



聖若瑟大學
UNIVERSITY OF
SAINT JOSEPH

ANNUAL REPORT

2023/2024

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INTRODUCTION

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report of the University of Saint Joseph for the 2023/24 Academic year.

The 2023/24 Academic year for the University of Saint Joseph has been a year of growth, consolidation and opportunity. It has also been a year of extraordinary challenges.

Growth in Enrollment and Academic Offerings

USJ welcomed an increased number of local undergraduate students this year, reflecting a growing trust in our institution. Additionally, our postgraduate recruitment attracted a diverse cohort of students ensuring that the University continues to develop a strong reputation for the quality of its master and doctoral degree programmes. Post-graduate students at diploma, master and doctoral level now outnumber undergraduate students with the third full cohort of Mainland students continuing to make an impact upon the life of the university,

The university also expanded its academic partnerships, signing agreements with institutions in Europe, Africa, and Southeast Asia. These collaborations enable knowledge exchange, research synergies, and enhanced mobility opportunities for students and faculty, aligning with USJ's mission to foster a global perspective within a uniquely Macao context. We now operate over 150 memoranda of understanding with higher education institutions across the globe, offering all our students on bachelor, master or doctoral programmes the opportunity of study in leading international universities. Whilst these partnerships continue to bring about stronger relationships with international, and particularly, Portuguese-language speaking universities, our further integration in the Greater Bay Area and with Chinese national development has led to a significant increase in such arrangements with Mainland Chinese universities.

These memoranda of understanding bring international students to our Macao campuses, such that, at any moment, we have an increasingly diverse community working at USJ. Many of these agreements have facilitated international research collaborations. We note with particular satisfaction the establishment of the first Sino-Luso Joint Laboratory for Marine Science between USJ, the Institute of Oceanology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Qingdao, the Institute of the Sea and Air in Lisbon and the Centre for Fine Chemistry and Biotechnology of the Catholic University of Portugal in Porto.

Consolidation of Strategic Initiatives

Building on the priorities outlined in our Strategic Management Plan 2020–30, we achieved key milestones in the consolidation of academic excellence and institutional sustainability. The launch of the KB-120-USJ Academy for Cell Nutrition has already contributed significant findings in the fields of nutritional science and constitutes a concrete example of a joint

platform between Mainland business and a Macao higher education institution for the research, development and commercialisation of high-level bioscience, connected with Traditional Chinese Medicine. As we look to develop similar initiatives in the areas of Smart Care for the Elderly, we expect significant advances of benefit to Macao society and that of the Greater Bay Area.

Our efforts to enhance the quality of teaching and learning were supported by the rollout of a faculty development programme focusing on innovative pedagogical practices and digital transformation. Combined with the completion of the programme review, accreditation and institutional quality audit processes, at the end of the 2023/24 academic year, USJ can confidently claim that our academic offerings are of the very highest quality.

The university's commitment to sustainability was further solidified through initiatives such as the "Green Campus Project," which achieved a 20% reduction in energy consumption across all facilities. Our students and staff actively participated in community-focused projects addressing environmental conservation and social inclusion, embodying our values of service and social responsibility. Our commitment to sustainability through participation once again the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings continues to enable a focused approach to the challenges facing the world.

Navigating Extraordinary Challenges

Our failure to secure permission to recruit a larger number of Mainland students was an enormous disappointment. The Mainland students we have educated are uniformly complimentary about the quality of their education at USJ and testify to the spirit of national integration and concern for national security education in the university. We remain hopeful that an increased permission will, in time, be granted and thank both the Macao SAR Government and DSEDJ for their assistance in this regard. We continue to be bewildered by the fact that Mainland students are permitted visas to leave Mainland China to enrol in our sister Catholic universities, both across the globe and closer to home in Taiwan, whilst not being permitted to come to USJ. We can only hope that our commitment to inculcate a spirit of "love Macao, love China" in our students will eventually bear fruit.

The levels of post-pandemic financial support from the combination of the DSEDJ Education Fund, FDCT and the Macao Foundation means that USJ now receives somewhere in the order of 45% of the pre-pandemic public subsidy. This has put serious strain on the university's ability to continue to provide the range and quality of higher education we believe is appropriate to meet the needs and aspirations of our student body.

Looking Ahead

As we conclude this transformative year, we remain steadfast in our dedication to excellence in teaching, research, and community service. The University of Saint Joseph is poised to continue its journey of growth and innovation while addressing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Together with the support of the Bureau for Education and Youth

Development, we will strengthen our contribution to the development of Macao as a vibrant hub of education and cultural exchange.

We extend our gratitude to the Bureau for its guidance and support throughout this academic year. We look forward to continued collaboration as we build a brighter future for our students, our institution, and our community.

The Rev'd Professor Stephen Morgan, BA(Div) (Maynooth), MA, MSt, DPhil (Oxon.)

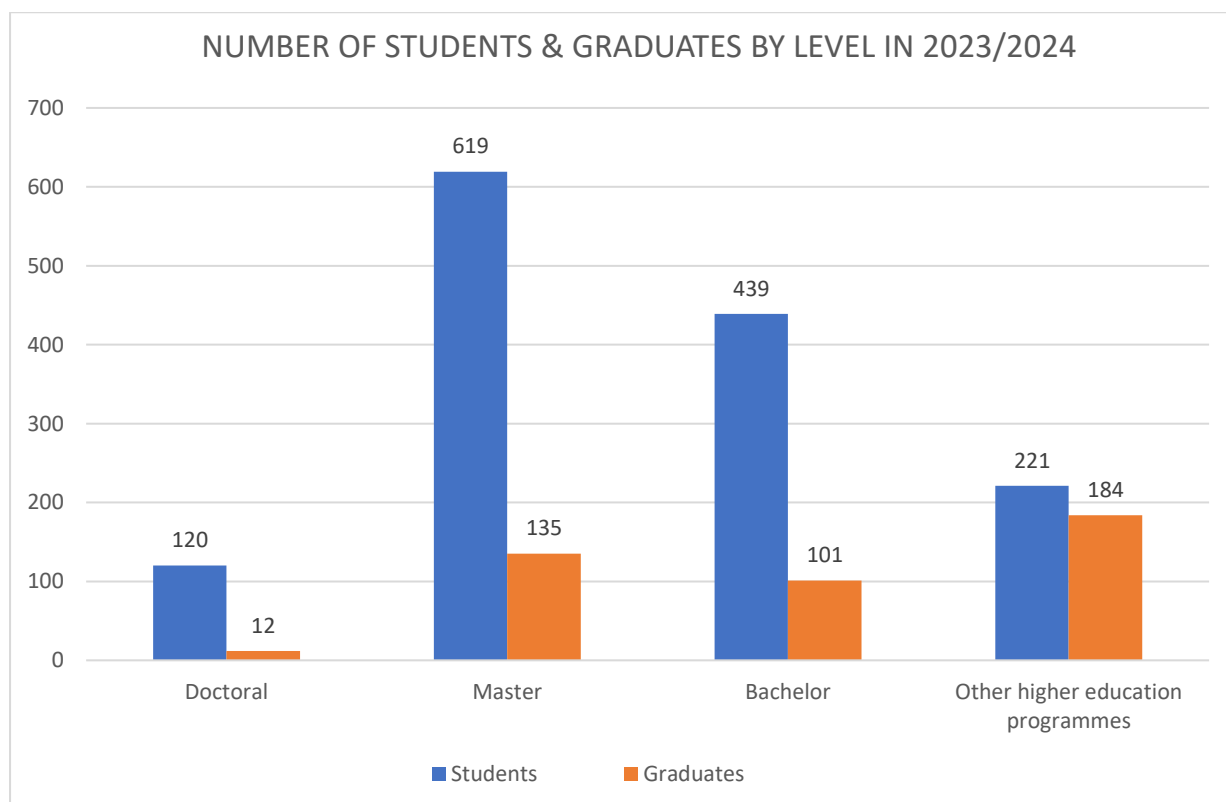
PART I

1) OVERVIEW OF 2023/2024 ACADEMIC YEAR

1.1 Statistics, analyses and comparisons of student, teaching staff, teacher-student ratio and programme data

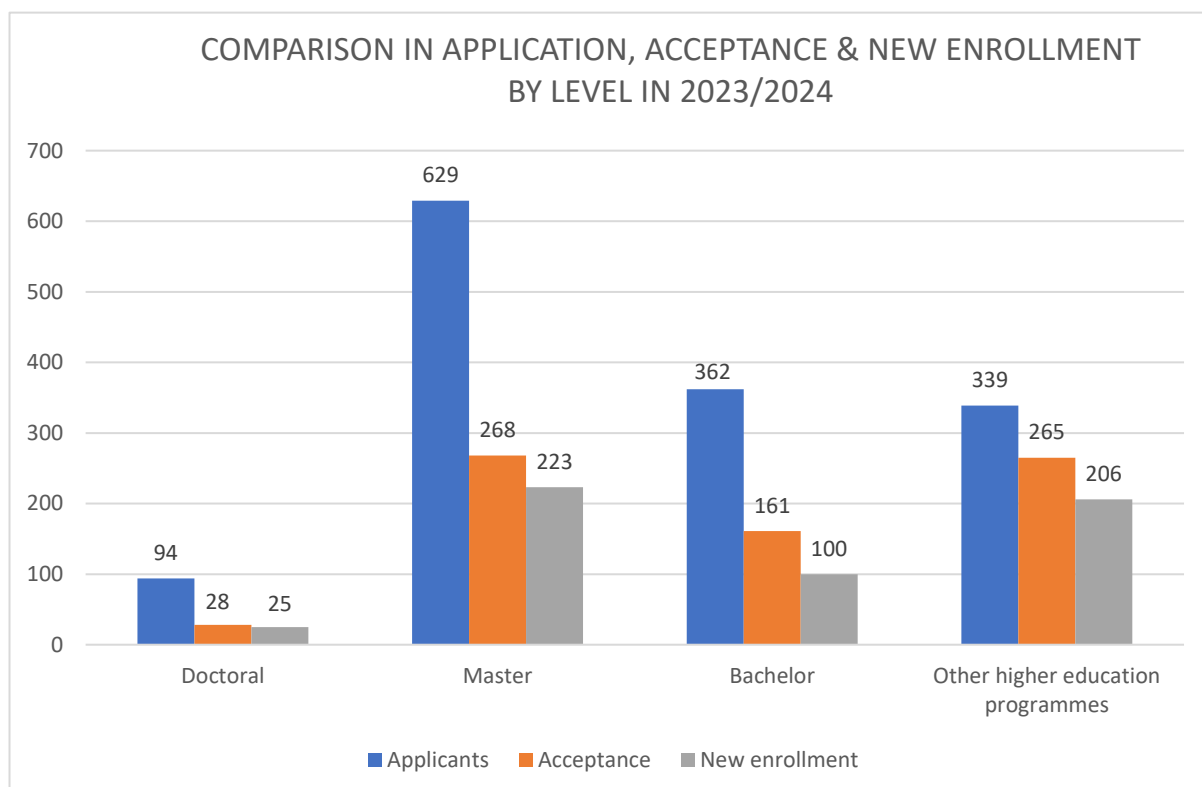
❖ Students

Programmes	Total Students 2023/2024	Total Graduates 2023/2024
Doctoral	120	12
Master	619	135
Bachelor	439	101
Other higher education programmes	221	184
Total	1,399	432



Application, Acceptance and New Enrollment

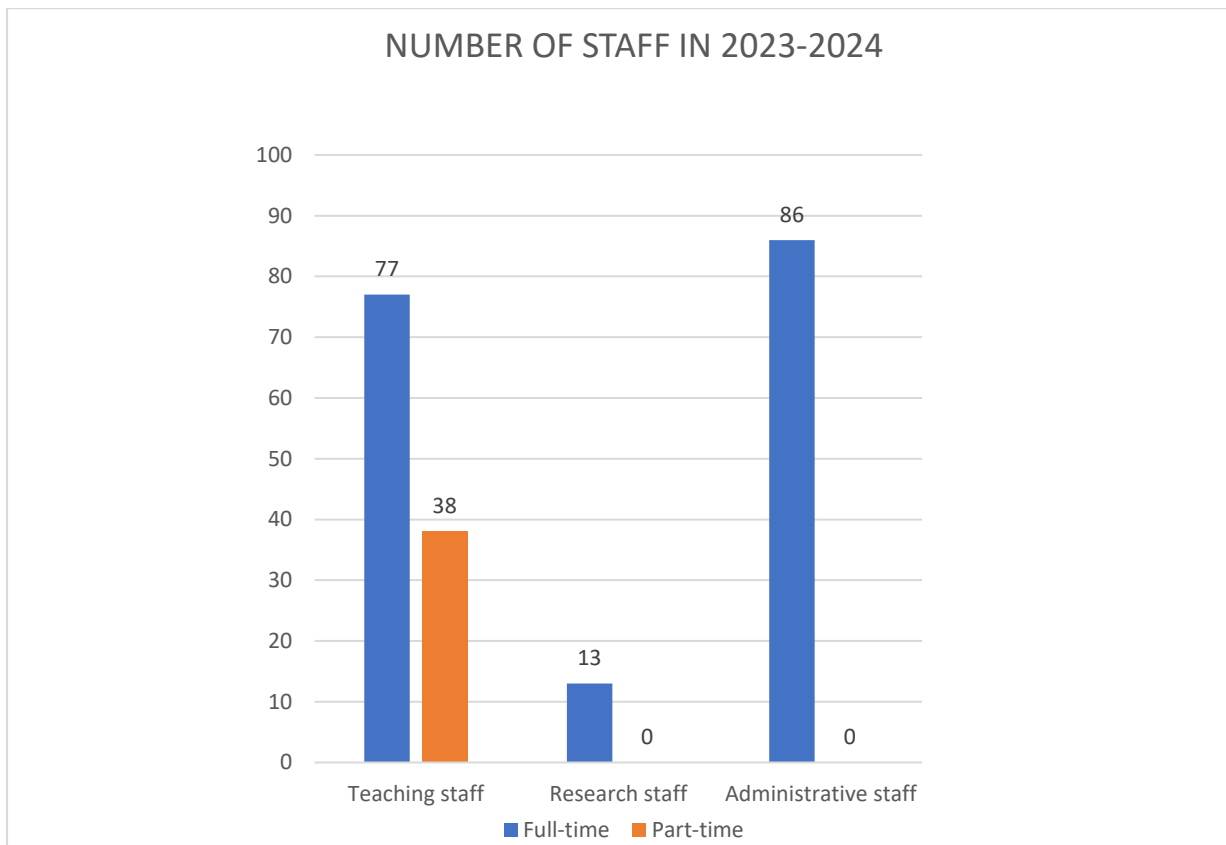
Level	Application 2023/2024	Acceptance 2023/2024	New Enrollment 2023/2024
Doctoral	94	28	25
Master	629	268	223
Bachelor	362	161	100
Other higher education programmes	339	265	206
Total	1,484	722	554



NEW ENROLLMENT RATE: **76.73%**

❖ Academic Staff

TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF IN 2023/2024 (as of 31 August 2024)			
Categories	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Teaching staff	77	38	115
Research staff	13	0	13
Administrative staff	86	0	86
Total	176	38	214

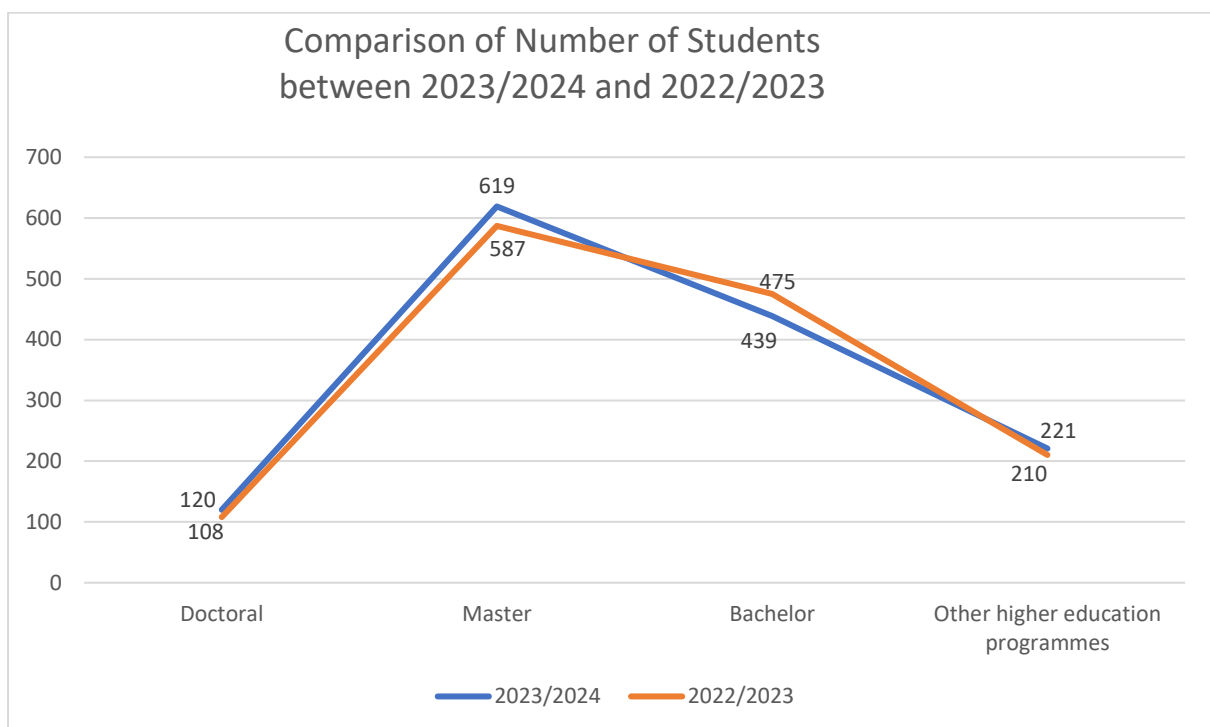


TEACHER-STUDENT RATIO: 1 : 14.57

A comparison of figures between academic year 2023/2024 and 2022/2023

❖ Students

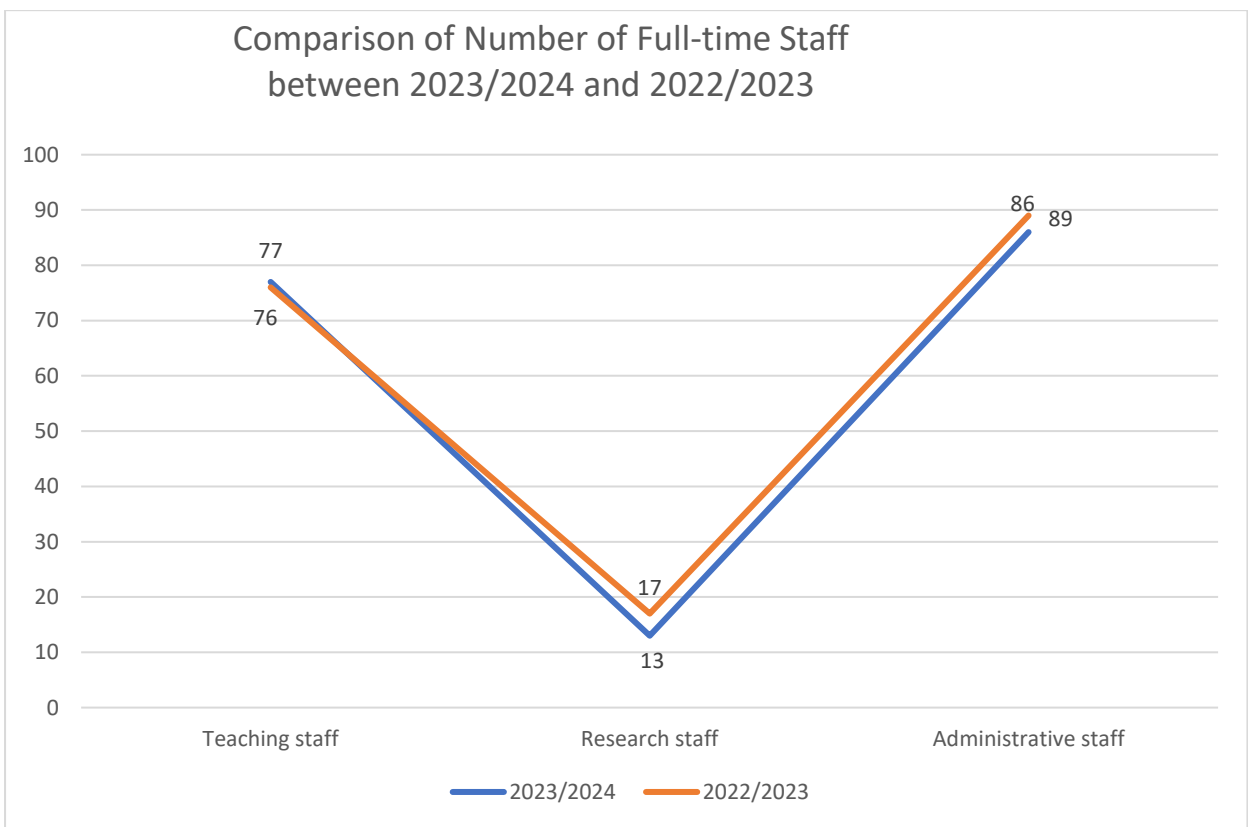
Programme Level	Total Students 2023/2024	Total Students 2022/2023
Doctoral	120	108
Master	619	587
Bachelor	439	475
Other higher education programmes	221	210
Total	1,399	1,380



TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS:  1.37%

❖ Academic Staff

Categories	Total Full-time Staff 2023/2024	Total Full-time Staff 2022/2023
Teaching staff	77	76
Research staff	13	17
Administrative staff	86	89
Total	176	182



TOTAL NUMBER OF FULL-TIME STAFF:  3.3%

Academic programmes

Breakdown of Application and New Enrolment by Programme 2023/2024

Programme	Unit	Level	Applicants	Acceptance	New Enrolment	Acceptance Rate	New Enrolment Rate
PhD in Business Administration	FBL	Doctoral	39	4	4	10%	100%
PhD in Education	SED	Doctoral	18	9	8	50%	89%
PhD in Global Studies	FAH	Doctoral	5	3	3	60%	100%
PhD in Government Studies	FBL	Doctoral	6	4	1	67%	25%
PhD in History	FAH	Doctoral	4	3	4	75%	133% ¹
PhD in Information Systems	IDEAS	Doctoral	11	0	0	0%	0%
PhD in Psychology	FHS	Doctoral	5	3	3	60%	100%
PhD in Religious Studies	FRSP	Doctoral	3	1	1	33%	100%
PhD in Science	ISE	Doctoral	3	1	1	33%	100%
Master of Architecture	FAH	Master	24	11	9	46%	82%
Master of Business Administration	FBL	Master	134	41	35	31%	85%
Master of Communication and Media	FAH	Master	20	8	5	40%	63%
Master of Community Development	FBL	Master	8	5	3	63%	60%
Master of Counselling and Psychotherapy	FHS	Master	39	25	21	64%	84%
Master of Design	FAH	Master	50	16	15	32%	94%
Master of Education	SED	Master	167	66	60	40%	91%
Master of Environmental Sciences and Management	ISE	Master	47	24	20	51%	83%
Master of Government Studies	FBL	Master	21	14	8	67%	57%
Master of History & Heritage Studies	FAH	Master	11	8	4	73%	50%
Master of Neuroscience and Behaviour	ISE	Master	10	7	6	70%	86%
Master of Lusophone and International Public Law	FBL	Master	9	7	5	78%	71%
Master of Organizational Psychology	FHS	Master	30	8	7	27%	88%
Master of Philosophy	FRSP	Master	10	5	4	50%	80%
Master of Religious Studies	FRSP	Master	2	0	0	0%	0%
Master of Social Work	FHS	Master	42	23	21	55%	91%
Mestrado em Estudos Lusófonos de Linguística e Literatura	FAH	Master	5	0	0	0%	0%

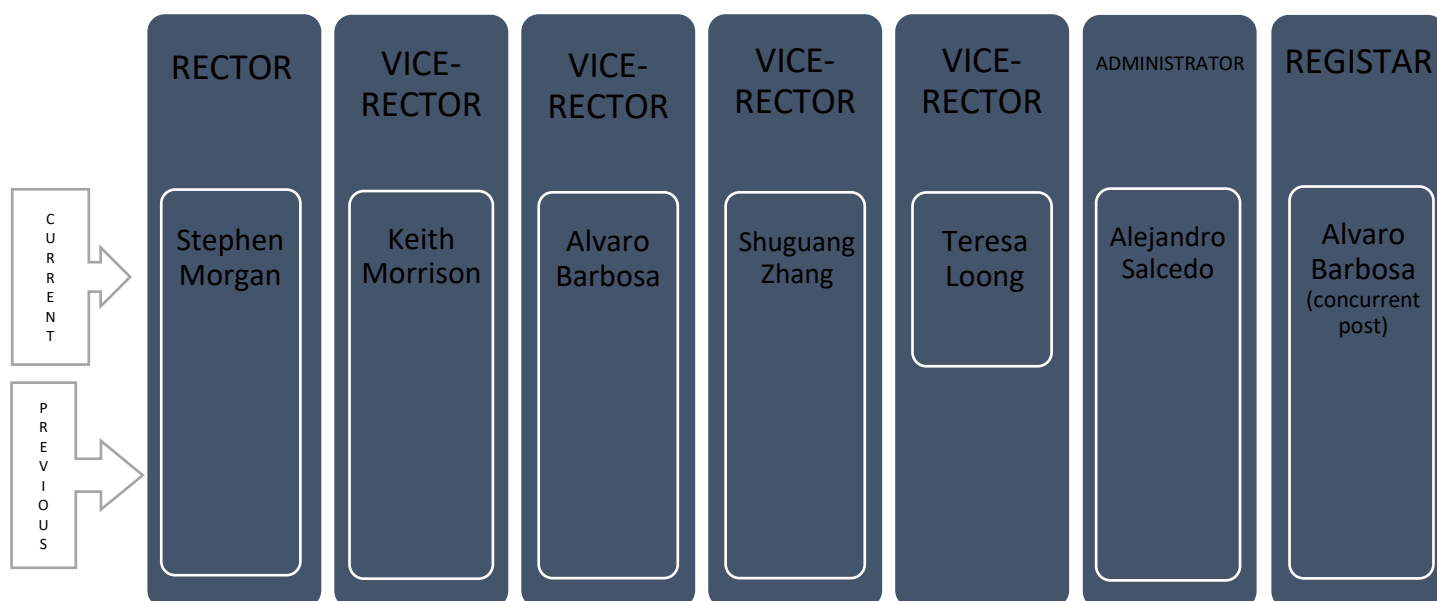
¹ One student has changed from PhD in Education to PhD in History.

Programme	Unit	Level	Applicants	Acceptance	New Enrolment	Acceptance Rate	New Enrolment Rate
Bachelor of Architectural Studies	FAH	Bachelor	13	5	5	38%	100%
Bachelor of Business Administration	FBL	Bachelor	72	24	19	33%	79%
Bachelor of Christian Studies	FRSP	Bachelor	3	3	5	100%	167% ²
Bachelor of Communication and Media	FAH	Bachelor	42	18	16	43%	89%
Bachelor of Design	FAH	Bachelor	22	10	7	45%	70%
Bachelor of Education	SED	Bachelor	40	9	8	23%	89%
Bachelor of Environmental Science	ISE	Bachelor	23	8	8	35%	100%
Bachelor of Fashion Design	FAH	Bachelor	5	0	0	0%	0%
Bachelor of Philosophy	FRSP	Bachelor	10	5	4	50%	80%
Bachelor of Portuguese-Chinese Studies (Language and Culture)	FAH	Bachelor	47	38	0	81%	0%
Bachelor of Portuguese-Chinese Translation Studies	FAH	Bachelor	17	10	8	59%	80%
Bachelor of Psychology	FHS	Bachelor	34	16	10	47%	63%
Bachelor of Social Work	FHS	Bachelor	34	15	10	44%	67%
Foundation Course in Philosophy	FRSP	Pre-University	14	13	13	93%	100%
Associate Diploma in Portuguese-Chinese Translation	FAH	Associate Diploma	5	0	0	0%	0%
Post-Graduate Diploma in Legislative Sciences	FBL	Post-Graduate Diploma	2	0	0	0%	0%
Post-Graduate Diploma in Education	SED	Post-Graduate Diploma	378	252	193	67%	77%
Total			1,484	722	554	48.7%	76.7%


² Two students of FCP have enrolled in BCS.

1.2 USJ's structural and management changes

1.2.1 Senior management movement in 2023/24



1.2.2 USJ service units in 2023/24

ADMINISTRATION SERVICE UNITS LINE MANAGER Administrator Alejandro Salcedo		RESEARCH SERVICE UNITS LINE MANAGER Vice-Rector Keith Morrison		OUTREACH SERVICE UNITS LINE MANAGER Vice-Rector Teresa Loong	
FHRO FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE Head of Office Gracinda Neves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Management, Budgeting and Accounting Human Recourses General Procurement Subsidies and Public Funded Projects Budgeting and Accounting 	LIB LIBRARY Head of Office Emily Chan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USJ Publishing Press Library infrastructure, On-line resources, and portfolio Management of Library Alliances and Partnerships USJ Archives 	OSAA OFFICE FOR STUDENT AND ALUMNI AFFAIRS Head of Office Jenny Lam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Development and Exchange Alumni Relations Scholarships and Counselling Sports and Recreational Activities Internship and Career Development
TFO TECHNOLOGY AND FACILITIES OFFICE Head of Office Tiago Monteiro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IT Infrastructure Development and Maintenance Campus Facilities Development and Maintenance Campus Operations, Helpdesk and Security Residential Hall Services Transportation and Vehicles IT and Infrastructural Procurement 	RDO RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT OFFICE Head of Office Raymond Lam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a Research Portfolio Repository Validate Funded Projects Applications Supervise Research Coordinators Monitoring Funded Projects Execution Academic oversight of the FHRO Project Management Team 	CPRO COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE Head of Office Line Manager (interim)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Macao & HK Student Recruitment Mainland China Student Recruitment Events Management Communication and Media Corporate Design Management of MOUs
USO UNIVERSITY SECRETARIAT OFFICE Head of Office Miranda Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Management and Deans Secretariat Management of Councils and Committees' meetings Management and Record of Administrative Documentation 	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICE UNITS LINE MANAGER Vice-Rector Zhang Shuguang		ACADEMIC AFFAIRS SERVICE UNITS LINE MANAGER Vice-Rector Alvaro Barbosa	
ISO INFORMATION SYSTEMS OFFICE Head of Office Marco Leong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and Maintenance of Information System Platforms Development and Management of Online Payment Gateways Development of Library Information Systems 	IDO INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE Head of Office Line Manager (interim)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GBA Structural Development Projects Mainland China and Macao Cooperation Development of Regional Partnerships 	QAO QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICE Head of Office Lavena Cheong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QAE System Development Management of QAE repository of data and documentation Management of Institutional/Programme Accreditation and Review Processes Ranking Submissions and Data Gathering
 聖若瑟大學 UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH		LLO LIFE-LONG LEARNING OFFICE Head of Office Marisa Lam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and Promotion of Extension Training Programmes Management of Training Partnerships Executive Training For Credit Summer and Winter Programmes 	AAO ACADEMIC AFFAIRS OFFICE Head of Office Mavis Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academic affairs Academic records Scheduling Admissions
USJ SERVICE UNITS FRAMEWORK FOR COLLABORATION (September 2023)		IAO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE Head of Office Line Manager (interim)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Partnerships and MOUs International Student Exchange International Promotion and Student Recruitment International Engagement with Academic Associations 		

1.3 Internal mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the Charter

The mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the Charter are included in the Charter itself. The three main deliberative bodies, the General Council, the Senate and the Executive Council, have complementary duties to oversee the normal functions of the University and ensure that they develop in accordance with USJ's *Mission, Vision and Strategic Development Plan*.

Elections for membership of the General Council and the Senate of the University took place in June 2023.

The Senate of the University met for the first time on 9 October 2023. It discussed and adopted internal rules of procedure in that meeting, and further four times during the year.

The Quality Assurance Office provided periodic reports to the Executive Council, as the standing committee of the General Council, regarding the approval, monitoring and review of regulations, policies and procedure as appropriate. Where necessary, these were brought to the General Council and the Senate for their consideration, approval and adoption.

The General Council has requested that the Rector provide a report on the operation of these bodies and the University's Charter in early 2023/24.

