

10.6.8 Does your university as a body provide support services for people with disabilities (e.g. personal assistants, interpreters)?

Qassim University provides a range of support services for individuals with disabilities to ensure an inclusive and accessible learning environment. These services are designed to assist students with various disabilities, including mobility, visual, hearing, and learning impairments.

1. **Academic Support:** The university offers academic accommodations for students with disabilities, such as extended exam times, additional tutoring services, and access to specialized learning materials. Students can receive personalized support to ensure they can fully participate in academic activities.
2. **Assistive Technology:** Qassim University provides access to advanced assistive technologies, including screen readers, speech-to-text software, and hearing aids, which help students with visual and auditory disabilities engage in academic work and campus life.
3. **Physical Accessibility:** The university has made physical changes to its campus, ensuring that it is accessible to students with mobility challenges. This includes ramps, elevators, and other infrastructural adjustments that enable people with disabilities to navigate the campus safely.
4. **Counseling and Peer Support:** The university also offers counseling services and peer support programs aimed at helping students with disabilities manage academic stress, social integration, and personal challenges. These services are designed to ensure mental well-being and social inclusion.

Through these services, Qassim University aims to provide an equitable learning environment where students with disabilities have the necessary resources to succeed academically and socially.

The university is ensuring that all students, staff and faculty, including individuals with disabilities, have equal access to our facilities and resources. Firstly, the physical accessibility:

- 1) All campus buildings are designed or retrofitted to be fully accessible to individuals with mobility impairments. This includes the installation of ramps, elevators, automatic doors, and wide corridors. Additionally, accessible restrooms are available in all buildings.
- 2) Classrooms and lecture halls are equipped with accessible seating options, adjustable desks, and adequate space for wheelchair users.
- 3) the university offers accessible transportation services, including shuttle buses equipped with lifts and designated seating for individuals with disabilities.

Secondly, the Technological Accessibility:

- 1) The online resources, including the university website, learning management systems, and digital course materials, are designed to be accessible to all users. We follow web accessibility standards to ensure that digital content is usable by individuals with visual, auditory, and cognitive impairments.
- 2) The admiration of IT at the university offers technical support for students using assistive technologies.

Thirdly, the orientation programs. The university is providing orientation programs for new students with disabilities to familiarize them with campus facilities and services. In addition, training for faculty and staff on best practices for supporting students with disabilities is also provided.

Finally, the university is having a center for disabled students that provides comprehensive support to students with disabilities. This office offers services such as academic accommodations, counseling, and advocacy.

Social Study and Special Needs Services

<https://qa.qu.edu.sa/files/shares/handbooks/Student%20Manual.pdf> [1]

The Department of Guidance and Counseling is keen to assist the student with its educational, educational, material and social benefits, in coordination with the Student Funding Department. As some students have social and physical conditions that may cause them to be left behind or absent from school. Therefore, the administration was keen to provide financial assistance after conducting a personal interview for the student or needy student and determine the amount of the subsidy and raise it to the student funding department for approval.

By examining the conditions of some of the stuttered students and studying their academic, social and psychological situations, which may have a significant impact on the student's academic stumbling. The Department of Guidance and Counseling has developed a program to study student cases. It prepared a form with the names of many disabilities, which is filled out by the social worker. It also set a timetable to be followed up by the specialist in which the student will execute according to his instructions.

Disability unit

<https://dsa.qu.edu.sa/content/p/237> [2]

Introduction

The objective of Vision 2030 is to develop effective plans and programs that will contribute to making the Kingdom a model in the world on all levels. The objectives of these plans are to enable persons with disabilities to obtain suitable employment opportunities and education that guarantees their independence and integration into society; as independent and active actors, and to provide all facilities and tools to help them achieve this success

In addition to continuing the educational process, this major work indicates that the Kingdom seeks through the Quality of Life Program - one of the programs that emanate from the Vision 2030 to provide infrastructure facilities throughout the Kingdom, to be easily accessible via public transport and to be ready to receive persons with disabilities. A disabled person is every person who suffers from a complete or partial impairment affecting his or her physical, sensory, mental, communicative, educational or psychological abilities to the extent that it reduces the ability to meet his or her normal requirements under conditions such as non-disabled persons. This injury consists of one or more of the following:

- visual,
- hearing,
- mental and mental disabilities,
- motor disabilities,
- learning disabilities,

- language and speech disorders,
- behavioral disorders,
- and other disabilities, which require special care.

