JYVÄSKYLÄN YLIOPISTO
UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ



Sustainability report 2025

University of Jyväskylä

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Responsibility report 2025

1 Sustainability and responsibility at the University of Jyväskylä

The University of Jyväskylä implements its strategy Wisdom and wellbeing for us all through three development programmes. The development programme "university with societal impact" outlines JYU as a sustainable and responsible university. Accordingly, the programme states that the University promotes social, cultural and economic sustainability as well as carbon negativity and nature positivity aiming at planetary well-being. In addition, the University develops its campus, respecting its cultural heritage and nature values, to serve as a cooperation platform for academic, business and civic activities.

The working culture of the JYU community is based on openness, trust, quality and integrity.

Our Code of Conduct[1] sets out the shared principles that guide our community members to act responsibly and in accordance with the University's values. The University of Jyväskylä is committed to promoting the principles of sustainable development and responsibility set out in the theses issued by the Council of Rectors of Finnish Universities (UNIFI)[2], updated in 2025, as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). JYU has also signed a declaration compiled by the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters to accelerate the sustainability transition[3].

JYU's organisational culture is developed and guided through collaborative development groups. In 2025, these included the Sustainability and Responsibility Steering Group, the Social Sustainability and Responsibility Development Group, and the Ecological Sustainability and Responsibility Development Group. The latter also served as the University's Green Office team, responsible for ensuring compliance with the WWF Green Office certification.[4] In 2025, JYU passed the three-year WWF Green Office audit (Appendix 1). JYU also holds Fairtrade University[5] status, coordinated in collaboration with the University of Jyväskylä's Student Union (JYY). The Jyväskylä University School of Business and Economics (JSBE) has been awarded BGA accreditation, which focuses on responsible business and ethics. In the Positive Impact Rating (PIR), JSBE students rated the school at Level 4 out of 5 ("Transforming School").

Sustainability and responsibility play an important role in JYU's research and teaching. In addition to its faculties and independent institutes, JYU has three interdisciplinary research and expert communities: JYU.Well for research on wellbeing, JYU.Wisdom for research and education in planetary wellbeing, and JYU.Edu for research and development in teacher education. JYU.Wisdom focuses particularly on developing systemic solutions and expertise to advance the sustainability transition in society.

[1] Code of Conduct | University of Jyväskylä
[2] Theses on sustainable development and responsibility - Unifi
[3] Joint declaration - Tiedeakatemia
[4] WWF Green Office –sustainable workplaces
[5] Fairtrade Finland - The future is fair

JYU prioritises collaboration to promote sustainability and responsibility in the higher education sector and society. In 2025, JYU chaired Unifi's Sustainability and Responsibility Working Group. It also chaired Finn-ARMA's Sustainable Development and Responsibility Group in the first half of the year and served as vice-chair in the second half. Finn-ARMA is a broad-based collaboration network established by higher education institutions. JYU experts also contribute to society through various roles, including serving on scientific panels, and the University is an active member of the Nature Positive Universities network[6].

2 JYU's Environmental programme: Roadmap to Planetary Well-being

The environmental programme Roadmap to Planetary Well-being, approved by the University Board on 10 June 2022, defines the vision, goal and objectives for the University's environmental work. The roadmap is implemented through an action plan approved by the Rector. The roadmap guides the University in implementing the UN's sustainable development goals (SDGs) 12 (Responsible consumption and production), 13 (Climate action), 14 (Life below water), and 15 (Life on land).

In line with the roadmap, JYU aims to reduce its negative impacts on nature and the environment while supporting societal nature and climate targets. A range of indicators is used to measure the achievement of the roadmap's objectives. These include the University's annual carbon footprint and the biodiversity footprint of its procurement (Section 2.1), as well as staff and students' consumption habits, measured using WWF's Consumer Habit Questionnaire (Section 2.2). Other measures include efforts to enhance biodiversity on the University's campuses (Section 2.3) and support for the global nature-positive goal through research and teaching (Section 2.4).
JYU no longer participated in the Times Higher Education Impact Rating using 2025 data (the term ranking was used until 2025).

Although the environmental programme includes several indicators, sustainability actions and their impacts can sometimes be difficult to measure. For example, the social responsibility and sustainability criteria for catering[7], introduced by a decision of the Rector in 2024, promote plant-based catering at JYU, helping to reduce its biodiversity footprint and also benefiting wider society. However, these choices may not be reflected in biodiversity footprint calculations, which are based on expenditure. A separate study on compliance with the social responsibility and sustainability criteria for catering practices and their impacts was conducted in 2025, resulting in a thesis[8].

