

NAKHCHIVAN
STATE
UNIVERSITY

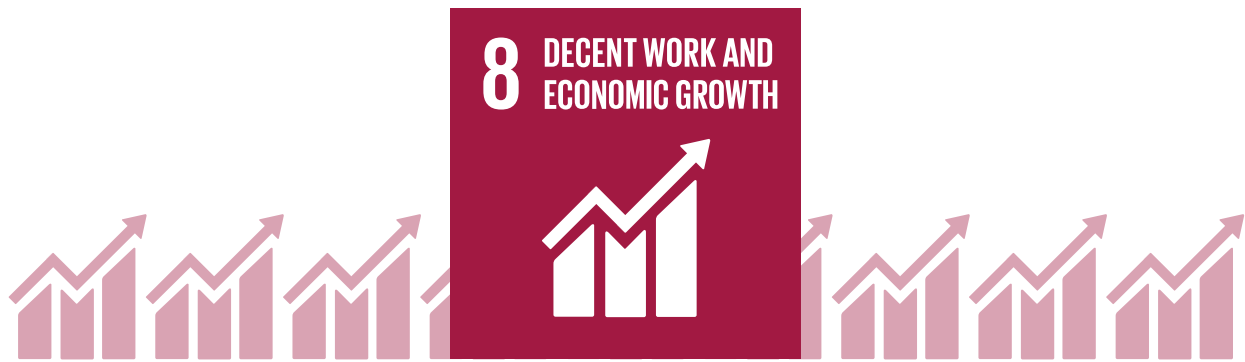
20
24

SDG PROGRESS REPORT

8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



THE GLOBAL GOALS



Introduction

Promoting sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, along with productive employment and decent work for all, lies at the heart of Sustainable Development Goal 8. This year NSU significantly advanced its contributions toward this goal through an integrated approach that connects education with professional development, entrepreneurship, and labor market access.

By organizing career fairs, building local and international partnerships, supporting student-led innovation, and facilitating real-world internships, NSU ensures that students graduate with both the knowledge and experience needed to succeed in a dynamic global economy. These efforts strengthen regional workforce capabilities while also empowering young people to pursue fulfilling and economically secure lives.



Career Fair and Employment Outcomes

This year we hosted a vibrant and well-attended Career Fair, creating a valuable bridge between students, employers, and alumni from diverse industries. The event was a key step in boosting student employability and deepening the university's ties with the job market.

Career Fair 2024 – Highlights

Held on April 15–16, the fair attracted more than 70 companies and organizations, a notable increase from 58 the previous year. Over 1,350 students and recent graduates participated — up from approximately 1,100 in 2023 — reflecting growing interest in career readiness opportunities.

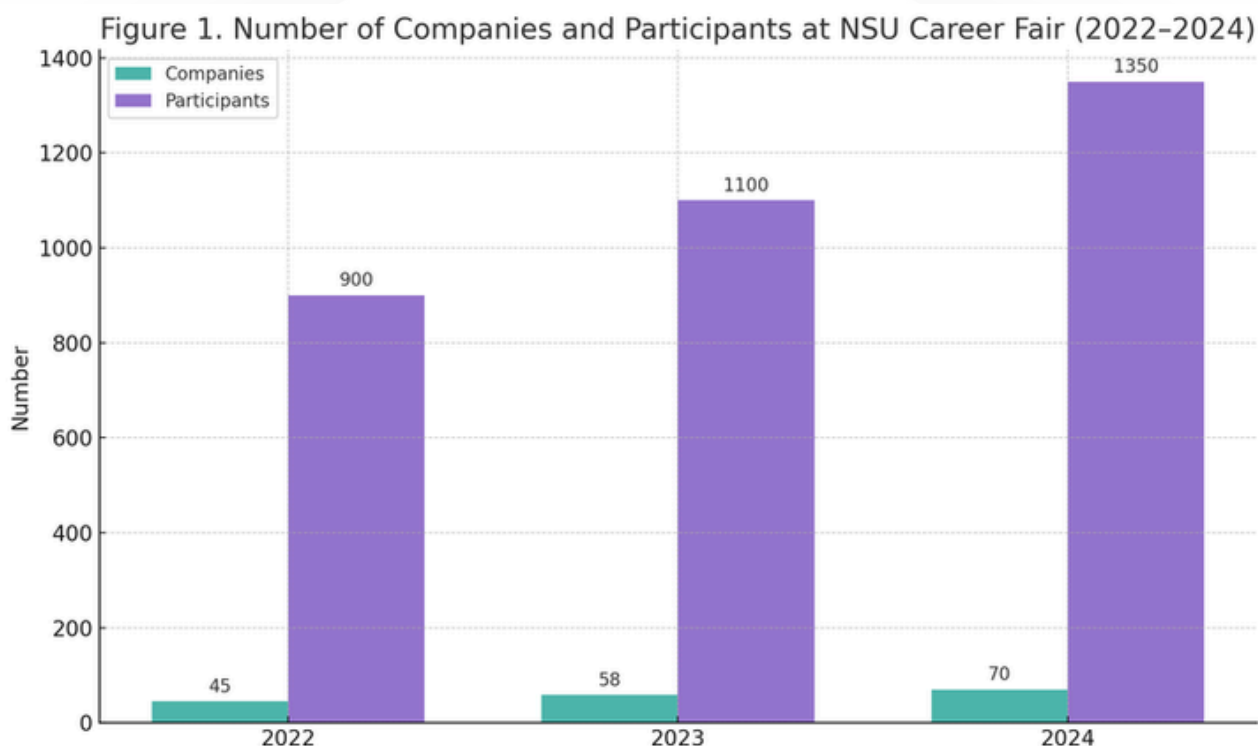
Recruiters conducted 27 on-the-spot job interviews, offering immediate opportunities for qualified candidates. In addition to networking, students joined a series of practical panels and workshops covering:

