

10.6.7 - Does your university as a body provide accessible facilities for people with disabilities?

Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University (ASOIU) is deeply committed to creating an inclusive academic environment that ensures full accessibility and participation for students, staff, and visitors with disabilities. In alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 10 (Reduced Inequalities), ASOIU recognizes that accessibility is a fundamental aspect of equality and human dignity. The university has adopted a comprehensive approach to accessibility that integrates infrastructure adaptation, digital inclusivity, social integration, and continuous support services.

1. Physical Accessibility and Campus Infrastructure

ASOIU's main campus and academic buildings are progressively being upgraded to meet accessibility standards for people with mobility impairments.

- **Ramps and Entrances:** All main building entrances, including those to administrative offices, lecture halls, and libraries, are equipped with ramps and wide doorways for wheelchair access.



- **Elevators and Corridors:** Key teaching and research buildings are fitted with elevators and spacious corridors to facilitate easy movement.



- **Accessible Sanitary Facilities:** Designated restrooms for persons with disabilities have been installed in high-traffic areas and newly renovated spaces.
- **Signage and Wayfinding:** Directional signs, tactile indicators, and contrasting colors are used to support navigation for individuals with visual impairments.



2. Disability Support and Advisory Services

ASOIU operates a Student Support and Inclusion Unit that provides specialized guidance to students with disabilities throughout their academic journey.

- The unit coordinates with deans, departments, and instructors to ensure that individual needs are met, including academic accommodations such as flexible examination procedures or extended deadlines.
- Support staff are trained to assist students with mobility, sensory, or cognitive impairments.
- The unit also collaborates with national organizations and NGOs that promote disability inclusion and equal education rights.

3. Digital Accessibility and Assistive Technologies

To enhance educational participation, ASOIU has integrated assistive digital technologies into its computer laboratories and e-learning systems.

- Specialized software such as screen readers, voice-to-text tools, and magnification programs are available for visually impaired students.
- Online platforms and university websites are being upgraded to comply with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), ensuring compatibility with assistive devices.
- Students with hearing impairments can access lecture recordings and subtitled instructional materials upon request.

4. Inclusive Culture and Awareness Programs

ASOIU promotes an inclusive campus culture by organizing awareness seminars, staff training workshops, and student-led campaigns that highlight the rights and experiences of people with disabilities.

- Events during International Day of Persons with Disabilities and Inclusive Education Week foster understanding among peers and encourage empathy and cooperation.
- The university collaborates with student clubs, including the *Social Responsibility and Equality Club*, to increase visibility and representation of students with special needs.
- Regular surveys are conducted to identify barriers and collect feedback for continuous improvement.

5. Continuous Improvement and Monitoring

ASOIU continuously assesses the accessibility of its facilities through regular audits conducted by the Infrastructure and Social Affairs Department.

- Annual accessibility reports document upgrades, challenges, and priorities for the following year.
- New construction projects and building renovations are required to comply with national accessibility standards and ASOIU's internal inclusivity guidelines.
- The university also plans to integrate accessibility criteria into its Green Campus and Sustainability Policy, linking physical inclusion with environmental responsibility.

Conclusion

Yes, ASOIU provides accessible facilities for people with disabilities. Through its integrated system of accessible infrastructure, disability support services, assistive technologies, awareness initiatives, and continuous improvement measures, ASOIU ensures equal participation and educational opportunities for all members of its community. This commitment not only fulfills SDG 10.6.7 but also strengthens the university's role as a national leader in inclusive education and sustainable campus development.