[6] Nature Positive Universities
[7] https://www.jyu.fi/en/file/social-responsibility-and-sustainability-criteria-for-catering
[8] Eläinperäisen ruoan vähentäminen ja kasvipohjaisen ruoan lisääminen Jyväskylän yliopiston järjestämissä tapahtumissa - Theseus

The objectives, measures and indicators of JYU's environmental programme need to be improved and refined. In implementation, attention should be focused more systematically not only on campus nature but also on consumption, procurement, material flows associated with research, digital services (including artificial intelligence) and food-related choices. This requires the engagement and encouragement of staff and students, as well as changes to everyday practices. Work to revise the environmental programme began in 2025, when JYU took part in revising Unifi's theses on sustainable development and responsibility, which set shared goals for Finnish universities. The most substantial change concerned thesis 7, shifting its focus from the 2030 carbon neutrality target to the broader goal of nature positivity. Before the thesis was revised, Unifi's Council of University Rectors approved a redefinition of the universities' carbon neutrality and nature targets at its meeting on 1 October 2025. The revised thesis 7 and the redefined targets provide the basis for revising JYU's environmental programme in 2026.

2.1 JYU's carbon and biodiversity footprint in 2025

2.1.1 Methodology

The University of Jyväskylä has calculated its carbon footprint and the biodiversity footprint of its procurement since 2019. The year 2019 also serves as the baseline year for setting targets in the University's environmental programme. The calculation methodology is described in the 2019[9] and 2020[10] reports. It has since been updated to cover freshwater and marine ecosystems in addition to terrestrial ecosystems and to replace the *potentially disappeared fraction of species* (PDF) with the nano-biodiversity equivalent (nBDe)[11] as a measure of biodiversity loss. Following methodological updates, calculations for the 2019 baseline year have also been revised retrospectively to maintain comparability, with the exception of investments[12]. The methods continue to be developed through research conducted by JYU's Biodiversity Footprint team[13].

Scope 1 emissions (vehicles) have been calculated based on kilometres driven, vehicle model and propulsion type. For travel, the calculations are based partly on travel agency data on kilometres flown and partly on expenditure-based calculations (hotels, taxis, buses and ferries). Procurement calculations are based on expenditure and therefore provide estimates. As in previous years, travel-related expenses (daily allowances, meal allowances, mileage reimbursements and participation fees) have been reported as part of procurement. This increases procurement's share and decreases travel's share of the overall carbon footprint.

The 2025 calculation of the investment portfolio's carbon footprint covers 87% of the total investment assets. Investments for which asset managers could not provide financed emissions data were excluded from the calculation. JYU's investment portfolio carbon footprint is calculated

[9] Sustainability for JYU : Jyväskylän yliopiston ilmasto- ja luontohaitat :: JYX
[10] Sustainability for JYU: Jyväskylän yliopiston ilmasto- ja luontohaitat 2020 :: JYX
[11] Geneidy et al. (2025) 2309.14186
[12] The carbon footprint of investments is obtained directly from asset managers, so retrospective calculations are not possible.
[13] Biodiversity Footprint Team | University of Jyväskylä

using data provided by asset managers. As the portfolio composition, asset managers and available emissions data have changed over the years, the results are not fully comparable with those of previous reporting years. Calculation methods and emissions boundaries may also vary between asset managers. Some reported indicators are based primarily on Scope 1 and 2 emissions, while others also include Scope 3 value chain emissions. Differences in how asset managers account for Scope 3 emissions may affect reported results without the actual climate impact of the investments having changed accordingly. The investment carbon footprint should therefore be regarded as an indicative measure.

2.1.2 JYU's carbon footprint in 2025

The University of Jyväskylä's carbon footprint totalled 29,551 tCO_2e in 2025. The overall footprint was 17% lower than in 2019 but higher than in 2024. Investments accounted for the largest share of emissions (17,083 tCO_2e), followed by procurement (7,916 tCO_2e) and facilities and energy (2,961 tCO_2e). Compared with 2024, emissions decreased only in Scope 1 (JYU's own vehicles). The 2030 emissions reduction target for vehicles (−50%) was achieved ahead of schedule. However, the 2030 targets will not be met without significant changes in organisational practices. The 2025 target of a 20% reduction in procurement emissions was not achieved. The University's overall carbon footprint is measured against the 2019 baseline, with the environmental programme setting a target of reducing emissions by at least 60% by 2030.

When assessing whether the targets have been met, it is important to note that the calculation methods have changed since the original targets were set. The 2019 figures have since been retrospectively updated to reflect improvements in the calculation methods, but this has not been possible for investments. In addition, the University's Investment Committee has set more specific investment targets than those outlined in the environmental programme. The targets and their indicators will be reviewed in light of the latest data and research as part of the environmental programme revision in 2026.

Table 1. The University of Jyväskylä's 2025 carbon footprint by category, changes since 2019, environmental programme targets and remaining emission reductions required.

