MANAV RACHNA UNIVERSITY

Guide / Handbook for Students with Disabilities

Manav Rachna University

The university strives to provide an inclusive and welcoming environment, where all students are valued, supported, and given the opportunity to reach their full potential regardless of ability, have access to the resources and support they need to succeed. Universally accessible environment is designed to accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities, including those with mobility, sensory, and cognitive impairments by removing physical, instructional, and social barriers. Barrier-free and universally accessible environment promotes inclusivity and equality, enabling students with disabilities to participate fully in academic and non-academic activities contributing to their holistic development. This includes:

1. **Physical Accessibility:**

a) **Tactile Pavement**

   Tactile pavement is designed in Blocks to facilitate accessibility and improving the safety, navigation and independence of people with visual impairments.

b) **Provision of Lift**

   Facility of Lift is available at campus that is designed to accommodate people with disabilities, including those with mobility impairments, and ensure equal access to all areas of the building. Features of the accessible lift in the university campus include:

   - Adequate space for maneuvering with a wheelchair or mobility device
   - Low-level control buttons that are easily accessible
   - Braille and large print signage
   - Visual displays to indicate the floor level and direction of travel
   - Grab bars, and non-slip flooring
   - Easy-to-use controls, including tactile buttons
   - Power doors that open and close automatically.

c) Ramps

Ramps in the campus buildings are designed to provide accessibility for individuals with mobility impairments, including those using wheelchairs, walkers, or crutches. They help to eliminate barriers to entry and provide a safe and accessible means of entering and exiting buildings.

d) Accessible Rest Rooms

Accessible rest rooms are designed in the university campus to accommodate individuals with disabilities, including those with mobility and sensory impairments, and ensure equal access to essential facilities. Features of the accessible rest rooms in the university campus include:

- Adequate space to accommodate individuals using mobility devices and provide enough space for maneuvering.
- Accessible fixtures such as toilets, sinks, and dispensers are positioned at an accessible height and have clear floor space to allow for approach from a wheelchair.
- Non-slip flooring to prevent slips and falls.
- Lighting is adequate and provides enough illumination to assist individuals with low vision.
- Accessible signage for gender and accessibility symbols.

e) Sighted Guide

Facility of sighted guide is available at the campus to those individuals who are blind or have low vision and to provide support by guiding and navigating them in the university campus safely and independently.

f) Accessible Transportation

University offers accessible transportation for the students that include low-floor buses designed to accommodate individuals with disabilities, these buses have a lower floor height than traditional buses, making it easier for individuals with mobility impairments to enter and exit the vehicle.

2. **Instructional Accessibility:**

a) **Information & Enquiry**

Help desks are available in the all the blocks for students with disabilities that provides support, assistance and enable them to succeed academically and personally, and achieve their full potential.

b) **Accessible Signage**

Accessible signage in the university campus are installed to ensuring equal access to information and facilities by providing clear, accessible, and understandable information and help individuals with disabilities to navigate the university campus safely and independently.

c) **Accessible Website**

In line with the directions of Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), website of Manav Rachna University (http://mru.edu.in/) is designed and developed to be usable and understandable by individuals with disabilities, including those with visual, auditory, motor, and cognitive impairments. It ensures equal access to information and resources for all students, faculty, and staff, regardless of ability.

d) **Sugamya Pustakalaya**

Sugamya Pustakalaya is one of the largest online libraries offering access to the largest collection of audiobooks for scholars with visual impairment. It provides audio-based teaching, learning and research materials to support the academic activities for users with visual impairment. Users can access more than 6,53,234 audiobooks that are available for download in selected formats. Users can also maintain their individual online reading shelves (https://mru.edu.in/digital-resources/).

e) **Facility of Scribe & Reader during the Examination**

University offers the facility of scribe and reader is available during the examination for students with benchmark disabilities. These facilities are provided on request made by

student with disabilities to the Head of the Department / COE on the recommendations in advance duly supported by Valid Medical Certificate from authorized Medical Officer.

3. <u>Assistive Devices:</u>

a) Battery Operated Cart

Battery-operated carts in the university campus helps students with mobility impairments, including those who use wheelchairs or have difficulty walking & provide independence and a sense of freedom for students with disabilities, allowing them to move around the university campus more easily and with greater independence.

b) Blind Stick

University has the provision of white canes or blind sticks for individuals who are blind or visually impaired to enable them for safe navigation in the university campus. The students can avail this facility from the Medical center or Help Desk as per their requirement.

c) Wheelchair

Wheelchair facility for students with disabilities in the university campus promotes the accessibility of the physical environment for individuals with locomotor disabilities. The students can avail this facility from the Medical center or Help Desk as per their requirement.

d) Screen Reading Software

NVDA, open source software is installed at the Admission Cell and Central Library to help individuals who are blind or visually impaired to access and interact with information on a computer screen.

e) KIBO

Software designed to facilitate instructional availability among individuals with visual impairment by providing them assistance through auditory information. Any student can avail this facility in Swami Vivekanand Library & Resource Centre.

f) Magnifier

An assistive device that magnifies the usual font, and enables students with low vision to read the printed text as per their requirement.

g) Adapted Braille Keyboard

The device is designed by our students to promote instructional accessibility among students with visual impairments. Keys are embossed to facilitate reading and writing activities.