Therefore, these people need to take the necessary measures in the medical, psychological, educational, media and systemic aspects aimed at meeting their educational needs and developing their academic capacities

The committee conducted a survey on a number of cases of persons with disabilities in the university and their needs, whether in infrastructure, academic or technical problems. The unit aims to build bridges of partnership between the university's Disability Care Unit and its representatives in the colleges, in order to provide outstanding and pioneering service for students with disabilities. The Persons with Disabilities Unit of the School of Student Affairs welcomes university students with disabilities and seeks to provide a range of specific quality services that are inclusive of all academic, administrative, psychological, social, technical and infrastructure aspects.

Education for people with disabilities at university

The Kingdom strives to provide health and social care and all means of decent living for all its citizens of all categories. Persons with disabilities are at the forefront of these groups, which require special care and attention. The Kingdom has focused its attention on the care of persons with disabilities in a way that ensures their access to disability-related rights, promotes services for them, contributes to their well-being and qualifies them to become an effective part of society.

The University of Al-Qassim, in accordance with the Kingdom's Vision 2030, has ensured the provision of comprehensive care services to all those in need of care due to their health status, degree of disability or social status, and has contributed to the employment of medical, social, psychological, educational and professional services to help students with disabilities achieve the greatest possible efficiency within the university, in order to enable them to conform to the requirements of their natural and social environment, and to develop their capacities to become self-reliant and a productive member of society.

The percentage of people with disabilities who have recently become 7.1% of the total population of the Kingdom. According to the Statistics Authority, the number of people with disabilities is as follows:

- Hearing impairments: 289,355
- Hyperactivity and distraction: 30,155
- Motor disabilities: 833,136
- Autism spectrum disorder: 53,282
- Down syndrome: 19,428
- Visual impairments: 811,61

Disability unit

The Unit for Persons with Disabilities has been formed as one of the units of the Dean of Student Affairs. The Unit is concerned with overcoming all the difficulties and challenges faced by persons with disabilities, both male and female students of the University. It provides a suitable university environment for students with special needs who have easy access to the halls and to the main departments of the campus. The unit also works to educate university staff on how to properly deal with people with disabilities at the university.

Unit tasks

- Develop policies on the identification and classification of students with disabilities
- Develop scientific tools that identify and evaluate students with disabilities
- Awareness-raising, policy-building and frameworks; To integrate students with disabilities into tertiary education commensurate with their abilities in less constrained environments
- Create equal access to an equitable and appropriate university education for all students with disabilities without regard to gender, material social background, geographical location or the nature of special needs
- Providing customized learning opportunities that address the special needs of talented and creative students

Types of services provided by the Unit to persons with disabilities at the University

Visual impairment

- Academic needs, including (academic adaptation/effective communication services/physical services)
- Psychological needs, including (academic adaptation/effective communication services/physical services)
- Social needs, including (academic adaptation/effective communication services/material services)

Hearing impairment

- Academic needs, including (academic adaptation/effective communication services/physical services)
- Psychological needs, including (academic adaptation/effective communication services/physical services)
- Social needs, including (academic adaptation/effective communication services/material services)

Mobility impairment

- Academic needs, including (academic adaptation/effective communication services/physical services)
- Psychological needs, including (academic adaptation/effective communication services/physical services)
- Social needs, including (academic adaptation/effective communication services/material services)