Category	Emissions (t CO2e) 2025	Change since 2019 (%)	Change since 2024 (%)	2025 target (vs. 2019)	2030 target (vs. 2019)	Emission reductions required by 2030 (tCO2e)
Vehicles	19	-52%	-18%		**-50% achieved**	
Work trips	1,573	-22%	+1%		-50%	561
Procurement	7,916	-3%	+8%	-20% **not achieved**	-30%	2,175

Facilities and energy	2,961	-49%	+1%		-	
Investments	17,083	-4%	+93%		-70%	14,211
Total	**29,551**	**-17%**	**+43%**		**-60%**	

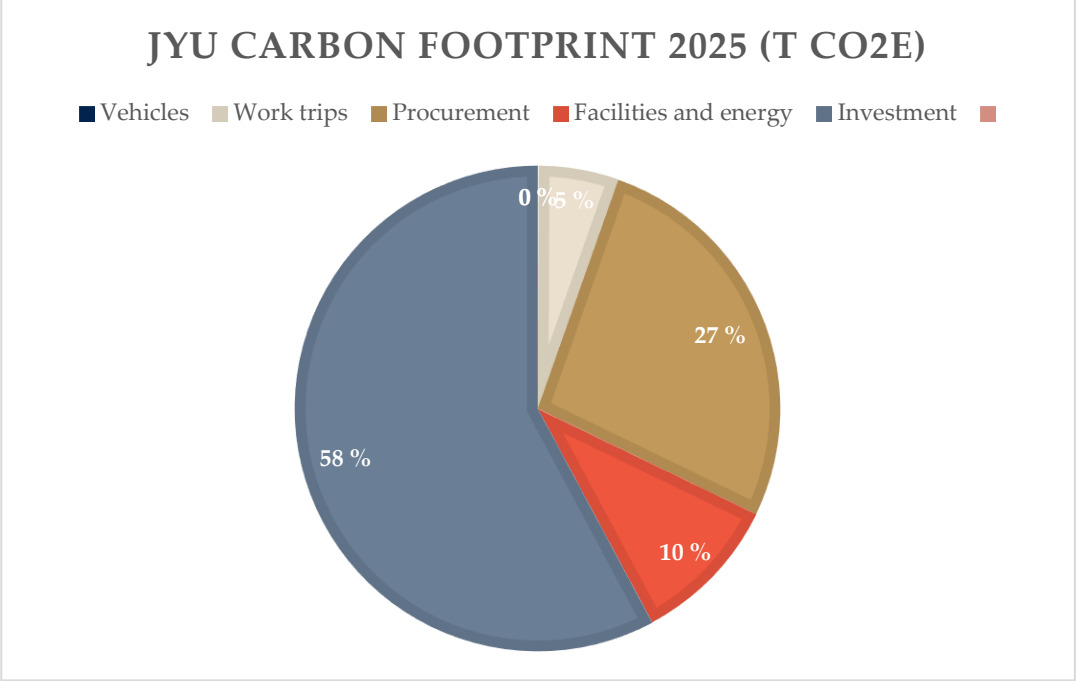


Figure 1. The University of Jyväskylä's carbon footprint in 2025.

2.1.3 Biodiversity footprint of procurement in 2025

The decrease in the biodiversity footprint of the University of Jyväskylä's procurement in 2024 proved temporary, as the footprint rose above the 2019 baseline again. IT supplies, licences and services accounted for the largest category within procurement, and their biodiversity footprint increased compared with 2024. The biodiversity footprint of laboratory equipment and services also increased compared with 2024.

When interpreting the biodiversity footprint calculations, it is important to note that they are based on expenditure in euros and therefore do not separately account for products such as environmentally certified or plant-based products. To improve the accuracy of future calculations, purchases need to be recorded in a more detailed manner in the accounting system.

