

## SDG16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

SDG 16, focusing on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, addresses governance, rule of law, and building peaceful societies. In India, several efforts are directed towards promoting justice, reducing corruption, and ensuring accountable and inclusive institutions.

However, as a specialized university primarily focused on energy and allied sectors, UPES might not have direct involvement in matters of justice or governance. Nonetheless, it can contribute to SDG 16 through academic initiatives, research, and creating an ethical and responsible professional cohort.

Here's how UPES could indirectly support SDG 16:

**Ethical Education:** Integrating ethics and governance principles into its academic programs to produce graduates with a strong ethical foundation.

**Research and Advocacy:** Conducting research that addresses energy sector governance, policy-making, and ethical business practices.

**Student Engagement:** Encouraging students to engage in debates, seminars, and projects that explore governance, justice, and societal issues.

While UPES may not directly influence policy-making or governance, it can shape a generation of professionals committed to ethical practices and contribute to discussions about the role of strong institutions in societal development, thereby indirectly supporting SDG 16.

## Why student engagement matters and how to achieve it

<https://blog.upes.ac.in/why-student-engagement-matters-and-how-to-achieve-it/>

BY A CORRESPONDENT · SEPTEMBER 10, 2020



To ensure career success for students, educators must promote meaningful learning experiences to keep students engaged and motivated

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy' is perhaps a clichéd and overused statement at this point. Luckily, there are more recent and more credible evidence that mere academics does not guarantee success in the modern economy. While in an old economy, with well-defined roles and responsibilities, excelling at academics was adequate in landing someone a job, most of which were repetitive tasks that required only the ability to follow instructions and stick to the procedures. The new economy has evolved beyond that and requires significant amount of critical thinking, creativity, teamwork, and the ability to take ownership.

It is a common agreement among employment experts, as well as talent development experts that modern education needs a mix of both academics and extracurricular activities. According to Monster dot com, extracurricular activities can be a great addition to a student's resume. It shows a narrow focus, the ability to commit, and the ability to take initiative. Further, reports from around the world, like this one by Independent claim that 'employers are looking for students and graduates who have a range of skills, personal qualities and experience, which will help them to be productive in the workplace.'

VUCA World: Today, employers are increasingly hiring for a VUCA world. VUCA stands for Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous. Succeeding in this world requires management experience, communication skills, adaptability, and quick thinking. Ask anyone who has managed a college fest knows, these are some of the basic skills you need to deal with the immense challenges that are thrown your way.

The need for polyglots: Polyglots are individuals who are trained in multiple disciplines and can perform a variety of different functions within the team. Our students who are part of student chapters like the Infinity Space Club or the Fire and Security Association of India are routinely trained in different skillsets that translate to familiarity with the modern workplace.

Immersive educational experiences: As we have seen with the National Education Policy of the Government of India, the old ways of rote-learning are on their way out. Education is changing to

include immersive experiences as a critical tool of learning. Currently the best tools we have to ensure an immersive learning experience is the student clubs, sports teams, student chapters, fests, and everything else that defines college life. These experiences are immeasurably rewarding, building strong values and connections that last for life.

The community experience of college: College life has always been defined by communities. It is these communities that add flavour to classes and build strong associations with education. It is no surprise that students are really excited to be part of these events and they propel acquaintances to friends, and help in developing communication skills, social skills, presentation skills, and familiarity with strangers.

At UPES, we take extracurricular activities extremely seriously. We have a wide variety of student groups and student chapters for students to hone their skills and pursue their passions. UPES has seven student clubs and more than 22 student chapters, such as Infinity Aerospace Club, American Association of Petroleum Geologists, Computer Society of India, and more. We also organize cultural events such as Uurja and Wow Wednesday where talented UPES students share their craft with everyone. We also have strong sports teams in every major sport, and are a formidable force in Uttarakhand sports. To find out more about extracurricular activities at UPES, visit <https://www.upes.ac.in/student-space/student-engagement>.

