

DIVYANGJAN FRIENDLY POLICY



University of Rajasthan

JLN Marg, Jaipur-302004

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Addl.Registrar
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Jaipur

DIVYANGJAN-FRIENDLY POLICY

1. Overview

Persons with disabilities often face barriers in accessing education at various levels. In higher education, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the University Grants Commission (UGC) encourage universities to engage and empower differently abled individuals through special educational programs. In 2006, the Government of India introduced a national policy focusing on the educational rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. In alignment with this, COER has integrated these policies into its educational framework. The institution recognizes the potential of persons with disabilities as valuable members and is committed to providing equal opportunities, safeguarding their rights, and enabling full participation in academic life.

2. University Initiatives for Inclusion

University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, comprises multiple faculties, departments, and research centers, all equipped with libraries, labs, seminar rooms, and computer centers. To foster an inclusive environment, the university reserves 5% of seats in admissions and staff recruitment for persons with disabilities. However, offering access is not sufficient without providing adequate facilities and support. Many potential students with disabilities are deterred from participating equally in academic and social life due to lack of resources needed to participate. The university's goal is to ensure full participation for all students and staff with disabilities in educational, social, and cultural activities. The university has ensured the provision of ramps and accessible washrooms for individuals with disabilities.

3. Ensuring Full Participation and Career Growth

The policy is dedicated to ensure that individuals with disabilities can fully participate in all university activities and have equal opportunities for career development and growth.

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4. Objectives of the Policy

The policy aims to:

- 4.1 Facilitate the admission of students with disabilities by adhering to state and central government policies.
- 4.2 Ensure buildings are accessible, including features like ramps and lifts.
- 4.3 Implement clear evacuation plans and emergency response strategies for individuals with disabilities.
- 4.4 Guide students to access various scholarships and fellowships.
- 4.5 Ensure equal educational opportunities for all differently abled students.
- 4.6 Provide counseling and support to students with disabilities for better academic outcomes.
- 4.7 Provide accessible, gender-sensitive, safe, and functional washroom facilities.
- 4.8 Install appropriate signage, such as tactile paths, lighting, and display boards, which are visible and easy to navigate.
- 4.9 Use universally recognizable symbols with high contrast to aid visibility, particularly for visually impaired individuals.
- 4.10 Ensure learners with disabilities receive adequate support, including assistive technologies and responsive teaching staff.
- 4.11 Guarantee access to software and technology for persons with disabilities.
- 4.12 Offer services like human assistance, readers, scribes, and digital formats for learning materials.
- 4.13 Regular feedback from differently abled students and staff to continuously improve policies and facilities.
- 4.14 Training programs for faculty and staff to develop and deliver accessible online courses.
- 4.15 Promote full participation in academics and provide suitable employment opportunities in both public and private sectors.

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5. Definition and Categories of Disability

Disability encompasses various impairments, including mobility, vision, hearing, chronic illnesses, psychological disorders, learning disabilities, and other conditions like Acquired Brain Injuries (ABI) and AIDS. Disabilities differ in their type and severity, necessitating tailored accommodations. As per UGC guidelines and the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, disabilities are categorized as follows:

- Blindness
- Low vision
- Leprosy-cured
- Hearing impairment
- Locomotor disability
- Intellectual disability
- Mental illness

6. University Practices to Support Differently Abled Students

To promote awareness and support for differently abled individuals, University of Rajasthan has adopted several practices:

- 6.1 Allowing extra time in examinations for students with disabilities.
- 6.2 Providing scribes for blind students and writers to those who are unable to use their hands due to accidents or illnesses.
- 6.3 Allocating ground-floor hostel rooms for easy access.
- 6.4 Constructing ramps with railings for easy movement of tricycles and wheelchairs.
- 6.5 Maintaining a comprehensive database of differently abled students to ensure continuous support.
- 6.6 Encouraging participation in sports and cultural events, with recognition for active involvement.
- 6.7 Celebrating December 3rd as International Day of Persons with Disabilities to raise awareness and promote dignity and respect.

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7. Accessibility Policy

To create a truly inclusive campus, the university is committed to making all services, activities, and facilities accessible to people with disabilities. Key principles include:

- Ensuring all facilities and programs are fully accessible.
- Providing accessible study materials and resources.
- Conducting regular awareness programs for staff on accessibility issues.
- Ensuring websites and digital content comply with international and national accessibility standards, such as the Web Content.

Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)

The university also reserves 5% of seats for persons with disabilities across all programs and ensures their inclusion and representation as per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

8. Examination Policy for Differently-Abled Students

University of Rajasthan has adapted its examination policies to cater to the specific needs of students with disabilities. This includes allowing the use of scribes for blind students and making other reasonable accommodations to ensure fair assessment and support. Separate provisions regarding syllabus and examination scheme for deaf and dumb has already been incorporated by the University.

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