Other disabilities

- Academic needs, including (academic adaptation/effective communication services/physical services)
- Psychological needs, including (academic adaptation/effective communication services/physical services)
- Social needs, including (academic adaptation/effective communication services/material services)

While the student/disabled person has determined what he needs at the university, the student is then interviewed in person and diagnosed in accordance with the special education standards adopted by the Ministry under the hands of specialists in special education, the type of service the student needs is determined, and then categorized and determined to which type of procedure:

1- Academic support for students with disabilities

- Increase the time limit for quarterly and final tests by half/twice
- Individualized testing
- Modification of evaluation and teaching methods in coordination with the management of the Center
- Zoom in on or read the question line
- A table separate from the chair
- Exemption from automatic correction
- Taking into account their health situation during the lecture
- In-room escort to take notes
- Division of the scientific material for testing over two days
- Replace presentations with student-friendly activity
- Offer a laptop during the test
- Allow breaks for student/lecturer
- The faculty member should address the student directly to make sure he/she understands the test questions.
- The faculty member will write down the answer to the written questions after they are received by the student/orally in cooperation with the author/if necessary for students with visual disabilities
- No more than one test of the same day
- To seek an excuse for delays for students with disabilities
- Taking the health situation into account during the lecture
- Present and send presentations and lectures before and after lectures for study
- Segmentation of long-term tasks into phased sub-tasks
- Provide students with written, short and clear instructions
- Give students more time to complete tasks

2- Social services

- Help organize visits, trips, seminars, meetings and exhibitions on disability issues.
- Participate in national holidays.
- Participation in global events such as World Disability Day, World Autism Day, Week of the Deaf
- Facilitating participation in student clubs such as the Art Club, Literary Club, and Sports Club.
- Participation in external events

3- Psychological services

- Student or student presentation of a Guided Me Program in which the condition is diagnosed and referred to specialists as the case may be, either to a psychologist or Medical City health specialists to provide psychological support
- Contribute to building bridges of understanding between university employees and students with disabilities.
- Identify the level of psychological compatibility of students with disabilities at the university and overcome the difficulties they face
- Work to overcome the challenges and difficulties they face during their educational journey and to resolve them in accordance with the university's regulations

Educational consultations at the Persons with Disabilities Unit

specialization	Scientific degree	Member Name
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Learning disabilities	Professor	Abdullah Ali Al-Rabiaan, M.D
Talent and excellence	associate professor	D. Naif Fahd Al-Fraih
Language and literacy “learning difficulties”	associate professor	D. Mohamed Ahmed Al-Obaid
hearing impairment	associate professor	D. Theeb Triheb Al-Mutairi
Learning disabilities	associate professor	D. Nora Abdullah Al-Khatib
Talent and excellence	Assistant Professor	Dr. Mohamed Abdel Rahman El Hanaya
Dysfunction in language, reading and writing	Assistant Professor	D. Mohamed Ibrahim Al-Ajlan
intellectual relationship	Assistant Professor	D. Abd El-Aziz Abd El-Rahman Al-Wazan
Hearing impairment - behavioral disorders	Assistant Professor	D. Jihad Abdullah Al-Na'im
hearing impairment	Assistant Professor	D. Mohammed Saleh Al-Ajlan
Behavioral disorders	Assistant Professor	Dr. Sulaiman Saleh Al-Othaim
hearing impairment	Assistant Professor	D. Sara Mansour Al-Ajajaji
Autism spectrum disorder	Assistant Professor	D. Hadeel Ali Al-Harbi

Athletic and Cultural Facilities

<https://qa.qu.edu.sa/files/shares/handbooks/Student%20Manual.pdf> [1]

The University cares for developing its athletic and cultural facilities, and it currently constructs “Assembly of Athletic Facilities”, which most of its units have been finished.

