARNING:
The SDG Academy provides advisory support to program participants in the pedagogical development of a blended course. Support may include curating materials, restructuring course syllabi, designing in-person activities to enhance online learning, and identifying contextually relevant literature and content.

### TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR ONLINE PLATFORMS:
SDG Academy courses are hosted on an online educational platform. In late 2018, course content will also be made available through an online searchable database. SDG Academy staff offers partners technical support to navigate these platforms as well as advisory support to work with institutions' existing online learning management systems.

### TRAINING WEBINARS:
All university partners will be offered training webinars to learn more about the program, converse with other university representatives, and ask questions to the SDG Academy staff. Webinars will be interactive and recorded for future reference.

## REQUIREMENTS OF UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

1) Attend an informational webinar following acceptance to program
2) Complete a pre-course survey with an SDG Academy staff member
3) Complete a post-course survey with an SDG Academy staff member
4) Liaise periodically with SDG Academy for planning and implementation of resources
5) Utilize SDG Academy content to promote sustainable development

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
The applicant must:

1) Be an accredited institution of higher learning
2) Be a member of SDSN (Join SDSN: http://unsdsn.org/get-involved/join-the-sdsn/)

3) Have a commitment towards the cause of sustainable development
4) Have approval to participate via a letter of support from the head of the department
5) Identify a clear start date for the use of the SDG Academy course or material (month/semester)
6) Designate a primary point of contact for the university
7) Be able to attend webinars and periodic conference calls for check-ins

## COST OF PROGRAM

While program participants will have access to all SDG Academy course material for free, an annual advisory fee will be charged to cover the advisory support of the SDG Academy. The UPP adopts a tiered fee structure based on the World Bank Organization's income classification to ensure that costs do not deter institutions from participating. The advisory fee will provide program participants with a direct line of communication with SDG Academy staff, as well as customized pedagogical and technical support. Please contact the SDG Academy if your institution has extenuating circumstances that makes the cost restrictive.

| WBO Classification | Fee (USD) |
|---|---|
| *Low-income economies* | $500 |
| *Middle-income economies* | $1,250 |
| *High-income economies* | $2,500 |

**The advisory fee will be due within 60 days of acceptance into the program**

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

1. Complete an EOI consisting of the following components:
   a. A cover letter entitled "Application for University Partnership Program, SDG Academy" containing:
      i. Description of the *department* interested in the partnership, highlighting its commitment towards the cause of sustainable development
      ii. Description of the *university*, highlighting its commitment towards the cause of sustainable development
      iii. Brief plans for using SDG Academy resources, including SDG Academy content you intend to use (searchable course library here: courses.sdgacademy.org), your course's name, a brief description, expected launch dates, and syllabus where possible
      iv. Commenting on the status of the institutional approval process to use online materials in a university course (if applicable)
      v. Signed by the academic point of contact
   b. A letter of support from the school's department head
2. Email all materials to: **upp@sdgacademy.org**

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Applications will be approved by 15 September, 2018, for universities who intend to offer courses beginning January 2019. Applications will be approved by 31 March, 2019, for universities who intend to offer courses beginning September 2019. Once accepted

into the program, our university partners will continue to have access to courses and services for each academic year that advisory fees are paid.