



ACIBADEM

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UNIVERSITY

Sustainability Report

2022

About Acibadem University

Acibadem University (ACU) specializes in health sciences and was founded in 2007. ACU academics train healthcare students to be future healthcare professionals through dynamic and contemporary educational programs. Our research laboratories are equipped with state-of-the-art equipment that complements our mission as a research-oriented university.

The University offers its students the opportunity to study abroad at esteemed partner universities under its Erasmus Programme, which has bilateral agreements with the finest universities in Europe. With 100,000 square meters of enclosed space replete with high-technology equipment, the Kerem Aydinlar Campus offers a privileged university experience for students.

Acibadem University strives to be one of the top universities in the world for pioneering and innovative research and education in health, life and social sciences. Acibadem University is dedicated to developing leaders with competence in their field, cultural and social sensitivity, a lifelong learning discipline, and an appreciation for ethical values. In addition to providing contemporary, innovative and pioneering educational and research environments, the university also works to achieve excellence in education, research, and service by emphasizing scientific thinking.

United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals

A universal call to action was issued in 2015 by United Nations Member States to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all by 2030 through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals. All SDGs are interconnected and recognize that actions taken in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that sustainable development must balance social, economic, and environmental factors.

Acibadem University extends its mission to cover community service, education, and research as well as creating and disseminating knowledge as one of the leading health themed universities in Turkey. A university can truly make a difference in society through the implementation of the aforementioned activities. In addition to engaging in research, teaching, and outreach activities, the

University is committed to establishing a sustainable campus and working with stakeholders to accomplish all SDGs.

Acibadem University 's Core Values¹ and Strategic Plan² and resulting activities align with these global goals. To achieve these goals, the University develops its first sustainability web page³ and report in 2022 as a product of systematic efforts. To reflect the academic and outreach activities conducted by university members in accordance with individual Sustainable Development Goals, the Academic Research Information System (AVESIS)⁴ has been updated to include a “Sustainable Development Module”⁵.

ACU SGD Related Activities

GOAL 1: No Poverty

Acibadem University was established and is supported by the Acibadem Health and Education Foundation⁶. The foundation offers scholarships to students across a range of academic levels⁷. The Foundation covers the tuition fees for graduate students in the life sciences. The foundation also provides part-time paid university internships for students.

¹ <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/university/about/vision-mission-corevalues>

² https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/doc/stratejik_plan-2019-2023.pdf

³ <http://www.acibadem.edu.tr/surdurulebilirlik>

⁴ <https://avesis.acibadem.edu.tr/>

⁵ <https://avesis.acibadem.edu.tr/surdurulebilirlik>

⁶ <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/university/about/acibadem-health-and-education-foundation>

⁷ <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/assets/akademik/enstituler/sbe/subat/ing/acibadem-mehmet-ali-aydinlar-university-scholarship-regulation-for-masters-with-thesis-and-doctorate.pdf>

GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being

As a health focused university, Acibadem University researchers have been involved in different projects covering health and life sciences resulting in a number of publications in line with this goal⁸. Additionally, the Institute of Health Sciences fosters a diversity of health-themed and interdisciplinary graduate programs at the M.Sc. and Ph.D. level⁹.

Healthcare

Acibadem University Healthcare Center¹⁰ provides outpatient services and refers patients to the Acibadem Healthcare Group for advanced examinations and treatments as necessary. The center is open from Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

The Student Relatives Identification System enables Acibadem University students and their close relatives to benefit from discounted services offered by the hospitals and outpatient centers of Acibadem Healthcare Group. All university personnel is insured and additionally a health group insurance policy is available.

Psychological Counseling

Psychological support service is also available to students when necessary¹¹. On certain days of the week, a psychology consultant visits the campus.

⁸ <https://avesis.acibadem.edu.tr/surdurulebilirlik>

⁹ <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/academic/graduate-programs/graduate-school-of-health-sciences>

¹⁰ <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/student/life-at-acu/health-services>

¹¹ <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/student/life-at-acu/health-services>

Sport Facilities

An indoor area of 3,000 square meters is available inside the Sports Center¹² at Acıbadem University Kerem Aydınlar Campus (Figure 1).

