TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION / IMPACT RANKINGS EVIDENCE FACT FILE

SDG 11 / INDICATOR 11.2.4

Public Access to Open and Green Spaces

Cyprus International University • North Cyprus – Türkiye • www.ciu.edu.tr



SDG 11	11.2.4	Free
Sustainable Cities and Communities	Public access to open and green spaces	Public access, not only students and staff

Purpose of this evidence file

This fact file documents the free public access Cyprus International University (CIU) provides to open spaces and green spaces, supporting THE Impact Rankings SDG 11 measure 11.2.4. CIU, as a body, states that its parklands, gardens, landscaped grounds, recreation fields and the surroundings of its Nature Café are open to the public free of charge. The source document is reproduced in Appendix 1.

INDICATOR 11.2.4

Public access to green and open spaces at a glance

CIU states that its green and open spaces are a public good, open to the wider community free of charge.

4	100%	09:00–21:00
Types of green and open space named in CIU's open-access statement	Of buildings and facilities reported accessible, linked by ramps and graded paths	Daily hours of the CIU Arena sports complex for students and the public

Headline result

Policy. CIU operates on the principle that its campus is an integrated part of the wider community. Its parks, gardens and landscaped grounds are stated to be open to the public, free of charge, and not exclusive to students and staff.

Spaces. The open-access statement names the Central Campus Parklands, the Nature Café surroundings, sports and recreation fields, and botanical and garden areas. CIU's SDG 11 page adds walking spaces on campus and the Open Air Performing Arts Center, where public performances are held.

Design for access. A pedestrian-first campus, step-free pathways, night lighting along paths and green spaces, and a pedestrian bridge to Haspolat Village (2020) support safe use of these spaces.

Evidence scope

No.	Evidence item	Value / note
1	Open-access policy: parks, gardens and landscaped grounds open to the public free of charge	Stated policy
2	Central Campus Parklands: lawns and shaded seating for picnics, walks and relaxation	Free • public
3	CIU Nature Café surroundings: green area with a sustainable garden	Free • public
4	Sports and recreation fields, including outdoor courts and a sand area at the CIU Arena	Community use, set hours
5	Botanical and garden areas: landscaped gardens	Free • public
6	Open Air Performing Arts Center and campus walking spaces	SDG 11 page
7	Pedestrian-first campus, accessible paths, night lighting, bridge to Haspolat Village	Pedestrian access page
8	Campus masterplan with Arup (since 2017), with two awards	2020 and 2021 awards

What the evidence demonstrates

- CIU, as a body, has a stated principle of open access to its green and open spaces, free of charge and for the public as well as students and staff.
- Four types of green and open space are named, with photographs of the parklands, gardens, the Nature Café area and the Open Air Performing Arts Center in Appendix 1.
- The spaces are designed for safe, inclusive use: pedestrian priority, accessible routes and night lighting along paths, squares and green spaces.
- CIU links the spaces to health, social cohesion, biodiversity and heat mitigation in its own account of their impact.

ACCESS REGISTER

Green and open spaces open to the public

Six spaces and facilities on the CIU campus, in the order given in the evidence document.

Ref.	Space	What visitors can do	Access	Evidence
S1	**Central Campus Parklands** CIU campus	Expansive lawns and shaded sitting areas, ideal for family picnics, leisurely walks and outdoor relaxation.	Free, open to the public	Appendix 1 SDG 11 page
S2	**CIU Nature Café surroundings** "We're Nature Café"	A tranquil, nature-friendly green area that demonstrates sustainable practices. The café's sustainable garden grows organic vegetables, composts café waste and is irrigated with recycled grey water (about 1,300 tonnes of campus grey water is recycled).	Free, open to the public	Appendix 1 CIU page
S3	**Sports and recreation fields** Including CIU Arena outdoor courts	Open spaces and tracks for community use during designated hours. The CIU Arena has outdoor football, basketball, volleyball and tennis courts and a sand area for beach volleyball, handball and football, serving students, staff and the public.	Community use, designated hours; Arena 09:00–21:00 daily	Appendix 1 CIU Arena Facilities
S4	**Botanical and garden areas** CIU campus	Landscaped gardens that offer an educational and serene environment for all visitors.	Free, open to the public	Appendix 1
S5	**Open Air Performing Arts Center** CIU campus	Outdoor performance venue with tiered lawns. CIU provides public performances for students and the local community, and events are listed on its public events page.	Public events (see events page)	Appendix 1 SDG 11 page Event example
S6	**Campus walking spaces** Near the Student Services building	Outdoor walking spaces and pedestrian routes between buildings, kept clear of vehicles and lit at night.	Covered by the open-access policy	SDG 11 page Pedestrian access

Where to find them

The campus map shows the location of gardens, open spaces and facilities: https://www.ciu.edu.tr/map/

STEWARDSHIP

Open-access campus design and impact

CIU plans, builds and maintains its campus so that green and open spaces can be reached and used safely by everyone.