- CV and cover letter writing
- Remote work tools and soft skills
- Women in tech and inclusive hiring practices

Graduate Employment Trends

NSU's internal follow-up surveys revealed encouraging employment outcomes:

- 71% of 2023 graduates were employed or participating in internships within six months of graduation — a steady rise from 66% in 2022.
- Of those employed, 56% reported working in fields directly related to their major.
- Notably, 22% credited the Career Fair as a key factor in securing their current position.



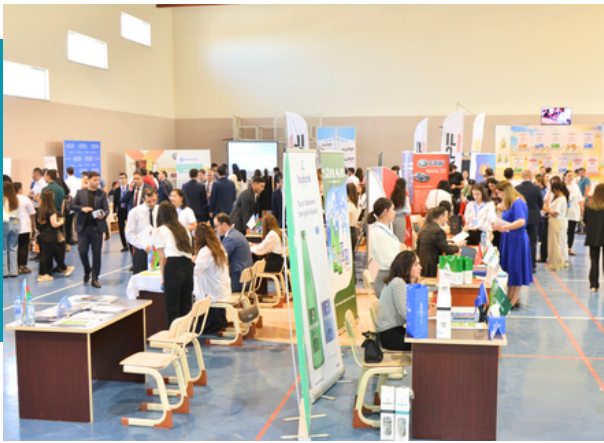
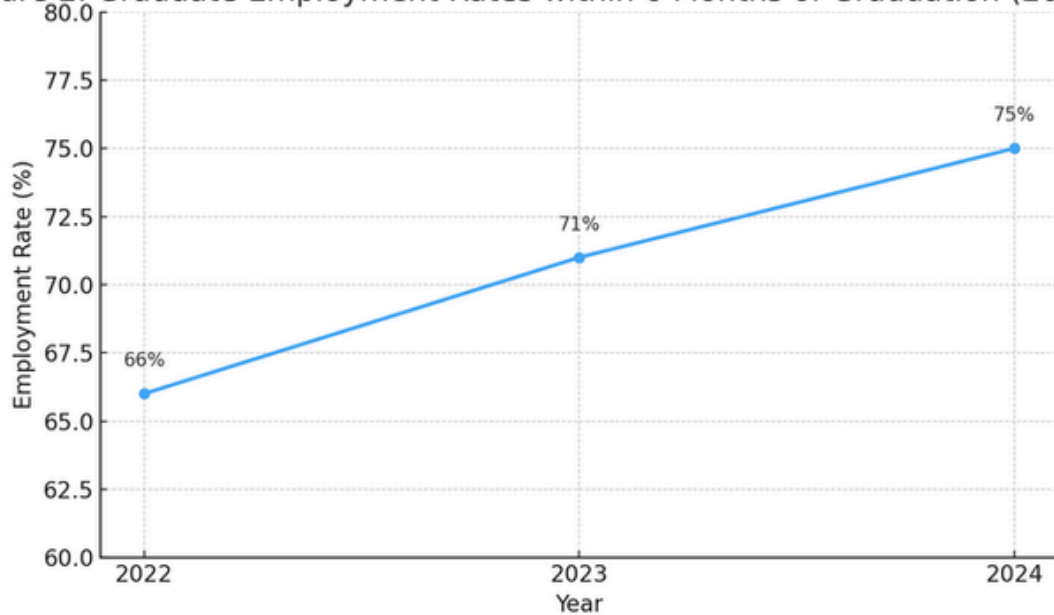


Figure 2. Graduate Employment Rates within 6 Months of Graduation (2022–2024)



Entrepreneurship and Student Innovation Support

NSU significantly expanded its support mechanisms for student entrepreneurship and innovation through dedicated programs, mentorship, and funding opportunities. These initiatives empowered young people to translate their academic knowledge into real-world business ventures and social impact projects.