Sports Center facilities include:

- Multipurpose Sports Hall (closed-circuit music system, 225 spectator capacity for matches, 500 spectator capacity for shows),
- A running track with panoramic view of the Sports Hall,
- A fitness facility with a squash court, cardio-strength rooms and free weight stations, a spinning studio, a Pilates studio
- A semi-olympic size swimming pool

The Sports Center uses a membership system. Membership is discounted for University employees and students.



Figure 1. Sports facilities on campus.

¹² <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/universite/ogretim-eleman-el-kitabi/kampus-olanaklari/spor-merkezi>

GOAL 4: Quality Education

Acibadem University offers state of the art education and research infrastructure to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. There are different research centers at the university which are in line with this goal¹³. Acibadem University Continuous Education and Development Center (ASEGEM)¹⁴, which was opened in 2008, aims to prepare and implement non-formal education programs needed in the modern information society. Due to the rapid changes in business life, it has become increasingly imperative to acquire information about the latest concepts, and new subjects, and apply the information in a competitive environment. Competence, efficiency, and effectiveness are built on self-provided, continuous education.

ASEGEM's training programs are divided into categories such as "Healthy and Happy Life", "Academic Development", and "Personal and Professional Development". It is pertinent to note that the programs are not only for university students but also for participants at all levels of education, whether or not they are in the workforce.

The Clinical Simulation and Advanced Endoscopic - Robotic Surgery Training Center (CASE)¹⁵ is one of the most comprehensive medical training centers in the world with its accommodation of multiple departments and advanced technological infrastructure (Figure 2). CASE received the "Center of Excellence" certificate awarded by the CAE Academy to only two medical training centers worldwide. The Center is accredited by the Network of Accredited Clinical Skills Centers of Europe (NASCE) and the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH), providing pre- and post-graduate training.

Through the programs and trainings of these centers, the university contributes to its mission of reaching and serving all segments of society.

¹³ <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/universite/merkezler-ve-kurullar/arastirma-merkezleri>

¹⁴ <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/centers/asegem>

¹⁵ <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/centers/case>

Klinik Simülasyon Eğitim Merkezi



CASE
Center of Advanced
Simulation and Education

İleri Düzey Endoskopik-Robotik Cerrahi Eğitim Merkezi



Figure 2. CASE infrastructure.

GOAL 5: Gender Equality

As part of its commitment to gender equality, Acibadem University established a gender equality committee in 2021¹⁶. A survey was also designed, conducted, and analyzed by the committee in order to identify areas for improvement. A formal gender equality action plan is also adopted by the university¹⁷.

GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Several environmental awareness programs are implemented at the university in order to reduce unnecessary water consumption and maximize the efficiency of water usage. Among the practices and measures used to reduce water consumption are the installation of aerators in sinks, the separating of siphon chambers. Additionally, the university has a gray water system (Figure 3). On campus, gray water is used in two different ways.

An in-house 100-ton tank is used to collect hand-washing water from sinks. Sand filters are used to filter the water before it is pumped into stainless steel tanks that can hold up to 10 tons. Once the liquid is passed through ultrafilters, it is pumped into a 40-ton tank for storage. This facility also chlorinates water. Water is sent to both the irrigation system in the garden and all the WC reservoirs, which saves water.

Furthermore, rainwater and foundation drainage waters are collected and chlorinated in a 40-ton warehouse; filtered through sand filters, they are sent to garden irrigation and WC reservoirs, thus reducing wastewater consumption. Drinking water is provided free of charge on every campus corridor by the university.

