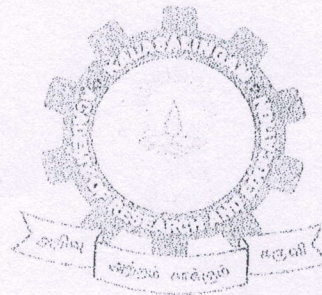


**Policy Document to Ensure Barrier-Free Environment
for Persons with Disability
(BFEPDP 2018)**



Policy Number : KARE/IQAC/PWD/2018/001

Approved by BoM on 37th 15.07.2018



KALASALINGAM ACADEMY OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
(Deemed to be University)

(Under the section 3 of the UGC Act 1956)

Anand Nagar, Krishnankoil-626126, Srivilliputtur (Via), Tamil Nadu, India.

Phone: 04563-289042, Fax: 04563-289322

www.kalasalingam.ac.in email: info@kalasalingam.ac.in

A handwritten signature in green ink, likely of the Registrar, is written over the contact information.

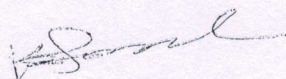


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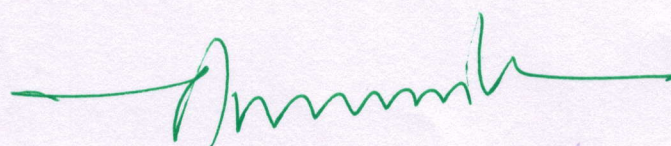
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Policy Number : KARE/IQAC/PWD/2018/001

Original / Revision Number : JULY 2018

Policy Preparation and Verification Team

Prepared by	 Dr. K. Sundar Professor, Department of Biotechnology
Reviewed by	 Dr. C. Sivapragasam Director / IQAC
Compiled by	Dr. C. Ramalingan Professor, Department of Chemistry
Approved by	 Dr. S. Saravanasankar Vice Chancellor
Approved date by the BoM	37 th 15.07.2018



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POLICY ON BARRIER-FREE ENVIRONMENT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

1. Preamble

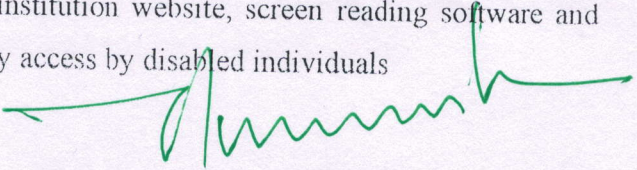
Kalasalingam University (KLU) aims to provide quality education to the rural and weaker sections of the community. The institution ensures equality and dignity to all individuals including persons with disabilities. The institution believes strongly that accessibility should not be based on sympathy but is very much the right of every individual. The institution undertakes measures that are in alignment with the National Policy Statement, which recognizes that persons with disabilities are valuable human resources for the country and seeks to create an environment that provides them equal opportunities, protection of their rights and full participation in society.

In alignment with the universities' policy of providing an equal opportunity to the students with disability to bring them to the mainstream, the university has started special undergraduate program in B.Tech. Computer Science and Engineering for the students of Speech and Hearing Impaired. This is a first of its kind not only in the country but also in Asia. In addition, the university also offers a B.Ed. (Special Education) program with the aim to produce teachers who are specialized in teaching kids with speech and hearing disability.

With this as a basis have prepared a policy for the empowerment of persons with disability.

2. Purpose

- To provide opportunities for students with disability by organizing special degree programs/training programs to make them employable.
- To ensure barrier-free access to disabled individuals in academic, administrative and residential blocks.
- To provide signages at strategic locations so that disabled individuals and others can navigate seamlessly throughout the campus.
- To provide accessibility menus in the institution website, screen reading software and magnifier in the institute systems for easy access by disabled individuals


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3. Scope of the Policy

The policy is relevant to all the members of the campus community.

4. Policy Statement

The policy of KLU is not to discriminate against anyone on any basis including disability. The university provides an inclusive environment and encourages the participation of differently abled staff, students and visitors for a gratifying campus experience. The university also ensures that the differently abled staff and students get equal access to all the buildings and also provides assistive technology during the college working hours.

