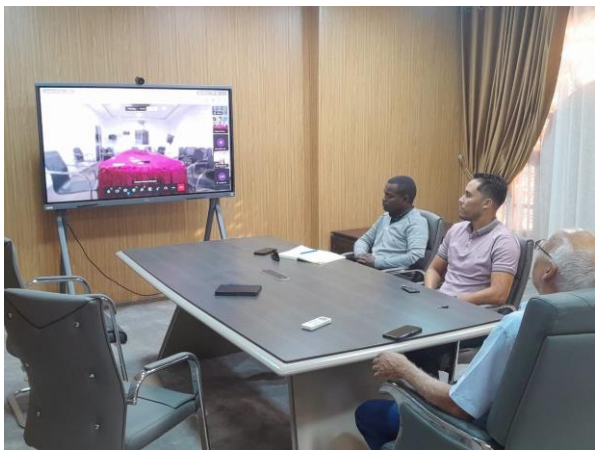
No Poverty

Introduction

The University of Kasdi Merbah Ouargla (UKMO), a major higher education hub in southeastern Algeria structured around ten faculties and two institutes, places the eradication of poverty in all its forms at the core of its civic, educational, and scientific mission. Operating under an ISO 9001:2015 certified quality management system and actively engaged in global networks such as the *Higher Education Sustainability Initiative* (HESI) and *SDGs Universities*, UKMO implements an integrated strategy built on four pillars: applied scientific research addressing socio-economic challenges in arid regions, inclusive access to higher education through universal social support, economic empowerment of students via entrepreneurship, and territorial cooperation with local stakeholders.



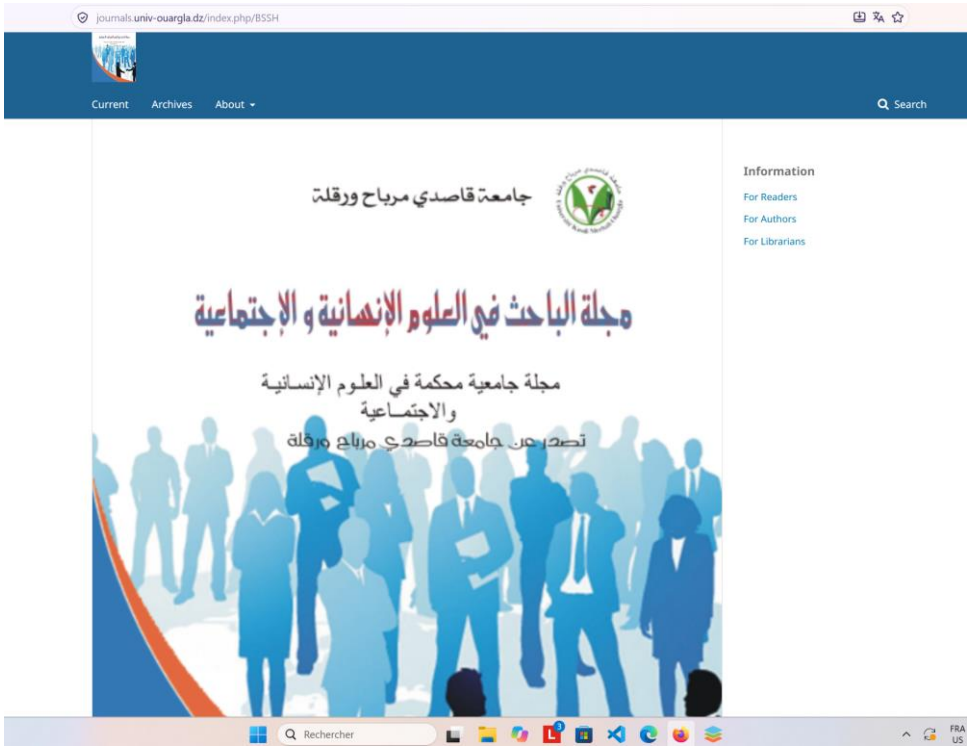




2. Research on Poverty & Socio-Economic Development (Indicator 1.1)

UKMO mobilizes its research laboratories and scientific journals (notably *El Bahith Review* and its open-access institutional repository *DSpace*) to investigate the multidimensional drivers of poverty, food security, access to vital resources in Saharan environments, and public policy effectiveness:

- **Development Economics & Poverty Reduction:** Academic research assessing Algeria's integration into the Sustainable Development Goals, the socio-economic impact of public policies on vulnerable populations, and the role of agricultural and livestock value chains in strengthening rural household resilience.
- **Water Security & Access to Basic Services:** Leading research in hydrology and water resource management—a discipline in which UKMO is internationally recognized—including groundwater mapping and quality assessment for irrigation and drinking water across semi-arid and Saharan regions (Ouargla, Tamanrasset).
- **South-South & International Scientific Cooperation:** Joint publications and academic exchanges targeting sustainability challenges in arid regions and low- or lower-middle-income countries (LMICs).