¹⁶ <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/university/about/gender-equality>

¹⁷ <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/assets/komisyonlar/acu-geap-2022.pdf>

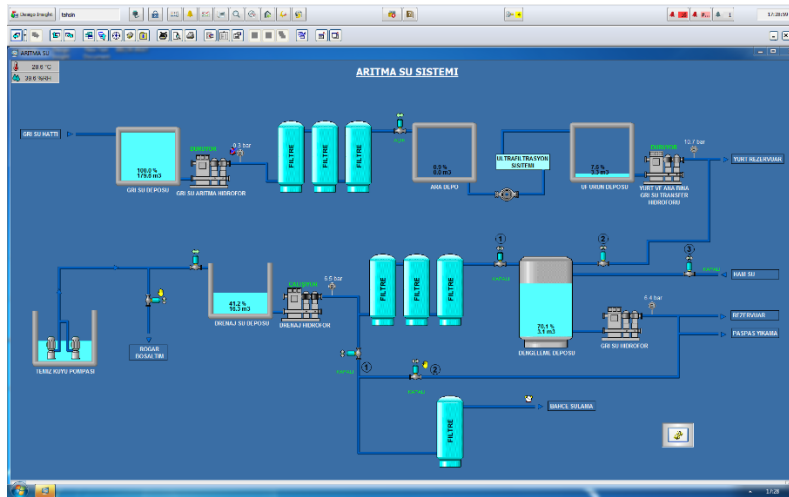


Figure 3. Schematic representation of the control unit for gray water system on campus.

GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

In order to organize and follow up on sustainable energy activities on campus, the University established an Energy Commission. As of 2020, the University produces some of its own energy with 2 windmills located between the buildings and 326 solar panels on the roof (Figure 4-Figure 5). The waste water produced as a result of the energy production is recycled and used in the heating of the buildings.

The university's buildings have been certified by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a program that certifies green buildings with a Leed Gold rating (Figure 6).

Several energy-saving initiatives have been planned by the University's Energy Commission, including the installation of LED lights, the adjustment of heating systems, and the development of educational materials. The university has an automated system that minimizes energy consumption and tracks problems with heating, cooling, lighting, etc., and provides real-time backup.



Figure 4. Daily energy production follow-up panels shared in real-time at the campus.



Figure 5. Solar panels on the roof top.



Figure 6. Leed Gold Certificate.

GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Acibadem University academic staff handbook¹⁸ has been prepared by the University Rectorate in parallel with the Periodic Academic Performance Evaluation process for 2020-2021. It is an integral and inseparable part of teaching staff contracts since the beginning of the 2020-21 academic year. The handbook is planned as a supportive and guiding resource for academics, includes a diversity of topics from history, rights and responsibilities to leaves, fringe benefits, salaries, payments, etc. The handbook is updated online every year.

Acibadem University pays all staff and faculty the wage defined by the state. All the academic employees are paid at least the living wage, in accordance with article 8 of the Higher Education Law No. 2547, with the article 11 of the Law No. 7243¹⁹.

GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

The university encourages academic staff and students to engage in research activities. The Research Projects Office serves as an operational unit responsible for disseminating opportunities for research and providing support to researchers. The Office is mainly responsible for managing research projects, creating awareness about research funds, coordinating research infrastructure needs, developing cooperation between university and industry through matching the research areas in need, encouraging academic staff about Intellectual and Industrial Property Rights, and working on their commercialization, supporting entrepreneurial activities in Acibadem Incubation Centre through training and consultancy, and supporting research in Bio-Design Centre.

All research related processes are described in detail in a workflow diagram, which is accessible to academic staff via the intranet. On the website, there is also information about research activities for other target groups such as entrepreneurs and industry.

Among its responsibilities, the R&D and IP Commission is responsible for academic consultation for university-industry collaborations, managing the application process for intellectual property, and other research-related activities. Two commissions oversee the internal research fund

¹⁸ <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/university/instructors-handbook/>

¹⁹ <https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/mevzuat?MevzuatNo=2547&MevzuatTur=1&MevzuatTertip=5>

programs of the university: the Scientific Research Projects Commission²⁰ and the Academic Activity Support Commission²¹. A prestigious research infrastructure is available at Acibadem University open to researchers and industry partners²².

GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality

Acibadem University Disabled Students Unit²³ maintains communication with the relevant administrative and academic units in order to support our disabled students in achieving their academic goals, ensures that our students receive the support they need. A Disabled Student Unit Directive was prepared on 29.06.2021 based on Article 15 of the Law on the Disabled, dated 1/7/2005 and numbered 5378, as well as the Higher Education Institutions Disabled Counseling and Coordination Regulation. It was approved by the University Senate and published on the University's website²⁴.

