

11.4.6 – Does your university as a body prioritise pedestrian access on campus?

Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University (ASOIU) strongly prioritises pedestrian access across its campuses through the implementation of pedestrian-first zones, improved walkways, and mobility policies designed to reduce vehicle dependency and enhance safety, accessibility, and sustainability for students and staff.

Background and Policy Commitment

ASOIU views walkability as a key component of a sustainable and inclusive campus. In line with the university's Green Campus and Mobility Plan, pedestrian safety and comfort are prioritized in all campus planning and infrastructure development. The initiative reflects ASOIU's broader commitment to sustainable urban design, community well-being, and the creation of a healthy learning environment — similar in spirit to best-practice.

Pedestrian Priority Zones

ASOIU's main campus and surrounding education complexes have designated pedestrian-only and low-traffic areas to ensure safe and convenient access between classrooms, dormitories, libraries, and administrative offices.

Key features include:

- **Pedestrian Walkways and Crossings:** Widened sidewalks, shaded pathways, and barrier-free access routes between all major facilities.
- **Restricted Vehicle Access:** Entry for motorized vehicles is limited to maintenance, emergency, or service transport, ensuring a calm, noise-free atmosphere for pedestrians.
- **Campus Core Walkway:** The central courtyard functions as a pedestrian boulevard, where walking and cycling take precedence over vehicles, promoting social interaction and an active lifestyle.
- **Bicycle and E-scooter Integration:** Bicycles and e-scooters are permitted in shared zones with dedicated lanes and parking racks to support non-motorized commuting.



Rules and Regulations

Vehicle access is allowed only with official authorization, primarily for operational or emergency purposes.

- Parking zones are positioned at the campus perimeter to discourage unnecessary driving within the university.
- Pedestrian zones are clearly marked with visible signage and lighting for both daytime and nighttime safety.
- Departments located within pedestrian areas receive special time-restricted permits for essential deliveries after hours.

Pedestrian Experience and Sustainability

ASOIU's campus design enhances the pedestrian experience through:

- Green corridors lined with trees and benches to create a comfortable and shaded environment for walking.
- Open courtyards and plazas serving as social and cultural gathering spaces for students.
- Accessibility compliance, ensuring that all walkways are usable by individuals with mobility impairments.
- Car-free inner zones, where walking and cycling are prioritized to minimize emissions and improve air quality.

The university continues to expand its “Walkable Campus” initiative, aiming to connect all buildings through continuous pedestrian routes and improve sustainable mobility between the main academic blocks, dormitories, and recreational areas.

Impact

By prioritizing pedestrian movement and limiting vehicular traffic, ASOIU reduces environmental pollution, enhances campus safety, and promotes a sense of community. These actions directly contribute to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) through improved accessibility, reduced emissions, and a healthier campus lifestyle.