

Student Support Booklet

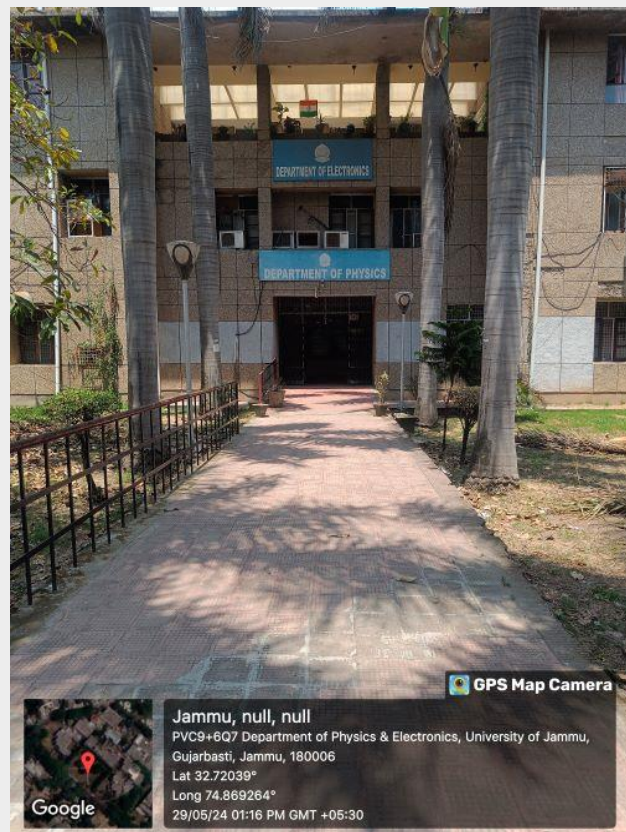
Disability Initiatives at University of Jammu



Student Support Booklet: Disability Initiatives at University of Jammu

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Facilities for students with disabilities

1. Introduction

Welcome to the University of Jammu! Established in 1969, the University of Jammu is a premier NAAC-accredited A+ institution, ranked 50th among Indian universities in National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2024. The University constantly endeavours to become an innovative educational institution with capacity to meet the knowledge challenges of 21st century and contribute towards transformation of Jammu and Kashmir into a peaceful and prosperous state with balanced socio-cultural and economic development. As a beacon of educational excellence, the University is deeply committed to creating an inclusive and accessible ecosystem for all students including those with disabilities. The University envisions to create a disabled friendly campus/ barrier free environment and providing reasonable accommodations based on dual principles of “Inclusion and Accessibility”. It is constantly working towards ensuring that students with disabilities receive equal treatment and opportunities in all aspects of campus life and are not placed at any substantial disadvantage in their access to services, assessment and teaching. It recognizes that students with disabilities are not mere passive recipients of care but are equal partners and action leaders in education and society both. This booklet provides detailed information on the various initiatives and support services available to enhance your academic experience.

2. Overview of Disability Initiatives

The Disability Initiatives Cell of the University of Jammu established in 2022, serves as the University’s hub for promoting accessibility, ensuring reasonable accommodations, and fostering an inclusive campus culture.

Key Responsibilities:

- Serving as a single point of contact office that is equipped to assist students with disabilities in matters related to admission, reservation, services available, accommodations and any other allied issue
- Maintaining database of students with disabilities at the university in order to build a sound network for collaboration
- Making rigorous efforts to promote and foster culture of inclusion in all the courses, programs and events to be conducted inside/ on the university campus
- Promoting and strengthening voluntary effort for assisting persons with disabilities as buddies, in their academic pursuits such as providing amanuensis/ scribes during exams, recording and scanning of books, sign language, use of assistive devices and technologies etc.
- Conducting skill development training programmes for students with disabilities to sensitize and increase their employability potential according to their interest, qualifications and nature of disability

- Organizing/ conducting sensitization activities such as seminars/ workshops/ conferences/exhibitions/special lectures/debates for all members of the university fraternity and general community, on a regular basis, for creating awareness about the needs of persons with disabilities and other contemporary issues concerning disabled
 - Establishing coordination with government and non-government or other funding agencies with an aim to provide financial support and other resources required for inclusion and educational empowerment of the students with disabilities.
 - Conducting accessibility audit of the various offices and departments of the University and suggest measures for converting them into fully accessible buildings as per the guidelines of the Accessible India campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, GOI.
 - Developing and strengthening collaborations with reputed National agencies/ organizations/ institutes working for the welfare and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities through having MOUs and exchange activities.
 - Liaising with other offices of the University entrusted with the responsibility of procuring assistive devices and other special equipment to augment educational services for differently abled persons.
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3. Accessible Facilities

Physical Accessibility

- **Campus Infrastructure:** All major buildings are equipped with ramps, and elevators to make physical spaces accessible. Accessible restrooms is also available in some departments.
- **Transportation:** Accessible e-rickshaw services that can be used by persons with disability, operate around the campus locations.
- **Parking spaces:** Designated spaces for parking of vehicles of persons with disabilities are also available.

