WALAILAK UNIVERSITY

SDG REPORT 2025-2026



Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings 2026

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16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

SDG 16 : PEACE JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTION

EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH INDEPENDENT STUDENT UNION RECOGNITION



Student participation is an important component of inclusive and accountable university governance. Without effective student representation, students may have limited opportunities to express concerns, communicate their needs, influence decisions, and participate in matters affecting student welfare and university life.

WU therefore conducted a diagnostic assessment of student participation and representation to identify appropriate mechanisms for strengthening student voice, democratic participation, and independent student governance. In response, WU recognizes and supports independent student representative bodies that enable students to elect their representatives, communicate their views, participate in decision-making, and organize activities according to student interests.

Independent Student Representation and Democratic Participation

WU has two main student representative bodies: the Student Administrative Board of WU and the Student Council of WU. Both organizations represent students from diverse backgrounds, including Thai and international students, non-traditional students, students from different religious backgrounds, immigrant students, and students with disabilities.

The recognition of these student organizations provides an institutional mechanism for student representation, student voice, student welfare, democratic governance, leadership development, and participatory decision-making. The organizations are student-led and provide students with opportunities to represent their peers and raise issues concerning university life.

Fair and Transparent Student Elections

To support a fair and transparent student election process, WU facilitates the establishment of the Election Commission of WU. The Election Commission organizes and oversees elections for the Student Administrative Board and Student Council.





In 2025, elections were organized for both student representative bodies using different voting methods. A physical election was conducted for the Student Administrative Board, allowing students to vote directly for candidates. For the Student Council, an online election was organized to provide an accessible and convenient voting channel for students.

Strengthening Student Organizations Beyond the Campus



WU's commitment to student representation also extends beyond the university campus. In 2025, the Student Administrative Board of WU hosted the "1st National University Student Union Meeting," bringing together representatives of student unions from universities across Thailand.

The meeting created a platform for student leaders, student unions, and student organizations to exchange experiences and discuss the role of students in university governance. Participants shared approaches, challenges, experiences, and good practices from their respective institutions, creating opportunities for student organizations to learn from one another and identify approaches that could be adapted to their own universities.



The effectiveness of these mechanisms can be assessed through measurement of student participation in elections, the functioning of elected student representative bodies, student-led activities, engagement in university governance and cooperation among student organizations. These outcomes demonstrate that WU has established practical mechanisms for independent student representation, democratic student governance, student participation, leadership development, and student welfare, strengthening students' ability to have a meaningful voice in shaping the university community of which they are a part.

ANTI-CORRUPTION AND BRIBERY PREVENTION THROUGH TRANSPARENCY AND ETHICAL GOVERNANCE



Corruption, bribery, conflicts of interest, and a lack of transparency can undermine public trust, weaken institutional accountability, and affect the quality of university governance. As a public higher education institution, WU recognizes the need to diagnose potential risks related to corruption and unethical conduct and to establish clear principles, commitments, and preventive measures.

WU therefore promotes integrity, transparency, accountability, ethical governance, and responsible conduct through publicly communicated policies and institutional assessment mechanisms.

No Gift Policy



A key measure is *WU's No Gift Policy* for fiscal year 2025, which declares the university's intention not to accept gifts or benefits of any kind arising from the performance of official duties. The policy applies during all festivals and occasions and is intended to prevent conflicts of interest, inappropriate influence, favoritism, and potential corruption.

The policy emphasizes that university administrators and personnel should not accept gifts or rewards connected to their duties, whether before or after performing those duties, when such benefits could contribute to corruption or misconduct. Through this commitment, WU promotes a culture of integrity, honesty, transparency, accountability, anti-corruption, and ethical decision-making whilestrengthening public confidence in university administration.

The university leadership has also reaffirmed its commitment to combating corruption in all forms and developing a strong and sustainable organizational culture based on morality, integrity, good governance, and responsible public service.

Integrity and Transparency Assessment (ITA)



WU's commitment to anti-corruption and transparent governance is further demonstrated through its participation in Thailand's Integrity and Transparency Assessment (ITA) conducted by the Office of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC). For fiscal year 2025, WU achieved an ITA score of 94.34, an improvement of 2.01 points from the previous year, and was ranked 28th among 87 higher education institutions assessed.

The assessment measures institutional integrity and transparency through three components:

1. Internal Integrity and Transparency Assessment (IIT): Assesses internal integrity, ethics, transparency, and governance. WU scored 29.17/30 (97.23%).

2. External Integrity and Transparency Assessment (EIT): Collects feedback from external stakeholders and service recipients. WU scored 26.42/30 (88.07%).

3. Open Data Integrity and Transparency Assessment (OIT): Evaluates public information disclosure through WU's official website. WU scored 38.75/40 (96.88%).

Together, these measures demonstrate WU's systematic approach to preventing corruption, high transparency, and bribery. WU's 94.34-point ITA score, representing an improvement from the previous year, demonstrates continued progress in institutional integrity and transparency. These outcomes provide an important measurement of the university's progress in implementing principles on corruption and bribery. By maintaining its No Gift Policy, publicly communicating its anti-corruption commitments, assessing integrity and transparency, and using assessment results to support continuous improvement, WU continues to build a transparent, accountable, ethical, and trustworthy higher education institution.