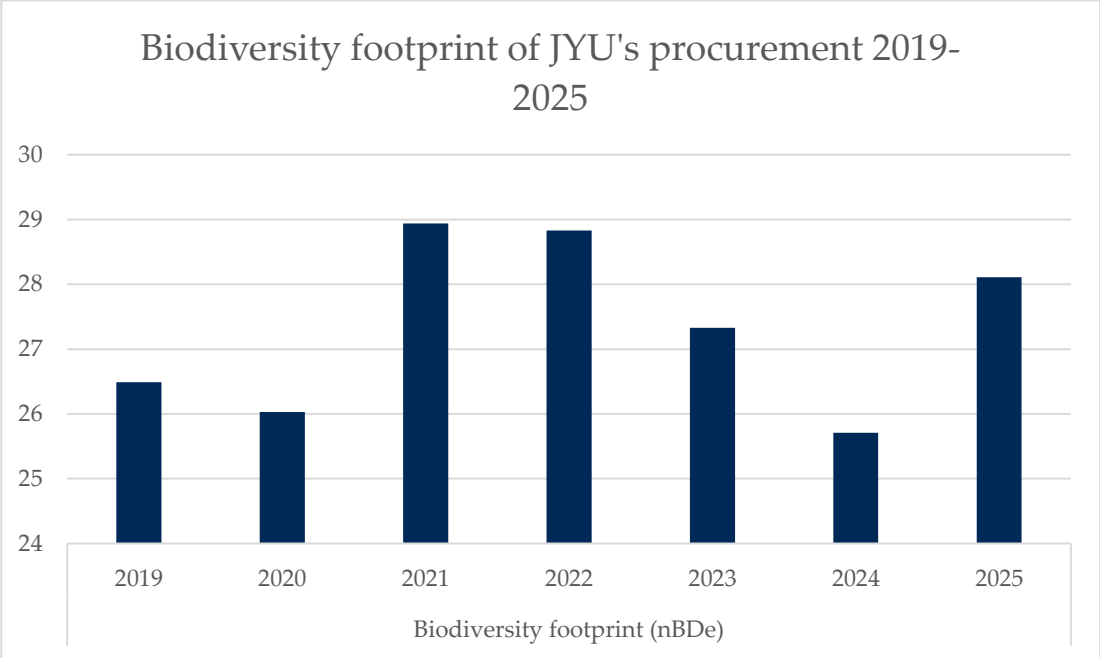


Figure 2. The University of Jyväskylä's biodiversity footprint from procurement in 2019–2025.

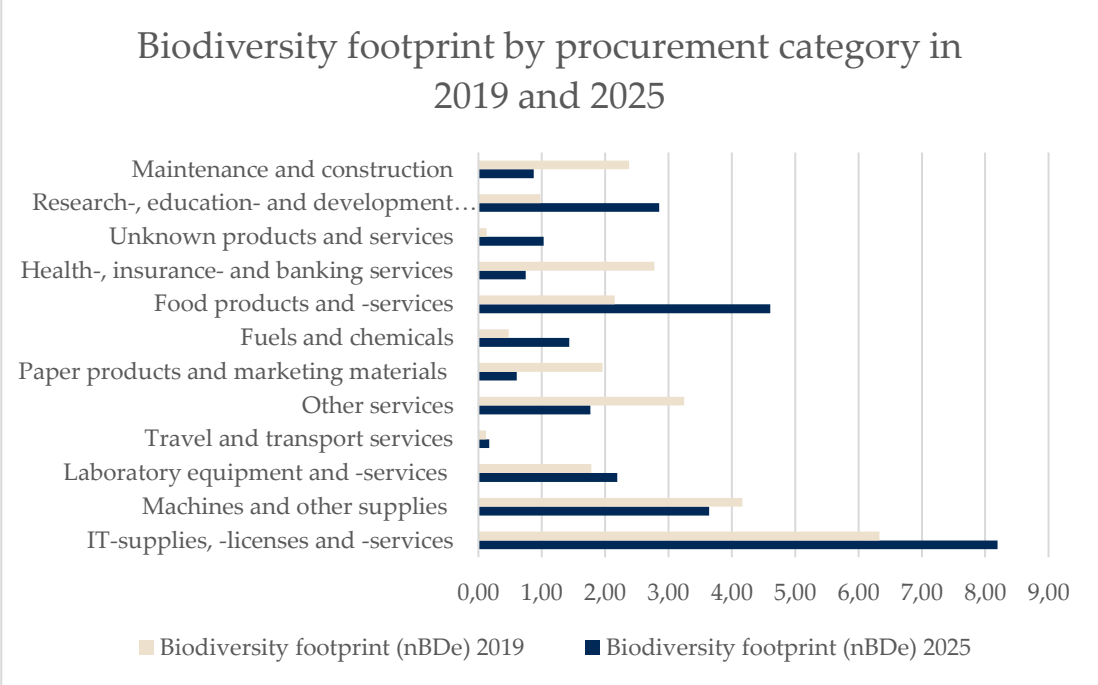


Figure 3. The University of Jyväskylä's biodiversity footprint by procurement category in 2019 and 2025.

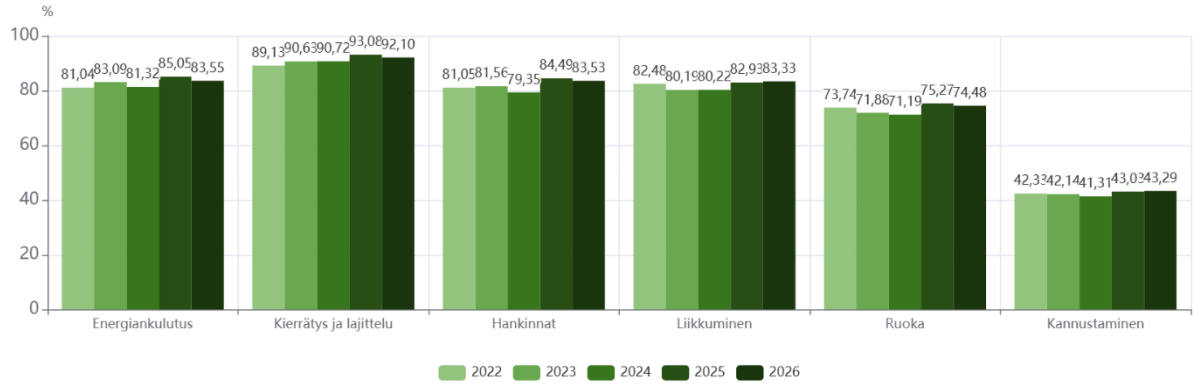
2.2 WWF Green Office Consumer Habit Questionnaire results

The University of Jyväskylä monitors the consumption habits of both staff and students using the WWF Green Office Consumer Habit Questionnaire[14], which is conducted annually. The response rate in 2026 was 8.17%[15], representing a considerable decrease from the previous year (Figure 4). In total, 219 responses were submitted, of which 106 came from staff and 113 from students. As the survey is conducted at the beginning of the year, the results of the 2026 survey are included in the University's 2025 sustainability report.