Assistive Technology

- **Computer Labs:** Most computer labs are equipped with adaptive software, including screen readers like NVDA
 - **Central Library Resources:** The Central library provides assistive technologies, including book scanning services, audiobooks, and accessible reading materials.
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Disability Initiatives University of Jammu



Ally

University of Jammu advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities. We are committed to create inclusive and accessible learning environments



Equality

Systems and Processes at University of Jammu are equal for all. Services and facilities are designed in such a manner that everyone has the same opportunities.



Equity

University of Jammu acknowledges the special needs of the Divyang students and endeavors to address their unique advantages or barriers.

Accessibility

Making the physical infrastructure accessible to students with disabilities and providing assistive technology are primary concern of the University



Voluntary efforts

We are Promoting and strengthening voluntary effort for assisting persons with disabilities as buddies



Unconscious Bias

Awareness generation activities for developing consciousness about the needs and issues of persons with disabilities



For more information on disability initiatives
contact us at [disabilityinitiatives @jammuuniversity.ac.in](mailto:disabilityinitiatives@jammuuniversity.ac.in)

4. Academic Support Services

Exam Accommodations

- Extended time, and alternative formats for exams can be requested either directly to the Controller of Examination or through the Disability Initiatives Cell based on principle of reasonable accommodation.

Services of Scribes and amanuensis

- Students with benchmark disabilities can request for scribes and amanuensis and the same can be addressed by the Office of Controller of Examination.

Note-Taking Assistance

- **Peer Note-Takers:** Students can request a peer to provide notes or access recordings of lectures.
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5. Facilities on Campus

The University of Jammu offers a wide range of facilities to ensure the well-being and convenience of all, including persons with disabilities:

- **Health Centre:** A 24x7 medical facility is available, offering comprehensive healthcare services such as general medical care, dental check-ups, and regular health screenings (e.g., eye testing, diabetes checks).
 - **Physiotherapy Services:** Specialized physiotherapy services are accessible for rehabilitation and physical therapy needs.
 - **Banking and Postal Services:** On-campus banking facilities, ATMs, and a post office are fully operational and designed to be accessible.
 - **Cafeteria:** The campus cafeteria provides a range of food options in an inclusive environment with accessibility features.
 - **Campus Security:** 24/7 security services are available to assist students in case of emergencies.
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6. Counseling and Mental Health Resources

The University of Jammu offers a comprehensive range of mental health services tailored to support students with disabilities:

Need Assessment Interactions

- Needs and requirements of the students with disabilities are understood through direct meetings with them.

Individual Counseling

- One-on-one sessions with licensed counselors trained to address the unique challenges faced by students with disabilities. Request for the same can be forwarded to the Coordinator Disability Initiatives, who will then arrange for such sessions.

Support Groups

- Facilitated by trained counselors and focused on peer collaboration, shared experiences, and coping strategies.

Workshops and Seminars

- Regular workshops and interactive sessions are carried for the students with disabilities. Workshops on self-development, life skills, stress management, self-advocacy, rights and provisions, and navigating university life are carried out.

7. Contact Information

For more information or to access support services, please contact:

Disability Initiatives Cell

Email: disabilityinitiatives@jammuuniversity.ac.in

Phone: 9419255885

Office Location: Room Number G-6, Department of Home Science, University of Jammu

8. FAQs

Q: Does University of Jammu has any reservations in admission available for students with disabilities?

A: Yes, University of Jammu offers 5% reservation for admissions for students with disability (benchmark and high support). This provision is in keeping with the RPwD Act, 2016.

Q: What types of disability documentation are acceptable at University of Jammu?

A: Disability certificate issued by GoI especially the UDID card are desirable.

Q: Does the University of Jammu provide fee concessions for students with disabilities?

A: Yes, students with disabilities may be eligible for fee concessions at the University of Jammu. Notably, no admission fee is charged from students with disabilities. Additionally, students are encouraged to explore government-sponsored fee waiver schemes applicable to persons with disabilities.

Q: How can I avail the disability related services of the University?

A: A student/ scholar admitted to the University for pursuing any course is required to self-identify with the Office of Coordinator, Disability Initiatives Cell, University of Jammu. The student is also required to provide comprehensive professional documentation of their disability to the said office.

Q: How do I apply for academic accommodations?

A: Students with disabilities desirous of availing reasonable accommodation need to self-identify and present a written request to the Coordinator, Disability Initiatives Cell, University of Jammu, who will then recommend the same if deemed appropriate to the concerned Head of the Department/ Director.

Q: Can I access support services during exams?

A: Yes, accommodations such as extended time and alternative testing formats are available provided prior permission is sought from the Controller of Examination, JU.

Q: Are there scholarships available for students with disabilities?

A: Yes, scholarships such as student aid fund are available. Applications

9. Feedback and Suggestions

Your feedback is essential to enhancing our services. Please share your experiences and suggestions by contacting us via email or visiting the Disability Initiatives Cell.

Conclusion

The University of Jammu is dedicated to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all students. We encourage you to utilize the resources available and reach out for assistance whenever needed. Together, we can build a community that values diversity and empowers every student to succeed.

Thank you for being a part of our vibrant university community!