1.4 Effectiveness in teaching, academic success, and community engagement

Faculty of Arts and Humanities (FAH)

- Public Lecture Series | Macao's East-West Tourism Economy: Culture, Gastronomy, and Identity Imaginaries



On October 10th, 2023, a public lecture was held focusing on the significant role of the Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR) in China's global economic power. Macao, known for its high tourism revenue, was discussed as a city that embodies a cosmopolitan culture, luxury, and consumerism.

The lecture highlighted Macao's membership in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, specifically in the field of gastronomy. This membership was used as a case study to explore public policies related to cultural tourism, heritage, and identity in Macao. The discussion aligned with the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative, emphasizing economic expansion and the creation of global alliances.

○ **Language and Linguistic Seminar | Contemporary Sinograms Rooted in Chinese Tradition**

On October 25, 2023, the event *"Contemporary Sinograms Rooted in Chinese Tradition"* was held to analyze some of the most frequently used characters in modern Chinese thought. This analysis focused on characters integral to the ideological mainstream, which is deeply influenced by China's rich philosophical traditions.

The program aimed to uncover how traditional Chinese philosophy continues to shape contemporary ideologies and thought processes. It involved exploring the historical and cultural significance of these characters, their evolution over time, and their current usage in modern discourse. The goal was to provide a deeper understanding of how ancient philosophical concepts are embedded in today's Chinese language and thought, highlighting the enduring legacy of China's intellectual heritage.



- **Workshop Series 2023-2024 | Digital Mapping Methodology and Application in Macao**

On December 08, 2023, the “*Digital Mapping Methodology and Application in Macao*” training program was held to disseminate and popularize the concept, creation, and application of digital maps and mapping techniques. This program aimed to educate the general public on the effective use of maps to communicate spatial topics. With the rise of smart-city initiatives, the importance of digital mapping has grown, becoming essential for understanding and utilizing Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

In Macao, where the cityscape is dense and constantly evolving, digital mapping proves to be a powerful tool for analyzing and presenting complex information. The ability to store, analyze, and present spatial data is particularly beneficial for urban policy formulation, socio-economic planning, and social studies.



- **Public Exhibition | Unveiling the Artistic Journey of Eduardo Nery at the Macao Airport**

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities hosted the exhibition “*Unveiling the Artistic Journey of Eduardo Nery at Macao Airport*” from April 11th to 26th, 2024, at the Kent Wong Exhibition Gallery, USJ Ilha Verde Campus. This exhibition marked the 30th anniversary of Eduardo Nery’s mural at Macao International Airport, a significant artwork commissioned by the Macao Government in 1994.

The mural, located in the departure lounge mezzanine, explores themes such as Portuguese and Chinese religions, the historical significance of the sea, nautical science, aviation in Macao, and Portuguese culture. The exhibition provides a deep dive into Nery’s creative process, offering insights into the conception and realization of this iconic tile panel, which has become a symbol of the airport.



- **Film Screening and Exhibition | MOVIEMENT: Graduation Projects of the Bachelor of Communication and Media**



On May 16th, 2024, the immersive artistic event “*MOVIEMENT*” took place, blending a film screening with an exhibition to celebrate the beauty of movement in all its forms. Centered around the Macao community, this event showcased diverse artworks that delved into the vibrant urban life of Macao, exploring both literal and metaphorical meanings of movement.

The exhibition captured the fluidity of Macao’s landscapes, reflecting the city’s constant movement and transformation. It also raised awareness about environmental issues, societal consequences, and the need for sustainable solutions. Complementing the exhibition, the film screening offered a journey into the world of visual storytelling. “*MOVIEMENT*” aimed to provoke reflection on the impact of movement in our lives, fostering a deeper understanding of our interconnected world.

- **Exhibition | RE-IMAGINE MACAO - Bachelor Capstone Projects of the Department of Architecture and Design**

Organized by the Department of Architecture and Design of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ), RE-IMAGINE MACAO brings together two exhibitions from June 26th to August 30th 2024 showcasing the 2023/2024 academic year capstone projects of the Bachelor of Architectural Studies – “Outer Harbour Scapes” – and Bachelor of Design – “Rhizomatic Design”. Graduates present their capstone project to the public through this exhibition as the final step of their studies.



Faculty of Business and Law (FBL)

- **International Symposium | Open Innovation – Macao Edition**



The International Symposium on Open Innovation is a Macao Foundation-funded project that includes three symposiums in three cities: Fortaleza, Brazil (25 August 2023); Lisbon, Portugal (22 September 2023); and Macao, China (10 November 2023). The main objectives of this international symposium are to facilitate discussions and sharing of practices in the application of Open Innovation in the Greater Bay Area and Portuguese Speaking countries, and for the University of Saint Joseph Macao (USJ) to share their research on Innovation in the Greater

Bay Area with partners in Portuguese-speaking countries, starting with Brazil and Portugal which the symposiums are co-organised with partner universities in the two places.

- **Round Table | Sustainable Business Series - Rethinking to Promote a Better Quality of Health and Well-being in the Workplace**

On November 22, 2023, the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) hosted a significant event as part of its Sustainable Business Series, focusing on the intersection of health, well-being, and business. This series includes various research activities, public lectures, round-tables, and short courses dedicated to sustainable business practices, such as green finance, green products, and leveraging business as a force for social good.

The Business of Health and Well-being Round-table was a collaborative effort between the Faculty of Business and Law (FBL) and the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) at USJ. Held at the Artyzen Grand Lapa, this round-table featured panel discussions addressing the critical role of health and well-being in business contexts.

This initiative aligns with several United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically: SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all; SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

The event successfully brought together experts and stakeholders to discuss and promote sustainable business practices that prioritize health and well-being, contributing to broader global sustainability efforts.



Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS)

○ Third Forum of Psychology

The Third Forum of Psychology, organised by the Department of Psychology (DPY) of the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ), took place on the evening of 17 November 2023, Friday, at the Kent Wong Exhibition Gallery B1/F of the University of Saint Joseph's Ilha Verde Campus.

The third edition of the Forum expanded its goals to promote cross cultural studies with the participation of the Faculty of Psychology at Saint Louis College, Bangkok, Thailand, and the Faculty of Psychology at Widya Mandala Catholic University, Surabaya, Indonesia. During the Forum, two international academic research papers were presented.

Prof. Teixeira, on behalf of the DPY, gave the students a small token of appreciation, before opening the floor to an enriching networking opportunity, as participants were free to directly talk to the presenters.



Over 50 participants, including Bachelor, Master and Doctoral Programme students and alumni, as well as staff and strategic partners, learned more about the different research projects being conducted in the department, promoting the scientific discussion of the many subfields of Psychology and strengthening the recognition of Psychology as a core STEM discipline.

- **Exchange Camp | The Value of Life**

The Department of Social Work of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) and St. Paul's School organized a two-day exchange camp in March, themed "*The Value of Life.*" The event attracted over 170 students and aimed to encourage participants to reflect on the value of life through exploration and to understand the needs of disadvantaged groups in society through sharing.

Held on March 9th and 16th 2024 at USJ, the camp featured five major activities: "*My Past,*" "*Life Value Circle,*" "*The Future is Yours,*" "*Your Own Unique Shoulder,*" and "*Dream Train.*" These activities were designed to inspire participants to think deeply about life and to discover their dreams.



Faculty of Religious Studies and Philosophy (FRSP)

- **Forum | Doctoral Forum of Religious Studies and Philosophy**

On May 10, 2024, the USJ Doctoral School, in collaboration with the Faculty of Religious Studies and Philosophy, organized a Doctoral Forum in the study and research area of Religious Studies and Philosophy. The event took place in the Conference Room of the Seminary Campus.

The forum featured a keynote address by Prof. Fr. Franz Gassner, who spoke on research methods in Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Theology, covering principles, methods, and practice. The event also included presentations of doctoral projects. Fr. Daniel Ribeiro presented his research on *“The Radical Newness of Christian Worship in the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation Sacramentum Caritatis of Benedict XVI,”* and Mr. Joshua Yuan Haojun discussed *“The Carmelite Spiritual Contribution to the Personalism of Edith Stein and Karol Wojtyła.”*

This forum provided a valuable platform for doctoral students and scholars to share their research and insights, fostering academic dialogue and collaboration in the fields of Religious Studies and Philosophy.



○ **Symposium | Celebrating 100 Years of the “Primum Concilium Sinense” – The First Council of Bishops in Shanghai, China (1924)**

To mark the centenary anniversary of the First Council for China (*Primum Concilium Sinense*, also known as Shanghai Council), the Faculty of Religious Studies and Philosophy of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) Macao organised an International Symposium held from the 26th to 29th of June of 2024, at the USJ Ilha Verde Campus. This event brought together 17 renowned scholars from Macau, mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the United States, to examine the history and significance of this pivotal moment in the history of Chinese Catholicism.

The symposium featured a diverse array of presentations and discussions covering topics such as the Council’s role in adapting Catholicism to Chinese culture, its influence on Catholic media, Bible translation, missionary work, and the development of sacred music in China. Highlights include a public lecture on the first day entitled *Imago Mundi: Transnational Filmmaking and American Jesuit Missions in Early Cold War China*, by Dr. Joseph W. Ho, on the filmmaking of American Jesuit

missionaries in China during the early Cold War era, as well as a premiere screening of the rare 1949 documentary film *Ageless China*, by Fr. Bernard Hubbard, SJ, and Fr. William Klement, SJ, in the Fátima Auditorium on the following evening. The film took the audience through postwar China in 1947–1948, including rare scenes from Beijing, Nanjing, Shanghai, and Yangzhou and Chinese Catholic communities related to these cities.



The symposium was inaugurated by Prof. Stephen Morgan, the Rector of USJ. Messages from Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Pro-Prefect for the Section of Evangelization of Dicastery for Evangelization, and Cardinal John Tong Hon, Bishop Emeritus of Hong Kong, were played to the participants of the symposium. Both cardinals noted the unique place of the Shanghai Council in the history of Christianity in China, and highlighted its inspirations for the evangelisation in China today. Following the messages from two cardinals, Most Rev. Stephen Lee Bun Sang, the Bishop of Macao, gave an opening speech in which he also reviewed the significance of the council to the Catholic Church in China.



The symposium was subsidised by the Macao Foundation and attracted over 80 in-person participants, with an additional 40 joining online from across Greater China.

School of Education (SED)

- **Interactive Workshop**

Under the coordination of Prof. Isabel Tchiang, Year 3 Bachelor of Education students led an interactive workshop at Escola Nossa Senhora de Fátima (Fátima School) on 12th March 2024. This dynamic session harmoniously blended General Studies, Religious Studies, and Visual Arts, providing a comprehensive educational experience for 35 local P5 students. Through captivating lectures, our student teachers fostered cross-disciplinary connections, enriching the learning journey of all participants.



Through captivating lectures, our student teachers fostered cross-disciplinary connections, enriching the learning journey of all participants. The workshop also included an inspiring STEAM activity themed around Easter, which left a lasting impression on everyone involved. This initiative reflects the unwavering dedication of our student teachers to holistic education and the nurturing of future talents, highlighting their commitment to shaping well-rounded individuals.

1.5 Crisis management on campus

1.5.1. Statement of Safety Policy

The University of Saint Joseph is committed to ensuring the safety of all its students, staff, visitors, and employees of contractors operating on all University premises.

The University will make all reasonable arrangements to fulfil this commitment. The Health and Safety Policy (Policy) requires all administrative units, faculties, and contractors to comply with the relevant legal and regulatory/contractual requirements, identify and prevent hazards and risks, report emergency incidents, ensure students and employees are adequately informed of those hazards and risks and be aware of emergency procedures. In times of emergency, all administrative units, faculties, staff, students, visitors, and employees of contractors must work together under central coordination to secure safety and protect life and property. Whenever it is required by the law, while immediately informing the University, everyone shall report an emergency incident to the Fire Department of Macau, the Police Department, DSEDJ, or other relevant public authorities.

1.5.2. General Emergency Management Plan

To implement the Health and Safety Policy, the Executive Council developed a General Emergency Management Plan (Plan) which applied to all University operations, both on campus and in university-controlled or used off-campus premises. Since the academic year of 2021-2022, the University has promulgated the following documents which are effective now.

1.5.2.1 Drug Alcohol and Smoking Policy

1.5.2.2 Emergency Evacuation and Operation Policy

1.5.2.3 Procedure Responding to the Death of a Student

1.5.2.4 Procedure for Responding to the Death of University Faculty or Staff Member

1.5.2.5 USJ Policy on Political Activities

1.5.2.6 USJ Disciplinary Policy for Staff

More policies, procedures, guidelines, and detailed emergency plans for the prevention and management of specific types of emergency incidents are also being developed by the

University, including, but not limited to infectious diseases, food and beverage hygiene and safety, suicide, traffic and activity accidents, and other criminal offenses.

This Plan provides the management responsibilities and general procedures to follow during and after an emergency. The Plan's purpose is to:

- a) Save and protect the lives of students, teachers, other employees, and the public.
- b) Save and protect the properties that belong to the University and members of its community as well as the public.
- c) Provide essential emergency responses and services during crises, including supporting services to obtain, establish or maintain effective communications and rescue aid.

This general plan applies to all types of events of emergency that occurred anywhere in the campuses or premises of the University, including those caused by fire, leaking or misplacement of hazardous materials, construction accident, earthquake, terrorist attack, pandemic flu outbreak or any other major natural or man-made disaster or incident that requires emergency responses.

1.5.3. Responsibilities

Responsibilities for safety and emergency management shall be defined in accordance with the laws of Macau, internal regulations of the University, relevant contracts and agreements. The Catholic Foundation for Higher Education as the title holder of the University and the University as a legal person are jointly responsible for maintaining a safe learning and working environment in the University. The Executive Council is in charge of introducing the Policy and the Plan. To enhance preparedness and improve the University's ability to respond to, and recover from, all threats towards the University and its members, in the first semester of 2020-2021, the Health and Safety Committee was retitled as Health, Safety and Environment Committee the Policy and Plan regarding the Health, Safety and Environment issues. The Deans of faculties and Heads of administrative units are responsible for ensuring compliance with the Policy and Plan. The security company, campus/property management company and/or other contractors providing services to the University are responsible for safety management defined under their contracts with the University.

1.5.4. Laws and Authorities

The Policy and Plan are established under the relevant laws and authorities of the Macau SAR. One of them is Chief Executive Instruction No. 297/2012. When there is an emergency as defined under this Instruction, such as a serious natural disaster, man-made accident disaster, hazardous material/waste crisis, public health crisis or public security incident, the University shall report to the Government of Macau and provide support to the government agency to take the lead in handling the event.

1.5.5. Health, Safety, and Environment Committee

The Health, Safety, and Environment Committee (HSEC) is a standing committee of the University. This is a University-wide committee consisting of representatives from across the institution with the Heads or delegates from the following Offices:

- Communication and Public Relations Office
- Counselling Centre
- Finance and Human Resources Office
- Office for Student and Alumni Affairs
- Technology and Facilities Office
- By invitation, Co-opted Members and/or external advisors can join the Committee in attendance with voice and without voting rights on relevant agenda items.

The Committee adopts a proactive stance to promote, disseminate and sustain health, safety, and environment in the work of the University and all its members, and the prevention of risk. The Committee reports to the Administrator of the University. It is recommended that one of the members shall have expertise in counselling or medical service or good experience in communicating and working with local law enforcement agencies or other relevant departments of the government.

1.5.6. Safety Education, Training and Preparation

All staff and students are required to participate in safety education and training activities organised by the university.

The Guidelines are distributed to all members of the USJ community through the internet or in hard copies and shall be included in the information package for new staff and students. The FHRO (Finance and Human Resources Office) and OSAA (Office for Student and Alumni Affairs) are responsible for delivering the information and informing the new staff and students.

The University shall support the duty officers and other relevant staff to participate in more specialised training when such a training program is made available and considered appropriate. The HSEC may organise regular or special meetings to identify needs and risks and develop more detailed strategies, procedures, and action plans for the preparation of effective handling of emergency incidents.

1.5.7. Disclosure of information

The HSEC shall decide when to alert the media and/or otherwise disclose information to the public about the emergency incident. Once an emergency incident is announced or disclosed, the HSEC shall provide updates on the University website or by other means. Such a disclosure shall be approved by the Rector or Acting/Duty Vice-Rector.

1.5.8. Emergency Phone Numbers

The government emergency phone number to report a crime, fire, medical emergency, or serious threat to life and property in Macau is 999. The University of Saint Joseph emergency contact is 62976969.

2) FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

2.1 Analysis of USJ's financial condition in 2023/2024

The University's primary goal is to provide our society with the best educational system and offer our students excellent quality of service. However, this results in high costs. The big challenge for the University is to achieve our goal of managing operating expenditure to a level equal to or lower than the revenue. We have been obtaining more external subsidies and creating different projects for donations to cover our operational costs, allied to extra funding for University research projects and academic activities, to support our mission in teaching, learning, and research.

Tuition fees alone are not enough to cover higher education costs in the mission of its provision to a broad spectrum of the population. Therefore, the Macao Government grants funding has been essential for the University to balance its accounts. Whilst the University recognizes that the Macao Government has tried to be as supportive as possible, the reductions in available subsidies have had severe financial consequences. The University has taken timely cost-cutting measures and is considering alternative strategies.

The University has never reached an internally sustainable financial equilibrium – relying most of the last ten years on a mixture of subsidy from the Macao Government and ad hoc support from the Diocese of Macao to fund cashflows. In the financial year to 31st July 2024, the University's annual profit and loss account deficit was MOP\$41.8M.

In recent years, cost control has improved markedly, although specific significant ratios deteriorated from 2019/20 and are difficult to reverse immediately. Personnel Expenses have increased compared with the past three years due to the implementation of a Pension Fund, restructuring of the Administrative Offices, salary upgrades, and the 13th Month Bonus, deemed necessary by the University if it is to retain the experienced staff and lower what had been a high staff turnover rate.

We are fully conscious that the underlying financial problem is that, given the actual operating costs, USJ operates below a sustainable critical mass of students. Student numbers need to rise by 50% to secure its long-term future.

In 2019, USJ produced a Strategic Plan as part of its commitment to seeking institutional accreditation under the new Macao Higher Education Law of 2017. Although a comprehensive

and well-regarded plan, it was not designed to, nor did it, contain any financial objectives. In October 2020, to fill this lacuna, the University adopted a Ten-Year Strategic Management Plan to become a financially self-sustaining entity no later than 2030. The extended duration of the pandemic has meant that many of the actionable measures in that plan have had to be delayed by at least three years. Also, there is an urgent need to update the Strategic Management Plan for the coming years.

The combined effects of these factors, with the historic utilization of anticipated income and dependence on using capital grants and recoveries to support operating income, mean that the actual net asset position is unsustainable and that current cashflows and bank facilities are inadequate. There is a very significant risk that without additional liquidity (by way of an injection of cash or other banking facilities), USJ would cease to be able to meet its operating obligations within the next two years.

2.2 Balance sheet

Please refer to spreadsheet FINC01.

2.3 Consolidated income and expenditure statement

Please refer to spreadsheet FINC02.

2.4 Subsidies or funding from the government and public organisations

The Project Monitoring Team (PMT), under the Finance and Human Resources Office (FHRO), is responsible for monitoring the management of different projects run by project leaders in which external funds are involved to ensure that both external and internal rules have fully complied. In addition, a Procurement Policy has been created, and through the efforts of the Procurement Units, it can be guaranteed that the purchase of equipment and services is well conducted.

PMT keeps records of each project approved by USJ's Executive Council (EC) and checks that expenditures align with the budget submitted. The office has to approve all project purchases and payments following their respective budgets and available funds. It reminds project leaders to report periodically on their project's progress and provide their final report on time.

Procedures for executing the funds available:

1. The project Leader or the Person in charge (PL) will contact the Procurement Units requesting the quotation of the good or service.
2. PL endorses the quotations for items approved on the Procurement or Payment Request Form.

3. The endorsed quotation (with the approved Payment Request Form) is submitted to PMT.
4. The PMT checks and marks the quotation by the approved proposal.
5. If the quotation is within the approved typology and budget for each item, the PMT sends the marked quote to the Head of FHRO for further approval.
6. After approval, the Procurement Units will follow up with the purchase or acquisition of the service. The Treasury Section of the Finance and Human Resources Office will prepare the payment accordingly with the payment condition and method proposed.
7. When the activity is completed, the Project Leader must submit to the PMT, within two weeks, a report with all the relevant documents, including photos and printed materials, to be included in the consolidated information to the sponsors.

2.5 Internal audit mechanism on using funding from Macao government

2.5.1 Measures have been taken for the profit/loss

For many years, USJ has faced consequences of poor financial performance, inadequate cost control and management information, under-capitalization, and dependence on unreliable and opaque public funding sources. Without a radical investment of time, effort, and financial resources to make good on the University's singular opportunity, USJ will not succeed.

In 2019/20, the Rector and Executive Council recommended the adoption of the Strategic Management Plan to secure the future of USJ as a privately funded international Catholic University as a financially self-sustaining entity, in the first instance through to 2030.

The above can be achieved by meeting the following objectives:

1. Recruit sufficient students to ensure that overall numbers rise to 1,800 as soon as sustainably deliverable.
2. Ensure a return to an operating surplus on the profit and loss account by 2024/25 and, after that, operate at a net favorable cash flow position.
3. Replace dependence entirely on Macao SAR Government funding sources for operational purposes by 2024/25.
4. The Strategic Management Plan sets out eight strategies with supporting plans and actions that target a sustainable operating surplus by 2023/24, positive operating cash flows by 2024/25, positive net assets by 2026/27, and eliminating its accumulated deficit by 2027/28.

To attain these targets, the Catholic Foundation has secured a MOP\$60M Capital injection to the University and an MOP\$80M loan from the Bank in 2021.

USJ is now at a point where several significant decisions need to be made concerning the future of the University, its long-term strategic direction, and the associated financial implications.

While these financial decisions are entirely a matter for the Catholic Foundation, the strategic direction is a matter for the University General Counsel; the Rector and the Executive Council recommend that those bodies take those necessary actions to allow USJ to reach self-sustainability by the end of the 2024/25 financial year. To eliminate the accumulated deficit on the balance sheet by 2029/2030, they should adopt a strategic plan to deliver on these objectives.

2.5.2 Calculation on Depreciation

USJ follows the straight-line depreciation guidelines throughout the respective asset's useful life. Therefore, the depreciation and amortization rates vary according to the number of years of the individual assets' useful life, following in the applicable cases the minimum rates of depreciation and amortization in Decree-Law 4/90/M.

2.6 Analysis of measures to address profit or loss situation

天主教會大學暨高等教育基金
Fundação Católica de Ensino Superior Universitário

Your reference	Date of your reference	Our reference	Date
n/a	n/a	001/CFHE/2025/E/GN	15/01/2025

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to confirm that the Catholic Foundation for Higher Education is totally aware of the current financial situation of the University of Saint Joseph, and that Foundation is undertaking all the necessary measures and actions to assure and maintain the financial conditions and sustainability of the University.

Yours sincerely,



The Most Reverend Stephen Lee Bun-sang
Bishop of Macao
President of the Catholic Foundation for Higher Education

2.7 Average costs of programmes for students

Please refer to spreadsheet FINC04.

2.8 Expenditure on scientific research

Please refer to spreadsheet FINC05.

3) QUALITY ASSURANCE AND EVALUATIONS

3.1 Internal quality assurance operations

The overall quality assurance and enhancement (QAE) framework is extensive and diverse, providing a scaffolding for quality assurance and enhancement at the University. It is reflected in the University's range of QAE documents and reaches into all aspects of the University, committee structures, operational matters, and levels of application (from university level to individual staff member level).

QAE across the University is accompanied by the installation and operations of committees, councils and Boards: The General Council of the University, the Executive Council, the Senate and Standing Committee of the Senate, the Scientific Council and Pedagogical Council of each Faculty/School/Institute (hereafter in this section, academic unit), the Boards of Examiners, and External Advisory Boards.

- (a) The University has a [Framework for Quality Assurance and Enhancement](#) which has been in place since the academic year 2018/2019. This is organised into 7 main areas of focus: The Overall Framework and its operation; Governance, Management and Administration; Students; Staff; Academic Programmes; Quality Assurance and Enhancement; Fees and Charges. This is designed to be a foundational document, hence its scope is wide and deliberately inclusive, to underline the message that the reach of quality assurance is wide, touching all aspects of the University.
- (b) The University also has the [Framework for Quality Assurance and Enhancement at the Programme Level](#) (identifying key programme elements for focus) and the [Framework for Quality Assurance and Enhancement at the Module Level](#), both of which are nested within, and aligned to the Framework at the University level, and the latter aligned also to the former.
- (c) With the rising profile of research in the academic work of the University, the Quality Assurance Office has issued the document [Quality Assurance of Research at the University of Saint Joseph](#) in November 2023. This document identifies three areas of focus ((i) Research Environment, People and Culture; (ii) Research Outputs, Contribution to Knowledge and Understanding) and (iii) Engagement in, and Impact of, Research), at three levels: University, Faculty, and Individual Staff Member.
- (d) The University conducts routine student feedback on every module through its Student Responses to Instruction (SRTI) questionnaire; staff-student consultation and feedback are also conducted through its Pedagogical Council in each academic unit.
- (e) On an annual basis, a university-wide survey of "Student Life in USJ" is conducted to gather students' views about the different areas of USJ, including but not limited to services, support, learning engagement, extra-curricular, facilities, teachers, etc. It plays

a significant role in the improvement and QAE work, complementing the feedback collected through other channels, e.g. the Pedagogical Council within an academic unit.

- (f) Each academic unit has an [External Advisory Board](#) which meets each semester to give to, and obtain feedback and feedforward from, external stakeholders. This is designed to ensure that programmes meet external requirements (e.g. for graduates' careers) and are up to date with trends outside the University.
- (g) The University has installed Boards of Examiners in each academic unit, to ensure that Agreement Trials, moderation procedures and scrutiny of marks are conducted, so that the standards and grades are secure, reliable and fair, and staff development for the operation of Boards of Examiners is provided. Guidance on assessment is also provided for Visiting Academics.
- (h) Quality assurance and enhancement are also addressed through by the installation of [Graduate Attributes](#) across the University and all its members.
- (i) Proposals for new programmes, and major amendments to existing programmes, go through a formal review procedure and through different layers of the committee structure at USJ. The rigorous flow is highlighted as follows:
 - The Faculty's Scientific Council of the Faculty.
 - USJ's Senate has given its opinion and approved the Study Plan.
 - USJ's Executive Council, after hearing the Senate, has made the proposal to the General Council.
 - The General Council, at the proposal of the Senate, has given the authorization.
- (j) Areas of focus in Programme Reviews, Academic Standards and Externality, which are set out in the *University's Framework for Quality Assurance and Enhancement*, basically follow the guidelines set out by the Higher Education Bureau of Macau SAR government.
- (k) The University's Strategic Development Plan is accompanied by Key Performance Indicators.
- (l) A pan-university data collection system has been set up so that data are collected properly, kept, and monitored on a regular basis. The data include, but are not limited to, matters of staff, students, academic and research records and repository, external and internal matters, staff development, quality assurance etc.
- (m) Regular review and update of documents is a crucial element of QAE work. Throughout the year, the University undergoes a vigorous process of reviewing and updating its QAE documents, which are made available to the University's user-friendly, regularly-updated repository website.
- (n) Ongoing staff development on QAE is provided to ensure that quality assurance and enhancement is widely embedded in the practices and culture of the University.

3.2 Professional accreditation

The University does not have any programme that has gone through professional accreditation.

3.3 Follow-up actions on evaluations

Please refer to spreadsheet RAEN03.

3.4 Follow-up actions on Institutional Accreditation

The University has not gone through institutional accreditation.

3.5 Other works on quality assurance

In the academic year 2023/2024, USJ has completed its first Institutional Quality Audit in the first evaluation cycle. Agência De Avaliação E Acreditação Do Ensino Superior (A3ES) was the engaged external quality assurance agency for the audit, with the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and the Faculty of Business and Law selected as specific units for detailed examination. The final evaluation report was received in October 2024, and the Action Plan is being formulated.

To benchmark the University's contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in the academic year 2023/2024, USJ continued to have applied to the Timers Higher Education Impact Rankings as a commitment to making positive impact through environmental sustainability performance via education, research, community engagement and operations.

4) SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH & ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Development in scientific research and academic works

Please refer to spreadsheet REAN05.

4.2 Information on industrial incubation and transformation of results

Please refer to spreadsheet REAN06.

4.3 Large-Scale academic activities, training, certification and research programmes

▪ International Young Doctoral Forum

In order to support the Macao SAR Government's "1+4" strategy of moderate and diversified development, and to continuously promote the development of the healthcare industry, the Macao Doctoral Think Tank and the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) jointly organised the International Young Doctoral Forum with the theme "*Development and Opportunities of Macao's Big Health and Medical Tourism Industry*" on **11 November 2023** in the Auditório Centenário de Fátima, USJ Ilha Verde Campus.

Guan Yanbin, Director of the Research Office of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao Special Administrative Region, Xu Feng, Deputy Director of the General Affairs Department of the Foreign Affairs Office, Rev'd Prof. Stephen Morgan, Rector of USJ, Wong Ka Lun, Honorary Chairman of the Doctoral Think Tank, as well as leaders from various social organisations attended the event.



Founder of Doctoral Think Tank, Dr. Wong Ka Lun, said that the aim of this joint Forum with USJ is to better study the in-depth integration of healthcare industry and tourism, and to promote the young doctoral thinking about the overall development of the

country and Macao, so as to make good use of the advantage of contributing to Macao's diversified development with their wisdom.



- **2023 International Symposium on Children and Youth Health and Well-Being**

The “2023 International Symposium on Children and Youth Health and Well-being”, co-organised by the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ), the Macao Observatory for Social Development of USJ, the Faculty of Education and Psychology of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP) in Portugal, and the Kiang Wu Nursing College of Macau (KWNC), and sponsored by Macao Foundation, was held with on **24 November 2023**. The event brought together over 100 university students, academics and researchers, social workers, psychologists and other professionals working in the field of healthcare and child well-being.

This interdisciplinary symposium provided a platform for scholars, researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers to connect and make meaningful contributions to knowledge and policy building on children and youth health and well-being, particularly in light of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 – to ensure healthy lives and promote the well-being for children and youth.



The Symposium addressed different categories in Social Work, Psychology, Education, Public Health, Medical Sciences, and other areas that focus on the health and well-being of children and the youth, through six keynote speakers in the morning session, including Prof. Yi Song from Peking University, Dr. Tam Kuai In from Kiang Wu Nursing College of Macau, Prof. Mariana Negrão from Catholic University of Portugal, Dr. Chien-Chung Huang from Rutgers University, Prof. Yi-Long Liu from Fu Jen Catholic University, and Dr. Elsa Tsang from USJ.

The parallel sessions addressed various issues and social problems impacting the lives, health and wellbeing of our new generation, in response to the SDG 3: “*Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*”, and SDG 3.4: “*By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being*”. It featured remarkable and insightful presentations of 25 submitted academic research papers in six themes, namely “*Technology and Well-being*”, “*Use of Achenbach System of Empirically Based Assessment (ASEBA) in Macao*”, “*Health and Mental Health*”, “*Child Protection and Family and Well-being*”, “*Promoting Resilience and Well-Being*”, and “*Stress, School, and Inclusion*”, and a research workshop “*International System for Trauma-Sensitive Contexts-2nd Autumn Research Workshop*”.

- **Asia-Pacific Social Work Students’ Conference 2024**

The Asia-Pacific Social Work Students’ Conference 2024, themed “*Fighting for Wisdom: Wisdom of Social Workers and Creative Intelligence*”, co-organised by the Department of Social Work of the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ), the Macau Social Workers Association, the Hong Kong Social Workers Association Foundation

Limited, and the Hong Kong Social Workers Association, was held on the **1st July 2024** in the form of an exchange seminar and a visit to local service organisations. The event was organised for students to gain insight into the current landscape of social work services.

Visits were arranged to local service organisations for social work students to gain a deeper understanding of their service development. Meanwhile, the seminar was held at the Macao Vocational and Technical Education Activity Centre from 5th to 8th June. Around 100 social work students from Macao, Hong Kong, Mainland China, Malaysia, the Philippines and Taiwan, attended the conference, which facilitated academic exchanges among social work students in the Chinese region, broadened the learning experience of young students, and enhancing the professionalism of Macao's social work students and trained young leaders.



A series of experiential workshops on the use of smart technology in social work services were held through interactive sessions to enable participants to experience what tools can be scientifically and effectively used in social services in the world of AI technology. Participants were very engaged in the workshop programme. Participants were able to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the current status and future development trend of smart technologies in social services, as well as the ethical and value issues that need to be considered when applying them. Participants were able to experience first-hand the application of smart technologies in real-life social services to enhance their understanding and awareness of the relevant technologies. The "Real Talk" with academics and experts provided participants with an opportunity to have direct exchanges and discussions with industry experts, which helped to inspire ideas and broaden their horizons.