STRENGTHENING FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY THROUGH THE PUBLICATION OF FINANCIAL DATA

As WU continues to expand its organizational units and operations, financial procedures, regulations, announcements, guidelines, and information systems must be continuously updated to respond to changing circumstances. The University therefore recognizes the importance of regularly reviewing and diagnosing financial management practices, budgetary controls, and accounting procedures to identify potential challenges and strengthen transparency, efficiency, accountability, and auditability.

WU promotes financial transparency by officially publishing its financial data and financial reports. The University's financial reports are certified by the Office of the Auditor General of Thailand, providing independent verification and supporting the accuracy, reliability, accountability, and credibility of the University's financial information. The publication of financial data enables stakeholders to access information relating to the University's financial position and supports transparency in institutional financial management. The financial report is publicly available.





To further strengthen financial governance and management, WU has organized knowledge-sharing activities on finance and accounting to improve the efficiency of financial receipts, disbursements, and budget management. These activities respond to the University's continuing organizational expansion and ongoing improvements to financial and accounting regulations, announcements, operational guidelines, and information systems.



The activities aim to:

1. Build knowledge and understanding of financial regulations, delegated authority, rules, announcements, criteria, and operational guidelines relating to financial receipts, disbursements, budget control, and budget auditing.

2. Strengthen the knowledge and capacity of personnel responsible for finance and accounting so that they can perform their duties effectively, in compliance with applicable regulations and procedures, and in a manner that is transparent and auditable.

3. Promote mutual understanding and effective coordination between personnel responsible for financial receipts, disbursements, and accounting within the Finance and Accounting Division and other University units.

4. Provide opportunities for personnel to exchange knowledge, opinions, attitudes, and professional experiences, as well as identify problems, obstacles, and appropriate solutions for improving financial and accounting operations.

Through the publication of certified financial reports and the continuous development of financial and accounting capacity, WU strengthens transparency, good governance, financial accountability, responsible budget management, and institutional integrity. These efforts also serve as an important measure for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of financial operations, ensuring that financial activities are properly controlled, monitored, and subject to appropriate verification. By continuously strengthening financial management systems and publishing reliable financial data, the University promotes public accountability and supports the principles of transparent, responsible, and sustainable institutional governance.

DEVELOPING LAW STUDENTS THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED LEGAL EDUCATION



Access to legal education plays an important role in strengthening the rule of law, legal awareness, justice, and social responsibility. However, communities may still face challenges in understanding their legal rights, responsibilities, and legal procedures.

To diagnose these challenges and identify opportunities for improving legal literacy and access to justice, WU supports legal education, community outreach, and experiential learning through its School of Law. These efforts connect academic knowledge with real

community needs while preparing students to contribute to legal awareness, crime prevention, human rights protection, social justice, and sustainable community development.

In 2025, WU had 175 students enrolled in the School of Law, providing a substantial pool of future legal professionals equipped with knowledge and skills relevant to law, justice, legal services, and law enforcement. Through their academic and community-based learning experiences, law students are encouraged to apply legal knowledge beyond the classroom and develop professional competencies, communication skills, ethical awareness, public service values, and a strong sense of social responsibility.



As part of its community engagement and legal education initiatives, WU law students conducted the academic outreach activity "Empowering Youth with Legal Knowledge to Prevent Drug Abuse". The activity brought legal knowledge from the classroom into the community, particularly focusing on drug-related laws, legal consequences, drug prevention, and the protection of children and youth from drug-related risks.

Students developed their ability to communicate complex legal concepts in accessible language for children, young people, older persons, and members of the general public who do not have a legal background.



The law students also organized the community legal outreach project "(Simple Law: Know Your Rights, Stay Ahead" at the Health Rehabilitation and Potential Development Center for Older Persons and the Community Learning Center in Thung Tha Lat, under the Social Welfare Division of Nakhon Si Thammarat Municipality.

The activity provided practical legal knowledge relevant to the daily lives of older persons, including inheritance law, equal marriage law, loans, debt guarantees, and wills. Law students used interactive approaches, including educational performances, lectures, and direct engagement with older persons. Students worked closely with community members to listen to their concerns, provide basic legal guidance, explain legal procedures, and increase awareness of legally enforceable wills.

By connecting students with children, youth, older persons, and other community members, WU provides opportunities for students to translate academic legal knowledge into practical social benefits and develop the communication, consultation, problem-solving, ethical, and public-service competencies required of future legal professionals.

The results demonstrate WU's contribution to developing a pipeline of law graduates and future legal professionals while extending legal knowledge and rights awareness to the wider community. With 175 students in the School of Law in 2025, together with hands-on legal outreach activities addressing drug-related legal awareness, inheritance, marriage equality, loans, debt guarantees, wills, and fundamental rights, WU strengthens both student competencies and community legal empowerment. WU can measure these contributions through student participation in law-related education and outreach, the development of legal and social skills, and the reach and outcomes of community legal education activities, supporting its broader commitment to justice, rule of law, legal awareness, and sustainable community development.