5. Reservation in Admissions

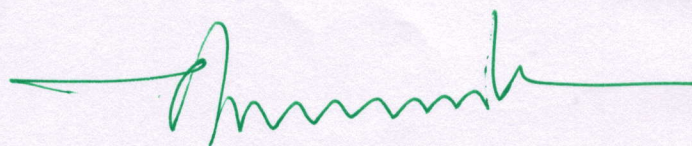
In alignment with the Right to Persons with Disability Act, 2016, the institute follows the state government norms for admission of students with disability.

6. Provision for Accessibility in Facilities

As per the Rule 15 of RWPD Act of 2016, which deals with the accessibility standards for buildings for barrier-free built environment for persons with disability, all the major buildings of the institute have provision for barrier-free environment. These include ramps and handrails, elevators, signage, accessible toilets, wheelchairs and battery cars. These facilities would provide easy access to the disabled individuals to various places in the campus such as health centre, canteen, library and gymnasium.

All the academic, administrative and residential buildings are equipped with ramps and handrails. Steps would be taken to provide at least one restroom with wheelchair access in the ground floor of each building. The university ensures the display of easily visible signage, layout diagrams for easy access to the campus and also provides designated parking space for wheelchair users. Assistance such as wheelchair, battery car would be provided if the visitors or staff, students required one. Whenever required human assistance would be provided to any disabled individual including visitors.

7. Provision of Assistive Technologies



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The university has created a accessible website following Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 to facilitate accessibility to different categories of persons with disabilities. Assistive technologies such as screen reading software and, magnifiers for individuals with low-vision individuals are also provided to the staff and students.

8. Provision of Scribes during Examination

The Controller of Examinations is authorized to appoint scribes for candidates who are eligible to avail the services, following the norms of KLU. The scribe should not be an employee of KLU or its sister institutions and, he/she should not be in any way related to the candidate who is appearing for the examination. The education qualification of the scribe should be lower than that of the candidate.

9. Facilitating Scholarships for Divyanjan

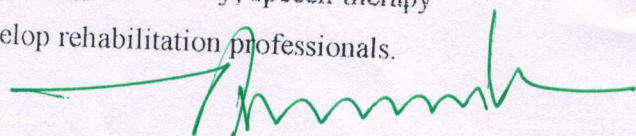
Various state and central governments and NGOs are providing financial assistance to differently abled students. The institution would facilitate the financial assistance to the persons with disability by informing the students about the availability of various scholarship opportunities available to them and helping them in applying for the same.

10. Programs for Divyanjan Students

KLU's commitment in creating Equal opportunity for all is evident by the three programs that are offered by the institution:

1. B.Tech. Program for the Speech and Hearing-Impaired Persons (SHIP)
2. B.Ed. (Special Education)
3. Skill-development Program for those with Vision Impairment

Opportunities are also provided to these students with disabilities to participate in various co-curricular and extracurricular activities. In addition, physical rehabilitation measures would be provided to the SHIP students by giving free access to the audiology laboratory, speech therapy and counselling sessions. The B.Ed. program also aims to develop rehabilitation professionals.



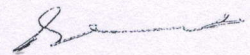
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The university would collaborate with organizations for creating economic rehabilitation opportunities for persons with visual impairment by offering skill-development programs in the campus. Braille material, screen reading software and computers would be provided to these students.

11. Placements for SHIP Students

The university would take sincere efforts, through its placement office, to place the students in reputed companies. Required training is also provided by the. Personality development programs and placement training, to impart the required skill sets, for the BTech (SHIP) students are provided by the Training and Placement Office of the institution to make them employable; this will ensure a dignified life for them.

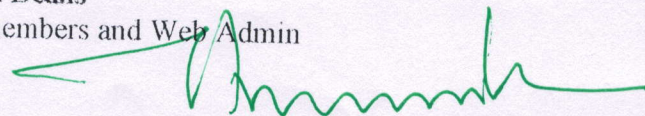
KLU is a staunch believer of inclusiveness in education and would like to bring that to practice involving all the stakeholders.



Vice-Chancellor

Name: Dr. S. Saravanasankar

Copy submitted to the Chancellor & Vice Presidents -- for the favour of information
CC to: Registrar, Controller of Examinations, Directors and Deans
CC to: All HoDs with request to circulate among Faculty members and Web Admin



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