The symposium provided students with the opportunity to gain insight into the advantages and challenges of balancing innovation and intelligence in social services. It

also equipped them with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in their future social service roles. The event was a comprehensive and multifaceted programme that enabled participants to gain valuable experience and inspiration through a holistic approach to understanding and reflecting on the application of IT in social services and the ethical and moral issues involved.

- **Ceremony for the Conferral of Higher Degrees and USJ Graduation Ceremony 2024**

The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) held its 2024 Graduation Ceremony on the **6th of July, 2024**, conferring degrees to a total of 381 students across three sessions – session A for the conferral of doctoral and master’s degrees, session B for bachelor’s degrees, and session C for Post-Graduate Diploma de Education (PGDE) graduates.

The ceremony took place in the Auditório Centenário de Fátima in USJ Ilha Verde Campus. The event was sponsored by Macao Foundation.

The Class of 2024 includes 6 associate diploma recipients, 105 bachelor’s degree graduates, 167 Post Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) recipients, 95 master’s degree graduates, and 8 doctoral degree recipients.



The first session was officiated by the representative of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Mr. Kong Chi Meng, Director of the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ), with the presence of distinguished guests, including Chancellor of USJ Most Reverend Bishop of Macao Stephen Lee Bun-sang, Rector of the Catholic University of Portugal (UCP), Prof. Isabel Capelo Gil, representative from the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in SAR, the Science and Technology Development Fund

(FDCT), and the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS), Consul General of Portugal in Macao and Hong Kong Ambassador Alexandre Leitão, Diplomatic Corps accredited in Macao, Fellows from the Catholic Foundation for Higher Education, Honorary Guests, Higher Education Institutions in Macao, Donors of USJ, and local Associations.

Mr. Kong Chi Meng, Director of the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ), congratulated the graduates and expressed the Macao SAR Government's commitment to higher education development. He highlighted the "1+4" strategy for economic diversification, emphasizing the need to cultivate talents for both the local community and the country. He praised USJ's efforts in promoting Sino-Portuguese academic and cultural exchanges, noting the internationalization of its faculty and student body. He also commended the establishment of the USJ-Kong Hon Academy for Cellular Nutrition and Health, which strengthens the university's research and development efforts in a key area.



The Rector of USJ, Rev'd Prof. Stephen Morgan congratulated the graduates on their remarkable achievements during his addresses. He emphasized that, as catholic university, USJ is committed to fostering not only academic excellence but also moral responsibility, highlighting the increasing importance of these values in a world demanding ethical leadership. *"You are now not only equipped to give such leadership, you have a solemn duty, an obligation to do so,"* he urged the graduates. He also addressed the doctoral graduates specifically, emphasizing their responsibility to share their knowledge and continue their scholarly pursuits with both intellect and heart.



Rector Morgan also highlighted the diversity of the graduating class, stating that the *“graduands today come from a diverse range of backgrounds, nationalities and languages. They leave us ready to contribute to their societies, whether here in Macao, in China or, as friends of Macao and friends of China across the globe.”* He also expressed confidence on the preparedness of the graduates in facing the challenges and opportunities they would face. *“The world is complex, yet filled with opportunities for those prepared to meet them. As graduates of the University of Saint Joseph, I know that you are better-equipped to navigate this landscape because of your time at USJ.”*

The graduation ceremonies concluded with a series of speeches given by student representatives from different degrees featuring messages of gratitude, hope, appreciation, and encouragement directed to the guests, families, faculty members, and colleagues.

5) ACADEMIC EXCHANGE AND COOPERATION

5.1 USJ’s internationalisation

During the academic year 2023-2024, the University of Saint Joseph has engaged in Academic Exchanges and Institutional visits, signed Memorandum of Understanding with prestigious higher education institutions and likewise enhance the existing network and become part of a new ones.

These dynamics facilitate the exchange of knowledge and strengthen professional networks between participating institutions to foster collaborative research opportunities and also establishing strong academic ties, participants can access diverse perspectives, resources, and expertise that can enhance research quality, also Promote cross-cultural understanding and global awareness among participants through immersive experiences in different academic environments, exposure to varied educational systems and cultural practices enriches participants' worldviews and contributes to the development of more inclusive and comprehensive academic programmes.

Furthermore, these opportunities aim at exchange innovative pedagogical strategies and best practices to enhance teaching effectiveness and student engagement across institutions. As well provide a platform for sharing effective teaching techniques encourages continuous improvement and adaptation, resulting in enhanced learning outcomes for students. Throughout these engagements, USJ consider benchmarking implement policy innovations and administrative practices observed during visits to improve institutional governance and operational efficiency, by learning from the successes and challenges of other institutions allows for the adaptation of proven strategies to suit specific organizational needs.

Additionally, USJ participants were provide opportunities to acquire new research skills and refine methodologies through workshops and joint projects during academic exchanges for the faculty members aiming to excel in their respective fields.

Lastly, but not, limited to, is the establishment of long-term partnerships and joint initiatives such as dual degree programmes, co-hosted conferences, and collaborative grants that benefit all involved institutions. Sustained partnerships create a foundation for continuous academic exchange, enhancing institutional prestige and broadening opportunities for students and faculty.

ACADEMIC EXCHANGE AND INSTITUTIONAL VISITS

- INWARD ACADEMIC EXCHANGE VISITS

Visit of the UNISERVITATE Asia & Oceania Regional Hub on Service-Learning Initiatives Delegation

On August 9, 2024, representatives from the De La Salle University – UNISERVITATE Asia & Oceania Regional Hub (UA&ORH) visited the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) to conduct a benchmarking activity focused on the Service-Learning (SL) practices within the University's academic and social engagement operations. The delegation was warmly welcomed by USJ's Vice-Rector for Student Affairs, Dr. Teresa Loong, along with representatives from various faculties and supporting units.

Attendees at the meeting included USJ's Prof. Jacky Ho, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences; Prof. Iris Mak from the School of Education; Prof. Filipa Martins from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, representing the USJ Green Committee; Prof. Alexandre Lebel from the Institute

of Science and Environment; Ms. Jenny Lam, Head of the Office of Student and Alumni Affairs; and Mrs. Ana Paula Mota, Manager of International Affairs. From the UA&ORH, participants included Coordinator Mr. Jimi Caldea; Assistant Coordinator Ms. Romina Eloisa Abuan; SL Programme Specialist Ms. Marietta Guanzon; and attendees Mr. Peter Jayson Moredo and Mr. Niku Vicente.



Mr. Niku and Ms. Marietta presented an overview of the frameworks and activities at the UNISERVITATE Regional Hub and globally, highlighting recent outreach efforts to engage more Catholic higher education institutions in their mission. Before visiting USJ, the delegation conducted benchmarking sessions with institutions in Hong Kong. Prof. Jacky Ho emphasized USJ's Green Campus location, which is close to local NGOs and underprivileged communities, and expressed a desire to promote social engagement for the younger generation to become active citizens.

Prof. Iris Mak discussed USJ's activities with local primary and high schools, noting that while Service-Learning (SL) is not yet mandatory in the curriculum, connections through the Office of Student and Alumni Affairs enhance students' cultural competence. Ms. Jenny Lam highlighted initiatives like teaching English in lower-income countries and workshops on supporting the visually impaired and gender equality, which allow students to volunteer in areas of interest while fostering professional development. Prof. Filipa Martins emphasized the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in USJ programme, mentioning various social engagement activities led by the USJ Green Committee, such as Coastal Clean-up's and research on Macao's soundscapes.

During the USJ NAPE campus tour led by Prof. Alexandre Lebel and USJ graduate students, the UA&ORH delegation explored facilities and ongoing research at the Institute of Science and Environment. They observed projects including indoor mangrove plantations, microplastics research, climate awareness initiatives, and the development of affordable technology to promote sustainability and accessibility for the public.

Dr. Teresa Loong highlighted the alignment of ASEACCU, where USJ serves as the Executive Secretariat, with the UNISERVITATE mission. She expressed hope for further collaboration with delegation members at the upcoming ASEACCU Annual Conference and looks forward to participating in future UA&ORH events as part of USJ's engagement with the regional community and partner institutions.

Visit of the Rector of Pontificia Della Santa Croce, Rome



On July 29, 2024, USJ warmly welcomed Rev'd Prof. Luis Navarro, Rector of the Pontificia Università della Santa Croce in Rome. He was accompanied by Rev'd Joseph Buzzo from the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong. The visit was marked by cordial greetings from USJ's Vice-Rector for Internationalisation and Academic Affairs, Prof. Álvaro Barbosa, and Fr. Cyril Jerome Law, Jr., Dean of the Faculty of Religious Studies and Philosophy. This meeting underscores the collaborative spirit and commitment to fostering academic partnerships between the institutions.

The recent meeting between the USJ and the Pontificia Università della Santa Croce fostered deeper mutual understanding and laid the groundwork for future collaborations. Prof. Álvaro Barbosa highlighted USJ's mission as a Catholic institution in Macao, its roles within ASEACCU and IFCU, and its distinctive curriculum for international students. Fr. Cyril Jerome Law, Jr. elaborated on the educational mission in Philosophy and Theology, introducing a new Master's programme aimed at enhancing local engagement and strengthening the ecclesial community.

During his visit, Rev'd Prof. Luis Navarro emphasized the enduring value of in-person connections in education, particularly in light of recent trends towards virtual learning. He expressed enthusiasm for potential faculty and research exchanges between USJ and Santa Croce in the areas of Liturgics, Canon Law, and Communication Studies. Prof. Carlos Caires,

Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, showcased USJ's campus facilities and the Graduation Exhibition, highlighting the impressive work of design and architectural students.

Additionally, Rev'd Prof. Navarro delivered an open talk titled "Evangelization, Laity and Charisms" on July 30 at the Holy Cross Chapel at USJ.

Visit of the Delegation of ISCAP-P. Porto



A delegation from ISCAP-P. Porto, led by Vice-Presidents Prof. Ana Bandeira, Prof. Manuela Patrício, and Prof. Agostinho Sousa Pinto, visited the University of Saint Joseph's Ilha Verde Campus. They were warmly welcomed by USJ's Vice-Rector for Internationalisation and Academic Affairs, Prof. Álvaro Barbosa, along with other faculty members and the Manager of International Affairs, Mrs. Ana Paula Mota.

The delegation participated in an insightful dialogue regarding the higher education systems in Portugal and Macao. They discussed the aims and obstacles associated with launching new diploma, bachelor, and master's programme, as well as upcoming innovative initiatives and their anticipated learning outcomes. ISCAP representatives also elaborated on the complexities of managing public funding and accreditation processes, many of which resonate with those at USJ.

Since 2017, ISCAP-P. Porto and USJ have maintained a Memorandum of Understanding, and both institutions are eager to advance their collaborative doctoral programme. Additionally, they plan to enhance faculty exchanges and student mobility in the Business field, offer joint degrees in Portuguese language studies, and establish scholarship programme as part of their ongoing partnership initiatives.

The visit wrapped up with a tour of the USJ studios and facilities. Members of the USJ delegation look forward to visiting the new ISCAP campus soon to continue discussions on shared interests and collaborative activities.

Visit of University of Fortaleza (UNIFOR) in Brazil



On June 14 to June 22, 2024, USJ welcomed Professor Josimar Souza Costa, Coordinator of the Business Administration programme at the University of Fortaleza (UNIFOR) in Brazil. This visit aimed to strengthen the collaboration established by the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2017 between the two institutions.

During his visit, Professor Josimar Souza Costa was warmly welcomed by key representatives from USJ, including: Prof Alexandre Lobo, Head of the Department of Business Administration, Prof. Alessandro Lampo, Programme Coordinator for the Bachelor of Business Administration, Mrs. Ana Paula Mota, Manager of the International Affairs Office, Professor Felipe Chibas Ortiz, Associate Professor.

The meetings between USJ and UNIFOR aimed to establish a dual degree MBA programme, allowing student exchanges, and to integrate the BBA, MBA, and PhD programme. They also discussed research collaborations. This visit continues the partnership initiated by the 2017 MoU, promoting exchanges and joint projects.

During his visit, Professor Josimar Souza Costa toured the USJ Macao Ilha Verde campus, exploring various facilities, including the Sound Lab, Fashion Design Studio, Media Lab, Design Studio, Architecture Studio, Fabrication Lab, Adelson Foundation Audio Visual Studio, and the Laboratory of Applied Neurosciences, as well as the N.A.P.E campus. This visit marks a significant advancement in the collaboration between USJ Macao and UNIFOR. The discussions held during the week are anticipated to foster new initiatives and partnerships between the two institutions.

Vice-rector Prof. Álvaro Barbosa Promotes USJ's Academic Programmes and Scholarship Opportunities at San Sebastian College - Recoletos, Manila

On Tuesday, May 14, 2024, the Vice-Rector for Internationalization and Academic Affairs of University of Saint Joseph (USJ) Macao, Professor Álvaro Barbosa, visited [San Sebastian College – Recoletos \(SSC-R\)](#) in Manila, Philippines, and delivered a presentation. The

presentation aimed to introduce USJ's academic programmes, facilities, and available scholarship opportunities.



During the presentation, Professor Álvaro Barbosa provided an overview of USJ Macao, with a particular focus on the Communication & Media programmes. He highlighted the curriculum, experienced international academic staff, state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, and the global employment opportunities available to graduates.

The event was attended by Bachelor of Art in Communications students and programme chairs from SSC-R Manila. This visit follows the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between USJ Macao and SSC-R during the [36th AUAP conference](#). The MOU encapsulates collaborative research, joint projects, cultural and academic exchanges of staff and students, joint supervision of theses, and participation in seminars, workshops, conferences, and academic meetings. Notably, the potential for the establishment of double degree programmes is being explored.

Executive Director of the International Portuguese Language Institute visited USJ

On May 17, 2024, João Laurentino Neves, Executive Director of the International Portuguese Language Institute (IILP), visited the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) in Macao. He was warmly received by Prof. Carlos Sena Caires, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, and Prof. Tânia Ribeiro Marques, Head of the Department of Languages and Culture.

During the visit, a meeting was held where it was agreed that master's and doctoral students from USJ would participate in a project with the International Portuguese Language Institute (IILP) and the Centre for Linguistics of the University of Porto (CLUP) to provide spoken Portuguese language data in Macao. Additionally, USJ and IILP explored the development of

specialized Portuguese language training programme for specific groups in Portuguese-speaking countries and China.



Delegation of the University of Santo Tomas visited USJ Macao to explore future collaboration opportunities

On May 2, 2024, a delegation from the University of Santo Tomas (UST), led by Associate Prof. Archie B. Resos, visited USJ Macao. They were warmly welcomed by Reverend Prof. Stephen Morgan, Rector, along with Professor Álvaro Barbosa and Dr. Teresa Loong, Vice-rectors for Internationalisation and Student Affairs, respectively.



During the meeting, the UST delegation engaged with key figures from USJ, including Prof. Carlos Caires and Professor Priscilla Roberts. The main goal was to explore partnership opportunities, particularly between the Faculty of Art and Humanities at USJ Macao and the

Faculty of Arts and Letters at UST. Discussions focused on potential initiatives such as student and academic exchanges, joint supervision of theses and projects, and the development of double degree programme.

The meeting also included UST delegates Assistant Prof. Edelberto C. Bunquin, Assistant Prof. Robert John I. Donesa, and Assistant Prof. Jerome Marcel J. Jaime. USJ Macao expressed gratitude to Mr. Argene Aguila Clasara, a current Master's student, for his vital role in facilitating the visit. Mr. Argene, a UST graduate from 2017, joined USJ Macao's Master's programme in 2022.

UST is a member of ASEACCU, and in 2022, USJ Macao was elected Executive Secretariat for 2022-2025. This reflects their commitment to academic excellence and collaboration in Catholic education.

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) is a leading private research university in the Philippines, ranked among the top 1000 globally. It offers diverse academic programme in various fields, including natural and social sciences, health, and business, and is committed to positively impacting society.

New York Institute of Finance delegation visits USJ and Sino-Lusophone Business Development Centre in Hengqin



On April 25, 2024, a delegation from the New York Institute of Finance (NYIF), led by CEO Mr. Li Tian, visited the USJ to discuss potential partnerships aimed at developing the Guangdong, Hong Kong, Macao Greater Bay Area market. The group included Dr. Sudeep Rathee, Mr. Yang Song, and Dr. Ding Yu.

The meeting at USJ with the NYIF delegation included presentations by Emil Marques, who highlighted the Guangdong, Hong Kong, Macao Greater Bay Area's (GBA) significance, particularly innovations in Hengqin and Macao. The discussion centered on how USJ's degree

programme and projects could support NYIF's expansion in the GBA. Additionally, the recent partnership with SANY (Zhuhai) Investment Co. Ltd, which established the Sino-Lusophone Business Development Centre in Hengqin, was noted as a potential entry point into the GBA.

After the meeting, the NYIF delegation toured the Sino-Lusophone Business Development Centre in Hengqin and learned about the cooperation zone at the SANY Southern Headquarters. The University of Saint Joseph's Faculty of Business and Law aims to support Macau's diversification strategies and enhance integration with the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone. The centre will serve as a hub for capacity building and innovation transfer, continuing USJ's role as a knowledge exchange and talent development centre between East and West. The meeting concluded positively, with a presentation from NYIF CEO Mr. Li Tian on the institute's strategic directions.

Delegation of Xavier University's School of Business and Management explores partnership opportunities with USJ Macao



On April 8, 2024, the University of Saint Joseph Macao (USJ) welcomed a delegation from Xavier University (Ateneo de Cagayan), led by Dr. Teresa Loong, Vice-Rector for Student Affairs. The visit aimed to engage in benchmarking activities and explore potential collaborations. The delegation was accompanied by members of the Consulate General of the Philippines in Macao SAR, including Mr. Lorenzo Rhys Jungco and Vice Consul Ms. Regina Angeli Ambrocio. This visit follows a previous meeting in February 2024, where discussions focused on implementing a fellowship for students from Blue-Card Households in Macao SAR.

The Xavier University delegation visited USJ to gain insights into its business curriculum and enhance their School of Business and Management. The visit aimed to foster collaboration between both institutions, focusing on Environmental Sciences and improving academic programme in business education.

The Xavier University delegation toured the USJ campus, exploring key facilities and noting the modern infrastructure that supports student development. Both sides expressed enthusiasm for future collaborations to strengthen academic networks between the two institutions.

The Xavier University delegation included Dean Dr. Ruth Love Russell, Associate Dean Dr. Rustum D. Gevero, Accountancy Chair Mr. Abel Nicolo L. Yu, Student Entrepreneurship Center Director Dr. Jimbo A. Fuentes, Faculty Member Mr. Rolan F. Literatus, and parents' association representatives Ms. Cherryb Jamero and Ms. Rocel L. Halibas.

The USJ delegation included Vice-Rector Dr. Teresa Loong, Dean Prof. Jenny Phillips, Master of Environmental Sciences Coordinator Prof. Karen Tagulao, and BBA Programme Coordinator Prof. Alessandro Lampo.

The Delegation of the Oeiras Valley Investment Agency visited USJ



On March 25th, USJ Macao hosted Ambassador António Martins da Cruz, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, along with his delegation. This marked the Ambassador's first visit to USJ, where he was warmly welcomed by Prof. Alexandre Lobo and Prof. José Manuel Simões. The visit included a tour of campus facilities, highlighting the friendly atmosphere of the Ilha Verde Campus.

During the campus tour, Prof. Simões highlighted the advanced facilities and technologies on the 6th floor of the academic building, impressing the delegation with the exceptional resources available at the Ilha Verde Campus.

During the tour, Prof. Lobo took the delegation to the Laboratory of Applied Neuroscience, where Mr. Emil Marques presented the new Sino-Lusophone Business Incubation Base in Henqin, which generated enthusiasm for fostering entrepreneurship and collaboration. Following this, the delegation met with Professor Stephen Morgan, Rector of USJ, to discuss potential strategic partnerships between OVIA and USJ aimed at enhancing regional and international cooperation, investment flow, and business opportunities between the Oeiras Valley and Macao.

After the tour, the delegation discussed potential partnerships with Professor Stephen Morgan to enhance USJ's prominence and investment opportunities. Ambassador António Martins da Cruz's visit furthered discussions for future collaborations, positioning USJ's Incubation Base at the forefront of innovation.

Visit of the Delegation of the Asian Institute of Technology Thailand to establish the new opportunity between both institutions



A delegation from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Bangkok, Thailand, visited the University of Saint Joseph's (USJ) Ilha Verde campus in Macau on March 14, 2024. The AIT delegation, led by President Kazuo Yamamoto and including several other senior officials, was warmly received by a group of USJ's Vice-Rector for Research, Prof. David Gonçalves, and other USJ's professors and administrators. The visit provided an opportunity for the two institutions to explore potential areas of collaboration and cooperation.

During the visit, both institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) represented by AIT's President Kazuo Yamamoto and USJ's Vice-Rector Prof. Keith Morrison, under the witness of Mr. Carlos Roberto Xavier, Head of Department of Tertiary Education at the Macau S.A.R. Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ).

The discussions on potential collaborations in the areas of science, environment, and data analytics were initiated when Professor Álvaro Barbosa, USJ's esteemed Vice-Rector for Internationalization and Academic Affairs, visited and engaged with the faculty members of both institutions. They explored mutual areas of interest and laid the groundwork for long-term cooperative frameworks. Additionally, USJ's Vice-Rector for Student Affairs, Dr. Teresa Loong, previously accompanied the DSEDJ delegation in visiting the AIT campus.

During this visit, the AIT delegation was graciously shown around USJ's Green Campus facilities as well as the laboratories and premises of the Institute of Science and Environment on the NAPE campus.

The newly forged partnership between AIT and USJ represents an important milestone, poised to drive forward their collaborative efforts in academic and research initiatives. This partnership also underscores USJ's steadfast commitment to internationalization and fruitful exchanges with its partner institutions in Thailand and strives together to achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The signing ceremony attended by: President Kazuo Yamamoto, Mr. Shawn P. Kelly, Executive Director at the Office of International and Public Affairs, Dr. Chaklam Silpasuwanchai, Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Information Management and Ms. Danielle Duan, Head of Emerging Markets International, by Prof. Keith Morrison, USJ'S Vice-Rector for Research, Prof. David Gonçalves, Dean of the Institute of Science and Environment (ISE), Prof. Alexandre Lobo, Head of the Department of Business Administration and Head of the Laboratory of Applied Neurosciences (LAN), and Prof. Karen Tagulao, Programme Coordinator for the Master of Environmental Sciences and Management and Chair of the USJ Green Committee.

The Consulate General of the Philippines in Macao SAR visited USJ



On February 29, 2024, a delegation from the Consulate General of the Philippines in Macao, led by Consul General Porfirio M. Mayo Jr., visited the University of Saint Joseph (USJ). They were warmly received by Dr. Teresa Loong, Vice-rector for Student Affairs, and Mrs. Ana Paula Mota, Manager of the International Affairs Office.

The main goal is to explore ways to establish a fellowship for students from Blue-Card households in Macao SAR. Additionally, discussions included potential partnerships with

tertiary education institutions, aiming to enhance knowledge and expertise exchange between USJ Macao and Philippine universities.

Another key point discussed was the creation of networking opportunities among Philippine tertiary education institutions, focusing on student and faculty exchange programme and short courses, including summer offerings at both USJ Macao and Philippine schools. These initiatives aim to provide immersive learning experiences and enhance understanding of China, Macao, the Greater Bay Area, and the Philippines.

The Magno Chancellor of the Universidade Politécnica of Mozambique visited USJ



On February 27, 2024, the Rector of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) in Macao, Rev'd Prof. Stephen Morgan, along with other university officials and a member of the Macau Spin Incubator board, graciously received Professor Lourenço do Rosário, the Magnificent Chancellor of the Universidade Politécnica of Mozambique. He was accompanied by Mr. Aurélio Chiconela, the Vice-Consul of Mozambique in Macao. This visit was warmly welcomed and signifies the strengthening of ties between the institutions.

The visit facilitated meaningful discussions regarding the Macau Spin Incubator project, enhancing the relationship between USJ Macao and the Universidade Politécnica of Mozambique. Key participants from USJ included Prof. Jenny Phillips, Dean of the Faculty of Business Law; Prof. Sérgio Gomes, Coordinator of the MBA Programme; Mrs. Ana Paula Mota, Manager of International Affairs; and Mr. Marco Rizzolio, Board Member of Macau Spin.

During the visit, Professor Jenny Phillips and Mr. Marco Rizzolio showcased Macau Spin's services and networking opportunities with the Greater Bay Area and Portuguese-speaking countries. The Magno Chancellor expressed strong interest and promised to share the initiative with his university's relevant department.

Delegation of the Consulate General of Angola in Macao visited USJ



To Follow up on the development of the exchange affairs, a delegation of the Consulate General of Angola in Macao, led by the Consul General of Angola, Dr. Eduardo Galiano, visited the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) Macao on 30 January.

During the visit, USJ Vice-rector for Internationalisation and Academic Affairs, Professor Álvaro Barbosa, and Manager for the International Affairs Office (IAO), Mrs Ana Paula Mota, met with the delegation to discuss sustainable collaboration opportunities in various exchange fields.

The delegation expressed a strong appreciation for the USJ scholarship support, campus environment and interpersonal atmosphere of the USJ Ilha Verde Campus and its members towards the students from Angola pursuing their studies at USJ. The Consul General said, “It would be a precious opportunity for students to study at USJ and experience life in Macao”.

The Consulate General of Angola in Macao first [visited USJ](#) in February 2021, where they discussed enhancing cooperation and hope to promote exchange opportunities further.

Among the delegation were Vice Consul, Mrs Teresa dos Santos and Consular Assistant, Mr. Paulo Silva.

Delegate of the Consulate General of Canada in Hong Kong and Macao visited USJ

On 1 February, a Delegate of the Consulate General of Canada in Hong Kong and Macao visited the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) Macao to explore collaborative opportunities in various academic areas.

USJ members, led by the Vice-Rector for Internationalization and Academic Affairs, Professor Álvaro Barbosa, warmly welcomed the visit of Ms. Sarah Ip, Trade Commissioner (Education,

Arts, and Cultural Industries) of the Consulate General of Canada in Hong Kong and Macao. The visit explored potential collaborations between USJ Macao and the Canadian Tertiary Education Institutions in various academic areas.



During the visit, Ms. Sarah Ip engaged in a productive discussion with Vice-Rector Barbosa with the presence of Manager of the International Affairs Office Mrs. Ana Paula Mota, Prof. Emil Marques from the Faculty of Business and Law, and Assistant Manager of the Communication and Public Relations Office (CPRO) Mr. Ben Lei. Ms. Ip was keen to explore possibilities of collaboration with the Faculty of Business and Law (FBL), the Faculty of Arts and Humanities (FAH), and the Institute of Science and Environment (ISE). The primary objective is to identify opportunities for academic collaboration, fostering a rich exchange of knowledge and expertise between USJ faculties and Canadian Tertiary Education institutions.

One of the focal points of the discussions will be establishing student and faculty exchange programmes and short courses, including summer and winter courses, to be offered at Canadian tertiary education institutions. These programmes will allow students and faculty members from both institutions to participate in immersive learning experiences, gain international exposure, and broaden their horizons about China, Macao, the Greater Bay Area, and Canada. Likewise, it is an opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills in the Canadian academic setting to enrich their educational journey further. Yet, such exchanges will diversify academic perspectives and enhance cultural understanding between the two regions.

USJ Macao is committed to fostering global partnerships, and this visit from the Consulate General of Canada in Hong Kong marks an important step towards strengthening ties with Canadian Tertiary Education Institutions. The joint collaboration will pave the way for exciting academic opportunities, benefiting students, faculty, and the wider community.

Delegation of the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum Macao visited USJ



A delegation led by Ji Xianzheng, Secretary-General of the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao) (Forum Macao) visited the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) on 9 January, 2024.

During the visit, the delegation exchanged views with the Vice-Rectors of USJ, Prof. Zhang Shuguang and Dr. Teresa Loong, on promoting cooperation between Macao and Portuguese-speaking countries, recruitment of bilingual students to support in the upcoming Ministerial Conference, and other related situations.

Vice-Rector Zhang said that USJ will fully support and cooperate with this conference, and will endeavour to cultivate quality Chinese-Portuguese bilingual talents for the Macao SAR and the country, as well as to maintain close cooperation and ties with universities in Portuguese-speaking countries through the platforms of various international university consortiums.

Representatives of the Forum Macao who attended the meeting included Secretary-General Mr. Ji Xianzheng; Deputy Secretary-General Ms. Xie Ying; Director of the Administrative Office Ms Florence Lee, and Director of the Auxiliary Office. Ms Mok Yuen Lei. Representatives of the USJ who attended the meeting included Vice-Rector Prof. Zhang Shuguang, Vice-Rector Dr. Teresa Loong, Assistant Professor Ângelo Rafael, Assistant Professor Nuno Rocha, Manager

of International Affairs Office Mrs. Ana Paula Mota, and Senior Officer of the Office for Student and Alumni Affairs Mr. Andrew Wong.

Vice-President of International Affairs of Sogang University, South Korea visited USJ



Professor Seil Oh, S.J., the Vice-President of International Affairs at Sogang University, visited the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) in Macao on January 15-16, 2024.

During his visit, he met with USJ officials, including Vice-Rector Professor Álvaro Barbosa, to discuss enhancing collaboration in Arts and Humanities, Religious Studies, and Business Administration. They also explored opportunities for USJ students to participate in the Sogang International Summer Programme scheduled for June 24 to July 19, 2024, in Seoul, South Korea.

As part of their ongoing partnership, USJ and Sogang University are initiating collaboration between USJ's Faculty of Religious Studies and Faculty of Arts and Humanities. The first initiative will be a reciprocal Faculty Lectureship Programme, along with the Sogang International Summer Programme, where USJ students will receive a discount on tuition fees.

USJ hosted Educational Exchange for Delegation from Dong Zong Malaysia

On December 4, 2023, the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) in Macau hosted a delegation from the United Chinese School Committees' Association of Malaysia (Dong Zong) for an educational exchange. The visit included representatives from Dong Zong and guidance counselors from 15 Malaysian Chinese independent secondary schools, with participation from the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEJ). USJ's Rector, Rev'd Prof. Stephen

Morgan, and Vice-Rector Dr. Teresa Loong welcomed the delegation and facilitated exchange activities.



During their visit, the Dong Zong delegation toured the USJ campus, exploring its facilities and participating in an exchange activity to learn about USJ's teaching strengths while enjoying Macanese snacks. Rev'd Prof. Stephen Morgan welcomed them, expressing hopes for future cooperation. Mr. Shim Boon Haw, from Dong Zong, thanked USJ for the warm reception. Malaysian students Jaden Ravindran and Sherwin Hng Xuan Wen shared their positive experiences at USJ, highlighting its diverse culture and excellent resources.

The visit concluded positively with a group photo and engaging interactions. USJ is eager to continue contributing to the development of the education sector through ongoing international partnerships.

Visit of the Delegation of the Instituto Português do Oriente (IPOR)

The University of Saint Joseph, Macao (USJ), welcomed the visit from the delegation of the Instituto Português do Oriente (IPOR) on November 1, 2023.

During the delegation at USJ, both institutions proudly signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) represented by the Rev'd Professor Stephen Morgan, the Rector of USJ, and Ms. Patrícia Ribeiro, the Director of IPOR, to strengthen their relations and promote the Portuguese language.

Both institutions agreement depends on their cooperation in Portuguese language education. This includes enhancing scientific research, specialist training, teaching material development, and quality in Portuguese language teaching.



The signing ceremony was attended by: Prof. Carlos Sena Caires, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at USJ; Prof. Tânia Ribeiro Marques, Head of the Department of Languages and Culture at USJ; Professor Nuno Rocha, Senior Lecturer of the Department of Languages and Culture at USJ; Prof. Paula Costa, Head of the Portuguese Language Center at IPOR; and Prof. Maria João Rego of IPOR, and third-year USJ students studying the Portuguese Language module.

Visit of the Delegation of Catholic University of Croatia to establish a strong cooperation between both parties



On October 12, 2023, USJ had the honor of receiving a visit from the delegation of the Catholic University of Croatia (CUC), which was led by USJ Rector, Reverend Professor Stephen Morgan, Vice-Rector for Student Affairs, Dr. Teresa Loong, and Vice-Rector for External Affairs and Institutional Development, Professor Shuguang Zhang of CUC, Rector of CUC, Rev'd Professor Željko Tanjić.

During this visit, he was cordially received for a meeting and lunch prior to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the USJ Ilha Verde campus. The MoU was signed by the rectors of both institutions to establish a cooperative partnership for the next five years. This agreement facilitates academic and staff exchanges, joint research projects, shared development of educational initiatives, access to shared resources, and other areas of mutual interest between the institutions.