In order to increase awareness on disabilities, a "Disability and Life" course was offered in 2021-2022 academic year to undergraduate students within the scope of University Elective courses, and 50 students enrolled in.

With its disability-friendly architecture, Acibadem University campus is designed to make it possible for disabled individuals to work in academic and administrative roles, attend classes, and conduct research. In order to accomplish this,

- The university has 18 handicapped washrooms, 9 in the A block, 8 in the C block, and 1 in the conference room.
- The closed parking area provides free disabled parking close to the entrance gates.
- The parking lot has accessible ramps and button-operated doors at all building entrances.
- All elevators are equipped with embossed keys.
- Block A's entrance was provided with a button-operated electric door.

²⁰ <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/research/abapko>

²¹ <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/research/afdk>

²² <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/research/research-laboratories/basic-research-laboratories>

²³ <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/ogrenci/acuda-yasam/engelli-ogrenci-birimi>

²⁴ <https://kms.kaysis.gov.tr/Home/Goster/179806?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>

- A manual turnstile and a ramp at the security entrance that is easily accessible by wheelchair users. A manual turnstile in the cafeteria area that is easily accessible to wheelchair users.
- Table heights in the cafeteria are suitable for disabled access and can be easily navigated by wheelchairs.
- Wheelchair-accessible classrooms and library. All library staff is responsible for facilitating access to the library for persons with disabilities.
- Wheelchair-accessible entrances and exits.