Figure 4. Trend in the WWF Green Office Consumer Habit Questionnaire response rate at JYU in 2022–2026.

Despite the sharp drop in the number of respondents, the survey results remain very similar to those of previous years (Figure 5).



[14] WWF Green Office Consumer Habit Questionnaire
[15] The percentage is calculated based on the number of JYU employees.

Figure 5. Percentage of maximum points by theme in 2022–2026 (From lef to right: Energy Consumption, Recycling and Sorting, Procurement, Mobility, Food, and Engagement).

When JYU's results are compared with the Green Office network average and the peer-group average for other educational institutions and organisations in the education sector (Figure 6), the results show that further action is needed to improve the sustainability of everyday practices within the university community, particularly in procurement and engagement.

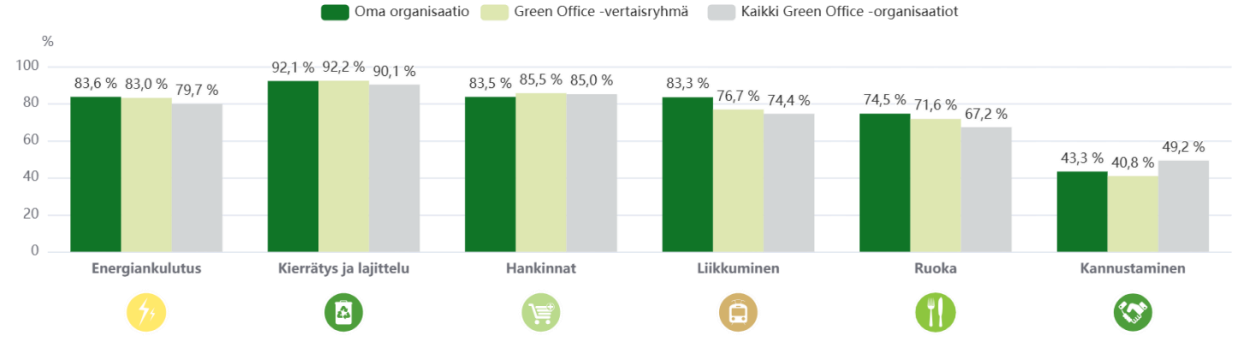


Figure 6. The University of Jyväskylä's results (2026) compared with the Green Office network average and the peer-group average. The peer group consists of other organisations in the same sector.

2.3 Nature acts on JYU campuses

The ecological condition of the University of Jyväskylä's campus areas and their nature-value hectares was assessed in summer 2025. The assessment[16] was the first pilot to use new metrics for evaluating the ecological condition of habitat types in built environments and will serve as a baseline for future comparisons of the nature values of JYU's campus areas. It found that establishing new meadows, adding deadwood and shrubs, as well as removing invasive alien species could increase the number of nature-value hectares by approximately 10% within a few years compared with the preliminary baseline, supporting JYU's nature-positive target.

In 2025, campus biodiversity was enhanced by creating a new dry meadow (approx. 70 m²) on the lawn by the Lozzi terrace at Seminaarinmäki and establishing new deadwood habitats, including along Aallontie and in the wooded areas around Moirislampi pond. A new meadow (approx. 50 m²) was also created in front of Lozzi through volunteer work as part of the Jyväskylä Festival. Also, the new meadow plantings in the Ylistönrinne courtyard were supplemented and spot seeding was carried out.

At the Jyväskylä University Botanical Garden, new lawn management methods designed to promote the growth and flowering of native plants were piloted in collaboration with SYK and the organisations responsible for maintaining green spaces. The new plantings included 14 native

[16] Ecological status and natural value hectares of the University of Jyväskylä's campus areas in 2025 : JYX

Finnish plant species, all sourced from the wild. Plans were drawn up for the future removal of invasive alien species in the Botanical Garden's grounds that are harmful or spread locally and aggressively across the campus. Harmful invasive alien species were also removed from various locations, and replacement plantings were planned where necessary.

During the year, the Siberian flying squirrel survey was conducted again and nest box maintenance needs were monitored. The JYU Botanical Garden's science education and public engagement activities included meadow volunteering at the Jyväskylä Festival and participation in the nationwide Open Gardens event for the first time. There were also 15 guided group tours of the garden with a total of 239 participants. University staff and students could also continue to reserve cultivation boxes at Seminaarinmäki.