USJ And China Institute for Responsible Management Education and Sustainable Development Sign Agreement To Jointly Establish Macau Centre



On 10th November 2023 the Macau Social Development Observation Center of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) and the China Institute of Responsible Management Education and Sustainable Development have reached a strategic cooperation agreement and jointly established the “*China Institute of Responsible Management Education and Sustainable Development Macau Center*”.

USJ Vice-Rector for External Affairs and Institutional Development, Prof. Zhang Shuguang, welcomed the guests and introduced the development of Macao and the University, as well

as the expectations for sustainable development. The two sides exchanged views on the well-being of human development, including health, people’s caring literacy, and the nurturing of young people and university students, and the Institute shared its experience in the establishment of science and technology and business promotion in tertiary institutions in the Greater Bay Area.

This cooperation actively responds to the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) initiative proposed by the United Nations Global Compact in 2007 and takes the lead in promoting the development of responsible management education in Macao’s education sector. It is hoped that more universities in Macao will actively implement sustainable development education in teaching. In the future, the Macau Center will encourage more Macau business schools to actively apply to become PRME’s contract partners.

Supporting the Digital Transformation of the Cultural and Exhibition Tourism Industry in the GBA | Metaverse Forum Held at USJ



The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Cultural Tourism Convention and Exhibition Industry Digital Innovation Forum – titled “Moderate Diversification, Digital Innovation” was held at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) Macao on the 25th of September, 2023. The Forum was hosted by the Macau Communication Society and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Cultural and Creative Industries Federation, and co-organised by the University of Saint Joseph. The Forum was held in support of the National Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Strategy and in active cooperation with the Macao Government’s “Plan for Moderate Economic Diversification of Macau SAR (2024-2028)”.

The event was officiated by Director Tsai Cheong Hong, Department of Organization, Planning and Development of the Macau Government Tourism Office, Mr. Gary Zhou, Member of the

Macau SAR Administrative Committee, Ms. Vicki Lao, Chairman of the Macau Economic and People's Livelihood Alliance, Ms. Ally Li, President of the Macau Communication Society, Mr. Kent Wong, Executive President of the Guangdong-Hong

Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Cultural and Creative Industries Federation and Professor Ansoumane Douy Diakit , Acting Dean of the Faculty of Business and Law of USJ, along with more than 100 participants, including experts, scholars, entrepreneurs, students and members of the public from Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.

2023 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area | Children and Youth Development Roundtable



On October 6th, 2023, a significant event took place, building on the findings of the First and Second International Education Summit on “Teach Your Children According to Their Abilities.” The event was held as a roundtable meeting, bringing together education professionals, scholars, and experts from Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao. They shared their knowledge and experiences through interactive sessions, exploring and comparing the education systems, policies, environments, and resources of Macao with those of neighbouring regions through academic research and accumulated experience.

Discussions focused on how these factors impact schools, educational organizations, teachers, students, and families, influencing the long-term development and planning of society. In alignment with the future objectives and measures of the Macao SAR Government’s youth development policy, the event emphasized the importance of inheriting the spirit of patriotism and love for Macao. It also aimed to enhance young people’s sense of nationalism and encourage their awareness of participating in and caring for societal development.

USJ Holds the Kick-Off Ceremony for the first Sino-Portugal Joint Laboratory for Marine and Environmental Sciences

The kick-off ceremony took place on the morning of 11th October 2023 at the Don Bosco Auditorium of the University of Saint Joseph's Ilha Verde campus.

The ceremony was officiated by representatives of the four collaborating institutions, including Prof. Stephen Morgan, Rector of USJ, Prof. Isabel Gil, Rector of UCP, Prof. Fan WANG, Director of IOCAS, Prof. David Gonçalves, Dean of ISE-USJ, Prof. Narcisa Bandarra and Prof. Pedro Pousão representatives from IPMA, Prof. Manuela Pintado, Director of CBQF-UCP, and Prof. Rencheng YU, the project coordinator, of IOCAS.

The event was marked by a welcome speech by Prof. Stephen Morgan, Rector of USJ, followed by a speech by Prof. Isabel Gil, Rector of UCP, presentations of the four institutions and of the project, followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The Sino-Portugal Joint Laboratory for Marine and Environmental Sciences (hereinafter referred to as “the project”) is the result of a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2020 between ISE-USJ, CBQF-UCP, IPMA, and IOCAS for developing cooperation in the areas of marine and environmental sciences. The overarching objectives of this laboratory are to foster scientific cooperation between Portugal and China, through Macao, in the fields of marine and environmental sciences, promoting the development of a sustainable blue economy for the future.

The project is funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China (MOST) to IOCAS, the lead unit of the project and currently one of the largest and most comprehensive oceanographic research institutions in China, to bring together the strengths of both China and Portugal in the field of marine science to carry out cooperative research.



USJ launches Sino-Lusophone Business Incubation Base

On the 29th of February 2024, The University of Saint Joseph and SANY (Zhuhai) Investment Co., Ltd. jointly hosted a Signing Ceremony and the “Macao Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Policy Seminar” to mark the occasion of the establishment of the USJ Sino-Lusophone Business Incubation Base in Hengqin, and to promote the newly established “Measures of the Hengqin Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone on Promoting Innovation and Entrepreneurship among Macao Youth”.

The event was well attended with representation from the Macau Education and Youth Bureau of Macau SAR, Economic Development and Technology Bureau, Cultural Institute, and People’s Livelihood Affairs Bureau of the Hengqin Guangdong-Macao Deep Cooperation Zone and People’s Republic. In addition, The France Macau Chamber of Commerce, Macau European Chamber of Commerce, Macau Portugal-China Chamber of Commerce, and companies from Mainland, China. The event saw the inauguration of the Sino-Lusophone Business Incubation Base and the promotion of the USJ Greater Bay Area Network.



The Rector of the University of Saint Joseph reinforced that USJ is committed to the idea of “one center, one platform”. He also pointed out that the diversified development of Hengqin and Macao cannot rely solely on Macao’s youth but requires the joint efforts of Macao and mainland youth, including Macao’s entrepreneurial teams and enterprises in the development stage to integrate into the development of the mainland and the Greater Bay Area and find business development opportunities.

The event also saw the Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment Association Secretary General explaining the latest policy for Macao’s and Hong Kong’s youth development in Hengqin. The event invited entrepreneurs from multiple fields, including Hong Kong, Guangzhou, and Macao. They explained hot topics related to Macao’s youth

entrepreneurship, Hengqin's finance and taxation, customs closure policy, cross-border finance, etc., to deepen participants' understanding of Hengqin's policies and development direction.

Xiong Jun, general manager of Sany Group Zhuhai Company and president of Hengqin Guangdong-Macao Deep Cooperation Zone Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment Association expressed his wishes that to build the event into a platform for cooperation and exchange and even develop into an ecological conference to promote opportunities for enterprises to establish links and resources and continue to generate more industrial ecological zone effects. Xiong Jun also emphasized that the incubation base will serve the diversification of the industry of Macao and also provide the youth with new opportunities to enter China.

USJ Faculty of Business and Law signs MoU with Tourism Professional Development Association (TODA)



The Faculty of Business and Law of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tourism Professional Development Association (TODA) to collaborate on research, seminars and training for Portuguese-speaking countries at USJ.

The signing ceremony took place at the USJ Ilha Verde Campus on the 28th of August, 2024, and was signed by the Dean of the Faculty of Business and Law, Prof Jenny Phillips, and the President of the Executive Board of TODA, Ms. Florence Ian. The signing was witnessed by USJ's Vice Rector of Research and Innovation, Prof Alexandre Lobo, and the President of TODA, Mr. José Luis Sales Marques.

The signing of the MoU marks the beginning of the collaboration of the two parties in delivering seminars and trainings by tourism professionals in Macao, sharing their experiences with Portuguese Speaking Countries.

- OUTGOING ACADEMIC EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES

USJ under the role of the Executive Secretariat of the Association of the Association of the Southeast and East Asian Catholic Colleges and Universities (ASEACCU) organized the 30th ASEACCU Annual hosted by the Australian Catholic University in North Sydney



The 30th ASEACCU Annual Conference themed “What makes a Catholic University Catholic? Expressing and Integrating Identity and Mission” was held from August 21st to Aug 23rd, 2024, in Sydney, Australia. An important and exuberant annual gathering within the ASEACCU community, this year’s Conference was hosted by the Australian Catholic University (ACU) with collaborative assistance from the ASEACCU Secretariat, University of Saint Joseph Macao (USJ), and welcomed over 200 Conference delegates and guests from new and long-standing member institutions across Australia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Macao, Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, Timor-Leste, Vietnam and with regards from Thailand.

Continuing the tradition of thought-provoking lectures, this year’s Conference introduced crafted panel sessions and roundtable discussions surrounding the theme “What makes a

Catholic University Catholic?”, the social impact and responsibilities of Catholic universities, reflecting mission through service-learning and research, and welcomed sharings from Rectors, student leaders and [SACRU](#) members. Reverend Professor Stephen Morgan as the ASEACCU Executive Secretary delivered welcoming remarks to the community of students, leadership members, honourable guests, faculty and speakers present in the Ryan Auditorium. In observance of the [IFCU](#)’s Centenary, the 30th ASEACCU Annual Conference also served as a key regional occasion to foster the mission of the Catholic HEIs and the Church, with IFCU President Professor Isabel Gil in attendance and acting as one of the speakers.

USJ Professors Helen Liu and Nuno Soares delivered presentations during a shared panel on mission-aligned community engagement case studies, on the subjects “Education as a tool to Reduce Inequalities: A Pathway to Reintegration” (the USJ [Prison Outreach Programme](#)) and “Bamboo Architecture: Applied Research for Community Engagement” respectively.

At a networking luncheon on Day 2 for [UNISERVITATE](#), a service-learning oriented association of Catholic HEIs in which USJ Macao recently became a member of, Dr. Teresa Loong, Prof. Helen Liu and Prof. Nuno Soares conversed with fellow members and other ASEACCU delegates to foster service-learning practices within universities.

Committing to the promotion of dynamic exchange between members of the association, Rev’d Prof. Stephen Morgan on behalf of USJ also signed an Memorandum of Understanding with Australian Catholic University (ACU), Saint Mary’s University of Bayombong, Philippines and San Beda University, Philippines respectively.

USJ Student representatives Ms. Bonnie Lok and Ms. Ivy leong attended the Conference’s Student Program, engaging in hands-on activities, presentations and cultural visits to the Australian Museum and St. Mary’s Cathedral with fellow student delegates, and delivered a heartfelt performance on behalf of Macao and USJ during the Closing Ceremony.

The next ASEACCU Annual Conference to be hosted by Providence University of Taiwan ROC will be held on August 18 – 21, 2025.

University of Saint Joseph participated in the Resilient by Technology and Design 2024 Conference: Fostering Sustainability

A delegation of USJ led by Prof. Álvaro Barbosa, Vice-Rector for Internationalisation and Academic Affairs, participated in the 2nd International Science Conference Resilience by Technology and Design (RTD 2024) held from July 15-18, 2024 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

This conference, organized by the University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City’s College of Technology and Design and the Institute of Smart City & Management (ISCM), gathered leading experts, academics, and practitioners to discuss the integration of sustainable practices in technology and design. USJ’s delegation, comprising distinguished professors and a student, actively participated in various sessions, demonstrating their expertise and dedication to sustainability.



The conference at UEH Campus B in Ho Chi Minh City on July 15-16 covered four main topics: AI Art and Sustainable Practices, Advances in Sustainable Healthcare Systems, Smart Cities and Urban Planning, and Digital Design for Sustainability. Prof. Álvaro Barbosa delivered a keynote speech on "Benchmarking Sustainability: Neurosciences and AI Tech Research in Macau," focusing on SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 9 (Industry Innovation and Infrastructure), and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

- Prof. Nuno Soares led a panel on "Nature-based Solutions for Smart City Development," focusing on innovative urban development strategies in Macao.
- Prof. Filipa Martins led a panel on Macau's Visual Identity, exploring patterns and textures while discussing digital design methodologies for sustainable digital preservation. The project aligns with SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and is funded by the Macao Foundation.
- Prof. Karen Tagulao participated in a sustainability panel with Prof. Lesly Goh from the World Bank and Prof. Jiyong Eom from Korea, sharing insights on integrating industry and academia for sustainable development in Macao, aimed at achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Prof. Filipa Martins participated in a panel on "ArtTech in Asia: Trends and Fusion in a New Era" alongside Prof. Trinh Thuy Anh and Prof. Álvaro Barbosa, discussing innovative strategies and ideas in the field.
- Wai I Wong, a Master of Design student, presented her dissertation on "Exploring Portuguese Tiles (Azulejos)" and their integration with AR experiences, highlighting Macao's cultural heritage. The project aligns with SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and is funded by the Macao Foundation under Prof. Filipa Martins.
- Prof. Karen Tagulao presented on how nature-based solutions can address societal and environmental challenges in coastal cities caused by urbanization and climate change. She shared example projects from USJ and emphasized sustainability's role in

enhancing city protection and well-being, aligning with multiple SDGs, including SDG 4, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15.

During the four-day conference, various meetings were held to strategize partnerships, including discussions with the School of Media Design and the Institute of Smart City and Management at the University of Saint Joseph, as well as an International Workshop on "Urban Beyond the Urban 2024" involving multiple global partners.

Mekong Field Trip

On July 18, the USJ delegation participated in the Mekong Field Trip, focusing on the sustainability challenges of the Mekong Delta. This experience allowed for hands-on learning and collaboration with local experts, enhancing their understanding of regional sustainability issues.

The participating members included:

- Prof. Álvaro Barbosa, Vice-Rector for Internationalisation and Academic Affairs.
- Prof. Karen Tagulao from the Institute of Science and Environment.
- Prof. Nuno Soares, the Department of Architecture and Design head from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.
- Prof. Filipa Martins from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.
- Hazel Wong, a Master of Design student.

Vice-Rector for Internationalization and Academic Affairs, Prof Álvaro Barbosa Participated in the 3rd RNEC Congress In Portugal



The Vice-Rector for Internationalisation and Academic Affairs, Prof Álvaro Barbosa, participated in the 3rdRNEC Congress – Portugal National Network for Culture Studies on July 11-12, 2024. Hosted by the Polytechnic Institute of Porto and organized by ISCAP, this event highlights USJ's commitment to international collaboration in cultural studies.

The RNEC congress gathered scholars, educators, and industry experts to examine emerging trends and obstacles in cultural studies. This event fostered collaborative discussions and the exchange of creative insights.

During the congress, Professor Álvaro Barbosa presented a keynote titled “University Internationalisation Strategies and models: Benchmarking and Cultural impact.” His talk examined the changing dynamics of internationalisation in higher education, highlighting best practices and cultural effects. He benchmarked the University of Saint Joseph's developments against the recently published 6th Global Survey on Internationalization by the International Association of Universities.

The 3rd RNEC congress was organized by ISCAP, a partner institution of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ Macao) through a memorandum of understanding (MOU). This partnership has recently been enhanced by the signing of an agreement to collaboratively develop a doctoral programme, reinforcing USJ's dedication to promoting international academic collaboration and research.

USJ visited the Catholic Institute of Vietnam, Paving ways for Opportune Collaborations in Macao and Vietnam



A delegation of USJ led by Rector, Rev'd Prof. Stephen Morgan with Vice-rector for Internationalisation and Academic Affairs, Prof. Alvaro Barbosa visit the Catholic Institution of Vietnam on June 21, 2024 and receive the warm welcome by the Institute's Rector Bishop Joseph Dinh Duc Dao and Ms. Ivy Tran Head of Vietnam Recruitment and the faculty representatives.

The meeting between the Catholic Institute of Vietnam and the USJ in Macao was an important step towards establishing a strong partnership between the two institutions. Rector Morgan and Bishop Joseph, are eager to further develop the historic relationship between Macao, Vietnam, and the Church through international education and exchange programme.

During the meeting, USJ and the Catholic Institute of Vietnam formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), a significant milestone that demonstrates their strong commitment to cooperation and mutual benefit. As an international university based in Macao, USJ is dedicated to facilitating fruitful academic exchanges for Vietnamese students and fostering connections between international scholars across the ASEAN region and beyond.

During previous visits by representatives from USJ to the Catholic Institute of Vietnam, USJ - in its role as the Executive Secretariat of the Association of Southeast and East Asian Catholic Colleges and Universities (ASEACCU) - had extended an invitation for the Institute to join the association as a new member representing Vietnam. This has expanded the horizons for meaningful exchange among the Catholic higher education community across the Asia Pacific region.

Both the Catholic Institute of Vietnam and USJ will be participating in the upcoming 30th ASEACCU Annual Conference, which will be hosted by the Australian Catholic University in Sydney. The conference will focus on the theme "What makes a Catholic University Catholic? Expressing and Integrating Identity and Mission," providing an opportunity for the institutions to engage formally with fellow ASEACCU members.

USJ Delegation visited UEH in Ho Chi Minh City and anticipate endeavours for New Academic Year



On June 20, 2024, a delegation from USJ, including Rector Rev'd Prof. Stephen Morgan, Vice-Rector Prof. Álvaro Barbosa, and Ms. Ivy Tran, visited the University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City (UEH). They were warmly welcomed by UEH's President Prof. Su Dinh Thanh and other key faculty members, fostering collaboration and engagement between the two institutions.

During the visit, President Su Dinh Thanh expressed excitement about future collaborations with USJ to enhance higher education and research. Rector Morgan highlighted their successful joint efforts, including the recent workshop series "City Project: Design and

Technology for Sustainable Development” held at USJ, which saw enthusiastic participation from UEH students.

Rector Morgan and President Su Dinh Thanh signed a Memorandum of Agreement, marking a significant step towards implementing various collaborative projects. These include public lectures, hands-on workshops for students, co-organized conferences, keynote speeches, and the establishment of scholarship opportunities, planned for the upcoming academic year in Vietnam and Macao.

Since last year, the USJ has actively collaborated with the University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City (UEH) to create opportunities for students and community members. They are set to welcome the first cohort of students in a double-degree programme in Media, Design, and Communication, a pilot initiative between USJ’s Faculty of Arts and Humanities and UEH’s School of Media Design.

USJ Delegation Visited Hanoi University And Ventures For Innovative Collaboration In Portuguese Studies



On June 18, 2024, Prof. Álvaro Barbosa, Vice-rector for Internationalisation and Academic Affairs, visited Hanoi University, where he was warmly welcomed by Dr. Nguyễn Vũ Thu Hà, Dean of the Department of Portuguese Studies. During the meeting, they discussed potential collaborations in joint research, academic exchanges, and student mobility, particularly focused on promoting Portuguese language studies and enhancing opportunities for training and intellectual exchange.

The visit marks a significant step in enhancing mutual understanding between the institutions, facilitating ongoing dialogue and establishing a beneficial partnership. This aligns with USJ's

internationalisation efforts and its commitment to providing a globalised education, particularly in connection with the Portuguese-speaking world.

Hanoi University, one of Vietnam's oldest higher education institutions, offers diverse programme in foreign languages at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Its Portuguese Studies Department, established in 2004, is the only full-time programme in Vietnam, featuring a dynamic faculty from various Portuguese-speaking countries dedicated to teaching.

USJ Macao Participates in the Global Sustainable Development Congress 2024



The University of Saint Joseph Macao (USJ) joined global thought leaders at the [Global Sustainable Development Congress 2024](#), held from June 10 to 13 in Bangkok. This major event, co-hosted by Thailand's Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI) and Times Higher Education (THE), brought together over 3,000 delegates, making it the largest congress ever hosted by THE.

Representing the USJ Macao delegation were Prof. Álvaro Barbosa, Vice-Rector for Internationalisation and Academic Affairs, members of the USJ Green Committee, Prof. Karen Tagulao (Chair) and Prof. Filipa Martins, along with Ms. Tinsley Ho from the Quality Assurance Office. The USJ Macao delegation actively engaged in the congress's sessions, workshops and discussions aimed at addressing urgent sustainability challenges. This participation demonstrates the USJ's dedication to sustainable development, green skills, and international engagements.

The conference included over 130 hours of thought leadership delivered through engaging panels, personal discussions, and practical workshops. The programme was organised into six main tracks focused on crucial reforms required to meet the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with additional featured sessions presenting hands-on methods for resolving the sustainability challenge.

High-profile speakers included Supamas Isarabhakdi, Thailand's Minister of Higher Education, Science, Research, and Innovation; Nik Nazmi bin Nik Ahmad, Malaysia's Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability; and Stefania Giannini, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Education.

Reflecting the Popularity of Impact Rankings

The record-breaking attendance at the Global Sustainable Development Congress 2024 demonstrates THE Impact Rankings' expanding importance, which is rapidly becoming the primary ranking system worldwide. These rankings evaluate institutions based on their performance in meeting the SDGs, highlighting the significance of sustainability in higher education.

Opportunities for Engagement

The congress offered participants various sessions, speaking engagements, and networking opportunities. These events enabled universities such as USJ to promote sustainability programmes while networking with global higher education, government, and industry leaders.

During the congress, the USJ delegation met various partners from the Association of the Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP) and the Catholic University of Portugal – Porto (UCP) delegates, Prof. Maria da Conceição and Prof. Patricia Oliveira Silva.

USJ's Vice-Rector for Internationalization and Academic Affairs, Prof Álvaro Barbosa visited University of Arts Linz



The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) and the University of Arts Linz (KunstUni) in Austria signed a Memorandum of Understanding on May 24 to strengthen their collaboration. They are already engaged in faculty exchanges and joint research, particularly in Digital Heritage technologies, focusing on spatialized audio projects that enhance the study and inventory of acoustic mapping at heritage sites in Macao, Austria, and other locations in Europe and Southeast Asia.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) and the University of Arts Linz (KunstUni) was signed by Professor Álvaro Barbosa and Professor Gitti Vasicek. This agreement formalizes their collaboration, allowing for applications for additional research funding and enhancing opportunities for post-Doctoral research and supervision of Doctoral theses under a Co-Tutelle model.

During his visit, Professor Álvaro Barbosa presented a public lecture at the Tangible Music Lab titled “Network Music and Behaviorally Driven Interaction.” The lecture was broadcast online and is available for viewing on the Tangible Music Lab website.

USJ delegation visited Sogang University, Seoul City, South Korea, build a strong cooperation to enhance the strategic partnerships



A delegation of USJ delegation, led by the Rector, Rev'd Prof. Stephen Morgan, visited Sogang University in Seoul, South Korea, on May 8th, 2024, included, respectively, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Prof. Carlos Caires, the Faculty of Health Sciences, Prof. Jacky, and the Manager of the International Affair Office, Mrs. Ana Paula Mota.

The purpose of this visit was to further expand the existing collaboration and enhance the cooperation network at USJ Macao. This included promoting valuable teaching and research

exchanges with higher education institutions in the Asia region, as well as nurturing joint efforts to cultivate innovative talent with global competitiveness.

During the visit, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Honorable Reverend Professors of the two distinguished institutions, USJ Macao Rector, Rev'd Prof. Stephen Morgan, and Sogang University Rector, Rev'd Fr. Luke Sim Jong-hook, SJ. This MoU outlines the foundation for cooperation in strategic areas of mutual interest, such as teaching, technology assimilation, research, and innovation initiatives. The two revered universities may engage in joint programme and share best practices.

Alongside the visit, Prof Carlos Caires, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at USJ Macao, had the privilege of delivering a special public lecture at Sogang University on the topic of "Design Thinking and Methodology and Prompt Text-to-Image Artificial Intelligence: A Case Study Context of Design Education."

Also present at the signing Ceremony were the USJ members, respectively, Deans of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Prof. Carlos Caires, the Faculty of Health Sciences, Prof. Jacky Ho, and the Manager of International Affairs Office, Mrs. Ana Paula Mota and Sogang University members respectively, the Vice-President for International Affairs, Fr. Seil Oh, SJ and the Associate Prof. Michael Unger of Film at the Graduate School of Metaverse and Department of Media and Entertainment

USJ Macao Participate in the “17th AUUAP learning and Sharing Forum on Health and 9th Allied Health Sciences Symposium (AHSS)” and build a strong cooperation with Southville International School and Colleges (SISC), Philippines.



The USJ Macao, as a member of the Association of the Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP), participated in the “17th AUAP Learning and Sharing Forum on Health and the 9th Allied Health Sciences Symposium (AHSS)” from May 9 to 10, 2024. The delegation led by the Rector, Rev’d Prof. Stephen Morgan, with the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Prof. Jacky Ho, and the Manager of the International Affair Office, Mrs. Ana Paula Mota, attended the opening ceremony of the Forum and its sessions on various healthcare topics, including the integration of AI and technology into higher education, planetary health, emerging technological paradigms in human health, and AI-powered healthcare. At the same time, USJ Rector and elected member of the Executive Board of AUAP, Rev’d Prof. Stephen Morgan, attended the 55th AUAP Executive Board Meeting hosted by Daegu Health College (DHC) in Daegu City, South Korea, and the 53rd Daegu Health College Anniversary Celebration.

During the Forum and the 53rd DHC Anniversary Celebration, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between USJ Macao, represented by the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Prof. Jacky Ho, and Southville International School and Colleges (SISC) in the Philippines, represented by its President, Prof. Jocelyn Tizon. This MoU signifies a shared vision between the two institutions to advance healthcare education and research capabilities, with a particular focus on mental healthcare.

USJ Macao visited Universidade de Aveiro and signed collaboration protocol



On March 21, 2024, a delegation from Macao's Education and Youth Development Bureau and several universities visited the University of Aveiro, Portugal. They discussed enhancing collaboration, promoting mobility for teachers and students, and fostering international research partnerships.

The visit focused on enhancing collaboration between Macao and Portuguese universities, promoting teacher and student mobility, and fostering international research partnerships.

Prof. Paulo Jorge Ferreira, Rector of UA, discussed UA's international development and academic strengths.

During the visit, a collaboration protocol was signed between Prof. Paulo Jorge Ferreira, Rector of UA, and Prof. Álvaro Barbosa, Vice-Rector of USJ Macao, witnessed by Mr. Teng Sio Hong from the Macao SAR Education Bureau. The protocol aims to strengthen collaboration through faculty and student exchange programme.

USJ Macao visited Malaysian Educational Institutions and Strengthens Collaborative Efforts



The [Macao Education and Youth Development Bureau](#) (DSEDJ) organized a visit to Malaysia for educational collaboration, involving representatives from USJ Macao and six other institutions to foster partnerships and academic opportunities.

From March 19th to 24th, USJ visited Malaysia, signing scholarship agreements with Foon Yew High Schools and participating in the China Higher Education Fair. They showcased study opportunities to grade 11 and 12 students.

USJ representatives, including Mr. Ben Lei, Mr. Dickson Kyee, and student ambassador Miss Sherwin Hng, attended the China Higher Education Fair 2024, showcasing their mess. The fair, held on March 21st at Foon Yew High School and March 23rd at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, featured around forty institutions from China, Hong Kong, and Macao.

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of China-Malaysia Diplomatic Relations and the seventieth anniversary of Dong Zong. The China Higher Education Fair 2024 is part of a hundred activities celebrating this milestone. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Ouyang Yujing welcomed all institutions, including the Macau delegation, and highlighted the significance of “high-quality development as the lifeblood of education”, echoing the [Chinese Report on the Work of the Government 2024](#).

During the education fairs in Seri Alam and Kuala Lumpur, hosts encouraged universities to enhance financial support for disadvantaged Malaysian students and to lift restrictions, allowing more recommendations for studying abroad. USJ Macao has demonstrated its commitment to supporting Malaysian students by signing agreements with Dong Zong in April 2023 and with two Foon Yew Schools in 2024.

USJ visited Saint Louis College Bangkok and Explores Initiatives in Healthcare Education and Psychology



A delegation from USJ visited Saint Louis College (SLC) in Bangkok on March 13, 2024, to explore collaboration opportunities. During this visit, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by Dr. Kamolwan Bhekanan, President of SLC, and Rev'd Prof. Stephen Morgan, Rector of USJ.

USJ and SLC have signed an MOU to enhance healthcare education and research, focusing on Psychology. The collaboration aims to improve healthcare delivery and mental health services, with USJ's Department of Psychology Head, Prof. Vitor Teixeira, Head of the Department of Psychology at USJ's Faculty of Health Sciences, and also exploring joint online courses.

The signing ceremony was attended by Prof. Álvaro Barbosa, SLC Professors Dr. Oraphun Lueboonthavatchai, Prof. Jintana Artsanthia, and Dr. Chukiat Chakchaichon, Executive Council members, Deans from Nursing and Physical Therapy, and members of the Faculty of Psychology.

USJ visited ISCAP-P.Porto and Advance Academic Collaboration on New PhD Programme in Intercultural Studies for Innovation

On March 5, a delegation from the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) in Macao visited the Instituto Superior de Contabilidade e Administração do Porto (ISCAP-P. Porto). Led by Vice-Rector Prof. Álvaro Barbosa, the discussions aimed to strengthen existing academic collaborations and explore new partnerships. Key topics included joint workshops, dual degree opportunities, and exchange programme, with a focus on internationalization and sustainability.

The visit concluded with the signing of a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between USJ and ISCAP-P. Porto. This agreement aims to enhance academic collaboration in teaching, research, and innovation, including the “PhD in Intercultural Studies for Innovation,” while promoting intercultural practices and developing partnerships within the community and local businesses.



Prof. Manuel Moreira da Silva, President of ISCAP-P. Porto, expressed excitement about the MoU with USJ, marking the first collaboration between a Macao SAR institution and ISCAP-P. Porto for the new PhD programmes. USJ Vice-Rector Prof. Álvaro Barbosa emphasized Macao's role as a bridge between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, highlighting the MoU as a key step in fostering cultural and artistic academic exchanges between Macao SAR and Portugal.

USJ Macao participates in the 3rd AUAP Faculty Development Programmes in Bangkok, Thailand

A delegation from the USJ, including Vice-Rector Prof. Álvaro Barbosa and members of the International Affairs Office, participated in the 3rd AUAP Faculty Development Programme in Bangkok, Thailand, from April 21 to 24, 2024.

The 3rd AUAP Faculty Development Programme, focused on the “Internationalisation of Higher Education,” equips staff from higher education institutions with essential skills for effective management in the internationalisation process. This year's programmes were organized by the Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP) in collaboration with the Association of Southeast and East Asian Catholic Colleges and Universities (ASEACCU).



The opening ceremony included a welcome from Prof. Dr. Anoop Swarup of AUAP. Prof. Álvaro Barbosa delivered a keynote on internationalisation in higher education, emphasizing USJ's initiatives in student recruitment, joint degree programme, and the growth of international partnerships.

The Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific (AUAP), founded on July 28, 1995, serves as a platform for collaboration among universities in the region and holds consultative status with UNESCO. The Association of Southeast and East Asian Catholic Colleges and Universities (ASEACCU), established on August 25, 1996, promotes Catholic higher education and supports local churches while fostering international educational dialogue. ASEACCU is affiliated with the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU).

ASEACCU's commitment to enhancing educational dialogue led to a partnership agreement with AUAP last year. This year, ASEACCU is a key partner in hosting the 3rd Faculty Development Programme in Bangkok, Thailand.

USJ and De La Salle Group Institutions in the Philippines Forge Academic Partnership for Collaborative Enrichment and Innovation



On February 19, 2024, a significant event took place in Manila, Philippines, where the University of Saint Joseph Macao (USJ) School of Education entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with several institutions from the De La Salle Group. The representatives included Professor Álvaro Barbosa, the Vice-Rector for Internationalisation and Academic Affairs at USJ, and key figures from the De La Salle institutions, such as Br. Bernard S. Oca FSC, the Dean of Br. Andrew Gonzalez FSC College of Education, and Br. Francisco De La Rosa VI FSC, the President of De La Salle University.

The MOUs between USJ School of Education and the De La Salle Group outline a comprehensive framework for collaboration. This includes facilitating researcher mobility, exchanging undergraduate and postgraduate students, and co-supervising dissertations and theses. Additionally, the agreement encompasses organizing symposiums and conferences focused on research topics, as well as initiatives to enhance the education of students and teachers. USJ will also offer scholarships to students and teachers from the Senior High School of DLSU-D for both undergraduate and postgraduate programme.

The signing of these MOUs represents a significant advancement in the academic partnership between USJ Macao and the De La Salle Group in the Philippines.

USJ Delegation Explored Collaboration Opportunities with AIT Bangkok



A delegation from USJ visited the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Bangkok, Thailand on 16 February, 2024, to discuss potential collaborative efforts. The team, led by Prof. Álvaro Barbosa, Vice-Rector for Internationalisation and Academic Affairs, engaged in meaningful discussions with AIT representatives. They highlighted the significance of internationalisation and sustainability as key components of their partnership.

