QUEZON CITY UNIVERSITY

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025

From Commitment to Impact: QCU's Sustainability Journey 2025



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SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025

Quezon City University
Research, Extension, Planning, and Linkages

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Quezon City University's sustainability journey in 2025 reflects a clear institutional direction: a local university advancing access, innovation, inclusion, and measurable social impact in service of Quezon City and the global Sustainable Development Goals.

At the center of QCU's sustainability story is its mandate to provide accessible and transformative higher education. In Academic Year 2024–2025, the University served 10,915 students in the first semester and 10,691 in the second. Demand for QCU education remained strong, with 16,699 applicants for QCUCAT 2025 and 2,305 passers qualifying for admission under the free tuition program. These figures underscore QCU's continuing role as a pathway of opportunity for students and families, particularly those who rely on public higher education as a means of upward mobility.

QCU strengthened its sustainability-driven curriculum, research agenda, urban agriculture initiatives, and local-to-global partnerships. Sustainability was not treated as a separate institutional concern, but as a unifying framework across teaching, research, extension, student development, governance, and community engagement.

The University's 2025 sustainability performance may be understood through four defining strengths.

First, **access and inclusion** remained QCU's most direct contribution to poverty reduction and social equity. Through free tuition, scholarship support, inclusive admissions, and sustained enrolment, QCU continued to make quality education reachable for thousands of learners.

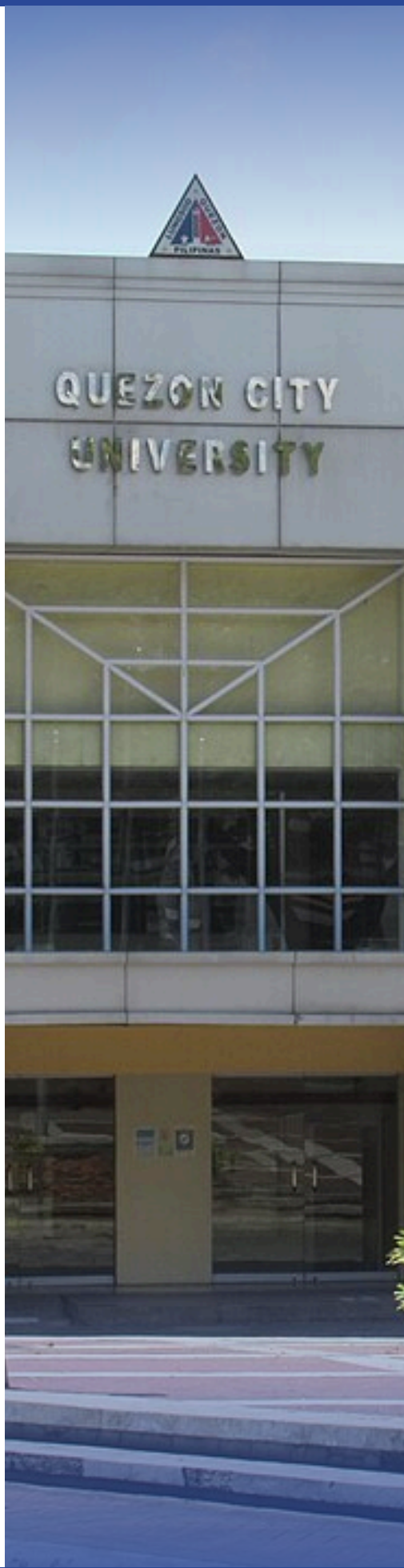
Second, **urban agriculture and community extension** emerged as one of QCU's strongest flagship narratives. Through the Center for Urban Agriculture and Innovation and initiatives such as Joy is a Farm, QCU connected food security, climate resilience, entrepreneurship, student learning, and city partnership in a visible and practical way.

Third, **innovation and partnership** capacity continued to expand. Intellectual property training, patent-search workshops, student innovation showcases, out-of-school youth development programs, international memoranda of understanding, and participation in global sustainability forums demonstrated QCU's growing role as a knowledge partner and innovation platform.

Fourth, **external recognition** reinforced the credibility of QCU's sustainability work. In 2025, the University received the Water Warrior Award for Water Education, student organizations earned recognition at the QC Green Awards, and QCU was recognized in the Sustainability Category for Local Universities and Colleges at CHED ICONS 2025. These recognitions show that QCU's initiatives are gaining visibility beyond the campus and are increasingly valued by external stakeholders.

QCU's 2025 sustainability profile is strongest where public education, city development, innovation, and community partnership intersect. Its story is not only about institutional participation in the SDGs; it is about making sustainability concrete through students served, communities engaged, food systems strengthened, policies advanced, and partnerships formed.

As QCU moves forward, its sustainability agenda enters a new phase: from visibility to deeper measurement, from program documentation to stronger impact tracking, and from individual initiatives to an integrated sustainability culture. The 2025 Sustainability Report therefore captures a university that is already active, credible, and distinct in its sustainability work—one that continues to grow as a city-facing, socially responsive, and globally engaged local university.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At Quezon City University, sustainability is not separate from our mission. It is how we fulfill our responsibility as a local university in the service of Quezon City, its people, and the larger community.