This Assembly contains group of athletic facilities of high standard, and have integrated combos of stadia, sport fields and services for University staff, students, employers and officers. These include:

- o Bowling and entertainment sports hall
- o Multi-sports hall (football, basketball, volleyball, etc.)
- o Hall services building
- o Swimming pool building prepared for holding championships
- o Social building equipped with social sitting rooms and cafeterias
- o Group of outdoor stadia

The total area of this assembly is about 89800 meter square, and the total cost of it is 89 million SR. the assembly is constructed according to the most recent styles, and well equipped to serve the staff, student and all University related people.

Also, the University has many well equipped halls for conferences, meetings and celebrations. These are distributed all over the University in its main building and the branches. The courtyard of the

University main building is prepared for establishing the big activities and encounters such as graduation parties, public conferences.

Medical Care

<https://qa.qu.edu.sa/files/shares/handbooks/Student%20Manual.pdf> [1]

Medical care is one of the student rights. Therefore, the University presents free medical care to their students through its medical clinics in the University City in Mulidaa. These comprises general, surgery and specialized clinics, besides the dental clinic. These clinics offer medical care to the staff and officers of the University in addition to the students.

Also, the governmental hospitals offer comprehensive medical care to the Saudi citizen including the students, and also they offer medical care to the international students.

The University currently constructs and prepares the University Hospital in its main site, which is a comprehensive medical project. It is a part of the Medicine City which will serve all the University related persons and the society people as well.

A graduate of the university defies disability.. His Highness the Amir of Qassim includes it in the Anemone of Men Award and His Excellency the President of the University directs its acceptance in graduate studies

<https://qu.edu.sa/content/news/2581> [3]

I lost my sight.. But it did not lose the insight, the passion for life and excellence.. And the love of science and the yearning to learn and enter the midst of life defying all the difficulties she faced, to overcome at first her visual impairment, and then to proceed step by step towards achieving her ambitions, which are no less than those of healthy students, and even surpass him with determination, determination and overcoming difficulties.

She is the blind student Jihan Mohammed Al-Majdil, one of the graduates of the eighteenth batch of the university, who graduated with distinction from the specialization of Islamic law at the university, relying on her abilities and self-confidence, and her skill in using modern technology and adapting it to suit her needs and health condition, and what qualified her for excellence and success at all stages of study.

The graduate "Jihan" provided a role model of determination and determination that abounds in our dear Kingdom, as she is one of the girls of this giving country whose wise government – may God protect it – supports all its citizens, especially those with special needs who receive the care and care of the state to help them achieve their ambitions and aspirations.

From this standpoint, His Royal Highness Prince Dr. Faisal bin Meshaal bin Saud bin Abdulaziz, Governor of Qassim Province, after hearing and witnessing the story of blind graduate "Jihan", during



his generous sponsorship of the graduation ceremony of the eighteenth batch at the university, was quick to announce the inclusion of "Jihan" in the Anemone of Men Award in the Emirate of Qassim Region, wishing that she would be among the winners, and announced that the mechanism of benefiting from it will be sought in the jury, because it is an honorable model.

His Highness said: "We thank Allah that there are some of our children who are armed with faith in Allah the Almighty, and possess this will, determination and self-determination, and congratulations to the homeland for the presence of these parables of distinguished students in the Qassim region and throughout the Kingdom.

For his part, His Excellency Prof. Dr. Abdulrahman bin Hamad Al-Dawood, President of the University, announced the admission of the graduate "Jihan Al-Majidal" to the graduate program in recognition of her struggle and excellence, and for being one of the honorable models of the university.

The Deanship of Student Affairs at the University Holds the "Rowad for Persons with Disabilities" Program

<https://www.qu.edu.sa/content/news/2851> [3]

The Deanship of Student Affairs at the University held yesterday, Sunday, 10/5/1444 AH, the "Pioneers for Persons with Disabilities" program, in conjunction with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, where the program included organizing several events that included an exhibition, workshops and consultations, in the main lobby of the university city, in the presence of His Excellency the Vice President for Educational Affairs, Dr. Muhammad Al-Sharekh.