During the visit, Prof. Álvaro Barbosa and Prof. Alexandre Lobo engaged with Prof. Chantri Polprasert from AIT's School of Engineering and Technology, along with Ms. Alistina Shrestina, AIT's Manager for Marketing, Recruitment, and Digital Strategy. They discussed various

collaborative opportunities, including exchange programmes, joint workshops, internships, and the possibility of dual degree offerings.

Prof. Karen Tagulao, Coordinator of the Master of Environmental Science and Management programme at USJ, visited AIT's freshwater mangrove museum to discuss research collaboration with Prof. Oleg V. Shipin from AIT's School of Environment, Resources and Development. Their conversation focused on tackling environmental challenges and advancing sustainable development initiatives.

Both institutions are committed to formalizing their collaboration by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). USJ is dedicated to advancing internationalization and sustainability, aiming to enhance global experiences for students and support environmental stewardship.

USJ and Hochschule Mainz University of Applied Science Explore Expansion of Partnership in Business



A delegation from USJ led by Professor Álvaro Barbosa and Associate Professor Alexandre Lobo, recently visited Hochschule Mainz University of Applied Sciences in Germany from 8-9 January, 2024.

During a meeting with Hochschule Mainz officials, the USJ delegation explored expanding their partnership, initially established in 2020 between USJ's Faculty of Arts and Humanities and Hochschule Mainz's Faculty of Design, to include collaboration in Business. Key attendees included President Prof. Dr. Susanne Weissman and other university leaders.

The discussion focused on student and faculty exchange programmes, the establishment of dual degrees for the Master of Business Administration (MBA) programmes, and the development of innovation and entrepreneurship through the FBL Greater Bay Area Network and the Macau Spin Incubator. Joint research projects, with a focus on environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) issues and start-up financing, were also on the agenda.

This visit highlights the dedication of both institutions to fostering international collaboration and academic excellence, aiming to offer students and faculty valuable opportunities for growth and professional development in the business sector.

USJ Chancellor And Rector Meet Pope Francis



The Chancellor of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ), Bishop of Macao, the Most Reverend Stephen Lee Bun-sang, and the Rector, the Reverend Professor Stephen Morgan, met with Pope Francis in Rome on 19th January.

The event took place at the Centenary Conference of the [International Federation of Catholic Universities \(IFCU\)](#) – the body that gathers together all Catholic Universities around the world. The Catholic Church is the largest global provider of higher education with over 1,500 universities, colleges, and institutes. Professor Morgan is Vice President of the Federation and, along with Bishop Lee, were among the first at the conference to be presented to Pope Francis.

The theme of the conference was “The University and the Church” and, in his [address](#), Pope Francis pointed out that Catholic Universities were amongst the most important ways in which the Catholic Church serves wider society and contributes to human flourishing. Rector

Morgan reminded the Pope that Catholic higher education had started in Asia with the Colégio São Paulo in Macao in 1594 and that with USJ and the newly recognised University of St Francis in Hong Kong, China now had two Catholic universities. The Pope said he wished the universities to flourish and to be a witness to truth, humanity and dialogue in a crucially important part of the world.

USJ Held a Series of Engaging and Innovative Workshops at Van Lang University in Vietnam



The USJ and Van Lang University (VLU) successfully launched their joint workshop series at VLU's Ho Chi Minh City Campus from December 1 to 5, 2023. This marks the first collaboration since the two institutions established their partnership earlier this fall.

Professors from the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) conducted themed workshops for over 100 students at Van Lang University (VLU), focusing on hands-on learning in their fields. Star projects were awarded cash prizes to encourage creativity. USJ Vice-Rector Prof. Álvaro Barbosa introduced the series and discussed USJ's educational culture and programme.

Prof. Carlos Caires hosted a workshop on "Artificial Intelligence and Design Innovation in the Future of Media," attracting many attendees interested in creative solutions. Mr. Truong Hoang Tho, CEO of Alipo Creative, discussed AI's role in Design and Communication in Vietnam. Dr. Truong Quoc Tri emphasized the importance of incorporating AI and Machine Learning into curricula, while Dr. Vo Van Lac, Dean of VLU's Faculty of Creative Technology, engaged with the audience.

In Prof. Helen Liu's workshop on "Social Outreach and Psychology," students explored effective social work programme to aid ex-offenders in reintegrating into society. The workshop was introduced by Dr. Nguyen Thanh Bao Nghi and Dr. Pham Van Tuan, encouraging open dialogue and practical brainstorming. Students were particularly interested in USJ's Prison Outreach Programme, which helps incarcerated individuals pursue education and improve job prospects upon release.

In Prof. Nuno Soares' workshop on "Green Topologies," students explored sustainable architecture trends and learned to use eco-friendly materials. Dr. Do Phu Hung shared insights on sustainable design and showcased global projects promoting green communities.

The workshop series enhanced student critical thinking and produced impressive projects, showcasing USJ's commitment to academic excellence and experiential learning. USJ plans to continue these activities to foster focused student experiences.

A delegation visited to ISCAL – Instituto Superior de Contabilidade e Administração de Lisboa



A delegation led by Professor Jenny Phillips, the Dean of the Faculty of Business and Law at USJ, visited ISCAL, the Instituto Superior de Contabilidade e Administração de Lisboa, on November 21, 2023.

During the delegation, both institutions had the honor to sign a MoU represented by the President of ISCAL, Professor Pedro Pinheiro, and Professor Jenny Phillips, the Dean of the Faculty of Business and Law at USJ, to enhance the areas of academics' staff and students' mobility, research, and collaboration in projects and training in the areas of business, management, accounting and finance, and law.

USJ participate in the 36th AUAP ANNUAL CONFERENCE including delivering compelling presentations and build new cooperation with 5 institutions on 23 November, 2023



The USJ delegation included the Member of the Executive Board of AUAP Rev'd Professor Stephen Morgan, Rector, Professor Álvaro Barbosa, Vice-Rector for Internationalization and Academic Affairs, Mrs. Ana Paula Mota, Manager of the International Affairs Office, and Ms. Kitieng Chan, Senior Officer of the International Affairs Office, who participated in the Association of the Universities of Asia and the Pacific 36th Annual Conference, held from November 17–18, 2023 at Siam University in Bangkok, Thailand. The theme of the conference was "Utilizing Institutional Assets to Enhance Global Outreach."

The conference focused on areas such as healthcare, nutrition, environmental sustainability, and software development.

During the conference, the USJ forged Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with five esteemed higher education institutions, including American International University-Bangladesh, San Sebastian College-Recoletos (Manila, Philippines), John von Neumann University (Hungary), Daffodil Institute of IT (Dhaka, Bangladesh), and Jagran Lakecity University (India). These agreements encompass a wide range of collaborative initiatives, such as joint research, projects, cultural and academic exchanges, co-supervision of theses, and participation in academic events.

At the AUAP 36th Annual Conference, the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) made valuable contributions. The Rector, Rev'd Professor Stephen Morgan, delivered a keynote presentation on "Audacity, Courage, and Good Eyesight: Leadership as an Institutional Asset." Additionally, Professor Álvaro Barbosa, the Vice-Rector, shared insightful research on "Leveraging University Assets: Student Engagement in Community Outreach through Health Care in Macau." This collaborative effort also involved Dr. Teresa Loong, the Vice-Rector of USJ, and Ms. Jenny Lam, the Head of the Office for Student and Alumni Affairs.

The conference was a resounding success, featuring remarkable and insightful presentations across diverse fields, as well as valuable networking opportunities. Looking ahead, the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) remains steadfastly committed to contributing to the sustainable development of society through its robust international collaborations, which are central to the institution's mission.

USJ participates in "THE Innovation and Impact Summit" Contributing to Sustainable Development



On 7 – 8 November 2023, the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) attended the [“2023 Times Higher Education Innovation and Impact Summit”](#) in Shenzhen, China. The Summit was jointly organised by the Times Higher Education and the Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech), with the theme “Universities and cities: Advancing sustainable innovation.”

Representatives from USJ at the event included Vice-Rector for Internationalisation and Academic Affairs, Prof. Álvaro Barbosa, Head of the Department of Business Administration, Prof. Alexandre Lobo, and Ms. Chan Kit Ieng, Senior Officer of the International Affairs Office.

The Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings is the only global university ranking based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). USJ, having been listed in THE for three consecutive years, has been recognised for its ability to adapt to societal and global development, as well as its contributions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals framework. The summit’s theme “Universities and cities: Advancing sustainable innovation” focused on exploring how universities can create and sustain innovation hub cities and interpret the relationship and importance between universities, technological innovation, and social sustainability.

USJ views its participation in this summit as highly meaningful and intends to continue contributing to the construction of a sustainable and impactful future through exchange and mutual learning with other higher education institutions.

For more information on USJ's 2023 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, please refer to <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/the-impact-rankings-2023-usj-ranked-top-10-in-china/>.

Consulate-General of France in Hong Kong and Macao visited USJ and Delivers Scholarships for Study and Research Opportunities



A delegation of the [Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macao](#) visited the USJ Ilha Verde Campus this Monday afternoon to present to interested students and faculty the numerous research, study and scholarship opportunities available to them through [Campus France](#).

Through an interactive presentation, the representatives introduced the French higher education landscape, international student situation, academic trends and funding opportunities to the audience, expressing continued efforts of the Consulate to bridge academic exchanges between France and Macao, and encouraging interested students to pursue short-term or degree programmes that suit their needs.

The Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macao delegation first [visited USJ](#) back in April and was warmly welcomed by the Vice-rector for Research, Professor Keith Morrison, where they discussed enhancing cooperations between the University of Saint Joseph Macao and the French Higher Education Institutions.

Campus France is dedicated to the promotion of French higher education to international students and the institutes where they study. With a network of over 255 locations and annexes in 124 countries and almost 500 counsellors worldwide, they answer questions about French programs, assist students in their administrative formalities and prepare them for their arrival in France.

Delegation of the University of Saint Joseph Macao visits Island of São Vicente, Republic of Cabo Verde

Between October 17 and 21, 2023, a delegation from the University of Saint Joseph Macao visited São Vicente, Cabo Verde, to attend the “First International Congress on Innovation & Development in Lusofonia,” organized by Universidade Lusófona.

During their stay, they engaged in courtesy visits and established contacts with several local institutions, including the University of Mindelo, University of Jean Piaget, Universidade Técnica do Atlântico, and Instituto Superior de Ciências Económicas e Empresariais, as well as the Liceu Ludgero Lima.

“**Universidade do Mindelo**” is an Higher Education Institution in the City of Mindelo, Island of São Vicente, Cabo Verde. It was established in 2002 and officially started operations on October 11th, 2002 as the Instituto de Estudos Superiores Isidoro da Graça. In 2010 it was converted into the University of Mindelo”.



The meeting was attended by the Manificus Rector, Professor Albertino Graça, the Rector's Advisor, Dr Nuno Graça and the Director of the Department of Economic and Business Sciences, Professor Sheila Gomes Mendes.

Universidade Jean Piaget de Cabo Verde (UniPiaget), Polo Universitário de Mindelo



The Jean Piaget University of Cabo Verde is a higher education establishment created by the Piaget Institute. It is a higher education institution of public interest; UniPiaget began its activities on 7 May 2001, with the opening of the 1st year of the Sociology course". In 2005, UniPiaget opened a University Center in the City of Mindelo that began operating with three undergraduate courses (Educational Sciences and Educational Praxis, Economics and Management and Systems Engineering and IT). In 2007, the Architecture programme was opened".

The meeting was attended by the Pro-Rector, Arch. Inês Alves and the Deputy Administrator, Mrs Ariana Rego.

Universidade Técnica do Atlântico (UTA), Campus do Mar, Mindelo

The UTA was created by the DL nº 53/2019 and published in BO, on 5 December 2019. Its idealization falls within the scope of the development of the educational system, which is considered the pillar of higher education in the recently created ZEEEM-SV, which is inserted within the primary institution, *Campus do Mar*, with capabilities not only in the field of higher education but also in technical and professional training related with the *Escola do Mar (EMAR)* and also academic and applied research, carried out by the *Instituto do Mar (IMAR)*". "The University inherited its educational heritage from a group of institutions, as well as the universality of the rights attached to it.



The meeting was attended by the President of the General Council of the University, Professor Luís Alves, the *Magnificus* Rector, Professor João Do Monte Duarte, the Vice-Rector, Professor Luís Jorge Fernandes, the Pro-Rector, Professor Lia Cordeiro Medina and the Director of the Rector's Office, Ms Alcídia Fortes.

Instituto Superior de Ciências Económicas e Empresariais- ISCEE



ISCEE– Founded in 1991 by a Steering Committee composed of António Canuto, Hermes Morazzo, Ananta Pinto, João Spencer, Ana Maria de Novais St’Aubyn and Afonso Zego, it was then called Higher School of Management, Marketing and Accounting. Currently, its founding entity is COOPENSINO – Higher Education Cooperative, headquartered in the City of Mindelo, Island of São Vicente, Cabo Verde”. The President of ISCEE, Professor José Augusto Lopes da Veiga, was present at the meeting.

The USJ delegation, led by Vice-Rector Professor Álvaro Barbosa, along with Dr. Francisco Peixoto and Dr. Ana Paula Mota, held meetings to discuss mutual interests. They explored the potential for academic cooperation agreements, including staff and student mobility, joint research initiatives, and the development of double degree programme.

Professor Álvaro Barbosa, Vice-Rector of the University of Saint Joseph Macao, highlighted Macao's vital role in fostering cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries. He emphasized USJ's mission to strengthen academic partnerships with institutions in these countries, particularly in Cabo Verde, noting the historical connections that enhance collaboration.

University of Saint Joseph Macao Visited the Universidade Lusófona de Cabo Verde – Ilha de São Vicente



A USJ delegation attended the “First International Congress on Innovation & Development in Lusofonia” at the Universidade Lusófona de Cabo Verde (ULCV) from October 18 to 20, 2023.

A USJ delegation, led by Vice-Rector Professor Álvaro Barbosa, visited the Universidade Lusófona de Cabo Verde (ULCV) as part of their 2021 Memorandum of Understanding. They met with ULCV officials to review their collaborative plans and agreed on specific actions to enhance academic internationalization for both universities.

During their visit, the USJ delegation took part in the “First International Congress on Innovation & Development in Lusofonia,” held from October 18 to 20, 2023, on São Vicente Island, Cabo Verde. Organized by Ensino Lusófona and ULCV, the congress gathered researchers and academics from various Portuguese-speaking countries, with USJ representing the Macao Special Administrative Region.

The closing ceremony of the Congress featured the “Declaração do Mindelo,” which emphasized commitments to enhance investment in scientific research and promote Lusophony as a hub for science and innovation. Key points included creating infrastructure to support scientific output, facilitating researchers' participation in international networks, aligning research with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063, committing to digital transformation and technology democratization, and fostering a culture that values universities and scientific research.

USJ visited Van Lang University in Vietnam and signed a Memorandum of Understanding



On October 12, 2023, a delegation from the University of Saint Joseph (USJ), including Professor Álvaro Barbosa, Professor Filipa Martins de Abreu, and Ms. Uyên Trần Mỹ Phương, visited Van Lang University (VLU). They met with VLU representatives, such as Vice-President Bui Pham Lan Phuong and several deans and professors, to discuss collaborative innovative activities.

The meeting resulted in a positive outcome for both parties, establishing a foundation for cooperation. Discussions covered exchange programme, graduate opportunities, and joint workshops, marking the beginning of active collaboration. Key topics were addressed, leading

to a clear agreement and prompt initiation of joint activities, reflecting a shared vision and commitment among all participants.

Discussions are underway for collaboration between the Creative Industries, Arts, and Social Sciences faculties of both institutions, focusing on short-term exchanges, dual-degree programme, and practical learning opportunities. VLU plans to host student workshops with USJ professors later this year. Both universities are excited about enhancing innovation, academic success, and the overall educational experience for students and staff.

USJ visited the First Catholic University of Vietnam to Join ASEACCU



On October 12, 2023, USJ in Macao met with the newly established Catholic University of Vietnam. During this meeting, USJ invited the Vietnamese institution to join the Association of Southeast and East Asian Catholic Colleges and Universities (ASEACCU) to enhance their academic collaboration and cultural exchange.

A USJ delegation, including Vice-Rector Professor Álvaro Barbosa, Professor Filipa Martins, and Ivy Uyen, visited the Catholic University of Vietnam in Ho Chi Minh City. They were warmly welcomed by key figures, including Procurator General Fr. Giuse Tạ Huy Hoàng, Dean of the Theology Department Fr. Antôn Nguyễn Cao Siêu, and General Secretary Fr. Vinhson Nguyễn Cao Dũng. This visit marks a significant step in fostering collaboration between the two institutions.

During the visit, Vice-Rector Barbosa introduced USJ and discussed the mission and vision of ASEACCU, emphasizing collaboration and goodwill between the institutions. The highlight was a detailed discussion on potential intellectual exchange and cooperation, aimed at enhancing educational experiences for students and faculty. The visit concluded with a tour of the campus, showcasing its church, library, and classrooms.

USJ and the Catholic University of Vietnam agreed to pursue integration into ASEACCU, enhancing academic excellence and global cooperation while expanding international connections in Southeast and East Asia.

USJ Vice-Rector for Institutional Development, Prof Zhang Shuguang visited the Catholic University of Croatia to Establish Partnership



On September 28, 2023, Vice-Rector Professor Zhang Shuguang represented the University of Saint Joseph in Macao (USJ) during a visit to the Catholic University of Croatia (CUC) located in Zagreb. CUC is part of the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU/FIUC).

During this visit, Vice-Rector Zhang received a warm welcome from CUC's Rector, Reverend Professor Željko Tanjić, as well as the Vice-Rector for Internationalisation, Professor Hrvoje Štefanči, and the Head of the Rector's Office, Ms Ana Murphy.

A meeting took place to discuss and identify potential opportunities for academic exchange and collaboration between the two universities.

During the meeting, Vice-Rector Zhang presented the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) as a private, independent, non-profit higher education institution that maintains high academic standards and is deeply rooted in its Catholic heritage, with a strong tradition of intercultural exchange in Macao.

Both institutions have agreed to sign a Memorandum of Cooperation to begin developing joint academic programme in history and cultural heritage, social work, and applied psychology. This Memorandum will be officially signed during the IFCU/FIUC Board meeting taking place in Macao this week.

USJ Macao visited Instituto Politécnico de Viseu (IPV) in Portugal to build new cooperation



The USJ, represented by the Dean of the Faculty of Business and Law, Prof. Jenny Phillips, was welcomed by the Polytechnic Institute of Viseu (IPV) on September 8, 2023.

During the delegation, both institutions, represented by the President of IPV, Professor José dos Santos Costa, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with USJ represented by the Dean of the Faculty of Business and Law, Prof. Jenny Phillips, to promote international service-learning, global programme, and academic mobility among students, faculty, and technical staff across diverse domains, including innovation, technology, economic development, business, and administration. Additionally, they have kindly chosen to promote joint research activities and publications.

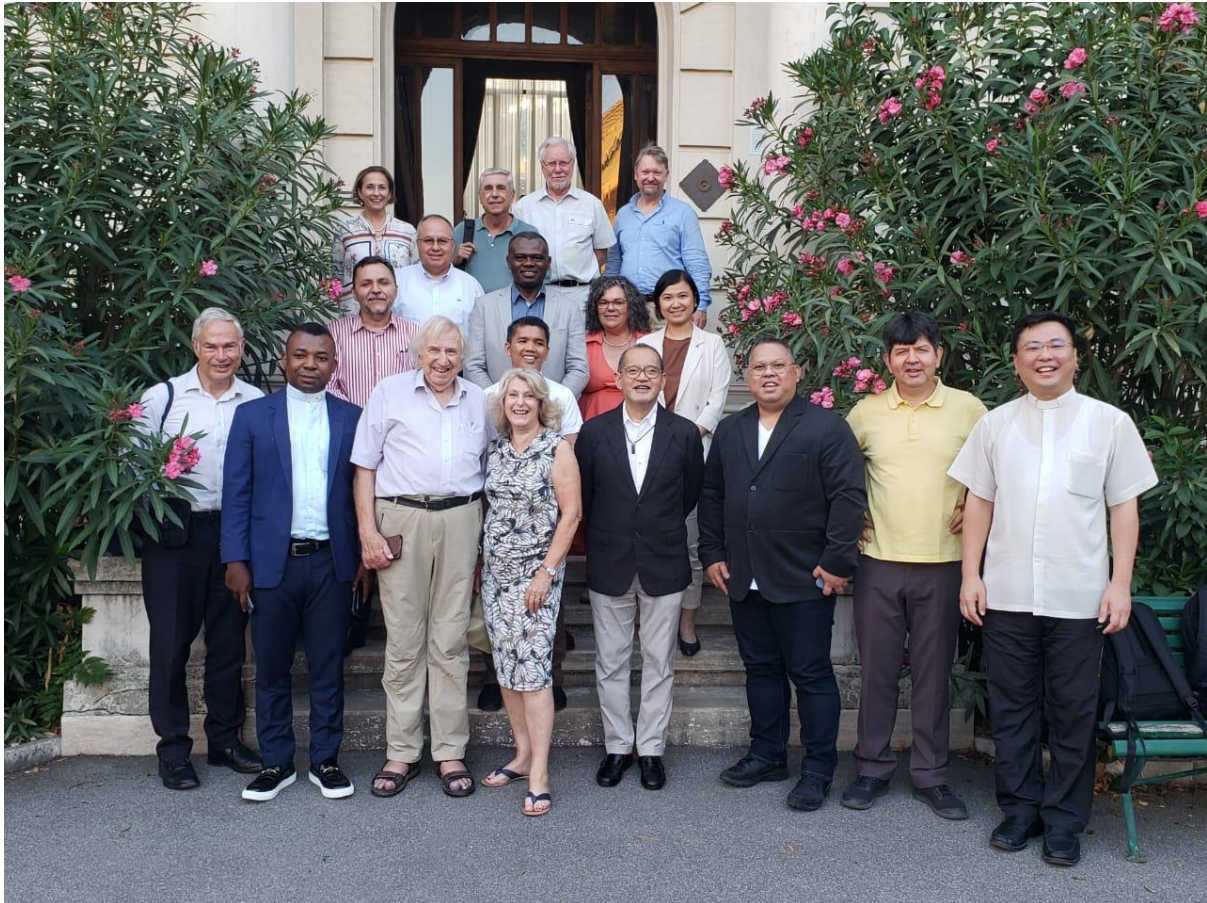
The signing ceremony was graced by the presence of other respected members of the IPV, including the Vice President, Professor João Vinhas, and the International Relations Officer, Mrs. Helena Rodrigues.

USJ's Executives Attended the IFCU Leadership Training for University Leaders

Executives from the University of Saint Joseph attended the International Federation of Catholic Universities' (FIUC) Leadership training programme for institutional senior leaders in September 2023.

Executives of USJ Dr. Teresa Loong, Vice Rector for Student Affairs, Fr. Cyril Jerome Jr Law, Dean of the Faculty of Religious Studies and Philosophy and Prof Alexandre Lobo, Head of the Department of Business Administration, attended the Leading Catholic Universities in the Twenty First Century programme: an action-oriented programme for Senior Leaders of Catholic Universities organised by the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU) from the 10th to 15th of September 2023, in Rome, Italy. It was a one-week intensive programme for senior leaders, equipping rectors/presidents, vice-rectors, and executives with

the approaches to facilitate the sustainability of individual institutions and to strengthen the capability of the higher education system to play an increasingly more valuable role in the contemporary world, especially in the light of Papal expectations of higher education. It was an enriching programme with discussions and exchange among the 16 executives from countries around the world.



On the second day, Rev. Prof. Stephen Morgan, Vice President for Asia in the IFCU Administrative Board and Rector of the University of Saint Joseph, delivered the lecture on “The identity of Catholic Universities in the 21st century – embedding Catholic value in institutional practice and the opportunities and challenges”. Rector Morgan brought the audience to reflect on the characteristics of a Catholic university and how we incarnate our identity and mission through our governance and what we do and how we do.

The group also had the opportunity to exchange ideas with Prof Antonella Alibrandi, Undersecretary of the Dicastery for Culture and Education and had a warm reception by Rev. Prof Mark A. Lewis, S.J, Rector of the Pontifical Gregorian University with colleagues of the pontifical universities in Rome.

The programme was inspiring and fruitful and a sincere gratitude to the three mentors Emeritus Professor John L. Davies, Professor Chris Brink, CBE and Prof David Lock for their expertise and guidance given.

USJ visited De La Salle University-Dasmariñas to forge collaborative partnership



In a significant step towards fostering international cooperation and sharing best practices, De La Salle University-Dasmariñas (DLSU-D) hosted a delegation from the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) on August 27 and 28, 2023.

The visit, which was organised as a follow-up to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing between USJ and De La Salle University-Dasmariñas during the ASSEACU conference in Baguio on August 21 to 25, engaged Dr. Teresa Loong, former Director of Office for Student and Alumni Affairs, now Vice-rector for Student Affairs of USJ, and Prof. Karen Tagulao of the Institute of Science and Environment (ISE), in a productive discussion with Dr. Sonia Gementiza, Vice President for Linkages and External Affairs, Dr. Christian George Francisco, Director of Linkages and Scholarship Office, and Prof. Marlon Pareja, DLSU-D High School Principal.

The agenda encompassed various topics, focusing on environmental sustainability practices within their respective campuses and matters about student affairs. One of the highlights of the meeting was the exploration of concrete opportunities for faculty and student exchanges in the near future, aiming to enrich both institutions' educational and research experiences.

Following the fruitful discussions, the delegation was treated to a tour of DLSU-D's renowned Green Campus, which has earned recognition as the number one eco-campus in the Philippines. The meeting concluded with the assurance of ongoing collaborative projects in the works.

Faculty of Arts and Humanities Collaborates with Guangdong Polytechnic Normal University to Foster Joint Training Activities

On the 18th of October, 2023, a delegation from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities (FAH) of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ), composed of Prof. Carlos Sena Caires, Dean of the FAH, and Visiting Professor Vincent Ho, embarked on an official visit to the Guangdong Polytechnic Normal University, located in the vibrant city of Guangzhou, China. The primary aim of the visit was to foster collaboration and exchange projects between the FAH and the College of Fine Arts at Guangdong Polytechnic Normal University.

The collaboration between the USJ's Faculty of Arts and Humanities and Guangdong Polytechnic Normal University represents a promising step toward furthering academic exchange and facilitating joint training activities. Both institutions are enthusiastic about the potential this partnership holds for advancing the fields of design and innovation in the ever-evolving landscape of arts and humanities education.



USJ Macao Signs Collaboration Protocol with Universidade de Aveiro

From the 23rd to 28th of May, 2024, Prof. Zhang Shuguang, Vice-Rector of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) Macao, visited the University of Évora (UEvora), the Catholic University of Portugal (UCP), and the University of Minho (UMinho) in Portugal.

During those visits, he held extensive and in-depth discussions on scientific and technological research and development, incubation cooperation, and in-depth academic exchanges, and reached a basic consensus on establishing a long-term cooperative partnership.

Over the course of the visit, Prof. Zhang Shuguang met with several leaders of the institutes including Prof. Paulo Quaresma, Vice-Rector for Research, Innovation and International Affairs of UEvora, Prof. Isabel Gil, Rector of the UCP, Prof. Isabel Braga da Cruz, Pro-Rector of UCP,

Prof. Paula Castro, Dean of the School of Biotechnology of UCP, and Prof. Maria Manuela Estevez Pintado, Vice-Dean of the School of Biotechnology of UCP, Dr. António M. Cunha, President of the North Portugal Regional Coordination and Development Commission (CCDR-N), as well as Prof. Rui Vieira de Castro, Rector of UMinho, Prof. Eugénio Campos Ferreira, Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation of UMinho, and four research institute directors.



ACADEMIC COOPERATION SIGNED WITH THE PRESTIGIOUS HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Engaging with new academic institutions those that become USJ partners after remote or face-to-face meetings/visits and understanding of the common goals to stablish and formalizing the partnership through agreements or memorandums of understanding can assist delineate roles, responsibilities, and metrics for success of the partnership. However it is also a continuous engagement through regular meetings, joint workshops, and shared projects that further strengthen the relationship, ensuring sustained commitment and innovation. Therefore, throughout the academic year 2023-2024, USJ cultivated fruitful and dynamic partnerships and signed agreement and Memorandum of Understanding with 40 partners to enhance academic and educational opportunities for all stakeholders involved. These Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding are at the University-level, non-University level meaning only for a specific programmes, and also International Dual Degree Agreements and Joint-degree Programmes Agreements.

Attachment:

- excel file form IAO-REAN09 : list of the higher education institutions and related information of the Agreements and Memoranda of Understandings.

In conclusion, these academic activities undertaken in the academic year 2023-2024, which include a series of significant academic visits and the successful signing of multiple Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), have yielded substantial benefits for our institution. Yet they will play a pivotal role in enhancing our institution's academic profile and fostering a culture of collaboration and innovation.

These academic visits facilitated by our institution have been instrumental in creating and strengthening global networks. These visits provided an invaluable platform for our faculty and students to engage with international scholars and practitioners, resulting in the exchange of cutting-edge ideas and best practices. The insights gained from these interactions have informed our curricula and research agendas, ensuring they are aligned with global standards and emerging trends.

Furthermore, the MoUs signed during the last academic year have laid a robust foundation for sustained academic partnerships and collaborations. These agreements have opened doors for joint research projects, faculty and student exchange programmes, and collaborative workshops and conferences. The cross-pollination of ideas and resources enabled by these partnerships has enriched the academic environment, leading to enhanced learning opportunities and an increase in research outputs. The tangible benefits of these academic activities are evident in the institution's growing reputation, which has attracted talented students and faculty from diverse backgrounds.

Nonetheless, the exposure to different academic cultures and perspectives has broadened the horizons of our academic community, fostering a more inclusive and global outlook. Overall, the strategic focus on academic visits and MoUs over the past year has not only strengthened our institution's position on the academic map but also propelled our mission of delivering quality education and research. Looking forward, it is imperative that we continuously build on these initiatives to harness their full potential, ensuring our institution remains at the forefront of academic excellence and innovation and position Macao as the higher education destination, and also leveraging USJ Macao brand in the higher education worldwide.

THE DELEGATION IN PORTUGAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

The Delegation in Portugal of the University of Saint Joseph has been established in 2022 with the purpose of creating an academic research hub and a project incubator in Lisbon, linking China, Southeast Asia, the Portuguese-speaking countries and the Iberian America through academic research, culture, innovation and entrepreneurship. The USJ Macau Academic Hub and Spin Incubator is located in Lisbon.

This initiative will support the transformation of theoretical research and innovative ideas into tangible projects for small and medium-sized enterprises and facilitate the creation of international start-ups, acting as a catalyst for sustainable social and economic development by harnessing the diverse backgrounds of its participants to create companies and projects that are inherently global.

The USJ Macau Academic Hub and Spin Incubator in Lisbon, linking China and Southeast Asia with the Portuguese-speaking countries and the Ibero-American world, is a visionary strategic initiative which, by emphasising the crucial role of education and entrepreneurship, promotes global collaboration, economic development and cultural exchange, uniting the various regions, taking concrete and tangible steps towards building a sustainable future and a more harmonious world.

The academic year 2023-2024 has been particularly important to extend our partnership network, paving the way for consistent strategic cooperation with private and public institutions, while promoting the university and Macau as a destination for Higher Education. This effort has been publicly materialized in the following activities:

1. “USJ International Symposium on Open Innovation” in cooperation with the Faculty of Business and Law at the Macau Scientific and Cultural Centre in Lisbon (September 2023).
2. Promotional school visits to Cape Vert in cooperation with the International Affairs Office. Students. We promoted two conferences to students and staff from the Ludgero Lima and the Dr José Augusto Pinto public high schools, preparing an extended cooperation with both institutions (October 2023).
3. Participation in Education Fairs in Portugal, Futurália in Lisbon, Qualifica in Porto and at the Guimarães Exhibitions Centre in cooperation with the International Affairs Office (March 2024).
4. Hosting the exhibition “Unveiling the Artistic Journey of Eduardo Nery at Macau Airport” at our Ilha Verde Campus in cooperation with the Faculty of Arts and Humanities (April 2024).
5. Developing the Project *Bibliotheca Diocesis Macaonensis*, a research bibliography on the history of the Diocese of Macao and Catholic Missions in Asia, with special emphasis on the Portugal’s Foreign Affairs Office Library and Archives and the Macau Scientific and Cultural Centre Collection. This project is being developed in cooperation with the Library.

