



The Role of Students with Disabilities Care Office at An-Najah National University in Achieving the Goals of Sustainable Development

This office focuses its efforts mainly on the right to education, particularly higher education for people with disabilities (PWDs), since providing them with education will pave the road for a great change in their lives.



Staff and Students with Disabilities

The Disabilities Care Office is responsible for measuring and tracking applications and admissions of disabled students in the University.

In the academic years 2022/2023, An-Najah Hosted 328 students with disabilities from different specializations and they were distributed as follows:

Type of Disability	Number of Students
Physical Mobility Disabilities	87
Hearing Impairment	56
Visual Impairment	83
Difficulty Learning	19
Chronic Diseases	13
Complex Disabilities	33
Others	37
Total	328

- Graduates in the first and second semesters is **40**.

Moreover, the number of employees with disabilities in the University (Academics, Administrators, and PhD and MSc holders) is **49**.

Services Provided

There are different services offered by the University in general and the Office in specific to students with disabilities during the academic year 2020/2021. These services are to provide accessible facilities for people with disabilities and providing them the necessary support and funds. These services include the following:

1. The Office found practical solutions for several problems, which students with disabilities face since students who have a disability, **health condition** or specific **learning difficulty** may need certain facilities, assistive technology or support services to enable them to make the most of their studies or training. These solutions included **alternative exam or assessment arrangements**.
2. Designing and implementing **appropriate curriculum** for school and university students with disabilities which helped them integrate more in the teaching-learning process.
3. **Contacting with parents** of students with disabilities in the General Secondary School Certification Examinations "Tawjihi" of the academic year 2020/2021. The Office clarified the services offered by the University for students with special needs, and held individual meetings with some cases to guide them to choose their specialty and branch effectively.
4. The Office provided **4 Electric Wheelchairs** for disabled students as the Office is committed to fulfill its social and community responsibility with value 6500\$.
5. The Office provided the University's visually impaired students and other school students in the governorate with **9 I-Pads** in cooperation with the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency TIKa.
6. The Office provided the University's visually impaired students with **3 laptops** with assistive technology (AT) to help them utilize computers in a similar way as sighted individuals.
7. The Office provided hearing impaired students with **5 medical assistive devices**; for University students with a value of 5800\$.
8. The University contacted a number of institutions that announced **job opportunities** for graduates with disabilities, particularly graduates of the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology.
9. The University encourages the **hiring** qualified staff from people with disabilities.
10. The University provides **counseling services** through departments that include

psychosocial specialists (of both genders), including those who work closely with people with disabilities

11. The University is **inclusive** of this category in social, **artistic, cultural and sports**, through engaging them in cultural exchange programs, musical bands, theater performances and sport activities.
12. The University opened the **Prosthetics Clinic** that offers free services for students and local community.

The University provided integrated services through its **Community Service Unit**, which provides a set of programs such as home support for disabled elderly and counseling programs for families of people with disabilities

13. The University provides **housing accommodations** for SWDs, works with learning disabilities, and holds workshops with the Ministry of Higher Education on dealing with people with disabilities, as well as directs volunteers to work with this category and offer them the needed support through counseling in movement education and printing curriculum materials in Braille
14. The Old Campus was **rehabilitated to accommodate the needs of SWDs**, where corridors, stairs, and bathrooms now fit SWDs; while, the infrastructure of the New Campus and Hisham Hijjawi College of Technology has been completely prepared to fit any type of disability. It also offers free accommodation for a number of visually impaired students and facilitates their mobility between campuses
15. The University has **research cooperation agreements** with a number of European universities about SWDs. It also has partnership with a large number of local community institutions, and the Palestinian General Union of People with Disability (GUPWD).

Students with Disabilities' Scholarship Fund

The University facilitates the admission of SWDs in its academic programs, offering them the opportunity to benefit from its loans, scholarships and financial facilities.

The Fund offers (non-refundable) scholarships to students with disabilities with a Good GPA or above (the GPA is (2) and above), and to students with disabilities whose parents are disabled. The fund's financial sources include companies, institutions and individuals who are live in Nablus and abroad. In the academic year 2021/2022, the Office offered 150 scholarships.

For the new outstanding General Secondary Examination students with disabilities registering in the University, the Office coordinated with different companies, institutions and individuals to offer scholarships for 12 of them.

Campus facilities for disable, special needs and or maternity care

An-Najah National University through Disabilities Care Office provide accessible facilities and support services for people with disabilities, for example:

- An-Najah's established a computer lab for visually impaired people to provides curriculum courses in Braille books.
- An-Najah's opened the Prosthetics Clinic, that offers free services to students and locals from the community.
- An-Najah's offering assistive devices for students with hearing, voice, speech, or language disorders.
- An-Najah's offers free accommodation for a number of impaired students and facilitates their mobility between campuses.
- An-Najah's offering in all buildings, spaces private lanes and corridors to facilitating physical accessibility to classrooms, library, clinics, stadiums, auditoriums and cultural halls.
- An-Najah's offering designated parking spaces for people with disabilities to park their car which located at the nearest space building, college, lectures, library, clinics, stadiums, amphitheaters.
- An-Najah's offering accessible toilet for disabled people.
- All elevators in the university are designed to accommodate people with special needs, and the floor numbers are designed in Braille.



Sample Events and Workshops

- <https://www.najah.edu/ar/community/community-news/2022/01/19/im-lnih-wmwss-dywkyl-tnzmn-wrsh-ml-hwl-lt-lym-wltwzyf-lshkhs-dhwy-l-q-lhnhny-lfjw-m-byn-lqnwn-wlttbyq/>
- <https://www.najah.edu/en/community/community-news/2021/12/09/an-najah-celebrates-the-international-day-of-persons-with-disabilities-idpd/>