Feature	What it means for access
Pedestrian-first policy	Walking is the main way to move around campus. Metal separators keep vehicles off pavements, and parking is directed to outer zones, leaving the campus core to pedestrians.
Accessible paths	CIU reports 100% accessibility of buildings and facilities, with ramps and graded paths for wheelchairs and strollers.
Night lighting	Energy-efficient lamps along pedestrian paths, squares and green spaces give night-time illumination and security.
Link to the community	A pedestrian bridge over the highway to Haspolat Village, completed in 2020, gives a safe crossing between campus and the nearby settlement.
Campus masterplan	Developed with Arup since 2017. It won first place in Urban Design (Built) at the 2020 Architecture, Construction and Design Awards and first place for Best Cultural and Sports Infrastructure at MIPIM 2021.
Sustainable upkeep	About 1,300 tonnes of campus grey water is recycled for irrigation, and the Nature Café garden composts its organic waste.

Impact stated by CIU	How the green spaces contribute
Inclusivity and social cohesion	A free, high-quality and safe public space accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds.
Health and well-being	Spaces for physical activity, relaxation and mental restoration.
Urban environment	Contributes to local biodiversity, mitigates the urban heat island effect and improves air quality.
Culture of sustainability	Shows how institutional resources can be shared responsibly with the community.

How the evidence answers the question

Open and green spaces: yes. CIU provides parklands, gardens, a Nature Café garden, recreation fields and an open-air performing arts venue for community use.

Free: CIU's open-access statement says the parks, gardens and landscaped grounds are open to the public free of charge. Recreation fields are available to the community during designated hours.

As a body: the policy, upkeep, masterplan and facilities are provided by the university itself.

APPENDIX 1 • SOURCE DOCUMENT

Public access to green spaces: evidence document

Source document • 5 pages • sheet 1 of 5

Evidence for THE Impact Rankings Questionnaire

University : Cyprus International University

Country: North Cyprus- Türkiye

Web Address : www.ciu.edu.tr

[11]

[11.2.4]

Public Access to Green Spaces

Cyprus International University (CIU) is committed to enhancing the quality of life and promoting the well-being of both its campus community and the wider public. The university provides free and open public access to its extensive green and open spaces. These areas serve as vital lungs for the region, offering inclusive venues for recreation, social interaction, and connection with nature.



1. Policy of Open Access

CIU operates on the principle that its campus is an integrated part of the broader community. The university's parks, gardens, and landscaped grounds are not exclusive to students and staff but are openly accessible to the public, free of charge. This policy ensures that everyone can enjoy the social, health, and

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Evidence note

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Public access to green spaces: evidence document

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environmental benefits of well-maintained green infrastructure.





2. Key Accessible Green and Open Spaces

The university campus features several areas designed for public enjoyment, including:

- **The Central Campus Parklands:** Expansive lawns and shaded sitting areas that are ideal for family picnics, leisurely walks, and outdoor relaxation.
- **The CIU Nature Café Surroundings:** A designated green area that demonstrates sustainable practices and provides a tranquil, nature-friendly environment for the public.
- **Sports and Recreation Fields:** Open spaces and tracks that are available for community use during designated hours, promoting physical activity and health.
- **Botanical and Garden Areas:** Landscaped gardens that offer an educational and serene environment for all visitors.