5.2 Information sheet on international or regional organisations and alliances

Please refer to spreadsheet REAN07.

5.3 Participation in international or regional conferences, exchange programmes or competitions

Academic Exchanges

Eight students participated in the 2023/2024 exchange programme in the following countries:

Portugal (6), Germany (1), Mainland China (1), Taiwan (2).

Regional and International Conferences, Cultural Exchanges and Competitions

In 2023/2024, a total 196 staff and 184 students participated in 85 regional and international conferences, cultural exchanges and competitions that were held in different places. Besides, 4 staff and 11 students received awards in this category. A list of the events with details are provided in the attachment REAN08.

5.4 Information sheet on external cooperation projects in higher education

Please refer to spreadsheet REAN09.

6) SUPPORT FOR ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

6.1 Information sheet on teaching staff recruitment plan and implementation

For the Academic year 2023/2024, we have 30 more new staff joining us, in the collaboration of 16 academic staff, 9 administrative staff and 5 research staffs. In line with the concept of the Government for Talent Retention, The University has put effort in recruiting professionals Macanese who have been living abroad, and relocate back to Macau to join USJ.

In order to recruit the professional talents as well as to replace the leavers occasionally, the University has advertised the job openings on the University website, the local job site hello-jobs.com, as well as putting advertisement on Labour Department (DSAL). To cope with the popularity of the usage of social media among the youngster, for the generic administrative positions, with the aids of hello-jobs, the jobs opening has also advertised via social media platform. Please refer to 6.2 and 6.3 which further elaborate the execution of the recruitment plan thereafter from AY24/25 to AY25/26.

6.2 Promotion or support for study trips, research, learning and further studies, etc.

Several strategies applied for promotion or seeking support for study trips, research, and further studies in the University:

1. Establish a Research Development Office (RDO) to oversee Grant Programmes
 - Research Development Office (RDO) has been established in the academic year 23/24 to maintain a Research Portfolio Repository, validate funded projects applications as well as monitoring Funded Projects Execution. RDO also seek partnerships with organizations that offer grants for educational purposes.
 - RDO seeks funding opportunities from government bureaus such as Macau Foundations or FDCT, to local organisations like Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG), or worldwide entities like foreign universities.

2. Networking and Partnerships
 - Collaborate with Other Institutions: From partnerships with other universities and research institutions to share resources and funding opportunities. Some examples included:
 - Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with The Association of Southeast and East Asian Catholic Colleges and Universities (ASEACCU); Technical University of the Atlantic; Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie in São Paulo, Brazil, etc.
 - Cooperation Agreement with the Universidade de Aveiro (UA)
 - Industry Partnerships: Engage with private sector companies to fund research that aligns with their interests. Example such as:
 - USJ Sino-Portuguese Business Development Centre being established with the partnership agreement with Quinta de Marmeleria.

3. Workshops and Training
 - Quality Assurance Office has conducted workshops and sessions for staff development on grant writing, research methodologies, and funding opportunities.

4. Resources Accessibility
 - Online Research Tools: The Library system has been upgraded to provide access to databases and research tools that can aid in the preparation of studies.
 - Collaboration Platforms: Information Systems Office (ISO) offer aids to development of upgraded Library Information Systems, which use technology to facilitate collaboration among faculty members, even remotely.

5. Promotion or support for study trips, research, learning and further studies, etc.
 - Yunnan Exchange Tour organised by the Macau Student Affairs Association (MSAA) from 14 - 19 May 2024
 - GBA Inno-Career and Entrepreneurship Visit organised by the Office for Student and Alumni Affairs (OSAA) on 20 - 21 Oct 2023
 - GBA Learning Tour (Nansha and Hengqin) organised by OSAA on 23 - 24 May 2024

STUDY TRIPS, RESEARCH, AND FURTHER STUDIES ORGANISED BY FACULTIES:

- **Members of the Faculty of Business and Law of the University of Saint Joseph, Macao, Visits the Zhuhai Court of International Arbitration (ZCIA) in Hengqin Guangdong Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone**

A University of Saint Joseph's (USJ) Delegation led by Prof. Jenny Phillips, Dean of Faculty of Business and Law, visited the Zhuhai Court of International Arbitration (ZCIA) in Hengqin Guangdong Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone on 28 November 2023.

The delegation was warmly received by President Wang Ruisen and Vice President Xu Zhiming from the Zhuhai Court of International Arbitration and Manager of the Department of International Affairs and legal Representative of Hengqin International Commercial Mediation Center, Wu Tianyu and Secretary General of Hengqin International Commercial Mediation Center, Zhuo Jing.



To enhance cooperation in legal matters and provide support for arbitration services for entities from the Guangdong Hong Kong Macau Greater Bay Area and Portuguese-Speaking Countries, USJ explored the possibility of jointly providing training in the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), conducting research and other academic services in conjunction with ZCIA.

- **USJ's Faculty of Religious Studies and Philosophy (FRSP) Visited the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at the University of Macau**

A delegation of the Faculty of Religious Studies and Philosophy of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ), led by Fr. Cyril J. Law, Jr., visited the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Macau (UM), on 2nd March 2024. The visit commenced with a heartfelt welcome from Prof. Victoria Harrison, the Head of Department, who set a convivial tone for the day's scholarly exchange.

The highlight of the visit was the introduction of research areas by each faculty member, sparking conversations on shared interests and potential collaborative opportunities which showcased the depth and diversity of thoughts present. This exchange of ideas not only broadened academic horizons but also laid the groundwork for future joint research endeavours. The academic visit concluded with afternoon tea for further informal discussions and networking.



- **University of Saint Joseph, Macao, participates in the Resilient by Technology and Design 2024 Conference: Fostering Sustainability**

On July 18, 2024, in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, the University of Saint Joseph Macao (USJ) played a significant role in the success of the 2nd International Conference: Resilience by Technology and Design (RTD 2024). The event was hosted by the University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City's College of Technology and Design and the Institute of Smart City & Management (ISCM). It brought together thought leaders, academics, and practitioners to explore the integration of sustainable practices within

technology and design. USJ's delegation, led by esteemed professors and a student, made pivotal contributions across various sessions, showcasing their expertise and commitment to sustainability.



6.3 In-service training, professional development and support measures

1. Professional Development support
 - Allocate Budgets: Designate a portion of the university's budget for faculties development that include travel and research expenses.
 - Travel Subsidies: Provide partial reimbursement for travel costs related to conferences or research.
 - Conference and Research Leave policy: Apart from offering 25 days of Conference or Research Leave annually to professors to encourage their participation in relevance conference or seminar.
 - Tuition Fee reduction as staff benefit: The University grants all administrative and teaching staff a 50% reduction in tuition fees in USJ's Bachelor level or above programmes, for themselves and their next of kin (spouse, children and parents), provided they meet the University's admission criteria.
 - Quality Assurance Office has conducted workshops and sessions for staff development on how to write a successful research proposal, research methodologies, etc, regularly from February to May.

2. The University provides job-related training for its staff to enhance the quality of service and support their ongoing personal development. It actively participates in global conferences, both online and in-person, and emphasizes social responsibility and mental health initiatives for all employees. Some examples from the various categories include:
 - For Staff development and Mental Health Development:
 - Seminar on Prevention and handling of workplace bullying and sexual harassment
 - Seminar on Awareness of telephone scams and Cyber Fraud by Judiciary Police
 - The University offers free courses on Coursera for all students and alumni, with limited spots available.
 - HKSSA Annual Professional Dialogue 2023/24 organised by the Hong Kong Student Services Association (HKSSA) on 20 Mar 2024.
 - USJ Career Planning Training Course organised by OSAA on 22 Jan 2024.
 - For Team building and Staff Relations:
 - Mooncake giveaway to staff members during mid-autumn festival
 - Hand-building Pottery Workshop
 - For Conference and Social Responsibility:
 - Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Teacher Education Skill Enhancement Exchange Program jointly organised by USJ and South China Normal University, took place from November to December 2023.
 - Understanding National Development Learning and Exchange Tour 2023 sponsored by the Macao Foundation in November 2023.
 - The Institute of Science and Environment (ISE) and Green Committee at USJ, together with Sands Eco Ambassadors organised a coastal cleanup on 14 October 2023.
 - A delegation of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Macau Observatory for Social Development, visited Guangdong University of Foreign Studies in January 2024,

establishing an alliance to jointly develop discipline construction, scientific research, and talent training towards social work profession.

3. Establish a Research Development Office (RDO) to oversee Grant Programmes
 - Research Development Office (RDO) has been established in the academic year 23/24 to maintain a Research Portfolio Repository, validate funded projects applications as well as monitoring Funded Projects Execution. RDO also seek partnerships with organizations that offer grants for educational purposes.
 - RDO seeks funding opportunities from government bureaus to local organisations like GEG, or worldwide entities like foreign universities.
4. Resources Accessibility
 - Online Research Tools: The Library system has been upgraded to provide access to databases and research tools that can aid in the preparation of studies.
 - Collaboration Platforms: Information Systems Office (ISO) offer aids to development of upgraded Library Information Systems, which use technology to facilitate collaboration among faculty members, even remotely.

ACTIVITIES ORGANISED:

▪ World Mental Health Day

On October 10th, 2023, the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) hosted a series of on-campus activities as part of the World Mental Health Day observance. Although World Mental Health Day is officially observed on October 10 each year, the FHS extended the celebration to further promote the well-being of USJ students, staff, and the wider community.



This initiative aimed to raise awareness of mental health issues globally, mobilize support for mental health, and contribute to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs), particularly SDG 3, which focuses on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all ages. The event, organized in collaboration with Caritas Macau, featured various activities designed to engage and support the mental health of the university community.

- **USJ Delegation Visit to Hunan on a National Development Learning and Exchange Tour**

The four-days “Understanding National Development Learning and Exchange Tour 2023” in Hunan, organised by the Office for Student and Alumni Affairs (OSAA) of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) and sponsored by the Macao Foundation, was successfully completed on November 11th, 2023.

The tour intends to enrich the horizon of the participants and staff, develop the ties between the staff, teachers, students and alumni of the two places and the tertiary institutions on Mainland, China, and enhance the students’ and teachers’ sense of patriotism.



The 21-member delegation embarked on early November and was led by Vice-Rector, Prof. Zhang Shuguang. The first stop of the tour was the former site of Hunan First Normal University, followed by a visit to Hunan Normal University, another university in Changsha, where students were able to interact, exchange ideas and learn more about the different aspects of the local colleges and universities.

At Hunan Normal University, the delegation was warmly welcomed by Prof. Tang Xianqing, Vice President of Hunan Normal University, Ms. Li Miao, Deputy Director of the

Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan Affairs Office, as well as heads of other relevant units and student representatives. Both sides expressed their expectation of strengthening exchanges and cooperation between the two universities in the future.



7) STUDENT AFFAIRS

7.1 Counselling services for students

7.1.1 - School Counselling

The USJ Counselling Service is a consultation entity for the USJ community that provides counselling services and referral resources to USJ students and staff. The counselling team offers short-term counselling services to students experiencing several emotional and/or behavioural difficulties that hinder their studies and/or day-to-day activities. For those who need psychiatric or specific counselling support, the counselling team will make referrals and assist the student in accessing related resources in the community.

For further information, please refer to the link below:

<https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/counseling-service/>

A Journey to Discovery

Date: April 2023

Venue: USJ Ilha Verde Campus

Participants: 60 students and visitors

Objectives: To increase awareness of experiences and facilitate understanding of each other

Brief Description:

The workshop aims to foster self-discovery, promote emotional awareness, and enhance understanding of oneself and others. This interactive session gave participants a unique opportunity to gain deeper self-awareness and insight into their emotional experiences. Using psychological projection techniques, participants engaged in activities encouraging them to reflect on their thoughts, feelings, and behaviours. These exercises facilitate the exploration of personal narratives and uncover underlying emotions. Following the guidance questions and picking unique photos, participants could gain valuable insights into their motivations and emotional responses.

Effective Learning

Date: Sep 2024

Venue: USJ Ilha Verde Campus

Audience: 100 New Students

Objectives:

- Understand the role of attention in learning
- Identify personal attention challenges
- Provide effective learning strategies for successful university adjustment

Brief Description:

Miss Helen Lao, our university counsellor, invited the participants to reflect on their learning styles and explained the different dimensions of attention which affect knowledge acquisition. The goal of this talk on practical learning for freshmen is to equip them with the necessary skills to adjust to the academic demands of university life and promote their overall well-being. The talk focuses on two key areas: helping students develop effective learning strategies and providing guidance on time management to prevent burnout and protect their mental health.

Attention is the core of information intake, and understanding its role is crucial for academic success. Participants engaged in activities designed to enhance their focus, minimize distractions, and apply attention-enhancing techniques in their study routines. Participants gained valuable insights into various learning techniques and strategies to improve their academic performance. This talk emphasised the importance of adopting a growth mindset and cultivating a positive attitude towards learning. By mastering these skills, students will be better prepared to tackle the rigorous coursework and academic challenges they will encounter throughout their college journey.

<https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/usj-osaa-hosted-a-series-of-welcoming-activities-to-integrate-students-into-campus-life/>

Raising Awareness of Mental Health

Date: Oct 2024

Venue: USJ Ilha Verde Campus

Audience: 15 Students and 4 staff

Objectives:

- Raise awareness of the importance of mental health

Brief Description:

This campaign collaborated with the Faculty of Health Science to foster a supportive

environment where students can openly discuss mental health, recognize signs of distress in themselves and others, and emphasize the importance of compassion in their interactions. This initiative empowers students to take charge of their mental health and builds a sense of empathy towards peers. Together, we can make a meaningful impact in promoting mental wellness and understanding within our campus and beyond.

[https://us10.campaign-archive.com/?e= test_email &u=d8e55aec65364aabc050dcb44&id=1205e30f20](https://us10.campaign-archive.com/?e=test_email&u=d8e55aec65364aabc050dcb44&id=1205e30f20)

7.1.2 - Student Internship, Employment and Career Program

The programmes for student internships, employment, and career programs intend to provide students with more insights about their future career development and enhance their employability skills for their transition from university to the workplace. Several seminars and workshops took place in the 2023/24 academic year, helping students decide their career interests, obtain work experience, and prepare a plan for the future.

The USJ students were provided support and advice about areas of study and possible career movements, developments, or changes. It provides an opportunity for students to discover opportunities in their career path.

Exhibition

USJ Career Fair 2024

Date: 20 March 2024

Venue: USJ Ilha Verde Campus

Participants: USJ students, and over 20 companies and organizations

Objectives:

The USJ Career Fair 2024 event series provided students with valuable opportunities to explore different career paths, receive guidance on interview preparation, and gain awareness into various industries. The event was aimed to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to make informed career decisions and succeed in the job market. By connecting students with employers and providing them with resources and support, the Career Fair series played a significant role in fostering career development and enhancing students' employability.

Description:

The University of Saint Joseph holds the Career Fair with over 1,000 jobs available from 20+ enterprises, companies, and organizations, to USJ Students on 20 March 2024 at the Ilha Verde Campus. The theme of this year is "Career Exploration". This year the event is organized by USJ and sponsored by Macao Foundation.

The event featured CV consultation and mock interview experiences, personality test and analysis, and career advising station, where employers and USJ staff were available to answer students' career-related questions and provide onsite consultation. A total of three career talks were also held as part of the Career Fair Series, including information on support services

for local youth employment and job market in Macao, information on entrepreneurship in Zhongshan Yichuang Space, and the “Becoming a Teacher: Tips for Job Interview” session.

Website: <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/usj-held-career-fair-2024-with-the-theme-career-exploration/>

Consultation Service

USJ 1-on-1 Career Advising

Objectives:

The service provided dedicated interview strategies, tailor-made CV/Resume writing guidance as well as provided interview tips and consultations.

Description:

The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) Careers and Internships Services is offering “1-on-1 Career Advising” for all students and alumni who are looking for a job or guidance for career development.

Our Careers and Internships team is delighted to talk to students and alumni to provide job market information, personalised career advice on career planning, job searching skills, application writing review, and interview preparation. The team also provided advice and support for job search and interview by analysing and explaining the contents of the student’s resume, the process/method of sending the resume, the response to the interview, the clothing and on-site performance during the interview, etc., in a one-to-one manner. It also provided appropriate suggestions to the students being interviewed.

Official Website:

<https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/usj-1-on-1-career-advising/>

Survey on Employment and Further Study for USJ Alumni

Objectives:

To provide better support to the USJ graduates, the survey was conducted by the Office of Student and Alumni Affairs (OSAA) from the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) to understand the trend of employment and further study statuses of USJ alumni.

Description:

The survey was conducted through an online questionnaire collecting the employment and further study status of 2023/2024 graduates, 2021/2022 graduates, and 2019/2020 graduates. We also explored the comments and suggestions about career-related support and services such as career, personal development, and further studies provided by the OSAA.

USJ x Coursera Programme 2023-2024

Objectives:

The programme seeks to offer courses on Coursera featuring an extensive range of the most in-demand skills for USJ students and alumni to grow professionally.

Description:

All USJ students and alumni are eligible to enrol in our USJ x Coursera Programmes.

To fulfil different learning needs of our students and alumni, we provided programmes where different specializations and professional certificates are recommended. In general, each

specialization / professional certificate consists of several courses and each course varies from a few hours up to thirty (30) hours.

Official Website:

<https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/usj-x-coursera-2023-2024/>

GBA Inno-Career and Entrepreneurship Visit 2023

Date: 20 - 21 October 2023

Venue: Foshan and Zhongshan, China

Participants: 9 USJ students and staff

Objectives:

To promote the Integration into National Development and understand more the Building of the Greater Bay Area of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao. Also, to strengthen exchange and cooperation / promotion of Macao.

Description:

Through visits to historically and culturally rich cities like Foshan and Zhongshan, significant nodal points mentioned in the "Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area," participants experienced firsthand the entrepreneurial and internship situations, as well as the cultural resources in these areas to cultivate patriotism. The USJ delegation visited the Zhongshan Innovation and Entrepreneurship Cooperation Platform for Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao Youth, the Alumni Association of GuangDong Polytechnic, Qinghui Garden in Shunde, and the Museum of the former residence of Dr. Sun Yat-sen in Zhongshan.

Link: <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/gba-inno-career-and-entrepreneurship-visit-2023/>

GBA Learning Tour (Nansha and Hengqin)

Date: 23 - 24 May 2024

Location: Nansha and Hengqin, China

Participants: 11 USJ students and staff

Objectives:

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of Macao's return and the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, and to deepen understanding of the construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, broaden horizons, foster a sense of patriotism, and offer invaluable career insights. Through visits to key platforms like Nansha and Hengqin, participants will witness firsthand the remarkable transformations that have transpired in the country since its establishment, fostering a profound connection to their homeland while also providing valuable career perspectives.

Description:

The Office for Student and Alumni Affairs (OSAA) of University of Saint Joseph (USJ) organised a two-day Greater Bay Area Learning Tour for faculty, staff, and students. The Nansha Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office assisted in arranging the itinerary. The USJ delegation visited the Nansha Planning Exhibition Hall, the GAC Technology Museum, the Jiaomenhe Residential Community Service Center. On the second day, the delegation visited different industrial, academic and research bases in Nansha, including the Guangdong-Macao Youth Innovation Base for international industry integration development, and the famous landmarks Nansha Tianhou Temple. Culminating the tour, participants were treated to an insightful exploration of the exhibition hall showcasing the Guangdong-Macao In-Depth Cooperation Zone,

enriching their professional and personal perspectives on regional development and cooperation opportunities.

Link: <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/exploring-nansha-osaa-organised-a-two-day-learning-tour-to-the-greater-bay-area/>

Alumni Relations

Alumni are valuable assets to the university and students. Engaging the alumni to contribute to their alma mater for the students is a vital mission of the university. USJ created the Office for Student and Alumni Affairs in 2018 with the objective of actively building the network of alumni and bringing them back to be models for the younger generation.

USJ Mentorship Programme

Objectives:

The USJ Mentorship Programme aims at providing a valuable opportunity for our students to seek career advice and guidance from alumni mentors.

Description:

The mentors are professionals or senior executives from different industries who are willing to share their career and life experiences and stories in their career planning and development with the mentees. During the Programme, mentors and mentees can meet on their own schedules, thus the university also facilitate the initial meetings between the mentors and mentees.

The Mentorship Programme 2023 has paired up a total of three groups. We organized initial meetings for each group and continued to follow up on their interactions. The programme concluded at the end of the 23/24 academic year.

Official Website:

<https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/mentorship/>

USJ Alumni Newsletter

Objectives:

The university aims to maintain a strong and engaged relationship with its former students. By providing regular updates on university news, events, achievements, and alumni success stories, the newsletter aims to keep alumni connected to their alma mater and informed about the ongoing developments at the university.

Description:

The USJ Alumni Newsletter is sent to all USJ alumni's email in January, April, July and October. The content of the newsletter includes upcoming activities promotion, latest university news, achievements of USJ students and alumni, and career opportunities provided by USJ partner organizations. The first issue was published in January, 2024. A special edition will also be delivered to fresh graduates in the third quarter as a Welcoming Newsletter.

Relevant Links:

Issue 01 (Jan 2024): <https://www.usj.edu.mo/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/USJ-Alumni-Newsletter-202401Jan.pdf>

Issue 02 (Apr 2024): https://www.usj.edu.mo/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Copy-of-draft-1_USJ-Alumni-Newsletter-April-2024-1-1.pdf

Issue 03 (Jul 2024): <https://www.usj.edu.mo/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/USJ-Alumni-Newsletter-July-2024.pdf>

USJ Alumni Stories

Objectives:

Alumni Stories showcase the diverse paths and successes of USJ students after graduating from the university. By sharing these stories, the university aims to inspire current students, prospective applicants, and the broader community with real-life examples of how education from USJ has impacted and contributed to the achievements of its alumni. These stories serve as a testament to the quality of education provided by the university, the opportunities available to students, and the potential career paths that can be pursued after graduation.

Description:

Led by the OSAA, alumni including both long-standing and recent graduates are invited to share their experiences during their time at the university, how they have applied their studies in their careers, and offer advice to current students at USJ and those considering enrolling in the future. The Alumni Stories are primarily presented in textual form, with some being showcased in both text and video formats. The comprehensive coverage is not only featured on the university website but is also included in the Alumni Newsletter.

Link:

Benjamin Yue: <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/alumni-stories-benjamin-yue/>

Jack Bonte C6: <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/usj-alumni-stories-jack-bonte-cos-inspring-journey-to-usj-macao/>

Mark Ma: <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/alumni-stories-mark-ma-the-collision-of-thinking-and-logic-is-an-intriguing-matter/>

Student-Alumni Gatherings

Date: From May to June 2024

Participants: Final-year students of USJ

Objectives:

The OSAA collaborates with different faculties to organize gathering events that aims to bring together the graduates and alumni. The primary objective is to provide a platform for valuable exchanges between students and alumni, enabling the graduates to gain clearer insights into their post-graduation prospects, acquire relevant market information, and at the same time, strengthen the bond between alumni and their alma mater.

Description:

At the end of the 23/24 academic year, a total of five gathering events were held, including Bachelor of Education (BED), Bachelor of Psychology (BPY), Bachelor of Communication and Media (BCM), Master of Environmental Sciences and Management (MESM), and Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) programmes. Each event invited alumni who graduated from the respective programmes to return to campus and engage with students, sharing their experiences and insights from working in the field in Macao. These interactions were particularly beneficial for the students as they prepared to graduate, providing them with valuable real-world perspectives and guidance as they transition into their post-graduation endeavors.

Relevant Links:

Bachelor of Education (BED): <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/school-of-education-hosts-farewell-activity-for-year-4-bed-students/>

Bachelor of Psychology (BPY): <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/bpy-research-seminar-celebrates-student-achievements-and-promotes-alumni-engagement/>

Bachelor of Communication and Media (BCM): <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/bcm-gathering-celebrates-the-hard-work-and-dedication-of-its-final-year-students/>

Master of Environmental Sciences and Management (MESM): <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/ise-hosts-thesis-orientation-and-bbq-party-for-masters-students/>

Bachelor of Social Work (BSW): <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/bsw-graduating-students-benefit-from-alumni-experience-sharing-and-mock-consultation/>

Wuhan Cultural Exchange Tour 2024

Date: 6 - 9 June 2024

Venue: Wuhan, China

Participants: 25 USJ alumni, faculties members and students

Objectives:

In order to further deepen the understanding of Chinese culture among alumni and students, broaden horizons, and foster patriotism, a visit to Wuhan, Hubei Province, the largest city in central China is planned. Through this visit, participants will personally experience the cultural heritage of the Chinese nation and the great transformation of our motherland. The delegation also tours domestic universities to strengthen the connection between alumni and students from both regions and promote friendship.

Description:

The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) and the Alumni Association of the University of Saint Joseph (AAUSJ) led a group of 25 people including USJ alumni, professors, staff members and students to Wuhan, from 6 to 9 June, 2024, fostering stronger ties within the alumni as well as the university community. The delegation visited two local universities, Wuhan University and Huazhong University of Science and Technology, and also famous landmarks, including the Chibi Ancient Battlefield and Hubei Youth Innovation Park.

Relevant Link:

<https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/exploring-wuhan-usj-delegation-visited-mainlands-universities-and-enhanced-exchange-opportunities/>

USJ Alumni Hiking

Date: 16 March 2024

Venue: Oscar Trail, Oscar Farm, Coloane

Participants: 9 alumni and staff of USJ

Objectives:

To foster a sense of community and camaraderie among alumni and their families, the Alumni Association of the University of Saint Joseph (AAUSJ) and the USJ Alumni Sports Association (Macau) organized a hiking activity. This event aimed to provide a platform for alumni to come together, enjoy outdoor activities, and explore the natural beauty of Coloane while promoting a healthy and active lifestyle.

Description:

On 16 Mar (Sat), the USJ Alumni Association (AAUSJ) and USJ Alumni Sports Association (Macau) organized a hiking event. Alumni attended the event along with their families. The hike started at 10:30 a.m. along the Oscar Trail at Oscar Farm in Coloane. Afterward the hike, they visited the animals and agricultural areas. The event concluded around noon.

7.2 Scholarships and other awards

7.2.1. Scholarships and Fellowships awarded by USJ

Scholarship awards are an investment in the human development of Macau. The Scholarship programme commenced in 2006. In the academic year of 2023/2024, a total of 163 scholarships and fellowships were donated by USJ and different organisations and individuals, exceeding MOP \$8,835,475, out of which MOP 459,900 was for students of the Bachelor in Christian Studies and Foundation Course in Philosophy programme.

7.2.2 Scholarship and Fellowship awarded by the community

In the academic year of 2023/2024, USJ Scholarship and Fellowship Award Ceremony, 35 students with outstanding academic performance were awarded USJ Community Scholarships, a total of Mop 470,000 was donated by 12 prominent local institutions and individuals while 17 students with financial need were awarded USJ Community fellowships with a total of Mop 170,000 was donated by four prominent local institutions and individuals. Four institutions and individuals donated a total of Mop 40,000 to support USJ Prison Outreach Programme to Empowers Incarcerated Individuals through Education.

Scholarship Application and Selection

Recipients must be regularly active students with no outstanding balance in the current academic year. Recipients must be regular full-time students in the former year with no retake modules due to failure, and their minimum GPA must be at least 14/20.

Students are not required to apply for USJ Community scholarships, and the University of Saint Joseph Scholarships Committee selects the recipients according to the values and purposes defined by the donors with the confirmation of the programme coordinators. Please refer to the USJ Community Scholarships List to check the criteria defined by the donors.

Fellowship Application and Selection

Applications are accepted at the beginning of the first semester of each academic year. All USJ students with a cumulative GPA of 14/20 or above and meeting the donors' requirements are eligible to apply. Interested students submit all the required documents by the end of the

official application period. The USJ Community Scholarships and Fellowships Committee then decides on the result based on the academic merit and the financial situation of the applicants. A selected number of qualified applicants are invited for interviews. Results will be announced in November.

The University of Saint Joseph evaluated the applications on a case-by-case basis and all information was kept confidential. USJ community fellowships will be granted based on the students' applications.

7.2.3 Scholarships and Fellowships Award Ceremony

The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) held its 2023/2024 USJ Community Scholarships and Fellowships Award Ceremony at the Auditório Centenário de Fátima of Ilha Verde Campus on 27th October, 2023. A total of 163 scholarships and fellowships were donated by different organisations and individuals, with the amount exceeding Mop \$8,835,475.

Ms. Tam Sio Wa, Head of the Division of Tertiary Educational Cooperation and Exchange of the Education and Youth Development Bureau of the Macao SAR, Mr. Li Yongle, representative from the Department of Education and Youth Affairs of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in Macao SAR, the Most Reverend Bishop of Macao Stephen Lee Bun-Sang, Chancellor of USJ, Ms. Debby Lei, Representative of Macau Foundation, Ms. Janet Lui, the representative of Mr. Lucas Lo, Founding Fellow of the University of Saint Joseph Court of Benefactors and Representatives from USJ's Community Scholarships and Fellowships donors were present at the ceremony, including (listed alphabetically): Alumni Association of University of Saint Joseph, Banco Nacional Ultramarino, S.A., Bank of China Macau Branch, CESL Asia – Investments & Services, Limited, China Telecom, Companhia de Electricidade de Macau(CEM), Companhia de Telecomunicações de Macau(CTM), CPM – Macau Parking Company Ltd, Education Fund, Galaxy Entertainment Group, Henry Fok Foundation, Macao Diocese, Macao Foundation, Macau Tower Convention & Entertainment Center, Mr. Lucas Lo, Sands China Ltd., The British Chamber of Commerce in Macao..

In order to foster inclusiveness, fairness and respectful diversity in the community of the University, USJ is committed to its international identity which cultivates a diversity of cultures in higher education in Macau and promotes cross-cultural experiences among Macao's younger population. This year, in order to attract foreign talents to Macau and local talents to study at USJ. USJ offered full scholarships for Students of Master Degree Programmes from the Portuguese speaking countries and ASEAN countries while four full scholarships covering the tuition fees of undergraduate studies up to four years were offered to four high school graduates.

Recipients expressed their gratitude to donors and shared their words of appreciation to donors on their contribution during the ceremony.

The USJ Community Scholarships and Fellowships Award Ceremony takes place annually aiming to recognize our students' academic achievements and the contributions of the

donors. It is not only an event that encourages students with financial difficulties but also an opportunity for USJ to show gratitude to the scholarship and fellowship donors for their generosity.

Relevant Link:

<https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/usj-held-its-2023-2024-usj-community-scholarships-and-fellowships-award-ceremony/>

7.2.4 Admissions scholarships

USJ offered different types of scholarships to new students in the 2023/2024 academic year. Details are as follows:

Direct Admissions

USJ offers priority placement in our bachelor's degree programmes to graduating students of local Macao secondary schools who show academic potential, outstanding engagement in the community, or aptitude in other areas to secure their acceptance at USJ before the official application period starts. Students enter the direct admission process via nomination by their secondary school. Students who apply through Direct Admissions have waived the application fee (MOP500 in 2023/24).

Principals' Recommended Admission Full Scholarships (4 recipients)

Benefit: Full tuition fee waiver for four years

Eligibility: Nominated by high school with a recommendation letter

Criteria: Academic performance, interview performance, motivation letter, school recommendation letter, English Placement Test (B2 level or above).

*The scholarship is issued by year. After the first year, recipients must have a yearly accumulated GPA of 16 or above out of full mark 20 to maintain the scholarship.

USJ Direct Admission Community Scholarship (1 recipient)

Benefits: Scholarship MOP 10,000 and entrance interview exemption.

Eligibility: Nominated by high school with recommendation letter

Criteria: Academic performance, motivation letter, English Placement Test (B1 level or above)

USJ Social Admissions Fellowships For Incoming Local Undergraduate Students (1 recipient)

Benefits: Full tuition fee waiver for four years.

Eligibility: Scholarship opportunities for local candidates from low-income households as defined by DSEDJ and apply to Undergraduate Programmes. Priority will be given to students who applied before May 1, 2023 (Note: Limited scholarship opportunity).

Criteria: Financial situation.

USJ Admissions Fellowships For Incoming International Students : (4 recipients)

Benefits: Full tuition fee waiver and 100% Deduction of Residential Hall Fee for four years.

Eligibility: International candidates from low-income countries as classified by The World Bank. Limited spots available and Priority will be given to students who applied before May 1, 2023. (Note: Limited scholarship opportunity).

Criteria: Financial situation, academic background and admission interview performance.

USJ Admissions Scholarships for incoming international students: (35 recipients)

Benefits: Full tuition fee waiver for four years.

Eligibility: Scholarship opportunities for international candidates. Priority will be given to students who applied before May 1, 2023 (Note: Limited scholarship opportunity).