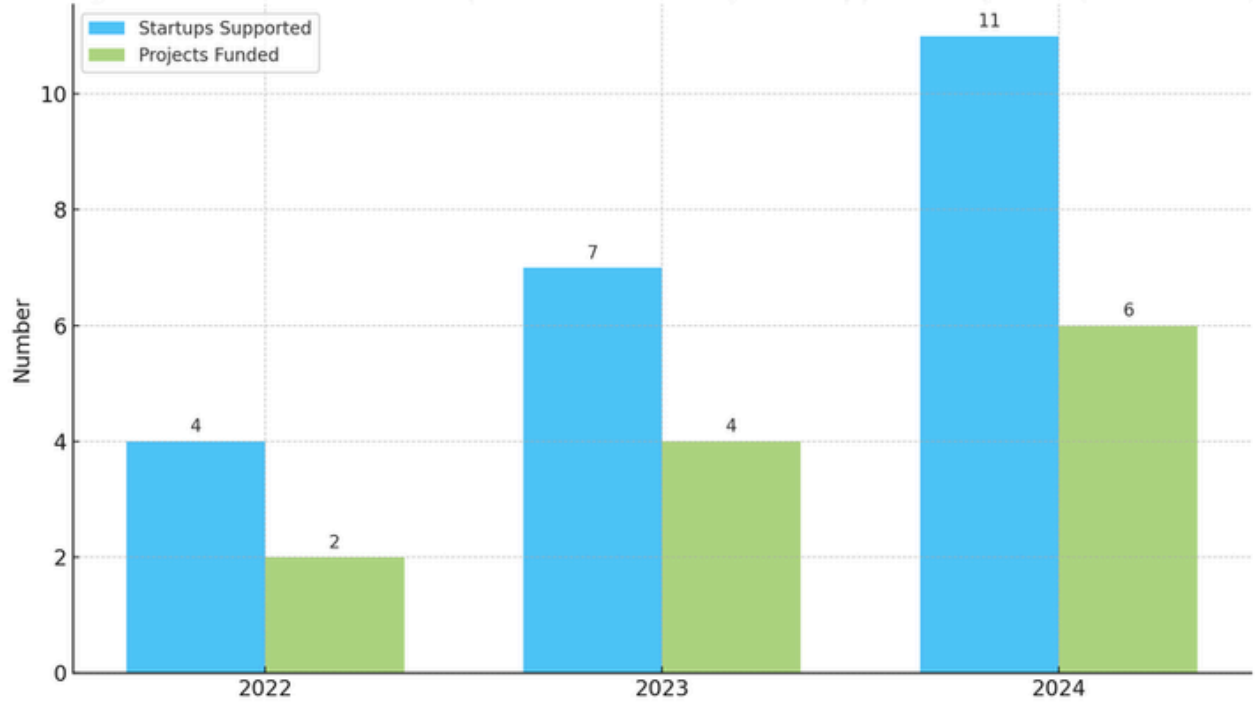
Special focus was given to sustainable and tech-based solutions, encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration among students from different faculties. The university also enhanced its incubation infrastructure, providing access to coworking spaces, expert guidance, and business development resources year-round. Participation in national and international innovation events helped NSU students build networks, attract early-stage investors, and gain visibility for their ideas.

These combined efforts contributed to fostering a culture of creativity, self-employment, and entrepreneurial leadership within the university community.

Key Initiatives:

- **NSU Innovation Hub supported 11 student-led startups, focusing on:**
 - Agrotech
 - EdTech
 - Sustainable tourism
 - AI and automation solutions
- **Student Start-Up Fund granted seed funding of 2,000 AZN per team to 6 promising student groups**
- “Idea to Impact” Bootcamp held in May 2024 with:
 - 70 participants
 - Mentors from the Ministry of Youth and international accelerator programs
 - Prototyping workshops, investor panels, and pitching sessions
- NSU participated in the National Innovation Olympiad 2024, where 2 teams reached the final stage and 1 team secured a top 3 position nationwide

Figure 3. Student-Led Startups and Funded Projects Supported by NSU (2022–2024)











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Climate Change



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MEET THE SPEAKERS



Matanat Musayeva
DIRECTOR,
ENTERPRISE
AZERBAIJAN



Huseyn Rasulzada
ASSISTANT
RECTOR,
NSU



Ibrahim Nasibov
MEMBER,
IDDA



Shahriyar Guliyev
CEO,
AGROCHAT
(MODERATOR)



Sevil Abbasgulyeva
LAB DIRECTOR,
INSTITUTE OF
MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE



Rashad Mastaliyev
DEPT. HEAD,
AZERBAIJAN
UNIVERSITY



Nigar Abdullayeva
SPECIALIST,
AZMIU

November 21st, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 a.m.

