

## CHAPTER 11

### STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

#### 11.1 DEFINITION

‘Disability’ refers to any impairment, medical condition, mental health difficulty or specific learning difficulty that has an impact on the ability to study or any other aspect of university life.

#### 11.2 ADMISSION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

- (a) All students with disabilities considering whether to apply to the UoM are encouraged to contact the Admissions and Student Records Office (ASRO) to find out about the facilities that may be provided for students with disabilities.
- (b) Offers of seats to study at the UoM are made on academic merit and ranking. However, in case a candidate has declared a physical impairment in his/her application form, which may have affected his/her academic performance, the Admissions Eligibility Committee of the University considers each candidate on a case to case basis. The candidate should satisfy the minimum basic entry requirements as well as the Programme requirements. Applicants may be contacted by the ASRO for further information so as to ensure that reasonable adjustments can be put in place by the Faculty/ Centre. Applicants may also be interviewed where appropriate to determine their adjustability to specific Programmes.
- (c) Students with mobility difficulties are strongly advised to visit the University since some physical environment of the UoM may not be fully accessible to such students (e.g. wheelchair users or those who have difficulties with stairs). The ASRO and the Faculty/ Centre must therefore ensure that due consideration is given to such applications. If reasonable adjustments to buildings and procedures cannot be put in place, it is essential that the applicant is informed in a timely manner.
- (d) Given the commitment of the UoM to offering academic opportunity to all suitably qualified people, whenever possible, and irrespective of disability, the following are the only two instances in which students with disabilities who meet the entry requirements can be rejected:
  - (i) Overriding health and safety hazards which cannot reasonably be overcome;
  - (ii) Essential reasonable adjustments cannot be made to the Programme content and delivery or to the provision of suitable staff or facilities.

#### 11.3 FACILITIES AND REGULATIONS

- (a) Students with disabilities at the UoM may be provided with one or a combination of the following arrangements:
  - (i) Provision of covered ways/ lifts/ ramps where applicable and possible;

- (ii) Timetabling and allocation of rooms should be made taking into account the needs of the individual students. The modularity of Programmes allows some flexibility in the way they are pursued but the degree to which this is possible will vary with the Programmes and Departments.
- (b) Innovative approaches may be adopted with respect to teaching although it is not possible to be prescriptive about how best to meet the special needs of students with disabilities. Where possible, Departments and individual lecturers can accommodate individual requirements within resource constraints and without compromising academic standards.
- (c) Provision of special examination arrangements, where necessary and which may include:
- Extra time (a maximum of 25%);
  - Personal time reminders;
  - Examination papers in alternative formats, e.g. enlarged fonts, braille, coloured paper, electronic copy;
  - Use of a computer (which has been checked to ensure that it is ‘clean’) where appropriate;
  - For students who are prone to fatigue, independent arrangements can be made by Faculties/ Centre so that examinations are spaced with at least one day’s rest between them to avoid the effects of physical fatigue linked to their disabilities (request to be supported by Medical Certificate);
  - Alternative timing to provide for a late or early start according to individual needs;
  - Extra time for printing out answers prepared on a computer.
- (d) the library may provide a range of support services including extended loans, private study facilities, a fetching and carrying service, help with the catalogue system and with locating books and journals, where necessary.
- (e) A “Certification of Disability Form” provided at the end of this chapter shall be downloaded and duly filled by Faculty/ Centre whenever necessary for onward submission to the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life. The Form should be returned to the Faculty/ Centre concerned within one (1) week after the medical practitioner has seen the applicant.
- (f) Complaints from students will be handled under the UoM’s complaints procedure.
- (g) The above Regulations would be applicable to both undergraduate and postgraduate students.
- (h) Any change(s) in the state of health of the student occurring after the initial approval will be submitted to the Faculty/ Centre by the student for a review of the provision of special arrangements initially approved.
- (i) In case of temporary/ permanent disability whereby the extra time for examinations, recommended by the Medical Officer/ Medical Board, is less than 25%, **the approval stops at the level of Faculty/ Centre Board.**

- (j) In case of temporary/ **permanent** disability whereby the additional time for examinations, recommended by the Medical Board from the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life, is greater than 25%, the matter will be referred to the Registrar, who will give a ruling, after consultation with a Medical Officer and either the relevant Dean of Faculty or Head of Department or Representative.

# UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

## Certification of Disability

To: Ministry of Health & Quality of Life

The student named below has applied for some special requirements at the University of Mauritius. In order to determine eligibility and to provide these special requirements, we need documentation of the student's disability.

**TO BE FILLED BY FACULTY/ CENTRE**

**Faculty/ Centre:**.....

**Student's Full Name:** .....

**Date:** .....

**TO BE FILLED BY MEDICAL PRACTITIONER**

**Please fill in the Form below**

After completing the Form, kindly *remit same to the student*, who will then submit to the UoM, if s/he so wishes, by .....

The information provided will be kept in the student's educational records and will be held strictly confidential. In addition to the requested information, please attach any other information you think would be relevant to the student's academic adjustment. Please contact us if you have questions or concerns. Thank you for your assistance.

1. What is your diagnosis for this student?  
.....
2. Date of above diagnosis.  
.....
3. Date student was last seen.  
.....

4. Please check which of the major life activities listed below are affected because of the above diagnosis and/or treatment. Please indicate the level of limitation.

Life Activity	No Impact	Moderate Impact	Severe Impact	Don't Know
Concentrating				
Memory				
Sleeping				
Eating				
Social interactions				
Self care				
Managing internal distractions				

Life Activity	No Impact	Moderate Impact	Severe Impact	Don't Know
Managing external distractions				
Timely submission of assignments				
Attending class regularly and on time				
Making and keeping appointments				
Stress management				
Organization				

How long do you anticipate the student's academic achievement will be impacted by this disability?

	Six months
	One year
	More than one year

5. **Other Information**

What other specific symptoms currently manifesting themselves might affect the student's academic performance?

.....  
 .....

6. What would you recommend, if applicable, as percentage additional time to be provided for examination purposes?

.....  
 .....

7. Is there anything else you wish to add about the student's disability?

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 .....

**Certifying Medical Board from the Ministry of Health & Quality of Life**

**Signature of Chair of Medical Board:**

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**Date:** .....

**Address & Phone/ Fax number:**.....

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