Criteria: Academic background and Admission Interview performance

*Priority will be given to students from Portuguese speaking countries, Southeast Asia, North American, British Virgin Islands.

Lucas Lo Scholarships for the University of Saint Joseph for 2023/2024 (12 recipients)

To cultivate talents in Macau, Mr. Lucas Lo continued to offer six full scholarships and six half scholarships for the best candidates from USJ from the Academic year 2021/2022, (6 full scholarships and 6 half scholarships) in total over four years of the student's studies, for students who choose to complete the Bachelor degrees at the University of Saint Joseph. The Lucas Lo Scholarships for the University of Saint Joseph aims to support high-calibre students to study at the University of Saint Joseph, which will offer them a rich international experience. Mr. Lucas Lo hopes that these scholarship recipients will contribute to the Catholic Church and the development of Macao in the future.

BOC admissions scholarships for 2023/2024: (4 recipients)

Benefits: MOP 22,000

Eligibility: Four recipients who applied to Undergraduate Programmes in the Academic year 2023/2024.

Criteria: Academic background, English proficiency result, and Interview performance

7.2.5 USJ CARE Scheme

Once a student has been accepted to USJ, students are eligible to receive many supports throughout their time at University until graduation. Support and guidance are given across all pillars of student life, including but not limited to

- Academic advising
- Financial support such as tuition fee, deduction fee in [residential hall](#), food, etc.
- [Career opportunities](#) (Student Ambassador Scheme)
- [Personal and social support](#)

Special care was given to students from low-income households* or low to low-middle income countries**

**DSEJ defines low-income households as those with a monthly income of less than MOP6,530 (1 family member) to Mop 30,410 (8 family members or above). For detailed information, please click [here](#).*

***Low to lower-middle-income countries here refers to the [World Bank classification](#).*

7.2.6 USJ Hardship Fund

The Coronavirus Pandemic and its consequent preventive measures dramatically affecting some students' financial sustainability.

This is especially true of some of our international students. They chose Macau to pursue their Higher Education studies but now find the revenue from their home country compromised, and they are not permitted to work locally. Some cannot pay full tuition, housing, or in extreme cases, food.

To tackle this serious problem, the University established the USJ Hardship Fund to collect online donations to support students in challenging situations. Our Scholarship and Fellowship Committee manages it by regularly publishing audited reports. The list of beneficiaries is strictly confidential, and all beneficiaries must receive support from USJ's Counselling Centre.

7.2.7 USJ Alumni Tuition Discount (USJ 校友學費優惠)

In recognition of their essential role as proud members of the USJ family, USJ is delighted to offer our alumni and their next of kin (spouses, children, and parents) a 25% tuition fee discount for all degree programmes (Bachelor, Master, and Doctorate) starting from Spring Semester 2020/2021.

7.3 Student appeal regime

There are different channels for the students to appeal, and below please find the procedures available:

- Provisional rules on filing and settlement of complaints and disputes
- Grade Appeal Process

USJ is committed to making our campuses safe and inclusive for university community, the following policies were introduced and implemented.

- Anti-Harassment Policy and Reporting Form
- Anti-Bullying Policy and Bullying Reporting Form
- Equality and Diversity Policy

7.3.1 Provisional Rules on Filing and Settlement of Complaints and Disputes

To safeguard a decent and friendly working environment and promote mutual respect and cooperation among all staff and students, the University of Saint Joseph has introduced the following Rules on Filing and Settlement of Complaints and Disputes.

1. Basic Principles

1.1. Application of the Rules. These Rules provide the general guidelines for the filing and handling complaints and disputes between staff members and/or students of the University that are not governed by the Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy and other special policies of the University.

1.2. The right to file complaints and disputes. Any individual who is a staff member or student of the University has the right to file a complaint of any misconduct and to file a dispute on an action of another staff member or student if he or she has a reasonable ground to believe that the misconduct or action is an infringement of his or her rights or a violation of the laws of Macau, regulations of the University or the generally recognised basic standards of ethics in a civilised society.

1.3. Complaint/dispute settlement. Everyone should understand that the University provides a variety of informal mechanisms of dispute resolution and grievance settlement, including private counselling, peer consultation, mediation, and reconciliation. Filing a formal complaint or dispute may start a lengthy formal process of investigation within the University, and so should be used only when other solutions have failed or been deemed inappropriate.

1.4. Lawfulness, fairness, and efficiency. The University's procedures for handling and settling complaints and disputes must be lawful, fair, and efficient. The University and all parties involved shall abide by the laws of Macau and the University's regulations and policies and respect the terms of reference in any contract. The procedures shall be fair to both parties and the stakeholders of the University. A dispute shall be settled

efficiently without undue delay and causing the least possible damage to the friendly working environment and the best interests of the parties involved.

2. Filing of Complaint and Dispute

2.1. Initial consultation. It is highly recommended that anyone who plans to file a complaint or dispute first consult his or her superior, the head of the relevant office, the dean, or a member of the Executive Council of the University. This informal consultation shall be private and confidential unless reporting to the employer or disclosure to the public authorities is specifically required by a contract or written policy of the University or the law of Macau.

2.2. Formal complaint or dispute. Anyone who decides to file a formal complaint of misconduct or a dispute on an action of another person shall submit a written statement to an Officer of the University. This Officer may be the supervisor or superior of the complainant, the head of the relevant office, the dean, a member of the Executive Council, or the Rector of the University. The submission can be made by registered mail or in person.

2.3. Limitation. The complaint or dispute should be filed promptly and no later than within three months of the last incident of perceived misconduct or wrongful action unless there are extraordinary circumstances that prevented the complainant from doing so. Such circumstances should also be specifically explained in the complaint or dispute statement.

3. The essential elements of a complaint or dispute statement.

The written complaint or dispute statement should state

(1) Basic information about the complainant, including his/her full name, age, gender, status in or relation with USJ, telephone number, email address, USJ student number, or official identity card number. An anonymous report is not considered a complaint or dispute.

(2) Basic information of the opposing party, including his/her name, status in or relation with USJ, and any other information that can help to identify this person.

(3) Description of the misconduct or wrongful action, including the date and time, location, behaviour, sequence of events, harm, and consequences.

(4) Description of evidence, such as witnesses of the incident, documents, and emails. Available documentary evidence and written testimonies shall be submitted as attachments to the complaint or dispute.

(5) Request for corrective action or protection.

(6) Consent to disclose the complaint or dispute to the accused person and the relevant persons to be contacted by the University.

(7) Signature of the complainant on every page of the written statement.

(8) The date when the complaint or dispute is filed.

4. Complaint/dispute resolution process

4.1. Informal intervention. The Officer who receives the complaint shall assess the situation and consider an informal intervention, which may be in the form of discussion and mediation. However, the parties may refuse to accept this informal intervention and demand the initiation of formal intervention by a Complaint/Dispute Resolution Committee.

4.2. Report and transfer of documents. If the informal intervention fails to reach an agreement or is rejected by either one of the parties involved, the Officer shall immediately report to the Rector in writing and transfer all the relevant documents to the Rector's Office.

4.3. The Rector shall set up a Committee of three members to review the submission and launch an investigation of the Case.

4.4. Notice to the other party. The Committee shall notify the opposing party in writing that a Case has been filed against him or her. The notification will also state the name of the complainant and the issue of the Case with an attachment of a copy of the complaint or dispute statement.

4.5. The hearing. The Committee shall conduct a closed-door hearing of the Case. Both parties shall attend the hearing and answer questions raised by the other party and the Committee members. The Committee may interview the witnesses, demand documents from relevant offices or individuals in the University, and conduct further investigation and additional hearings. All relevant offices and individuals shall provide assistance to the Committee.

4.6. Burden of proof. The burden of proof is always with the party who claims a fact or initiates an action against the other party. If the party fails to prove the fact or justify the action, he or she shall lose the case.

4.7. The Decision. The Committee shall make a written decision on the Case based on the majority opinion, within one month after the completion of the hearing(s). This decision is final.

4.8. Corrective actions. The Decision shall include corrective actions. If disciplinary action is desirable, the Committee shall make a recommendation to the Rector, who shall make a decision in writing within one month after the recommendation is made.

5. Confidentiality. All parties should respect a reasonable level of confidentiality of all other parties involved and in the process. The discussion of a complaint or dispute shall be limited to those that need to know.

6. False complaint and information. The complainant should understand that it is a violation of ethics and/or law to file a false complaint or provide false information. Such wrongdoings will also be subject to investigation and appropriate disciplinary actions.

7. Legal remedies. Anyone who believes an incident of misconduct or wrongful action has violated the law of Macau may seek legal remedies in a court of law, with or without filing a complaint or dispute to the university. It is helpful if he or she notifies the university.
8. Report of crime. Anyone who believes he or she has become a victim of a crime because of an incident of misconduct should report it to the police in Macau, with or without filing a complaint to the university. It is helpful if he or she notifies the university.

The right to interpret the provisions hereof rests with the Executive Council of the university.

Approved by: The Executive Council of University of Saint Joseph on April 28, 2015,

7.3.2 Grade Review Appeal Process

As many student complaints are appeals about grades, USJ has designed a Grade Review Appeal Process, detailed procedures of which are included in the Student Handbook.

Students have the right to make a grade review appeal request in writing, addressed to the Registrar. After receiving a grade appeal request, a committee of three members will be appointed by the respective dean to review the grade. Simultaneously, a report regarding the grade will be requested from the teacher who awarded the grade, due within a maximum of two weeks. The committee will then review the teacher's report and interview him/her (if required). The committee must call a hearing, or reply to the appeal, within ten working days of receiving the report from the teacher. If any member of the committee considers that the allegations warrant a hearing, the student will be called. Otherwise, the student will be informed of the outcome. The grade will be updated and, if the outcome is positive, the student may claim back the fee paid for the appeal process.

Related documents: [Appeal Committee](#)

Further, the University of Saint Joseph is committed to actively promoting an inclusive culture on campus, values respectful diversity and creating a safe campus. Below please find some additional policies we are implementing for this purpose.

Anti-Harassment Policy and Reporting Form <https://gae.usj.edu.mo/knowledge-base/1-4-2-1-anti-discrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy-and-reporting-form/>

Anti-Bullying Policy and Bullying Reporting Form
<https://gae.usj.edu.mo/knowledge-base/1-4-2-27-anti-bullying-policy-and-bullying-reporting-form/>

Equality and Diversity Policy
<https://gae.usj.edu.mo/knowledge-base/1-4-2-2-equality-and-diversity-policy/>

7.4 Enhancing campus climate through student organizations and activities

Similar to past years, funding was allocated to develop the needed services and activities for the university community, among them were the adaptation and immersion activities to the incoming students, the activities and visits targeting the cultivation of Student Whole Person Development, etc.

We continue to recruit coaches and rent the out-campus facilities for the clubs to have regular training. This enriches the student life as well as cultivates the sense of belonging of the students to the university.

7.4.1 Students' Association (USJSA)

Missions of USJSA

1. To advance academic excellence and enhance the competitiveness of the students;
2. To increase students' sense of belonging to the University and summon their spirit of patriotism and their love of Macao;
3. To act as a bridge between the student body and the University authority and create a harmonious atmosphere at the University;
4. To foster a spirit of unity among students and encourage them to contribute their best to society.
5. To promote welfare and protect the rights of the student body;
6. To cultivate good cooperative relations with organizations inside and outside the University.

USJSA has been actively acting as a bridge between the university and the students as well as the ambassadors of the university to the local youth organization.

7.4.2 Student Activities

In the 2023-2024 academic year, the Students' Association has continued to apply funding from DSEDJ in subsidising the student activities of Pre-Christmas Party and "Werewolves of Business Street " Competition 2023.

USJSA Election 2023

Date	4 - 5 December 2023
Venue	University of Saint Joseph
No. of Participants	Around 300 students

Objectives:

The purpose of the University of Saint Joseph Students' Association (USJSA) elections is multifaceted and integral to fostering a thriving campus community. These elections serve as a cornerstone for promoting student engagement, representation, and accountability within the university. By providing a platform for students to elect their representatives through a democratic process, the Students' Association ensures that student voices are heard and valued. Through these elections, students have the opportunity to actively participate in shaping their university experience by electing leaders who will advocate for their interests, organise events, and provide valuable services such as lockers. The election process not only improves communication between students and their representatives, but also facilitates feedback mechanisms to address concerns and improve services based on student input. Elected student leaders play a crucial role in driving initiatives and activities that meet the diverse needs of the student body, while representing their interests within the University administration. In addition, these leaders have the responsibility to participate in public events, engage with external stakeholders and collaborate with other organisations to promote the welfare of USJ students both on and off campus. Ultimately, Students' Association elections at USJ aim to create a vibrant and inclusive campus community where students feel empowered, supported and actively involved in shaping their educational journey.

Description:

The 8th USJ Students Association Election was held from 4 to 5 December 2023. A total of three polling stations were set up in each of the University of Saint Joseph's campus (Ilha Verde Campus, NAPE Campus and Seminary Campus). According to the official result, the Student Alliance was declared to be the new University of Saint Joseph Students' Association (USJSA), receiving over 90% votes in support.

After the poll closing times, the counting completed smoothly by 7 p.m. at the Student Lounge of the Ilha Verde Campus. The election was conducted in an open, fair and honest manner.

News: <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/usjsa-election-2023-results/>

The 8th Inauguration of USJ Students' Association (USJSA)

Date	30 January 2024
Venue	University of Saint Joseph
No. of Participants	50 students

Objectives:

The purpose of the event is to have representatives from various community organizations and student associations from various universities witness the inauguration, pledge to take up the responsibilities and missions of the newly appointed student association, and let

students collectively look forward to showcasing their strengths in future work, serving every students, and promoting the advancement of the campus community.

Description:

The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) celebrated the Inauguration Ceremony of the 8th USJ Students' Association (USJSA) on 30 Jan 2024, at the Kent Wong Exhibition Gallery of the USJ's Ilha Verde Campus.

Dr. Teresa Loong, Vice-Rector of USJ, delivered a heart-felt welcoming speech. She first stimulated thinking through questioning and interacted with the students, helping everyone understand the importance of joining the Student Association. She encouraged the students to recall their original intentions when joining the Student Association in times of setbacks and difficulties. She also quoted a saying by Martin Luther King Jr.: "A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus," encouraging students to be open-minded and accept the opinions of others, and the best solution will eventually come out.

Following that, Mr. Ambrose António, the former Chairperson of the Executive Committee of USJSA, expressed his heartfelt gratitude and thanked the 7th USJSA for their hard work. Looking back on the past two years, he believed that the ways of dealing with people and things he learned from the Student Association would benefit him for a lifetime. He also emphasized that the spirit of the Student Association's legacy is a long and arduous task, and encouraged the new USJSA members to start from the heart. He would also be more than happy to assist in the guidance work of the new Student Association whenever necessary.

Mr. Jaden Jude, Internal Vice-chairperson of the Executive Committee of the 8th USJSA, delivered his inaugural speech. He stated that students in USJ came from various cultural backgrounds around the world and the future goals of the Student Association will be based on promoting innovation, organising diverse student activities, and continuously accumulating experience in the pursuit of excellence, aiming to create an inclusive and supportive environment where every student's voice is heard and valued.

Mr. Richard Adrian Pastorin Vallesteros, President of the General Assembly of the 8th USJSA, pointed out that the common vision of the student association has always been to create a vibrant and memorable student experience in the university environment. During the ceremony, Richard was invited to the stage to receive the stamp of the USJSA, symbolising the handover of authority.

Mr. Lam Kai Tai, Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the 8th USJSA, presented certificates of appreciation to the guests, and the night concluded with a networking session. The guests who attended the event included Ms. Hong Wai Man, Functional Head of the Department of Students of the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ); Ms. Jenny Lam, Head of Office for Student and Alumni Affairs of USJ; Mr. Addy Chan, Chairperson of the Alumni Association of USJ, and other representatives from local universities and organisations.

News:

<https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/the-8th-inauguration-of-usj-studentsassociation-usjsa/?fbclid=IwAR3oPISd56yx5oKaZ8U-t6K1o8hdFMuIWU9nzKuABlxhAWyi6yjBV0haFWc>

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

GBA Student Sports Festival

Date : 25 - 26 November 2023

Location: Guangzhou

Participants: 5

Objectives:

The participation of USJ student athletes in the GBA Students Sports Festival aims to promote athletic excellence and showcase the university's talent. It fosters teamwork and school spirit while encouraging healthy competition and sportsmanship. Additionally, the event enhances student engagement in physical activities and strengthens connections with other institutions in the Greater Bay Area, fostering collaboration and shared experiences among participants.

Description:

The GBA Students Sports Festival is an annual event that gathers student athletes from universities across the Greater Bay Area. The USJ basketball team competes against other skilled teams, demonstrating their talent and commitment to the sport. This festival not only provides a platform for high-level competition but also encourages camaraderie among athletes, fostering friendships and networking opportunities. Through this experience, the team represents USJ with pride and enthusiasm, promoting the values of sportsmanship and collaboration.

Website:

<https://www.facebook.com/USJOSAA/posts/pfbid037RyzYo3NJfKvwPGVkgZCmU1E1LcX3ugfknt6YYCvvrKgzia1rDcPFHrSi7jLYykl>

SIAS University Intercontinental Basketball Tournament

Date : 15-24 September 2023

Location: SIAS University, Zhengzhou

Participants: 13

Objectives:

It promotes teamwork, discipline, and resilience among players, while enhancing their competitive experience. Additionally, the tournament serves to strengthen the university's reputation in sports and build connections with other institutions, encouraging collaboration and cultural exchange through athletics.

Description:

Their skilful execution on the court and their sportsmanlike conduct off the court exemplified their camaraderie and professionalism. Despite facing formidable opponents from diverse backgrounds, spectators and coaching staff praised the team's courage and determination.

Website:

<https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/usj-basketball-team-successfully-participates-in-the-sias-university-intercontinental-basketball-tournament/>

USJ Sports Day

Date : 23 - 24 March 2024

Venue: USJ Campus and External Sports Fields

Participants: 60

Objectives: To promote the physical health of students, to enhance students' sports techniques and cultivate team-work and collaboration.

Description:

This year USJ Sports Day was successfully concluded with the efforts of all the athletes of the USJ Sports team. More than 90 students, Staff and alumni have participated in these competitions including basketball, badminton, volleyball and soccer.

The winners of different sports are listed below:

Basketball Games:

Champion	周圍
1st Runner-up	四支大炮
2nd Runner-up	Mark Mvp

Badminton Games:

Men Single:

Champion	鐘竣鋒
1st Runner-up	潘梓軒
2nd Runner-up	李文傑

Women Single:

Champion	鄧詩迪
1st Runner-up	蔣詠琪
2nd Runner-up	冼嘉慧

Double:

Champion	潘詩蓓、馮穎晴
1st Runner-up	鄧詩迪、潘梓軒
2nd Runner-up	陳恆慧、HO PAK KEI

Volleyball Games:

Champion	A.L.T.
1st Runner-up	Terence 請食飯
2nd Runner-up	Xaverio Boe Bo

Soccer Games:

Champion	DJURTUS
1st Runner-up	St.Dominic
2nd Runner-up	社工傳媒中心

Website:

https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/usj-sports-day-2024-vitality-and-diversity-for-health/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZWOCMTAAAR378azlKy0ZiVg7hE0tk9KgyPRSEpg2raqSuOUKzJP-iC-Kvq94AAC4sy8_aem_XJe4zY8kSQdgiAIR_lu1rw

HKMU 35th Anniversary Programme — Metropolitan Cup - 3x3 Men's Basketball Competition

Date : 21-23 June 2024

Venue: Hong Kong

Participants: 8

Objectives:

It promotes teamwork, discipline, and resilience among players, while enhancing their competitive experience. Additionally, the tournament serves to strengthen the university's reputation in sports and build connections with other institutions, encouraging collaboration and cultural exchange through athletics.

Description:

Their skilful execution on the court and their sportsmanlike conduct off the court exemplified their camaraderie and professionalism. Despite facing formidable opponents from diverse backgrounds, spectators and coaching staff praised the team's courage and determination.

Volunteerism

USJ Blood Drive 2024

Date 6 March 2024

Venue University of Saint Joseph

Participants 30 Students and staff members

Objectives:

The activity aims to promote the importance of donating blood to help others, and attracted more than 20 students and staff members to participate.

Description:

The annual “USJ Blood Drive”, co-organised by the Macao Blood Transfusion Centre, was held in the USJ Ilha Verde Campus on 6 March, 2024. The event started at 11 a.m. at the Student lounge. It received enthusiastic support from students and staff members from different backgrounds. One participant mentioned that she had made a prior reservation through the official website, which was convenient for scheduling her time. In addition to her family’s previous experience of benefiting from blood transfusions during surgery, she now hopes to take this opportunity to give back to society.

News:

<https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/usj-blood-drive-2024/>

Student Adaptation

To integrate the freshmen, International, and Exchange students into student life, we have coordinated a series of orientation sessions online and face-to-face modes for different audiences, and buddy mentors are recruited as volunteers to assist them.

Orientation Days and Induction Weeks 2023

Date 31 August 2023 to 13 September 2023

Venue University of Saint Joseph

No. of Participants 250 students

Objectives:

To provide new students with the tools and information necessary for their university journey.

Description:

On the 31st of August, the new Bachelor students gathered in the Fatima Auditorium for the Orientation Day. Welcomed the students, followed by a general introduction and the student services. The USJ Music Club prepared a special singing performance and welcomed the students. During the orientation day, students were divided into groups to initiate ideas and actions to achieve the SDGs, and end with the faculty time by meeting the deans and professors.

With new students coming from different countries and ethnic backgrounds, it was a valuable opportunity to promote cultural exchange and social connections. OSAA organised information sessions for non-local students on the 1st and the 12th of September. In addition to introducing Macau’s history, culture and lifestyle, representatives from the Judiciary Police also joined to give a presentation on the prevention of mobile and electronic fraud.

The Induction Week, held on the 6th and 13th of September, aims to bridge the gap between high school and university life. Students are introduced to the many opportunities available on campus. During the first Induction Week, students were divided into groups for a campus orienteering game. Besides familiarizing with the campus environment, it also promoted a sense of belonging and team spirit among the students.

The aim of the second Induction Week was to promote the holistic well-being of the students. To be able to face the challenges of the academic journey, one needs to be physically and mentally healthy. Therefore, the OSAA invited the Macau Floor Curling General Association to introduce the students to the sport of floor curling. It is a fun sport for the general public. Last but not least, USJ counsellor Ms Helen Lao shared with the new students the tips for a smooth transition to university life and the services and resources available to USJ students.

News: <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/usj-welcomes-new-students-for-the-new-academic-year-2023-24/>

Orientation Photo:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/usjmacau/albums/72177720311311569/>

Induction Week Photo:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/usjmacau/albums/72177720311311334/>

Clubs & Societies

USJ provides opportunities for students to pursue their personal, professional and academic goals in student-led organizations.

USJ Clubs Dinner

Date	22 May 2024
Venue	Crowne Plaza Macau
No. of Participants	120 students, alumni, invited guest

Objectives:

To express appreciation to its students and alumni for their dedicated efforts and strong support towards campus activities, and to build up bondings.

Description:

During the event, representatives from the USJ Students' Association (USJSA) introduced the competitions and activities in which various student associations participated throughout the year. This included information about the university's Basketball, Badminton, Volleyball, and Football teams, as well as the Music Club, Business Club and the Alumni Golf Team.

They shared the students' achievements, allowing the audience to gain a deeper understanding of the efforts and accomplishments of the USJSA and various student association teams in different fields. Following the sharing session, Dr. Teresa Loong and Dr. Alejandro held a toast on stage.

News: <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/usj-hosts-appreciation-dinner-for-student-association-and-clubs/>

USJ Music Club - Open Mic Night

Date 22 February 2024
Venue University of Saint Joseph
No. of Participants 32 students

Objectives: To cultivate students' music talent and build up connections with peers of similar interests.

Description:

On the 22nd of February, the USJ music club hosted an Open Mic Night which took place in the student lounge. This event was to create an inclusive night with a fun atmosphere where students from all majors come together to share their love for music, showcase their talents. With this opportunity to enjoy themselves through music, games, and camaraderie. One of the feedback being "We look forward to seeing what else the music club's core leader Alidoro Chenda has in store and wish him and his team all the best".

News: https://www.instagram.com/p/C4ATkp0yuoo/?img_index=1

Training for Culture, Arts, and other clubs

To maximize the USJ student potential in Culture, Arts, and other areas and impact the local community. Funds were allocated for the USJ Students' Association and 5 clubs/groups to organize the activities.

Sports Regular Training

Sport is an important and exciting part of student life at the University of Saint Joseph. It is a component of education that challenges students by providing opportunities to attain the skills and knowledge to be physically active as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Further, regular participation in physical activity allows students to develop a pattern of life-enhancing and self-rewarding experiences that contribute to their potential to be healthy members of society. USJ has equipped a gym room located on the 4th floor of the Residential Building. The gym has a section of weights as well as a host of cardio machines, such as treadmills, cross trainers, rowing machines, and exercise bikes. Physical activities were intended to be held to benefit the well-being of students, alumni, and staff.

Description:

Regular training

There are 5 sports teams at USJ including basketball (male), volleyball (male and female), badminton and soccer in the first semester. Regular training was provided and with the assistance of the coach, team players were supported in improving their skills. The team had set their goals and actively worked towards the goals. All these activities take place throughout the academic year which requires coaching, rental, and several logistical and operational costs.

Team	Period	Venue	No. of participants
Badminton	Sep 2023-May 2024	USJ	10
Basketball (Male)	Sep 2023-May 2024	USJ	15
Soccer	Sep 2023-Oct 2023	CDSJ5	15
Volleyball (Male and Female teams)	Sep 2023-May 2024	USJ	20

Competitions

They have achieved remarkable results and here name some achievements in the 2023/2024 academic year:

Team	Competition	Period	Achievement (if any)
Basketball	ADUM Basketball competition	21 Oct - 26 Nov 2023	
Soccer	ADUM 5vs5 Soccer competition	6 Apr 2024 - 28 Apr 2024	1st runner up
Running	ADUM Track and Field competition	22-24 Mar 2024	
Volleyball (Male and Female teams)	ADUM volleyball competition		Female: 2nd runner up
Table Tennis	ADUM Table Tennis competition	14 & 15 Oct 2023	1st runner up

The benefits of the program are:

- To provide the opportunity to participate in team and individual sports through a variety of competitions and tournaments.
- To actively promote sportsmanship and enjoyment of activities.
- To provide a venue where participants can meet new people.
- To ensure access to quality and sustainable infrastructure for the delivery of these activities

With the training provided for the sports teams, the students have increased their participation in competitive and non-competitive activities and have achieved remarkable results.

Student Whole Person Development

As a Catholic University, “Holistic Development” is part of the educational philosophy of the Catholic Church. It is considered that a university should not only teach skills but provide a comprehensive education to all students, including social, emotional, intellectual, physical, and spiritual ones. The objective of this project is to arrange activities and visits that focus on the cultivation of the attributes of whole-person development such as social and emotional competencies, leadership skills, civic responsibilities, and a sense of citizenship. The activities can also be with the aim to broaden the horizons of the students.

A Mid-Autumn Festival With Mooncakes & Rides

Date	27 September 2023
Venue	University of Saint Joseph
No. of Participants	100 students

Objectives:

This event promoted friendship and exchange among students of different nationalities and cultures, showcasing emphasis on the multiculturalism of USJ. Through the activities, an inclusive and mutual learning environment was created, allowing students to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of different cultures.

Description:

The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) organised a Mid-Autumn Festival event on the 27th of September, 2023, as part of the cultural experience series. The event was sponsored by the Macao Foundation.

International and exchange students were invited to experience the joy of the traditional Chinese festival. During the event, students and friends gathered within the heart of the campus, and under the moonlight, they shared mooncakes and fruits, made handmade lanterns and exchanged cultural insights between the East and the West. It was a delightful time spent together.

A special arrangement was also made for students and friends to share the joy of motorcycle riding. Riders were allowed, for this one evening, to ride their bikes to the campus. They exchanged riding experiences and interacted with each other. This “meeting through motorcycles” also helped bridge the gap between Chinese and Western cultures.

News: <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/a-mid-autumn-festival-with-mooncakes-rides/>

3rd-year Marketing Management class in BBA visit Macao Science Center

Date	18 October 2023
Venue	Macao Science Center
No. of Participants	11 Students and Professor

Objectives: To sparkle students' interest in marketing

Description:

Our 3rd-year Marketing Management class in BBA led by our visiting academic Ms. Mary Mendoza, and received by Ms. Edith, had the privilege to visit the Macao Science Center.

Ms. Edith's insights were invaluable in deepening our understanding of marketing strategies, while Mary's meticulous planning ensured a seamless visit.

News:

<https://www.facebook.com/100046602139448/posts/925526499010746/?mibextid=Nif5oz>

USJ BBQ

Date 5 November 2023

Venue Hac Sa Beach

No. of Participants 30 students and staff

Objectives:

To strengthen the bonding between mainland students and dormitory residents, promote communication and foster a spirit of mutual assistance with a relaxed and enjoyable platform.

Description:

Students work together to prepare ingredients, grill food and share good times. Interactive games and music encourage teamwork and friendship. In addition, staff interact with students during the event to gather feedback and further improve the living and learning environment. The barbecue gathering was a memorable event, allowing students to bond in a fun atmosphere and work together to create a more harmonious campus environment.

USJ Winter Celebration 2023

Date 14 December 2023

Venue University of Saint Joseph

No. of Participants Around 200 students

Objectives:

To create a warm and festive atmosphere that fosters connection.

Description:

A series of Christmas themed activities including “Icing Cookie Workshop”, “USJ Students’ Association Spreading Warmth in Winter Activity” and “Christmas Is Coming Moonlight Concert”, were held on 14 December 2023, welcoming students, staff and alumni to participate.

OSAA organised a morning icing cookie workshop, where students experienced the fun of baking. To convey the Christmas spirit, the final product – handmade cookies, were delivered to the USJ community at the Seminary Campus by the USJ Students’ Association in the afternoon, and also gifted to colleagues and friends who attended the festive party in the evening.

This year, the activity was sponsored by the Macao Foundation and Alumni Association of the University of Saint Joseph (AAUSJ), and held at the USJ Bamboo Pavilion. The event featured several musical performances by staff, students and alumni, and members of the USJ Music Club.

The “Christmas Is Coming Moonlight Concert” was a true testament to the spirit of the season, leaving lasting memories and ensuring that everyone enjoyed every moment of this magical celebration.

News: <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/usj-winter-celebration-2023/>

USJ Cultural Experience Activities 2024 - Celebration of Chinese New Year 2024

Date 19 - 20 February

Venue University of Saint Joseph

No. of Participants 60 students

Objectives:

To let students understand the cultural significance of the Chinese New Year.

Description:

To celebrate the Chinese New Year and cultivate students’ interest in exploring diverse cultural festivals, the OSAA and the USJ Student Association (USJSA) organised a two-day cultural experience activity 2024 – Celebration of Lunar New Year.

The event was held on 19th and 20th February on all three USJ campuses – including the Ilha Verde Campus, the NAPE Campus and the Seminary Campus. It featured various activities such as Chinese calligraphy (shūfǎ), the art of writing Chinese characters in a stylised manner, and the tasting of traditional Chinese New Year cakes and desserts. The event was aimed to showcase the uniqueness of Chinese traditional culture to international students from all over the world.

The activity was sponsored by the Bank of China Macau Branch. During the event, students were introduced to traditional New Year food such as turnip cake, sticky rice cake (Nian Gao), and crispy pastry dumplings. It was also aimed to let students understand the cultural significance of the Chinese New Year.

News:

<https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/usj-cultural-experience-activities-2024-celebration-of-chinese-new-year/>

USJ International Cultural Carnival 2024

Date 22 April 2024

Venue University of Saint Joseph

No. of Participants Around 1,000 USJ students, alumni, staff and public

Objectives:

To showcase the diverse cultural heritage of more than 50 nationalities represented among the university’s students, faculty and staff members, and alumni, and to promote inclusiveness.

Description:

The University of Saint Joseph proudly hosted the highly anticipated 2024 International Cultural Carnival at its Ilha Verde campus on the 20th of April. The event showcased the

vibrant cultural diversity that makes up USJ in a spectacular display of traditional food, music and dance.

The carnival kicked-off with a vibrant parade led by students and staff members proudly carrying flags representing their respective countries, symbolising unity and celebration. Attendees were able to engage and experience a diverse range of cultural traditions and artistic expressions at, including traditional dances and musical performances throughout the event. This immersive experience allowed visitors to truly appreciate and embrace the cultural diversity present at USJ Macao.

