AZERBAIJAN TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

Disability Accommodation Policy

Document type	Policy
Scope (applies to)	All staff and students
Issued	2023
Last revision date	2026
Review Cycle	Every 2 years
Version	v3.0
Approval Authority	University Council
Document owner	Sustainability Office
Status	Approved and Published

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1. CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

Azerbaijan Technical University (hereinafter “AzTU”) is committed to ensuring equitable access to education for persons with disabilities through reasonable accommodation and accessible learning environments. As a public higher education institution, AzTU recognises its responsibility to remove unnecessary barriers to participation while preserving academic standards, institutional integrity, and fairness for all students.

The purpose of this Disability Accommodation Policy (hereinafter the “Policy”) is to establish a clear institutional framework that:

- affirms the right of students with disabilities to equitable access to education;
- defines principles and procedures for identifying, approving, and implementing reasonable accommodations;
- ensures consistency, transparency, and fairness in accommodation decisions;
- supports inclusive learning environments without compromising academic requirements.

This Policy supports AzTU’s strategic commitment to inclusion, social responsibility, and sustainable development and aligns with national legislation, including the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” (No. 1153-VQ of 31 May 2018), and with internationally recognised principles on disability inclusion in higher education, including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2009.

2. KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Policy, the following terms are used to ensure consistent interpretation and application:

- **Disability:** A long-term physical, sensory, intellectual, or mental condition that, in interaction with barriers, may hinder full and effective participation in education without appropriate accommodation.
- **Reasonable Accommodation:** Necessary and appropriate modifications or adjustments that do not impose a disproportionate or undue burden and enable persons with disabilities to participate on an equal basis.
- **Accessibility:** The design of physical environments, digital platforms, services, and learning materials to be usable by persons with disabilities.
- **Individual Accommodation Plan:** A documented set of approved accommodations tailored to a student’s documented needs and academic context.
- **Academic Adjustment:** A modification to teaching, learning, or assessment conditions that enables access while preserving academic standards and learning outcomes.

3. APPLICABILITY

This Policy applies to all students with disabilities enrolled at Azerbaijan Technical University and establishes binding requirements for all academic and administrative units involved in teaching, assessment, student support, and academic decision-making.

The Policy applies across all learning and academic environments, including:

- lectures, seminars, and laboratories;
- examinations and assessment activities;
- digital and online learning platforms;
- academic support services and extracurricular academic activities;
- facilities and infrastructure that support learning and campus life.

This Policy operates alongside applicable legislation and AzTU internal regulations and does not replace academic standards or assessment requirements.

4. GOVERNANCE

AzTU establishes a governance framework to ensure consistent, fair, and accountable implementation of disability accommodations across the University.

- **University Council:** Approves this Policy and its revisions and provides oversight to ensure institutional compliance with accessibility and inclusion obligations.
- **Student Affairs Department (Operational Lead):** Coordinates accommodation processes, receives and assesses requests, maintains records, ensures procedural consistency, and prepares summary monitoring reports.
- **Faculties and Departments**: Implement approved accommodations in teaching and assessment activities while safeguarding academic integrity and confidentiality.
- **Education Department:** Ensures alignment of accommodations with academic regulations, assessment standards, and programme requirements.
- **Facilities Management and IT Services:** Support physical and digital accessibility through infrastructure planning, maintenance, and accessible digital systems.
- **Escalation and Resolution Mechanisms:** Where disputes, non-compliance, or systemic barriers are identified, matters are addressed through established institutional procedures to ensure fairness and proportionality.

5. DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION PRINCIPLES, RISK AREAS, AND INSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS

This section defines the institutional standards governing disability accommodation at AzTU and identifies areas where careful assessment and safeguards are required.

5.1. Commitment to Equity, Accessibility, and Academic Integrity

AzTU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations that enable students with disabilities to participate fully in academic life. Accommodations are designed to remove barriers to access without altering essential academic requirements or learning outcomes.

5.2. Request and Assessment of Accommodations

Students may request accommodations through designated University channels. Requests are assessed on the basis of documented needs, academic requirements, and feasibility.

Assessment decisions are guided by principles of equity, proportionality, confidentiality, and consistency, with the objective of enabling participation without lowering academic standards or creating unfair advantage.

5.3. Academic and Assessment Adjustments

Approved accommodations may include adjustments to teaching methods, assessment formats, examination conditions, scheduling, or learning materials.

Faculties and Departments implement accommodations in accordance with approved Individual Accommodation Plans and ensure that adjustments are applied consistently and confidentially.

5.4. Physical and Digital Accessibility

AzTU promotes accessible physical infrastructure and inclusive digital learning environments. Accessibility considerations are integrated into facilities planning, renovation projects, procurement, and digital platform selection and development.

5.5. Support Services and Confidentiality

AzTU provides psychological, pedagogical, and advisory support services to students with disabilities.

Information related to disability status, documentation, and accommodations is treated as confidential and shared strictly on a need-to-know basis in accordance with applicable data protection requirements.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

This Policy is implemented through integration into AzTU's academic governance, student support, facilities management, and digital learning processes.

Supporting procedures and guidance documents operationalise accommodation processes, define documentation requirements, and clarify roles and timelines, while ensuring consistency with this Policy.

7. MONITORING AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

AzTU monitors the implementation of this Policy to assess effectiveness, equity, and institutional compliance.

Monitoring may include:

- number of accommodation requests received and approved;
- types of accommodations provided;
- timeliness of accommodation assessment and implementation;
- feedback from students regarding the effectiveness of accommodations.

Summary monitoring findings are reviewed annually by the Policy Owner and inform institutional planning and continuous improvement.

8. POLICY EVOLUTION

This Policy is reviewed every two years or earlier where legislative changes, institutional priorities, or monitoring outcomes require revision.

Reviews consider data trends, stakeholder feedback, and developments in disability inclusion standards. Revisions are approved through established governance processes. Procedural updates are implemented through supporting instruments and do not form part of this Policy.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