Baku Olympic Stadium, Green Zone, B2B Meeting Room



Enterprise
Azerbaijan

TURANBAZAR.COM/AGROCHAT



Innovasiya və Rəqəmsal
İnkişaf Agentliyi



Digital
Azerbaijan



AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASI
RƏQƏMSAL İNKİŞAF VƏ
NƏQLİYYAT NAZİRLİYİ



NAKHCHIVAN DÖVLƏT
UNİVERSİTETİ



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AKDENİZ UNİVERSİTESİ
1982
ANTALYA



IDDA
AWARDS



AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASI
İQTİSADI İSLAHATLARIN TƏHLİLİ VƏ
KOMMUNİKASIYA MƏRKƏZİ



Enterprise
Azerbaijan



AGROCHAT
FARMERS & AGRONOMS

"İlin Kəşfi" nominasiyası

Şəhriyar Quliyev

2024

Field Experience and Work Experience Programs

History Since it was established, Nakhchivan State University has established close ties with the real world through internship and cooperation. The programs in 2024 had been giving students on the job skills, workplace exposure and employment pathways.

Key Outcomes in 2024:

More than 420 students spent the year in supervised internships working with public and private sector partners

Partnerships were established and collaboration with 16 additional employers, including ICT, Agriculture, Health and Tourism, were agreed.

“NSU TalentBridge” program is launched:

A digital marketplace for students to find gigs, internships and micro-credentials

Profiles founded Since launch (4 months) Profiles of members (330)

Furthermore, 9 departments incorporated compulsory internship components into the final-year programmes, leading to:

Greater post high school readiness.

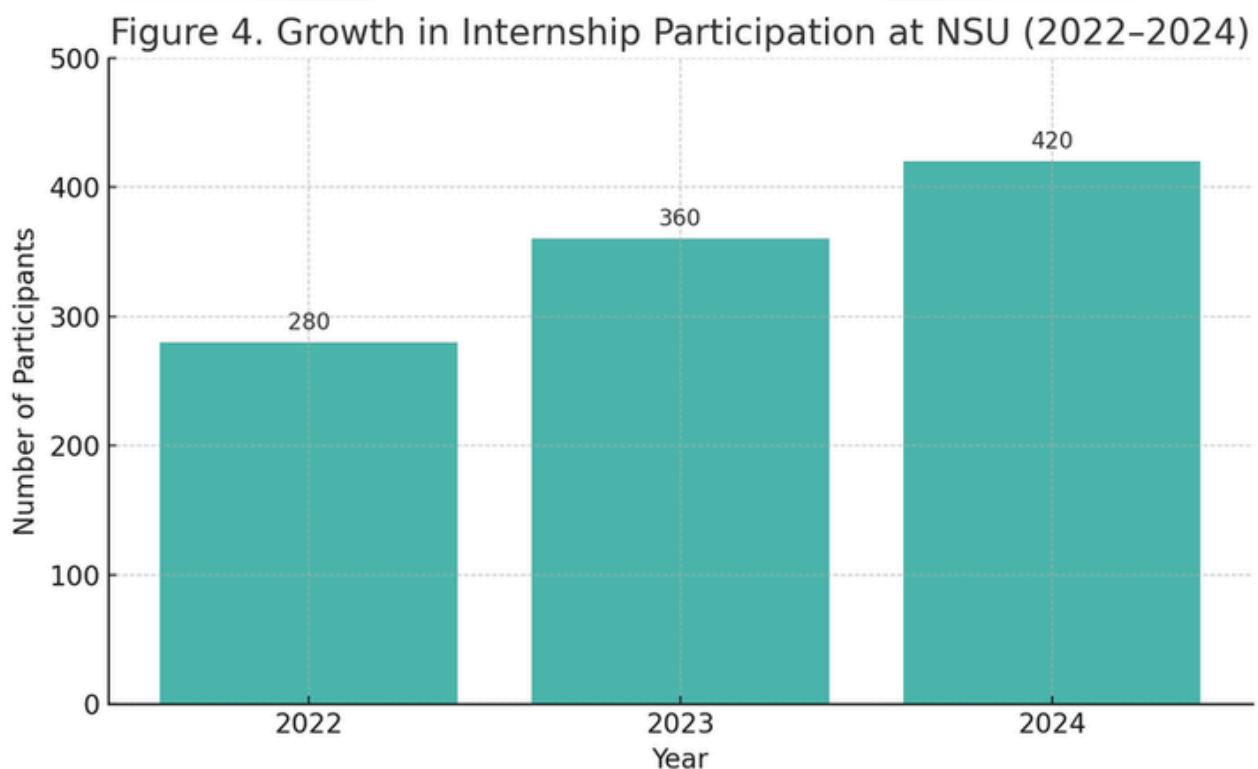
Offers of direct employment by internship host (14%)