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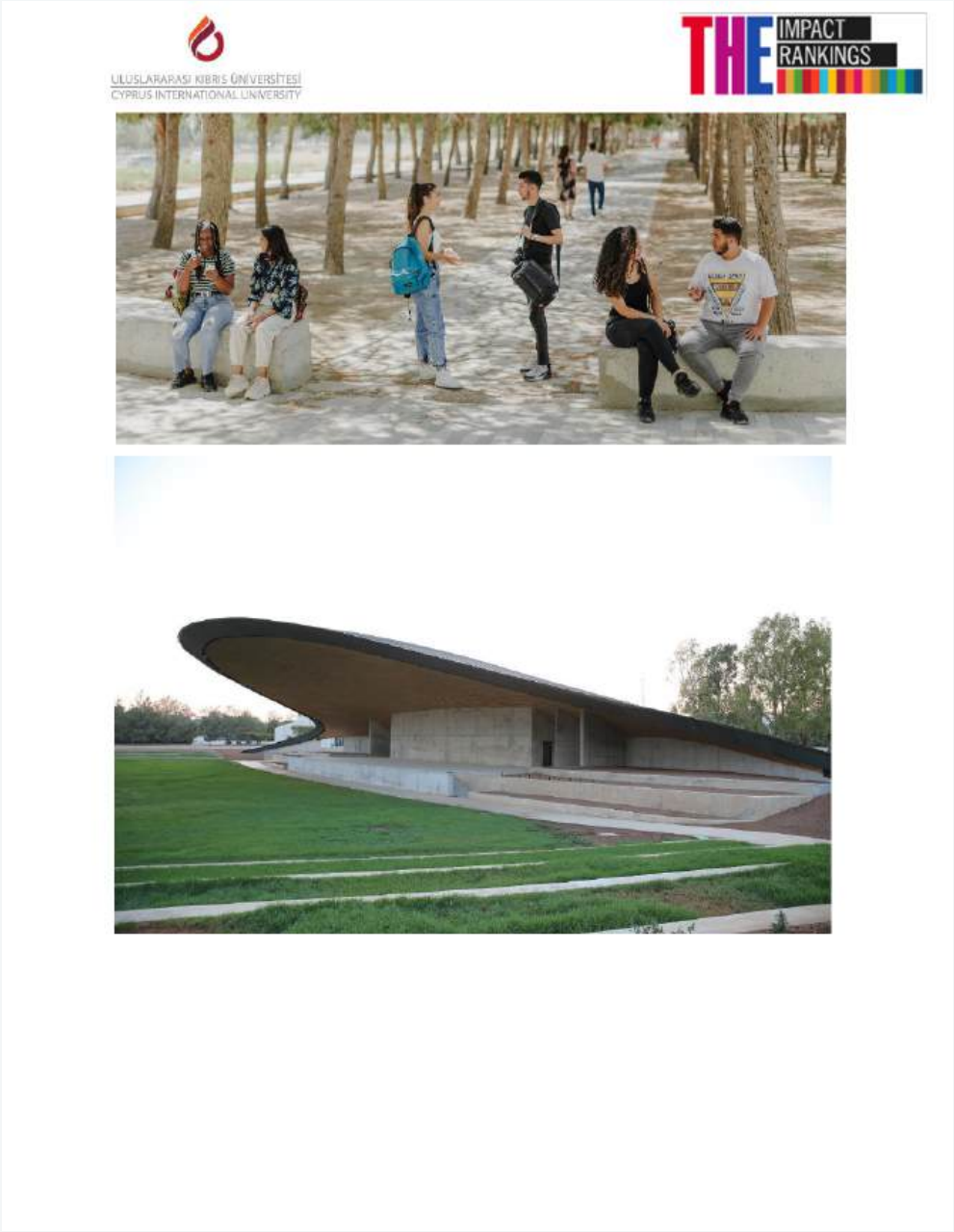
Evidence note

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3. Impact on Sustainable Development

By maintaining an open-access campus, CIU contributes directly to sustainable urban development by:

- **Promoting Inclusivity and Social Cohesion:** Providing a free, high-quality, and safe public space that is accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds.
- **Enhancing Health and Well-being:** Offering spaces for physical activity, relaxation, and mental restoration, which are essential for public health.
- **Improving the Urban Environment:** Contributing to local biodiversity, mitigating the urban heat island effect, and improving air quality.
- **Fostering a Culture of Sustainability:** Demonstrating how institutional resources can be shared responsibly with the community to create more livable, sustainable cities.



CIU views its green spaces as a public good. By ensuring these areas are open to all, the university strengthens its role as a civic institution dedicated to the well-being of the community and the creation of a more sustainable and inclusive urban environment.

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Evidence note

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Evidence note

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