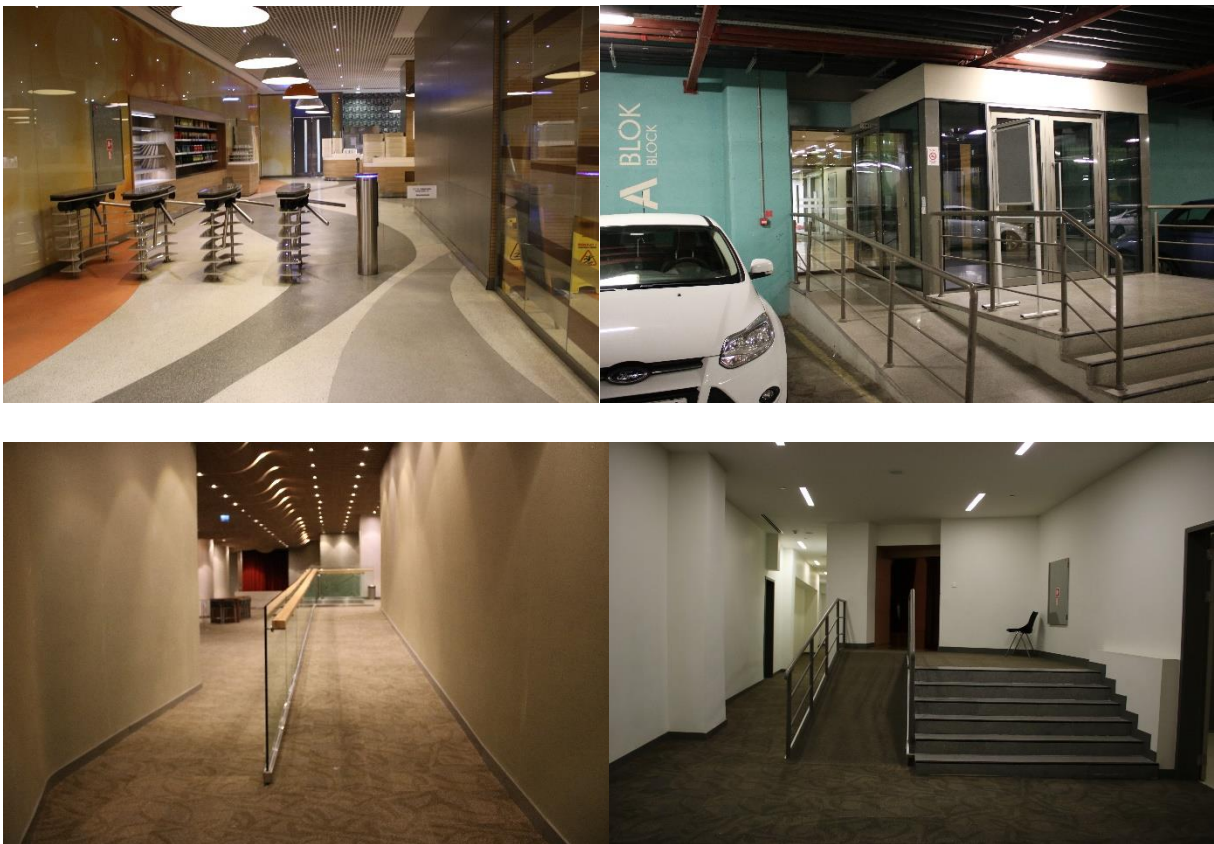


Figure 7. Ramps and turnstiles on campus.

GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Keeping in line with the university's goal of fostering sustainable cities and communities, the university encourages the use of sustainable transportation. Acibadem University offers a free shuttle bus between Kozyatağı Metro station and the campus (for the route, see Figure 9). Parking spaces for bicycles are available in the university parking lot. An area has been specially reserved for electric

GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

On campus, the university encourages waste recycling. All units and buildings are equipped with recycling bins. Acibadem University is divided into three blocks. There are 12 floors in Block A, 10 floors in Block B, and 9 floors in Block C. There are 4 sets of recycling bins and other waste bins in each corridor. A total of 50 larger waste bins are present, along with 7 containers (Figure 10).

The university obtained a Zero Waste certification (Figure 11) from the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning in addition to the Leed Gold certificate (Figure 6) obtained from Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a green building certification program that is used worldwide. Waste management plans and waste reports are registered in the Zero Waste Information System of the Ministry²⁵. Acibadem University's total recyclable waste recorded in the Zero Waste Management System since 2019 is around 46 tons (Figure 14) and mainly composed of paper, metal, plastics, glass, oil and organic wastes.

A digital document management system (EBYS)²⁶ is also used to minimize paper consumption. The electronic wastes collected at the university are disposed of through the companies with recycling licenses. The waste water produced as a result of the energy production is recycled and used in the heating of the buildings.

The waste oil collected at the university is decomposed in the tanks using microorganisms. The processed waste is delivered to licensed companies, while water is discharged into the sewer system. Campus wide tea-coffee waste is collected and compost is made from tea-coffee waste and used at the campus garden²⁷ (Figure 12).

As far as medical and laboratory toxic wastes are concerned, they are collected and disposed of in accordance with the Waste Directive of the Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning by Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (Figure 13). This process is coordinated and supported by the Acibadem Health Group's Environment Unit. Additionally, AAALAC certified Experimental Animals Application and Research Center (ACU-DEHAM)²⁸ of the university has an incinerator for the disposal of experimental animal tissue and carcasses.

²⁵ <https://sifiratik.gov.tr/>

²⁶ <https://ebys.acibadem.edu.tr/>

²⁷ <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/haberler/fabienne-dumoulin-cay-kahve-biyo-atiklarini-solucan-gubresine-donusturuyor>

²⁸ <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/centers/acudeham/about-us>



Figure 10. Sample recycling bins on campus for waste, paper, plastics, battery and organic wastes.



Figure 11. Zero waste certificate.



Figure 12. Tea-coffee waste compost processing.



Figure 13. Medical and toxic waste temporary storage units.



Figure 14. Acibadem University's total recyclable waste and its composition recorded in the Zero Waste Management System since 2019.

GOAL 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

To achieve this goal, Acibadem University Application and Research Center against Crime and Violence (ASUMA)²⁹ aims to take an active role in the fight against crime, especially violence against women and children, developing studies and projects to prevent violence, ensuring that studies and projects go beyond theory and bring practical benefits into life.