## 5 reasons why students should join clubs while at university

<https://blog.upes.ac.in/5-reasons-why-students-should-join-clubs-while-at-university/>

PREETI ANEJA · NOVEMBER 6, 2020

### Clubs

Campus clubs and societies cultivate soft skills among students, improve grades and help in making connections that last a lifetime



Participating in club activities is a great way to meet new people, enjoy your time at university and ensure you strike a healthy balance between academics and social life. Emphasizing on the significance of clubs for students, Ms. Manisha Mohan, Dean, UPES, School for Life, says, “Clubs contribute towards the holistic development of students. They learn leadership skills, teamwork, communication skills as well as gain a comprehensive cultural understanding.”

Here are five ways in which clubs and organisations add value to your college life:

They help you develop soft skills: Activities are a great way to acquire life skills such as communication, leadership, teamwork, and time management. You learn how to work with new people, manage conflicts and build relationships of trust. Clubs provide functional skills that eventually help to rediscover a new you. Like sports develop sportsmanship and a never-say-die attitude, performing in an art club enhances your creativity and augments your understanding of human emotions, cultivating the ability to form strong interpersonal skills.



Activities are a great way to acquire life skills

They improve your grades: Extracurricular activities can improve your grades and your overall performance in college. Studies on the impact of extracurricular activities show students, participating in activities have higher grades, more positive attitudes toward the institution and higher academic aspirations. Participating in activities you are passionate about can increase your brain function, help you concentrate and manage your time better, all of which contribute to higher grades.

They add the element of fun in college life: Another simple reason to join a student organization is to have fun. From cultural fests to camping trips, you never know what experiences await you on the other side of the road. Meeting new people, making new friends, and participating in activities will help you make the most of your graduation experience.



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They help you to network: Engaging in club activities helps you make new friends and network. You bond with people easily when you share similar interests or passions. Clubs and societies also facilitate meeting students outside of your immediate social circle.

“Students should develop new friendships and engage in a new social circle as they work toward their career goals. This task becomes easier through joining clubs that fit their individual interests, needs, and goals. A club not only provides endless networking opportunities, both on and off-campus but also teaches the students how to network.” says, Dr. Joji Rao, Coordinator, Clubs, UPES.

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They add to your resume: Extracurricular activities are also a great benefit to a student’s resume when it comes to applying for foreign universities or jobs. It also reflects on your keenness to learn beyond the traditional classroom. Employers appreciate multi-tasking and contributions to the community. Recruiters highly value college graduates ready to take on leadership roles, and clubs help to unleash that potential. Joining a campus club will give you hands-on experience that will set you apart from the crowd.

According to Dr. Monika Manglik, Chief Coordinator, Clubs, UPES, School for Life, “Clubs provide a place for students to come together, discuss innovative ideas and accomplish common goals. Whether you join as a member or choose to lead one, you stand to gain a lot.”

“UPES hosts a plethora of extracurricular opportunities for students via various clubs like Performing Arts, Art and Design, Film and Photography, Literary, Sports, Adventure, Health and Wellness. Besides these, domain-based student chapters and societies are offering a lot of action and fun round the year,” she adds.

## CONNOISSEUR – Fraternity of Young Litterateurs at UPES

<https://blog.upes.ac.in/connoisseur-fraternity-of-young-litterateurs-at-upes/>



PRAGUN BHATT · JANUARY 3, 2020

Connoisseur, the Literary Club of UPES, has completed three successful years of its existence. Since its inception, the club has gone on to become one of the most successful student clubs at UPES.

We established this club with the vision to provide an environment for young talent to thrive and develop to their fullest potential, and in doing this, embark on a mission to serve humanity by helping to create model citizens – self-aware and global in outlook, complemented with a deep appreciation of local ethos and sensibility.



CONNOISSEUR- Literary Society

The club has successfully organized various national-level events in which students from various universities showcased their talent. Some of our prominent events are Jash-e-Azadi, Kavyanjali, Expressoo, The Literary Expedition Fest and some online events as well, including Sarcasm Mania and Story for the Glory.

It has been a wonderful journey till now and we are proud to be the initiators of literary culture in our institution, UPES, Dehradun. For me, personally, it is extremely gratifying to lead an enthusiastic team which is selflessly devoted to society. All those who join this family of ours and all those who participate in the Connoisseur's events are bound to find more than what they currently possess. I believe that over the next few years the club's members will steer the club towards the achievement of the values which are enshrined in the philosophy behind the club's creation. I wish the team the very best for all its future endeavours.