The exhibition reviewed the Kingdom's efforts in supporting persons with disabilities, and the university's efforts in this field by preparing the infrastructure and facilitating this category of society to obtain their services, as the university established a permanent committee for the care of persons with disabilities, in addition to guidance and guidance support for them, and coordination with colleges and deanships to provide the necessary support to serve these students, guidance and academic support, as well as facilitating communication with entities outside the university.

The role of the Standing Committee for the Care of Persons with Disabilities at the university was also reviewed, which specializes in considering the social and psychological problems and study they face, and helping them find appropriate solutions to them, as well as creating opportunities for them to express their talents and develop their abilities to enable them to make appropriate decisions, in addition to supervising the transfer of severe cases to the competent authorities and determining the necessary projects for infrastructure equipment at the university in a manner commensurate with people with disabilities, as well as activities and programs for persons with disabilities through participation in various Events.

It is noteworthy that the number of students with disabilities studying at the university is 272 students in various colleges, including 150 students with motor disabilities, 86 students with visual disabilities, in addition to 36 students with hearing disabilities.

The University Holds Several Meetings within the "Himmam" Virtual Program on the Occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities

<https://www.qu.edu.sa/content/news/2386> [4]

The University, represented by the Deanship of Student Affairs, organized several scientific meetings within the virtual program held on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities entitled "Himmam", in cooperation with the Department of Special Education at the College of Education, on Thursday, 18/4/1442 AH, where the program contained several virtual meetings that dealt with many aspects of the academic life of students of determination, and reviewed some of their university experiences and academic excellence in successfully passing the university stage.



The first meeting was held under the title "People with Disabilities in the University Environment", and was presented by Dr. Muhammad Al-Ajlan, Chairman of the Standing Committee for the Care of Persons with Disabilities at the University, Dean of the Deanship of Student Affairs, and Dr. Muhammad Al-Obaid, member of the Committee, and Head of the Department of Special Education, where the meeting discussed a number of axes, including: preparation in the university environment, educational auxiliary services, and support services.

While the second meeting, which was held under the title "Student Lights" with a group of university students with disabilities, dealt with a number of axes, namely: the experiences of students with disabilities at the university, (deaf, people with motor disabilities, and the blind).

The third and final meeting was held under the title "Global Trends on Disability", and was presented by Dr. Theeb Al-Mutairi, Associate Professor of Special Education at the Department of Special Education, in which he spoke about universal access, support and inclusion for persons with disabilities.

In the presence of the Emir of Qassim University and the Department of Education sign an agreement to strengthen partnership and exchange of experiences between them

<https://qu.edu.sa/content/news/788> [5]

Qassim University signed a joint cooperation agreement with the General Directorate of Education in the Qassim Region, in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Dr. Faisal bin Meshaal bin Saud, Governor of Qassim Region, in order to strengthen the bonds of work and partnership between the two parties and exchange experiences and means in order to develop the educational process, develop students' skills, student activities and programs, in addition to paying attention to the gifted, investing in the time of young people, activating scientific research and identifying and activating cooperation mechanisms between them.



This agreement, signed on behalf of the University by Dr. Ali Al-Saif, Vice President for Educational Affairs, and on behalf of the Department of Education, Mr. Abdullah bin Ibrahim Al-Rukayan, Director General of Education in the Qassim Region, stems from the directives of His Highness the Amir of the Qassim Region, on the integration of efforts and the strengthening of cooperation and partnership relations between the various development bodies in the region, and in support of the relations of cooperation and partnership between the University and the General Directorate of Education in the Qassim Region.

The two signatories to the agreement aspire to achieve their common goals, which are to build the student's Islamic, national and intellectual personality cognitively, skillfully and values, work to promote loyalty and national belonging and consolidate the correct concepts among students of both sexes, in addition to providing advanced and accredited education to prepare integrated competencies that meet the needs of the labor market, support sustainable development programs and projects in the Qassim region, and contribute to building a knowledge society.

