

4.3.1 - Does your university as a body provide free access to educational resources for those not studying at the university, e.g. computers, library, online courses, access to lectures, etc?

Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University (ASOIU) recognizes that the right to quality education extends beyond the boundaries of formal student enrollment. As a public institution with more than a century of academic heritage, ASOIU serves not only as a university but as a national center of scientific knowledge and technical advancement. In alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality Education), ASOIU actively supports Target 4.3, which calls for equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education.

The university pursues this objective by maintaining open channels for community learning and providing the public with opportunities to benefit from its extensive educational resources. Through physical and digital library access, online platforms, open events, and open-access publications, ASOIU integrates the principles of lifelong learning, knowledge democratization, and social inclusion into its institutional mission.

1. Public Library and Learning Facilities

The Digital and Physical Libraries serve as the main hub for external educational access. Community members—including high-school students, researchers, and professionals—are welcomed to use:

- Reading rooms with seating and internet access;
- Digital catalogues, e-books, and archived theses;
- Reference services and librarian assistance.

External visitors are granted access passes after a simple registration process. The library also provides computer terminals for data search, document preparation, and e-resource browsing. This policy has created a culture of open intellectual collaboration between the university and the surrounding educational community.



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<https://asoiu.edu.az/library>

<http://lib.asoiu.edu.az:33080/>

2. Computers, Laboratories, and Internet Access

ASOIU offers non-student users supervised access to its computer laboratories, language learning centers, and Wi-Fi zones. Teachers, researchers, and participants from partner institutions may apply for temporary passes to use facilities for scientific projects, technical research, or continuing education. This access model is especially important for school pupils preparing for higher education and for professionals seeking digital upskilling in engineering, information technologies, or management.



3. Open Online Courses and LMS Access

Through its Learning Management System (LMS), ASOIU hosts several online courses, including self-study modules on sustainability, energy transition, and technological innovation. Individuals outside the university can request access through a simple application form. Once approved, they are provided with individual accounts that allow them to:

- Watch recorded lectures and presentations;
- Download course materials and assignments;
- Participate in online discussion forums or assessments.

This digital inclusion practice ensures that knowledge generated at ASOIU is shared broadly, supporting both formal and informal learning.



<http://lms.asoiu.edu.az/>

4. Open Events and Community Seminars

ASOIU regularly holds open lectures, science talks, and thematic seminars on engineering, environment, innovation, and sustainable development. These events are announced publicly through the university's website and social media. Community participation is encouraged at no cost, and events are often streamed or recorded for public viewing. In addition, the university organizes technical training workshops and school-university bridge programs to inspire youth toward STEM disciplines.

5. Open-Access Research and Publications

All ASOIU-affiliated journals and conference proceedings follow an open-access model. Graduate theses are gradually being digitized and made available through institutional repositories. This ensures that the outcomes of the university's research contribute directly to the broader public domain, fostering knowledge exchange and academic transparency.

Impact

The open-access initiatives at ASOIU have generated measurable educational and societal impact:

- **Enhanced Knowledge Accessibility:**

Hundreds of non-student learners benefit annually from ASOIU's public library, events, and online resources. These services have become an essential part of community education in Baku and the wider regions.

- **Promotion of Lifelong Learning:**

The university's continuous education and LMS programs have enabled professionals, teachers, and students from outside ASOIU to gain new technical and digital competencies relevant to the modern labor market.

- **Strengthened University–Community Relations:**

By maintaining an inclusive environment, ASOIU reinforces its role as a civic university serving social development goals. The practice of welcoming public users strengthens trust and awareness between academia and society.

- **Contribution to SDG 4:**

These initiatives demonstrate ASOIU's institutional contribution to achieving SDG 4 (Quality Education)—specifically Target 4.3, which focuses on expanding access to affordable and quality tertiary education. Through its inclusive policies, ASOIU ensures that no individual is excluded from learning opportunities due to institutional boundaries.