The University's Open Science Centre participated in the Natural Resources Institute Finland's plant genetic resource conservation activities at Villa Rana, where historical currant varieties are being preserved. Continuing to participate in the conservation network helps safeguard Finland's security of supply.



Figure 7. Volunteers creating a meadow at the Jyväskylä Festival, 5 July 2025 / Photo: Hanna Keljo 2025



Figure 8. Thriving meadow plantings in the courtyard at Ylistönrinne / Photo: Hanna Keljo 2025

2.4 Supporting JYU's nature-positive goal through research and education

2.4.1 Teaching

Sustainability studies offered by the JYU Open University help individuals, communities and organisations understand how they can promote sustainability and act responsibly. Free study units include Fundamentals of biodiversity offsetting (1 ECTS credit), Fundamentals of carbon footprints (1 ECTS credit), Fundamentals of circular economy (1 ECTS credit) and Fundamentals of biodiversity footprints (1 ECTS credit). These provide tools for ecological compensation, carbon footprint calculation and achieving circular economy goals. In addition, the fee-based study unit Calculation of ecological compensation (2 ECTS credits) provides practical skills in calculating impacts on nature and ecological compensation. The Responsibility and sustainability in working life module (15–50 ECTS credits) offers practical ways to integrate responsibility and sustainable development into working life and everyday organisational practices. All students can also take a free planetary wellbeing study module (4 × 1 ECTS credit).

Introduction to planetary well-being (1 ECTS credit) has been compulsory for all JYU degree students since the beginning of the current curriculum period. The study units are also available in

English. JYU staff can also take all Open University courses free of charge, making it easier for them to develop their sustainability skills.

JYU's faculties also offer their own teaching on sustainability issues. For example, JSBE offers the study units Responsible Expert I, II and III, while all students at the Faculty of Education and Psychology complete the study unit Sustainable and Responsible Expertise (5 ECTS credits) as part of their advanced studies. The RESPO (Responsible Management and Business of Sport) master's programme at the Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences prepares experts to address global challenges in sport and physical activity, with an emphasis on ethical and responsible leadership. In collaboration with JSBE, the programme develops students' ability to apply the principles of responsibility in decision-making and organisational management in changing operating environments.

One of the key initiatives in 2025 was the launch of a new multidisciplinary introductory study module on sustainability transitions (WISUSTRAN), worth a minimum of 25 ECTS credits, at the Faculty of Mathematics and Science. A particular focus is on strengthening students' interdisciplinary understanding of the challenges and solutions associated with sustainability transitions. The study units approach sustainability transitions as complex processes that require approaches combining expertise from different academic disciplines and addressing multiple levels.

2.4.2 Research

In 2025, the BIOVALENT Biodiversity Footprint Database[17] was published. Developed by the Biodiversity Footprint Team[18] at JYU.Wisdom, the database is open access and enables users to calculate biodiversity footprints. It contains data for approximately 200 different products and services across 49 countries and regions, as well as for 76 different food products across 244 countries and regions. The data can be used, among other things, to calculate an organisation's biodiversity footprint.

JYU supports an equitable sustainability transition in the forest sector through research conducted in the ForTran project[19]. In 2025, activities included From Values to Action workshops for forest owners, focusing on discussions about their priorities and forest planning in line with strong sustainability. Participants reflected on their own values and explored suitable forest management options using the MultiOptForest application developed in the ForTran project. One doctoral research project in the Faculty of Mathematics and Science's partnership programme was launched in collaboration with Metsä Group. The study examines how the regenerative forestry practices in Metsä Group's new strategy affect forest biodiversity and the benefits forests provide to people. It also explores how Metsä Group's stakeholders (e.g. forestry contractors, timber buyers and non-governmental organisations) view regenerative forestry and the value chains it creates. Another doctoral research project funded by the partnership programme assesses the overall impact on nature of Parks & Wildlife Finland, a unit of Metsähallitus. The research examines the balance

[17] JYU | Wisdom | BIOVALENT
[18] Biodiversity Footprint Team| University of Jyväskylä
[19] ForTran | Forests in systematic transition – balancing efficiency with fairness and resilience

between harm to nature caused across value chains and the benefits to nature generated locally through restoration and conservation.

At the Faculty of Information Technology, greater emphasis has been placed on sustainability and ethical considerations in research, particularly in artificial intelligence, health, cybersecurity and digital solutions. For example, the Multiobjective Optimization Research Group develops methods and tools to support decision-making in situations where ecological and social sustainability risk being overshadowed by economic interests, such as in climate-conscious forestry, energy systems and environmental impact assessments. Tools developed based on the research findings have helped Finnish forest owners adopt more environmentally friendly management practices. Research in remote sensing and green technologies supports carbon capture and the development of alternatives to fossil-based raw materials. The Finnish Institute for Educational Research also studies how skills and competences are changing in the green and digital transitions, as well as concepts of sustainability and wisdom.