In line with this, ASUMA executed a project entitled "Support for Children at Risk Project"³⁰ in Gaziantep in 2021 in cooperation with the municipality and IMDAT Violence Prevention and Rehabilitation Association, funded by Freedom House, which was founded by Eleanor Roosevelt in 1941. In this project, the team offered multidisciplinary solutions to the problem of children at risk with the cooperation of NGOs and municipalities, constituting a model for all stakeholders, including legislators and non-governmental organizations. A two-day training workshop was organized for the employees of Karkamış Municipality in Gaziantep Karkamış district on the Syrian Jarablus border on 16-17 September 2021. The workshop included topics such as children at risk, especially children who

²⁹ <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/merkezler/asuma>

³⁰ <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/etkinlikler/risk-altindaki-cocuklara-destek-proje-degerlendirme-toplantisi>

were exposed to abuse, homeless children, working children, underaged married girls and refugee children.

GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

In accordance with Acibadem University social contribution policy, it is the universities' objective to develop professionals who are knowledgeable about social conditions, aware of individual and cultural differences, responsible, capable of offering solutions and services to the community, and who are educated in the community. In line with this policy, students carry out courses and projects within the scope of the curriculum that engages them in social responsibility projects in the community. It is the University's policy to provide support to the voluntary activities of clubs, and encourage collaboration between external stakeholders and faculty members, and students in areas of community service. Student clubs are actively engaged in social responsibility projects³¹.

Consequently, the university Incubation Center is used to turn the research, development, and training activities conducted by our units into social contributions, and to use technology and human resources in the service of humanity in the fields of research that address society's priority problems, such as health. The university also aims to contribute to Turkey's scientific future, society and humanity by promoting innovative and entrepreneurial ideas. The university research and application centers organize different programs, events and activities to fulfill this function³².

During internal workshops in 2020, the University Strategic Plan was updated and eight new strategic targets were added to "Research and Development", four new strategic targets were added to "Priority Areas" and "Social Contribution", and sixteen new strategic targets and forty-two performance indicators were added for "Internationalization"³³. The targets included in the Strategic Plan are among the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals; Quality education; Reducing inequalities; Decent work and economic growth; Industry, innovation and infrastructure; Sustainable cities and communities; Partnerships for purposes; Health and quality of life; Responsible production and consumption; Peace, justice and strong institutions. As a result, under the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan, "Developing services for society and increasing social responsibility initiatives" was identified as a strategic goal. Within the context of the "Social Contribution Policy", new strategic targets and

³¹ <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/student/life-at-acu/student-clubs>

³² <https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/en/university/centers-departments-boards/research-application-centers>

³³ https://www.acibadem.edu.tr/doc/stratejik_plan-2019-2023.pdf

performance indicators were developed by internal stakeholders in January 2020, have been systematically monitored. The "Strategic Plan Monitoring and Development Commission" was established at the beginning of 2019 and briefings were held on the activities of the commission and monitoring methods for the strategic plan performance indicators. As of 2019, the Strategic Plan Monitoring and Development Commission (SPIGK) and three "Sub-Commissions" (SPIGAKs) have been established in the fields of "Education-Training", "Research-Development", and "Management System".

A "Social Contribution Commission", composed of representatives of academic and administrative units and centers, has been established for the purpose of planning, monitoring, and disseminating studies for social contribution.

The university communications office provides information to internal and external stakeholders, the society, through e-mail, printed and electronic educational materials, social media accounts, and various multi-purpose activities. Additionally, written and verbal communication is conducted on a voluntary basis with individuals and institutions. Internal and external stakeholders are kept informed of University activities, student and lecturer achievements, awards and promotions. News content is organized and shared regularly through university social media accounts:

I n s t a g r a m : <https://www.instagram.com/acibademuniversitesi>

T w i t t e r : <https://twitter.com/acibademuniv>

F a c e b o o k : <https://www.facebook.com/acibademuniversitesi/>

L i n k e d i n : <https://tr.linkedin.com/company/acibademuniversity>

Y o u T u b e : 29/158 <https://www.youtube.com/user/AcibademUniversitesi>

S p o t i f y : <https://open.spotify.com/user/onhunmmruzmmmax918lxd1xq67>

A monthly Campus e-Bulletin was also published and distributed to the University and Acibadem Healthcare Group. Moreover, the university's @Campus Magazine provides information on academic and social activities, interviews, and information on upcoming campus events. It is distributed free of charge throughout the campus and university hospitals. As a result of the pandemic, a digital version was released in 2021.