In conjunction with the carnival and in honour of World Book Day on April 23rd, the USJ Library transformed into the “Blues Book Café.”, where participants had the opportunity to engage with librarians and learn about the Western technique of Cyanotype Printing as well as the Tie & Dye process. This hands-on experience allowed attendees to use their creativity and craft unique handmade artifacts.

News: <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/usj-macao-hosts-spectacular-international-cultural-carnival-celebrating-multiculturalism/>

Financial Health Seminar for BBA Senior Students

Date	7 March 2024
Venue	University of Saint Joseph
No. of Participants	20 students

Objectives:

To equip students with essential personal finance management knowledge and foster a deeper understanding of financial well-being.

Description:

The seminar featured a comprehensive agenda, including informative sessions on personal financial management, interactive Q&A segments, and engaging games to enhance learning. The highlight of the event was the personalized financial analysis offered to each student, providing valuable insights into their individual financial situations.

The interactive nature of the seminar encouraged active participation and meaningful discussions among the students and HSBC Life representatives. This collaborative effort between academia and industry not only enriched the students' learning experience but also reinforced the importance of financial health in today's dynamic world.

The seminar concluded on a high note, with students expressing their gratitude for the insightful session and the opportunity to gain practical financial insights tailored to their individual circumstances. Such initiatives underscore USJ's commitment to providing holistic education and preparing students for real-world challenges.

Exam Support Station

Date	8-9 May 2024
Venue	University of Saint Joseph
No. of Participants	Around 100 students

Objectives:

To encourage students to prepare for their final exams and ease their study pressure

Description:

To encourage students to prepare for their final exams and relieve their stress, the OSAA of USJ hosted the “Exam Support Station” for two days to spread positivity and foster a learning atmosphere on campus. In addition to sharing drinks and snacks, the activity also included the redemption of Mother’s Day gifts for students to remind them to thank their families for supporting them in their studies.

The event was held on the 8th and 9th of May at the USJ Ilha Verde Campus. Ms Jenny Lam, Head of the OSAA, said that USJ has always been committed to organising diverse campus activities to actively engage students of different ages. With the final exams approaching, USJ continues the tradition of organising similar activities as previously, providing a cheering station to help students from both day and evening classes relax and promote student well-being. In this way, we can better understand their learning needs and provide more appropriate support. Ms Lam also mentioned that this year’s Mother’s Day gifts were handmade by the dedicated staff of USJ, sending care and blessings to all the students.

News: <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/osaa-hosted-an-exam-support-station-to-spread-positivity-during-finals-season/>

7.4.3 Students with Special Educational Needs

USJ aims to provide appropriate care and support for all with special needs. We are committed to compliance with the aims of the CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities). Once a student has been accepted, the University accepts a responsibility to ensure appropriate provisions for that student throughout his/her course. Students with disabilities can expect to be integrated into the normal University environment. They are encouraged and helped to be responsible for their own learning and so achieve their full academic potential. To ensure that all individuals should be given equal opportunity to learn, all USJ staff is requested to give the best academic and personal support possible and to establish a culture of inclusiveness and respect for students with any kind of disability.

Teaching and Learning

To ensure that all individuals should be given equal opportunity to learn, the USJ academic staff who are teaching the students with special needs are well informed and are required to give the best academic and personal support possible and to establish a culture of inclusiveness and respect for the students with any kind of disability.

For all cases, their respective programme coordinators are well informed of her case and give her the necessary support. We have tried our best to equip our settings and facilities as per their requests.

We have regular meetings with the students to see their needs and ask for their advice on how to improve the condition at the university. We tried to make the students with special needs be treated as normal students as they wish.

Access to Information, Educational Material, and Research

Whenever formal letters or documents are sent to the visually impaired students, the Offices are informed to provide soft copies to be distributed to the USJ visually impaired students. Further, all information is posted at MyUSJ or through email and they have no problem accessing them. They also have easy access to the materials in the USJ Library as most of them are online. In case the materials are not online, their student helpers can assist them to convert the text. With the assistance of their specific software, students can also access other internet resources without any constraints. In addition, the IT department at USJ provides them with all means of support throughout their academic life in USJ.

Building, Facilities

The barrier-free facilities in USJ are always the concern of the university. We have regularly revisited the facilities to accommodate the needs of our university community.

Participation in Cultural Life, Recreation, Leisure, and Sport

We have been actively encouraging USJ students with special needs to participate in different kinds of activities organised by the USJ Clubs and associations.

7.5 Admission of student(s) of age 16 or below

No student aged 16, or below, was admitted during 2023/2024.

8) TEACHING FACILITIES AND ACTIVITY SPACE

8.1 Campus Development Planning

The University does not have any campus development planning in the academic year 2023-2024.

8.2 Management and collaborative use of libraries, laboratories, and resources

Library Resources

At the end of the 2023-2024 Academic year, USJ Library remains the service in two branches: *Ilha Verde Campus (Main Library)* and *Saint Joseph Seminary Library*. *Main Library* covers most

of the subjects taught at the university, and *Saint Joseph Seminary Library* mainly cover philosophy and religious studies. Two libraries provide around 100 seats for patrons.

USJ Library has 115,000 volumes of physical items comprehending books, journals and magazines, multimedia, educational kits, and psychological assessments in several languages covering all subjects taught at the University. Regarding the generous donation of Wonersh Seminary Library (UK) and Georgetown University Library (USA), also the integration of original collection from the Seminary, Saint Joseph Seminary Library holds one of the most valuable philosophies and theology collections in Asia, covering philosophy, theology, history and literature, ancient languages Latin, Greek and Hebrew, and some reference work.

Electronic resources are an essential investment in USJ Library, including databases of e-books and journals that allow our patrons to access hundreds of thousands of worldwide most necessary and comprehensive full-text resources for an academic community. At the end of the 2023-2024 academic year, our patrons have access through the Library Portal to over 784,561 electronic items, including more than 670,000 e-books and more than 108,000 journal titles and other specific resources such as marketing databases, ancient text databases, etc.

Along with the electronic resources, our patrons have access to several essential tools to advance their writing and research skills, such as Turnitin and Grammarly. Due to the Adelson Family Foundation's generous contribution in 2017, we continued providing access to all 15 collections of the JSTOR Archives Collections and an important acquisition plan of perpetual access e-books. To ensure 24/7 access to our electronic library resources worldwide, our patrons must access our authentication system Ezproxy for off-campus access.

The continuous effort in updating our physical and digital collections enhanced our library's overall usage. More student services, such as similarity checking services, were launched in May 2024 to encourage students and their intellectual knowledge during their research or study.

From 01/09/2023 to 31/08/2024, the Library Reference Services recorded 1909 borrowed items and 1088 renewals. The borrowing rate has lightly decreased. A record for 45 times of Interlibrary loan requests through the Macau Academic Library Alliance Network.

Affiliations

USJ Library is part of the following international and regional institutions:

ABAMAPLP	<i>Aliança Bibliotecária Académica entre a Região Administrativa Especial de Macau (China) e os Países de Língua Portuguesa</i>
ABAMACHINA	<i>Aliança Bibliotecária Académica para Recursos em Língua Portuguesa entre a Região Administrativa Especial de Macau e o Interior da China</i>

APBAD	<i>Associação Portuguesa de Bibliotecários, Arquivistas e Documentalistas</i>
GHMULA	<i>Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau University Library Alliance</i>
IATUL	<i>International Association of University Libraries</i>
IFLA	<i>International Federation of Libraries Association</i>
MALA	<i>Macau Academic Library Alliance</i>
MLIMA	Macau Library and Information Management Association

Information Literacy Development

Information literacy is one of the most crucial topics on a regular library basis. Library provides the *LibGuides* on the library portal to direct our patrons better use the resources or tools. We continuously held individual tutorials and regular in-class workshops and started participating in doctoral modules. Three sessions for a total of 360 minutes to teach our new doctoral candidates to strategically familiarise themselves with library resources, research and publishing. We continuously develop an *Information Literacy Plan* based on student needs and learning discipline.

Activities

The organisation and development of cultural and educational activities are essential to the University Library. Our main objective is to ensure our students and local citizens can experience different opportunities that could give them a different perspective towards culture, education and life in general, making them better professionals and furthering their citizenship and humanity.

1. World Book Day 2024 (April 2024)

In celebration of World Book Day and Macao Library Week 2023, also part of the USJ International Cultural Carnival, Main Library holds “The Blue” Workshop on April 20th. The event received over 200 participants in the handcraft workshops, café and reading activities.



Library Staff Training

Library staff attended the training workshop as listed:

- 1. Chinese Librarian Annual Conference (Zhengzhou, China)**
- 2. Chinese and Portuguese Academic Forum (Macau, China)**

3. Conservation and Preservation Academic Forum (Guangzhou, China)
4. Great Bay Area Librarian Youth Forum (Guangzhou, China)
5. Emerald eJournal and eBooks Training (Online)
6. American Library Association Webinar (Online)
7. Proquest Day (Hongkong, China)
8. The 19th Library Leadership Institute (Hongkong, China)

Academic Press

During the 2021-2022 academic year, USJ Academic Press has published four publications as listed below:

1. Proceedings of the 2023 International Symposium on Children and Youth Health and Well-being
2. Teaching Kits of GEG Chinese Literacy Development Scheme (GEGCLEAR) project | 語文童樂：銀娛讀寫支援及研究計劃教材（香港版 | Hong Kong Version）
3. Largada: USJ Thesis and Dissertation Collective Book
4. Orientis Aura Journal (Issue 6)

8.3 Information sheet on campus space, teaching facilities and equipment

Please refer to spreadsheet REAN11.

9) TEACHING ARRANGEMENT FOR THE CONSTITUTION, BASIC LAW, AND NATIONAL SECURITY

USJ is committed to promoting students' understanding of the Constitution, Basic Law, world conditions, national conditions, and social development, and enhancing their sense of identity and social responsibility to the country. To achieve this mission, we have organized more and more related lectures and activities to continue strengthening the education of loving China and loving Macau so that undergraduate students can gain a deeper understanding of national conditions, regional conditions, and legal systems.

9.1. Teaching arrangements related to the Constitution and the Basic Law, national security and national conditions

The University has deepened its commitment to teaching all undergraduate students in the areas of the Constitution of China, the Basic Law of Macao and the areas of national security and conditions. This material has been delivered through existing modules related to Macao Studies as part of the core curriculum. Specialist staff, including a Full Professor specialising in Chinese Marxist theory, have been recruited. In order further to bed-in this teaching, the undergraduate programmes have been redesigned to deliver a minimum of 7 credits dedicated to these subjects and these revised programmes are currently going through the accreditation process. All students have been given the opportunity to participate in visits to locations in Mainland China to broaden and deepen their knowledge. Given the large number of non-Chinese nationals in the University - amounting to about one-third of the students - particular care has to be taken to reflect varying sensitivities but always with the aim of seeking to foster a love of Macao and of China.

9.2. Teacher and student activities/training organized on related topics

Macao Basic Law Chinese and English Handwriting Competition 2023

Date	17 October 2023
Venue	University of Saint Joseph
No. of Participants	30 students

Objectives:

This event is aimed to promote the Chinese and English calligraphy art, as well as encouraging students' to be more familiar with the Macao Basic Law.

Description:

The "Macao Basic Law Chinese and English Handwriting Competition 2023" was held on the Ilha Verde Campus on 17 October 2023. The Competition, sponsored by the Macao Foundation, was divided into Chinese and English calligraphy sections, attracting more than 30 USJ students to participate.

This event is aimed to promote the Chinese and English calligraphy art, as well as encouraging students' to be more familiar with the Macau Basic Law.

Ten winners were invited to the award ceremony on 14 December at the USJ bamboo pavilion. The awarding ceremony was hosted by the Office for Student and Alumni Affairs. The Chinese calligraphy championship was awarded to Lee Chi San (PGDE, YEAR 1) and the English calligraphy champion was Tang Qinghua (MDS, YEAR2).

News: <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/macao-basic-law-chinese-and-english-handwriting-competition-2023/>

USJ Cultural Tour 2024 - Hunan

Date	17 November 2023
Location	Changsha, Hunan
No. of Participants	21 staff, students and alumni

Objectives:

The tour is intended to enhance the participants' sense of patriotism and their understanding of the history and culture of our motherland.

Description:

The 21-member delegation embarked in early November and was led by Vice-Rector, Prof. Zhang Shuguang. The first stop of the tour was the former site of Hunan First Normal University, followed by a visit to Hunan Normal University, another university in Changsha, where students were able to interact, exchange ideas and learn more about the different aspects of the local colleges and universities.

At Hunan Normal University, the delegation was warmly welcomed by Prof. Tang Xianqing, Vice President of Hunan Normal University, Ms. Li Miao, Deputy Director of the Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan Affairs Office, as well as heads of other relevant units and student representatives. Both sides expressed their expectation of strengthening exchanges and cooperation between the two universities in the future.

Changsha, the capital of Hunan Province is one of the most significant cities in Mainland China, and a home to a number of renowned universities and institutions of higher learning, and its long history and culture have brought a lot of knowledge to the students of the USJ delegation. USJ has been committed to building a platform that offers students with a variety of learning opportunities over the years and will continue to maintain the initiative of organising more group activities to broaden the perception of the students and help them grow as a community, with the aim of fostering cross-cultural communication and enhancing their overall abilities.

The USJ delegation included Prof. Zhang Shuguang (Vice-Rector), Prof. Rochelle Ge (Dean of School of Education), Prof. Alessandro Lampo (Programme Coordinator from the Faculty of Business and Law), Ms. Jenny Lam and Ms. Lydia Tong from the Office for Student and Alumni Affairs, as well as USJ students and alumni.

News: <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/usj-delegation-visited-hunan-on-a-national-development-learning-and-exchange-tour/>

Public Lecture: The Position and Role of the Belt and Road Initiative in China's Economic and Social Development Policies

Date	25 November 2023
Venue	University of Saint Joseph
No. of Participants	30 students, staff, alumni and guests

Objectives:

In commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the "Belt and Road Initiative" (BRI), the public lecture is aimed to deepen the participants' understanding of the "Belt and Road Initiative" and how it is incorporated into the development strategy of mainland China.

Description:

The public lecture attracted more than 30 young students, alumni and guests to attend. The lecture was organized by the University of Saint Joseph (USJ), and supported by the Bank of China (Macau Branch) Youth Association, the University of Saint Joseph Alumni Association. According to the presentation, Prof. Han Dongxue gave an overview of the background of the belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as an important development proposed by China and shared his views on some of China's economic and social development policies. Moreover, he hoped that through the lecture, the participants could learn more about the blueprint and the social phenomenon of our country.

The following guests were present at the lecture: Mr. Chan Yuk Wai, Head of the Department of Students of the Education and Youth Department Bureau (DSEDJ); Dr. Teresa Loong, Vice Rector of USJ, and the members of the alumni association of USJ.

News: <https://www.facebook.com/USJOSAA/posts/pfbid0oXQ4ipcl934aw1E8xLTNGGDkjGMGmDbdkkyyLYZyp3Y7sE3P1kdmBK7HnG9uGjz9l>

Experiential Learning: USJ Students Onboard on the “MV Xue Long 2” in Hong Kong

Date 24 April 2024

Location Hong Kong SAR

No. of Participants 4 students

Objectives:

To enhance the understanding of polar ecology and environmental conservation and the advanced technology of mainland China among young students

Description:

China's first domestically built icebreaking research vessel, “MV Xue Long 2,” made its way in Hong Kong and docked at the Ocean Terminal in Tsim Sha Tsui.

One of our participating students, Chen Qijie (PhD in Business Administration), expressed sincere gratitude to the Green Environment Protection Association of Macau and the USJ Office for Student and Alumni Affairs for providing the opportunity to witness firsthand the technological charm and advanced techniques of China's first domestically built polar research vessel, “MV Xue Long 2.” He also believes that young people should continue to pursue knowledge, overcome challenges, and contribute to the country's scientific research endeavors as polar exploration work progresses.

Zhu Junwen, a student from the Master of Business Administration programme, believes that through this experience, students were able to gain a deeper understanding of the overall structure and navigation principles of “MV Xue Long 2,”; additionally, they could attain the patriotic, pragmatic, innovative, and persevering spirit of the polar expedition team.

The visit was coordinated by the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) and sponsored by the Bank of China Macau Branch.

News: <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/experiential-learning-usj-students-onboard-on-the-mv-xue-long-2-in-hong-kong/>

National Knowledge Competition 2024

Date	6 June 2024
Venue	JW Marriott Hotel
No. of Participants	2 students

Objectives:

This competition provided a platform for the youth of Macao to showcase their understanding of national knowledge and their talents. Through their participation, students from USJ demonstrated exceptional knowledge and profound understanding in significant areas such as China’s ecological civilization construction and the enhancement of new productive forces.

Description:

On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the National Conditions Education (Macao) Association organized the “GEG Macau Cup – the 16th Youth National Education Competition.” The final competition and award ceremony took place on 6 June, 2024, at JW Marriott Hotel.

Kelly Ke and Howie Luo, student representatives of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ), participated in the competition and received the Excellence Award.

The competition was conducted in an inter-university team format, involving mandatory questions, buzzer rounds, and question and answer sessions. The participating teams were ranked based on accumulated scores. Amidst intense competition, the representatives from USJ achieved an outstanding score of 311 points, securing the fifth position and earning the Excellence Award. Both Kelly Ke and Howie Luo are first-year students from the class of Master of Business Administration, with guidance provided by Mr. Andrew Wong, Senior Office of OSAA.

News: <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/usj-students-receive-excellence-award-in-youth-national-education-competition/>

Visit to National Security Education Exhibition

Date	26 April 2024
Venue	Macao Forum
No. of Participants	Over 40 students, alumni and staff

Objectives:

To provide our staff and students with different perspectives and a deeper understanding of the concept and significance of comprehensive national security.

Description:

Staff and students from the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) visited the National Security Education Exhibition on the 26th April, 2024. The exhibition titled “The 10th Anniversary Of A Holistic Approach to National Security: Guiding The Way With Innovative Thinking,” was composed of five thematic sections.

Dr. Alejandro Salcedo Garcia, Administrator of USJ, led the delegation on the visit, with the support of Mr. Addy Chan, Chairman of the Alumni Association of the University of Saint Joseph (AAUSJ). Over 40 people attended the exhibition at the Macao Forum. During the

event, the participants gained a comprehensive understanding of the meaning of national security, their roles, and their potential contributions through guided explanations, interactive games, and video presentations. Among the attendees were international students from Africa and Southeast Asia, which provided an opportunity for students from different regions to learn about the importance of national security in Macao and promote cross-cultural understanding and learning among faculty and students.

In addition to the five thematic sections, the exhibition also featured award-winning works from the “My Understanding of Cybersecurity” Chinese writing competition. Earlier, Sun Haoxuan (Keven), a Year-2 Bachelor of Communication and Media student from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, won the first prize. Through refined language and artistic presentation, USJ students further reflected on the importance of cybersecurity to national security from different perspectives.

News: <https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/usj-organises-visit-to-national-security-education-exhibition-for-staff-and-students/>

Successors of the New Era - National Affairs Training Course for Association Leaders and Staff Members of Higher Education Student Affairs (新時代接班人)

Date 11 to 17 December 2024

Location Beijing

No. of Participants 2 students

Objectives:

To empower and equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the complex landscape of national affairs, effectively advocate for student interests, and contribute to the development of higher education and student affairs in their respective institutions.

Description:

The course provided participants with opportunities to enhance their leadership abilities, strategic thinking, and communication skills. Through workshops, seminars, and interactive discussions, they developed practical skills in policy analysis, decision-making, and effective advocacy. The training also focused on fostering a broader perspective and cultivating a sense of social responsibility among the participants.

Visit to the “Chinese People’s Liberation Army Macao Garrison Taipa Barracks Open Day”

Date 30 April 2024

Location Macao Garrison Taipa Barracks (氹仔軍營)

No. of Participants 10 staff and students

Objectives:

To deepen the participants’ understanding of national security and cultivate in the university students a strong positive energy of patriotism and love for Macau.

Description:

The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) staff and students visited the “Chinese People’s Liberation Army Macao Garrison Taipa Barracks Open Day” Student Session on the 30th April, 2024. The open day included a military training demonstration, equipment display, training experience, and a visit to the military exhibition hall. In addition to observing the professionalism and dedication of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Macao Garrison, USJ aims to deepen the participants’ understanding of national security and cultivate the university student’s patriotism and knowledge through this visit.

A national flag-raising ceremony is held at 10 a.m. in the morning. After the solemn ceremony, participants watched soldiers of the garrison stage military exercises, including combat and anti-terrorist drills, as well as providing a camp tour, and cultural and art performances. To show the good military quality and fighting style of Chinese soldiers. Some of the students who visited the Taipa Barracks for the first time considered the open day a rare opportunity to learn more about the daily lives of the PLA Macao Garrison. They also explain that through the wonderful performances and the on-site observation of the military equipment, they gained a deeper understanding of the defence of the motherland and the PLA Macao Garrison.

News:

<https://www.usj.edu.mo/en/news/usj-staff-and-students-visit-the-chinese-peoples-liberation-army-macao-garrison-taipa-barracks-open-day-student-session/>

9.3. Work on display of national flag/emblem, Macao SAR flag/emblem and related ceremonies, etc.

Given that USJ and Colégio Diocesano de São José 6 share the Ilha Verda Campus, we share also the flag-raising facilities and equipment. Students and staff of USJ participates in the flag-raising ceremony of Colégio Diocesano de São José 6. In other times, USJ displays the national flag and Macao SAR flag in accordance with the relevant laws and administrative regulations. USJ follows the below "Flag Raising Procedure and Monitoring Mechanism" developed by Colégio Diocesano de São José 6 in accordance with the relevant laws and administrative regulations.

"Flag Raising Procedure and Monitoring Mechanism"

by Colégio Diocesano de São José 6

I. Flag-raising team members and training

1. The flag-raising ceremony is held in Colégio Diocesano de São José 6 every Friday.
2. The flag-raising team consists of seven students: three flag-bearers, three assistant flag-bearers and one emcee.

*The teacher-in-charge has completed the training of the "Macao Non-Tertiary Education Staff "National Flag and National Anthem Campaign" (Phase II)".

*The flag-raising team is trained by the teacher-in-charge and conducts the flag-raising ceremony in accordance with the "Guidelines for the hoisting and display of the national flag in non-tertiary education schools".

II. Basic information of the national flag, Macao SAR flag and school flag

1. Flagpole height: 9.0m for the national flag; 8.7m for the Macao SAR flag; 8.4m for the school flag.

2. Sizes for National flag: length 192cm, height 128cm;

Macao SAR flag: 144cm, 96cm;

School flag: 144cm, 96cm.

3. Flag hoisting location: Open playground (outdoor)

4. National flag, Macao SAR flag and school flag are stored in the PE equipment room (kept by the teacher-in-charge)

III. Flag-raising procedure

1. The teacher-in-charge prepares the national flag, Macao SAR flag and the school flag

2. 07:55 The flag-raising team will be ready in the playground

3. 08:10 The flag-raising team takes up their positions

4. 08:10- 08:15 Students gather in the playground

5. 08:15 Flag-raising ceremony starts

6. Teachers lead all students to face the flagpole

6.1 Emcee presides over the flag-raising ceremony and announces: "The flag-raising ceremony is now in progress, please stand at attention." The flag-raising team enters.

6.2 The flag-raising team marches in with the flags

6.3 Wait for the flag-raising team to hoist the national flag, Macao SAR flag and school flag onto the flagpole.

6.4 The emcee announces "Raise the National Flag and sing the National Anthem".

6.5 Teacher plays the National Anthem (version of the National Anthem will be downloaded from the Chinese Government website)

6.6 The flag-raising team performs the flag-raising ceremony. People present (teachers, students, staff, medical staff, etc.) face the national flag, stand upright and pay attention.

6.7 The MC announces: "The flag-raising ceremony is over, the flag-raising team will retire".

6.8 The flag-raising team retires.

7. The teacher leads all students to face the podium in the playground and starts the morning assembly and prayer.

- The National Flag, Macao SAR Flag and School Flag will be raised at 7am and lowered at 8pm.
- If the flags are wet from the rain, the staff will prepare another set of spare flags for hanging. The national flag wetted by the rain will be placed in the storage room, dry it with air-conditioning, and store it properly.

IV. Special Circumstances

The school will not hold flag-raising ceremonies on Fridays under the following special circumstances:

1. The ground in the playground is wet and slippery due to rain;
2. Bad weather (tropical cyclone, heavy rain, thunderstorm, strong monsoon, storm surge, etc.);
3. Rainy weather;
4. when the air quality is at a "very poor" level and a "avoiding" rating is recommended for outdoor activities.

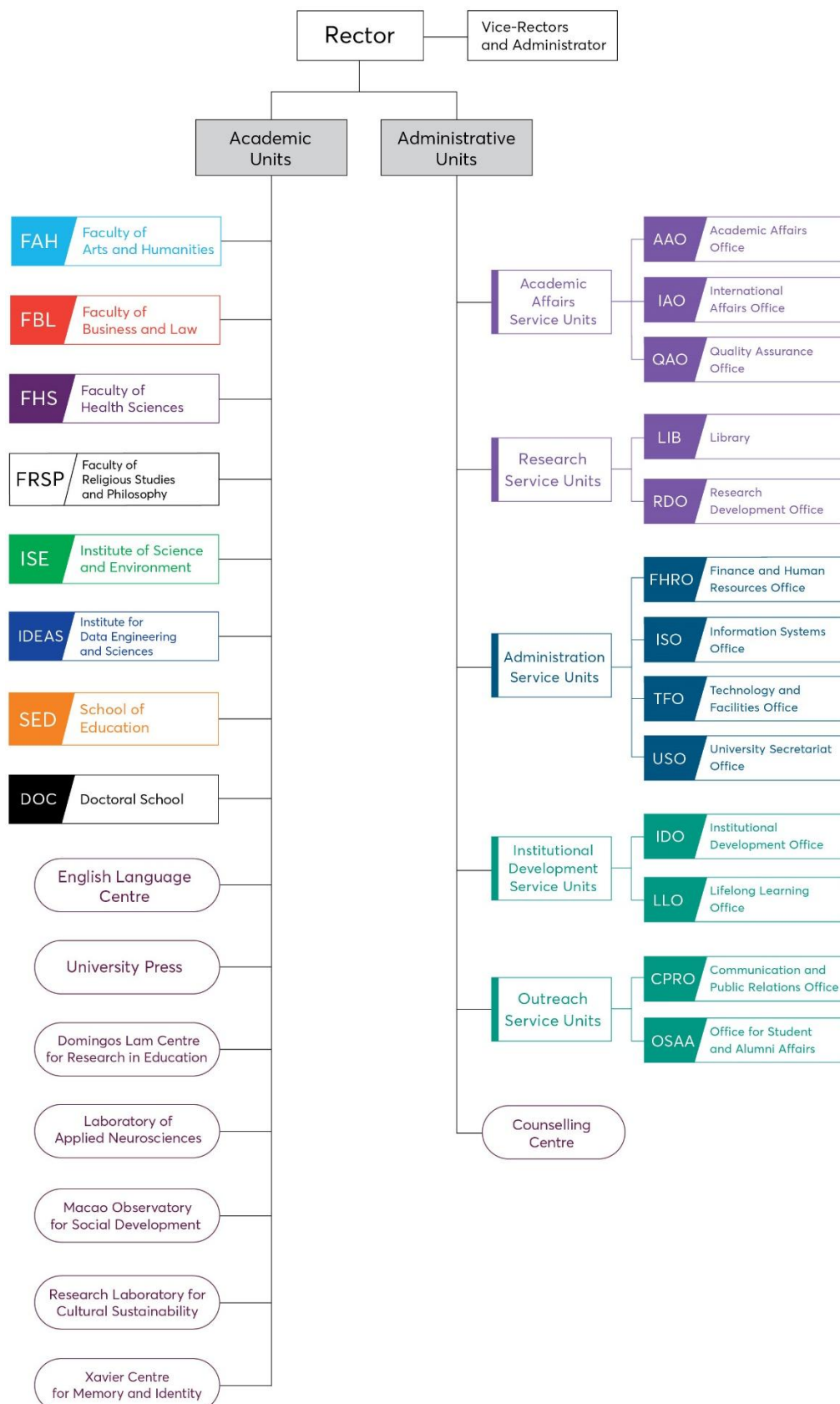
V. Monitoring Mechanism

At 8am every morning, the flag-raising monitoring team (consisting of staff from the Academic Affairs Office, the Office of School Affairs and the flag-raising team) will check whether the national flag is in the proper condition. The flag-raising team will take three photographs each day (national flag, Macao SAR flag and school flag) and post them on the group. The order in which the photographs are taken follows the order in which the flags are raised: national flag, Macao SAR flag and school flag.

When the flag is lowered at dusk, the person responsible for lowering the flag will take the photographs and place them in the flag monitoring group. The order in which the photographs are taken is the order in which the flags are lowered: school flag, Macao SAR flag, national flag.

PART II

1. Administrative management, teaching and research structure



2. List of existing internal rules and regulations at USJ

Please refer to spreadsheet REAN12.

3. List of guidelines on campus crisis management and accidents

Please refer to spreadsheet REAN13.

4. Academic Staff Career and Promotion Mechanism at USJ

The University has an established promotion system for Academic and Administrative Staff that is available from the QA Repository Website for all staff Members.

5. Registration system for the award of diplomas and certificates

According to article 48.1 of the UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC REGULATIONS: “The degree is conferred to students in good standing with the University, upon successful completion of their programme of studies” as the criteria to graduate.

The procedure to confirm a student can be graduated is that the Academic Affairs Office checks that the student has met the graduation requirements and these are brought to the Senate for approval.

The diplomas are prepared and issued to the graduated students once they have been prepared, and a record is kept of this.

The University has an extensive archive that includes the details of diplomas and certificates awarded, details of which are available on request.

The University responds to requests for verification of diplomas after it has checked its records and archive; the responses depend on the request received.

6. Mobility of students for further education and criteria for awarding academic qualifications, duration of study, subject equivalence and credit calculations

The university has a policy, criteria, guidelines and a clear set of procedures and pro-formas for students to apply for exemption from language modules, the decisions on which are informed by the requirements and criteria set out in these documents. The University has a policy, procedures, application pro-forma, criteria, guidelines and equivalences, for recognition of prior learning (RPEL) and recognition of prior experiential learning (RPEL).

The University has a policy, criteria, guidelines and a clear set of procedures and pro-formas for students to apply for exemption from language modules, the decisions on which are informed by the requirements and criteria set out in these documents. The University has a policy, procedures, application pro-forma, criteria, guidelines and equivalences, for recognition of prior learning (RPL) and recognition of prior experiential learning (REPL); in the academic year 2023-2024, the university received 57 requests for RPL and no request for REPL.

7. Member lists of General Council and other authorities

GENERAL COUNCIL	EXECUTIVE COUNCIL	SENATE	SENATE'S STANDING COMMITTEE
Bishop Stephen Lee Bun-sang Addy Chan Alejandro Salcedo Alexandre Lobo Álvaro Barbosa Calvin Chui Cyril Jerome Law, Jr Emily Chan Florinda Chan Isabel Gil Jacky Ho Jenny Lao-Phillips José Legido Keith Morrison Luís Sequeira Miguel de Senna Fernandes Philip Yuen Rochelle Ge Samuel Kio Shuguang Zhang Stephen Morgan Teresa Loong Victoria Kuan	Stephen Morgan Alejandro Salcedo Álvaro Barbosa Keith Morrison Shuguang Zhang Teresa Loong	Stephen Morgan Adérito Marcos Alejandro Salcedo Alessandro Lampo Alexandre Lobo Álvaro Barbosa Carlos Caires Cynthia Leong Cyril Jerome Law, Jr David Gonçalves Emily Chan Filipa Martins George Du Hao Wu Helen Liu Isabel Tchiang Jacky Ho Jenny Lao-Phillips Keith Morrison Rochelle Ge Sonja Xia Tania Marques Teresa Loong Thomas Lei Shuguang Zhang Ambrose Antonio (Student) Natalino Da Costa (Student)	Stephen Morgan Adérito Marcos Álvaro Barbosa Carlos Caires Cyril Jerome Law, Jr David Gonçalves George Du Jacky Ho Jenny Lao-Phillips Keith Morrison Rochelle Ge Shuguang Zhang Teresa Loong

8. Data sheets for deans, programme coordinators and heads of offices

Please refer to spreadsheet REAN14.

9. Admission and registration figures for 2023/2024 academic year

Please refer to spreadsheet REAN15.

10. Enrolment ceilings, quotas, and admission scores for 2023/2024 academic year

Please refer to spreadsheet REAN016.

11. Information sheet on valuable instruments and equipment subsidised by the government

Please refer to spreadsheet REAN17.

12. Other Information

There is no other information.