In 2025, JSBE's research on sustainable travel was put into practice through the FORTHEM Green Travel Road Show[20], which aimed to raise awareness of sustainable travel options, alternatives to air travel and available support through programmes such as Erasmus+. JSBE's EU-funded project also promoted circular economy education in South Asia.

The following two *Wisdom Letters* articles were published[21] in 2025: *Luontotyyppien tilan parantamisen pelisäännöt osana EU:n ennallistamisasetusta* (Rules for Improving the Condition of Biotopes as Part of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation, 1/2025) and *Säilyttämisestä sääntö, purkamisesta poikkeus: Kestävyysnäkökulmia olemassa olevaan rakennuskantaan* (Preservation as the Rule, Demolition as the Exception: Sustainability Perspectives on the Existing Building Stock, 2/2025). A total of 420 publications associated with JYU.Wisdom were published during the year.

[20] Forthem | Detailed view
[21] Wisdom Letters | University of Jyväskylä

3 Equality, non-discrimination and accessibility

Equality, non-discrimination and accessibility are integral to the University's teaching, research and societal responsibility.

In 2025, work on social sustainability was coordinated by the Social Sustainability and Responsibility Development Group. The University also has the Equity Team of the Language Campus initiative, which brings together nearly 60 people from the Department of Language and Communication Studies (KiVi), the Centre for Applied Language Studies (Solki), the Finnish Institute for Educational Research (KTL), the Centre for Multilingual Academic Communication (Movi), the Department of Teacher Education (OKL), the gender studies network Kantti and the Sign Language Centre.

The same year, JYU strengthened its resources for equality, non-discrimination and accessibility by appointing its first specialist to develop and coordinate this work. The vice rector's revised decision on accessible study was finalised in early 2025. As in previous years, the revised process for individual study arrangements and Student Life's wellbeing activities supported students' academic progress and ability to pursue their studies.

JYU has held Fairtrade University status since 2014, and its campus has been smoke-free since 2011 and fragrance-free since 2022.



Figure 9. University of Jyväskylä staff at the Jyväskylä Pride parade / Photo: Nelli-Sofia Peuranen 2025

3.1 Equality, Non-Discrimination and Accessibility Plan 2025–2026

The University of Jyväskylä's Equality, Non-Discrimination and Accessibility Plan 2025–2026 sets out objectives and measures to promote these themes.

Implementation of the Equality, Non-Discrimination and Accessibility Plan 2025–2026 began in 2025. For the first time, the plan brings together the University's Equality and Non-Discrimination Plan and Accessibility Plan. It includes five university-wide measures, which progressed as follows:

Table 2. Status of the measures set out in the Equality, Non-Discrimination and Accessibility Plan 2025–2026 in 2025.

Measure	Status in 2025
Developing and implementing university-wide safer space principles.	A plan for developing the principles was prepared in 2025. The measure was implemented in 2026.
Equality, non-discrimination and accessibility training for university units.	The training was prepared as a Moodle course in late 2025 and made available to all staff in early 2026.
Improving and clarifying reporting channels and procedures for handling harassment and discrimination.	Collaboration on developing the reporting channels began with HR Services, Student Life and security staff. The work is expected to be completed in 2026.
Participating in events and campaigns promoting equality, such as Pride Week and Anti-Racism Week.	In 2025, JYU participated in Jyväskylä Pride Week in collaboration with the Student Union. The programme included events and communications, as well as participation in the Pride parade and park celebration.
Developing separate action plans at the unit level in the University's faculties, independent institutes and University Services in 2025.	The measure was postponed until 2026. In 2025, individual units were informed of the upcoming action plans during unit visits.

In addition to the measures outlined above, equality, non-discrimination and accessibility were incorporated into the staff induction course and an accessibility course developed by Digital

Services was added to the staff training programme. Campus accessibility was also improved through a joint project between the University of Jyväskylä and SYK.

3.1.1 Objectives and their indicators

The University's Equality, Non-Discrimination and Accessibility Plan 2025–2026 sets out seven university-wide objectives: (1) Equality increases in the university community, (2) Gender equality increases in the university community, (3) Discrimination, harassment and racism are reduced in the university community, (4) Knowledge and competence in the themes of equality, non-discrimination and accessibility increase, (5) Barrier-free access and accessibility on the university campus improve, (6) Accessibility perspectives are considered in digital solutions, and (7) The University's Equality, Non-Discrimination and Accessibility Plan is implemented in every unit at the University.

The plan's objectives are assessed using the indicators specified in the plan. This responsibility report includes only selected quantitative indicators for which data are available for 2025. More detailed indicators for assessing the achievement of the objectives in 2025 and 2026 will be presented in the University's Equality, Non-Discrimination and Accessibility Plan, which is updated every two years.