The agreement also aims to provide community services and distinguished applied research in a way that promotes the local community and contributes to building the knowledge economy, using the latest administrative, technical and informatics methods, and contribute to the service of society through training and continuous education, and consolidate the concepts of sustainable development, environmental conservation, and information awareness, in addition to making available various sources of information for sober educational, research and applied purposes, especially related to community issues, and the required construction, development and maintenance of those resources.

For his part, Dr. Ali Al-Saif, Vice President for Educational Affairs, stressed that this agreement is expected to enhance cooperation between the General Directorate of Education in Qassim and the faculties and deanships of the university in the field of public lectures, seminars, specialized training programs, research and specialized scientific studies, participate in the implementation of special programs for people with special needs, and encourage scientific studies and research in these fields.

Al-Saif added that under this agreement, joint working groups will be formed between the two parties, holding workshops, meetings and visits needed by joint programs and activities, and providing mutual facilities from both parties in order to achieve the optimal environment for the implementation of joint programs and activities.

The Future of E-Learning Conference in the Kingdom concludes its work at the university with the issuance of 30 recommendations

<https://qu.edu.sa/content/news/2520> [6]

The conference "The Future of E-Learning in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in accordance with Vision 2030", concluded its work on Wednesday evening, 26/7/1442 AH, organized by the University, represented by the College of Science and Arts in Al-Ras, under the patronage of His Excellency the President of the University, Prof. Dr. Abdulrahman bin Hamad Al-Daoud, over two days, in which 3 scientific sessions and 4 workshops were held in addition to the opening and closing sessions, with a total participation of 108 participants and a total attendance of 2715 people.

The sessions of the conference resulted in a number of recommendations (30 recommendations) produced by the participants and researchers in the conference, including all the themes of the conference discussed during its sessions, most notably the commitment to the reference of the vision of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 2030 in education, and stressed the need to benefit from successful international and regional experiences and expertise, in addition to urging universities to diversify their electronic platforms, with the need to employ modern software in education, as well as interest in providing faculty members with the skills of designing electronic courses to save effort and time, in order to go beyond traditional methods of education.

The recommendations also pointed to the importance of partnerships between Saudi universities and e-training platforms to support e-training programs in universities, and urged the competent authorities to design more modern applications that ensure direct interaction between teacher and learner to facilitate the process of distance education, as well as preparing schools to use educational innovations such as ART in order to improve the skills of the Mulki and the beneficiary, especially for those who suffer from learning difficulties in various subjects and the development of educational halls to meet the needs of students with special needs.

The attendees and participants praised the wonderful and rapid transformation from regular education to e-learning in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia without much difficulty in light of the Corona pandemic and this shows the strength and robustness of the infrastructure of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the conference came a full year after the start of e-learning in the Kingdom.

The participants also thanked and appreciated the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz, may Allah protect him, and His Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Crown Prince – may Allah protect them – as well as thanks to His Highness the Amir of the Qassim Region and His Highness the Deputy Governor, and the participants and organizers thanked His Excellency the Minister of Education for supporting and facilitating the establishment of the conference, and the participants also gave special thanks to His Excellency the President of the University, Prof. Dr. Abdulrahman bin Hamad Al-Daoud, for his sponsorship of the conference hosted by the College of Science and Arts in Al-Ras, and the organizing committee of the conference headed by Dr. Abdul Rahman bin Hamad Al-Daoud, and the organizing committee of the conference headed by Dr.

Abdulrahman bin Hamad Al-Daoud Ali Bin Freih Al-Aqlaa Thank you very much to the researchers for their participation, which was a great factor in the success of this conference, and the committee also thanked and appreciated the Chamber of Commerce in Al-Rass for sponsoring the conference, asking Allah the Almighty to benefit everyone with its outputs and recommendations.