Dual Education Pilots:

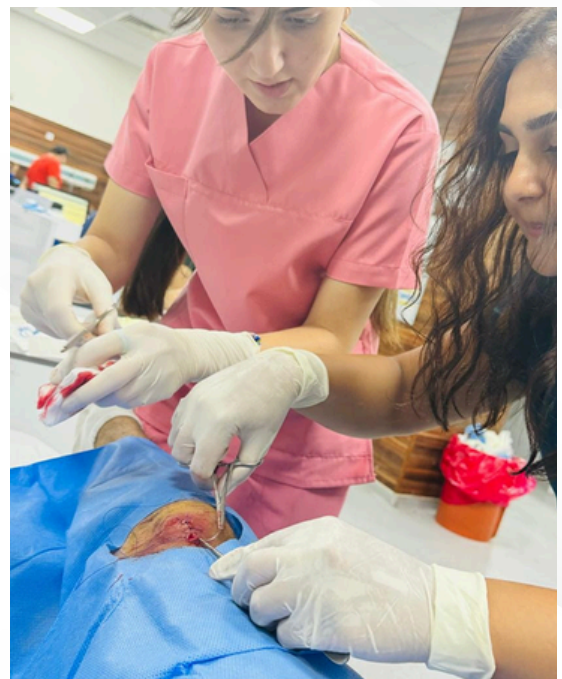
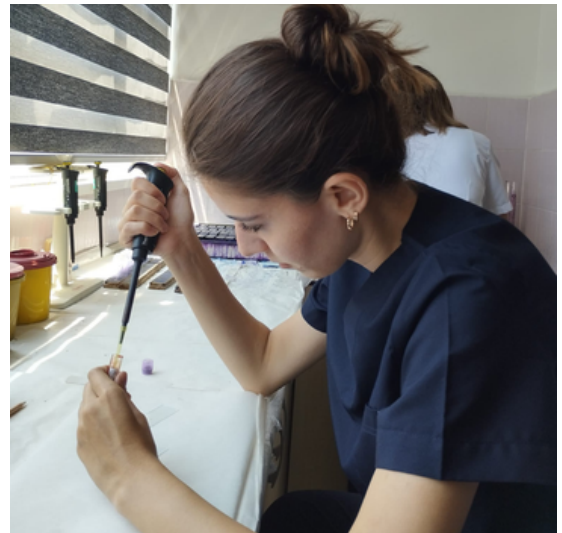
NSU developed DLP with two local companies, and launched dual education programs in which.

3 days/week in class, 2 days/week at work students spent.

A 6-12-month assessment revealed that 87% of participants were satisfied with the program







Monitoring and Future Directions

In 2024, NSU further strengthened its capacity to track and enhance the employability and entrepreneurial success of its students. Data-driven tools, stakeholder engagement, and regular feedback cycles helped align university outputs with national development priorities and labor market needs.

Monitoring Highlights:

- The Career Center implemented:
 - Quarterly surveys for graduating students
 - Post-internship evaluations with employers
 - A centralized Graduate Outcome Tracker, updated twice annually
- Satisfaction with Career Services increased to 89% (up from 84% in 2023), based on student feedback
- Annual employment report reviewed by NSU's Advisory Board on Labor Market Relevance

Looking Ahead – 2025 Initiatives:

Focus Area	Planned Action
Digital Skills	Add AI/Data Literacy modules to all majors
Inclusive Employment	Launch employment mentoring for rural students
International Opportunities	Expand Erasmus+ traineeship placements
Local Partnerships	Establish 5 new MoUs with Nakhchivan enterprises

Final Statement

By promoting employability, entrepreneurship, and inclusive economic participation, NSU has advanced meaningfully toward achieving SDG 8 in 2024. The university remains committed to enhancing decent work opportunities and contributing to sustainable economic growth — both locally and globally.