The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings assess universities' contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The ranking's *Gender Equality* (SDG 5) and *Reduced Inequalities* (SDG 10) goals serve as indicators for JYU's goals of *gender equality increasing in the university community* and *discrimination, harassment and racism decreasing in the university community*. As JYU did not participate in the 2025 rankings, no ranking position is available for that year.

Workplace wellbeing survey

The University of Jyväskylä conducts a workplace wellbeing survey every two years. The survey statements on equality and non-discrimination measure the objective *Equality increases in the university community* set out in the University's Equality, Non-Discrimination and Accessibility Plan.

Table 3. Statements on equality and non-discrimination and their mean scores in the 2021, 2023 and 2025 workplace wellbeing surveys (the maximum score is 5).

Survey statement	2021	2023	2025
We raise difficult issues and address them.	3.4	3.5	**3.5**
Equality and non-discrimination are upheld in our unit.	3.9	4.0	**4.0**

My supervisor is impartial and fair.	4.1	4.3	**4.3**
My supervisor takes individual differences into account.	4.1	4.2	**4.3**
I have the opportunity to progress in my career horizontally or vertically, if I wish.	3.2	3.2	**3.2**

3.2 Promoting equality and non-discrimination through research and education

3.2.1 Teaching

The University offers a wide range of teaching on equality and non-discrimination, alongside practices that promote more equitable access to education. The current curriculum guidelines establish a framework for ensuring that students in all degree programmes have equal opportunities to learn and develop their competences. The Student Life model further supports students' equal opportunities for learning and personal development.

JYU.INTEGRA is a free Finnish-language training programme intended for immigrants who have a higher education degree or are eligible for studies in higher education. The programme supports the pursuit of academic studies in Finland. ACRES assesses academic skills and language proficiency, while SIMHE develops guidance and support services for immigrants. Both are at the forefront of developing student admissions.

The University of Jyväskylä was the first in Finland to develop Finnish as a second language (S2) study pathways to early childhood education teacher studies, class teacher education and social work studies, helping to promote equal opportunities. The pathways were included in the spring 2026 joint application round.

Study units on equality and non-discrimination are available across JYU's faculties. For example, the Bachelor's Degree Programme in Sport Pedagogy includes the study units LPEA1100 Basics of Equality and Equity in Physical Education and Sport (1–2 ECTS credits) and LPEA1101 Equality and Equity in Teaching in Physical Education (1–2 ECTS credits). The Faculty of Education and Psychology also has KPTS1000, Responsible and Sustainable Expertise (5 ECTS credits), which examines sustainability from ecological, economic, social and cultural perspectives. The Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy offers the SPTMODKOK Gender Studies Module (25–60 ECTS credits).

3.2.2 Research

The University of Jyväskylä conducts a wide range of research on social sustainability.

One example of JYU's research on social sustainability is the Social Sustainability for Children and Families (SOSUS) profiling area, which brings together research in the humanities and social sciences, education and psychology, sport and health sciences, as well as business and economics. The profiling area aims to build a socially sustainable society for children and families by promoting equity, wellbeing and participation.

The education, belonging, and sustainable society research area at the Finnish Institute for Educational Research (FIER) examines how societies and communities can be developed to be more equal, equitable and sustainable through education and training. Its projects address topics such as future education policies, social inclusion, sustainability skills, environmental and nature education, and planetary wellbeing.

At the Faculty of Sport and Health Sciences, the Adapted Physical Activity & Education research group takes a multidisciplinary approach to examining physical activity, functional capacity and overall wellbeing among people with various functional difficulties, long-term conditions or special needs at different stages of life. In 2025, the group launched a project focused on identifying children and young people who experience functional difficulties and promoting their participation in physical activity. The Faculty is also home to FemInnovation – Female physiology, sports, and innovations – a research group focusing on the physiology of female athletes.

At the Department of Social Sciences and Philosophy, the Sustainable Societies focus area examines the challenges and opportunities of an ecosocially sustainable society, changes in work, consumption and the economy, as well as societal impact in the digitalised world. One of the projects within this area is KOHTAUTUS (2024–2026), which aims to develop sustainable skills and competences through international diversity. The project primarily targets employers in Central Finland seeking to increase diversity in their work communities and recruit international talent.

Read more about the University of Jyväskylä's sustainability work on our websites:

Sustainable and responsible university

Equality, discrimination and accessibility at JYU

Further information and questions:

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APPENDIX 1


WWF
GREEN OFFICE
DIPLOMI
JYVÄSKYLÄN YLIOPISTO
Tämä diplomi on myönnetty tunnustukseksi
Green Office -kriteerien mukaisesta toiminnasta
ekologisen jalanjäljen pienentämiseksi.
JYVÄSKYLÄN YLIOPISTO
noudattaa ympäristöjärjestelmää, jolle
WWF Suomi on myöntänyt Green Office -merkin 31.05.2013.
Tarkastus on suoritettu ulkoisen tarkastajan toimesta 12.09.2025.
Helsingissä 12.09.2025
Jari Luukkonen
pääsihteeri
Luonto on lähempänä
kuin uskotkaan