https://journals.univ-ouargla.dz/index.php/BSSH

3. Financial Aid & Student Social Protection

In alignment with Algeria's national policy of democratizing higher education and UKMO's internal support frameworks, no student is excluded from university education due to financial hardship:

- **Tuition-Free Education & Means-Tested Scholarships:** Full exemption from tuition fees for all undergraduate and postgraduate students, complemented by a national scholarship scheme awarded based on household income criteria to cover essential living expenses.
- **Coverage of Basic Needs (University Welfare Services):** Subsidized or free access to on-campus student housing, daily catering services, inter-campus university transportation, and preventive as well as curative healthcare.
- **Academic Mentoring & Dropout Prevention:** Implementation of an institutional tutoring and close-monitoring program designed to prevent academic attrition among students from low-income backgrounds or remote areas of the Deep South.

4. University Anti-Poverty Programs

UKMO deploys targeted mechanisms to support the academic success of vulnerable students and foster their long-term economic self-sufficiency:

Area of Intervention	Institutional Mechanism at UKMO	Impact & Documentary Evidence
Support for Vulnerable Students	Academic tutoring schemes, support services for students with disabilities, and guidance toward social welfare assistance.	Reduced access inequalities and improved retention rates (Moodle e-learning platform & student counseling units).
Support for Students from LMICs	Cooperation and mobility programs welcoming scholarship students from low- and lower-middle-income countries (Sub-Saharan Africa, Arab world).	Provision of academic scholarships, accommodation, and comprehensive healthcare coverage via inter-university cooperation.
Employability & Venture Creation (Ministerial Decree 1275)	Implementation of the national *"One Degree – One Start-up / One Patent"* mechanism, enabling graduating students (Bachelor/Master) to convert their thesis into a viable business venture.	Coaching and support for dozens of student project holders toward micro-enterprise creation and self-employment.

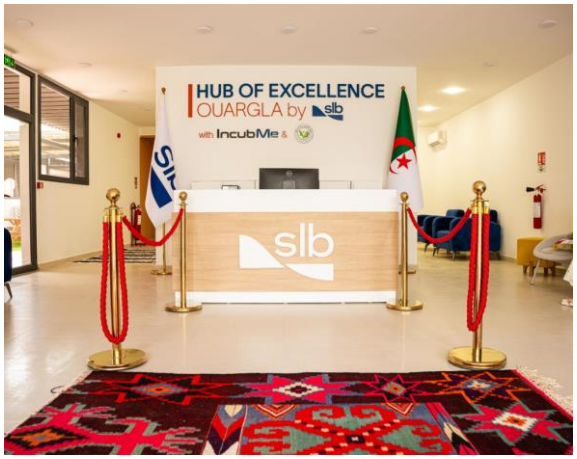
5. Community Outreach & Territorial Partnerships

Beyond the campus, the University of Kasdi Merbah Ouargla acts as a catalyst for local and regional socio-economic development to combat precarity across the Wilaya of Ouargla and southeastern Algeria:

- **Certified University Business Incubator:** Established with a dedicated digital platform, UKMO's incubator—awarded the national *"University Incubator"* label by the Ministry of Knowledge Economy and Start-ups—trains, mentors, and supports students and young graduates in launching sustainable start-ups.



- **Hub of Excellence & Industry Partnerships:** Inauguration of the *Hub of Excellence Ouargla* in partnership with the industrial sector (notably SLB) and the university incubator, providing a dedicated space for innovation, technology transfer, and local entrepreneurship support.





- **Entrepreneurship Development Center (CDE):** Continuous delivery of training programs (business modeling, financial management, legal frameworks) to equip young entrepreneurs with the skills required for financial independence.



- **Joint Territorial Governance Committees:** Establishment of joint committees within faculties and institutes bringing together faculty researchers, local authorities, civil society organizations, and economic operators to co-design practical solutions to local social, educational, and environmental needs.



Conclusion

Through the convergence of tuition-free higher education, comprehensive student social welfare, targeted entrepreneurship incubation, and applied research tailored to Saharan environments, the University of Kasdi Merbah Ouargla demonstrates a holistic and measurable commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 1. By embedding quality assurance (ISO 9001:2015) and territorial co-governance into its institutional strategy, UKMO ensures that academic knowledge directly translates into economic resilience and social mobility for both its student body and the broader communities of southeastern Algeria. Moving forward, the university remains dedicated to expanding its industry partnerships, scaling student-led start-up creation, and deepening international scientific cooperation to accelerate progress toward eradicating poverty in all its dimensions.