Guided by our vision to be an internationally recognized local university committed to innovation and sustainability to achieve positive social impact, QCU continues to advance accessible, inclusive, and transformative education. In 2024 and 2025, this commitment was reflected in our support for economically disadvantaged learners, strengthened urban agriculture and food security initiatives, expanded research and innovation efforts, and growing local and international partnerships.

Our sustainability journey is rooted in people. It is seen in the opportunities we open for students, the communities we serve, the knowledge we create, and the partnerships we build for the public good. While we are encouraged by our growing presence in sustainability rankings and the recognitions received by our students, faculty, and programs, we believe our true measure of impact lies in the everyday relevance of our work.



This Sustainability Report presents QCU as a university steadily widening its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals. It tells the story of an institution growing not only in visibility but in purpose, responsibility, and social impact.

As we move forward, we remain committed to strengthening our programs, improving our systems, and expanding our partnerships so that QCU may continue to serve as a university of access, innovation, sustainability, and meaningful service for Quezon City and beyond.

Dr. Theresita V. Atienza
University President
Quezon City University


SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
5 GENDER EQUALITY
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
NO POVERTY
CLIMATE ACTION
14 LIFE BELOW WATER
PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



EDUCATION AS QCU'S PATHWAY OUT OF POVERTY

Free Higher Education as Social Mobility

Quezon City University (QCU) advances Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1: No Poverty, particularly Target 1.2 on reducing poverty in all its forms, by providing tuition-free and accessible higher education to students across Quezon City.

11,809
Enrollment for the A.Y. 2025-2026

11,497
UniFAST Beneficiaries

6,597
QCYDO Scholarship Grant

Expanding access. Reducing poverty. Building futures.

In the **Academic Year 2025–2026, QCU enrolled 11,809 students**, reflecting its commitment to expanding educational access. Its free tuition policy reduces financial burdens on students and families while increasing opportunities for academic success, future employment, and higher-paying jobs.

QCU also supports student development through initiatives such as the **I-RISE 2025 Hybrid Conference, COE's PIONEER 2025, and Empowering Innovations and Partnerships,** which promote research, innovation, and skills development. By strengthening students' competencies and long-term economic prospects, these initiatives demonstrate how free higher education can drive social mobility, reduce poverty, and contribute to nation-building.



Expanding Access through QCUCAT 2025

Thousands of aspiring students participated in the **2025 Quezon City University College Admission Test (QCUCAT)**, reflecting continued demand for affordable and accessible higher education and highlighting the important role of public universities in providing educational opportunities, particularly for Quezon City residents.

The applicant profile reflects diversity and inclusion. A majority of passers came from **barangays within Quezon City, while 24% came from outside the city**, showing QCU's growing reach. The cohort also included a significant number of first-generation college students, and gender distribution among passers remained balanced.

QCUCAT 2025 AT A GLANCE

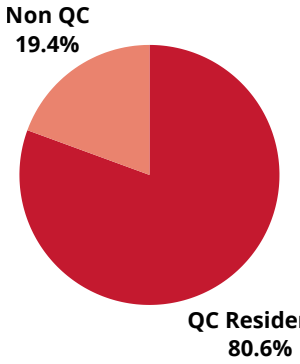
18,465 Registered Applicants

16,789 Examinees

2,326 Passers

10 Undergraduate Programs

APPLICANT PROFILE



3,177 First-generation College Students

8,912 Female

7,877 Male

These efforts support SDG 1: No Poverty (Target 1.2) by reducing financial barriers through free higher education. Enrollment figures reflect this sustained demand, with **10,915 and 10,691 students in the first and second semesters of AY 2024–2025**, respectively, led by Entrepreneurship, Information Technology, and Industrial Engineering.

Support for Economically Disadvantaged Learners

Removing barriers to higher education through scholarships, transportation assistance, digital access, and employment opportunities.







Supporting Learners

Quezon City University **sustains programs and services that remove barriers to higher education** for economically disadvantaged learners, including students from low-income households, ALS graduates, persons with disabilities (PWDs), solo parents, displaced families, and other marginalized sectors.

QCU's sustained support for economically disadvantaged learners **advances SDG 1: No Poverty, particularly Target 1.3**, by reducing financial barriers to education and expanding opportunities for vulnerable populations through scholarships, transportation assistance, digital-access support, and government aid linkages.

Digital Access

Usufruct Laptop and Pocket WiFi Project help students access digital resources and stay connected to academic requirements.

Transportation Support

The Quezon City Bus "Libreng Sakay" Program reduces daily transportation expenses and improves access to campus.

Scholarships

Students benefit from CHED-UniFAST and the QCYDO Scholarship Program as part of QCU's continuing support system.

Employment Linkages

Government assistance and employment-based programs provide financial support, work experience, and career-ready skills.

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