



Facilities for Divyangyan [A Report]

**University of Science & Technology
Meghalaya**

PREAMBLE:

Disability is not an obstacle to become a member of USTM family. USTM has followed this philosophy in its daily activities and is the first institution of higher education to launch a programme which integrated people with disability into the society through higher education.

In 2018, USTM has introduced new flexible courses under the flagship initiative - “I Can I Will Academy”. This constituent of USTM is meant for the differently abled students and has a flexible curriculum and examination system. The curriculum includes both UG and PG courses.



Orientation Program for the Divyangyan Students

As a socially responsible university USTM has continuously implemented its disability-related policies which are as under:

Curriculum and Program Module:

- Study programs under “**I WILL I CAN ACADEMY**” are flexible and by organizing the process of studies can be adapted to the needs of the person with disability. In a remarkable initiative of support and care for the physically challenged students who find difficulty in attending regular classes or in appearing examinations, the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya has introduced all new flexible courses. “I Can I Will Academy”—USTM’s unique constituent is meant for the differently abled persons and has a flexible curriculum and examination system.

- The curriculum includes both UG and PG courses. The Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts courses include: English, Political Science, Economics, Sociology, Social Work, Rural Development, Education and Business Administration.
- Twelfth pass and graduate students in any discipline securing 40% of marks in aggregate can apply for the UG and PG courses.
- There is a special facility for students who passed HSLC to undergo a 1-year Diploma (bridge course) to make them eligible for BA courses.
- The Ph.D programme will be offered in the field of Social Sciences and Humanities.

ADMISSION & COUNSELLING:

- Special initiatives are taken to provide counselling and guidance to differently-abled students on the types of courses they could study at USTM.
- It is ensured that admission of as many differently-abled students as possible in all the programs.
- The university conduct awareness programmes for faculties of the university about the approaches to teaching, evaluation procedures, etc, which they should address in the case of differently-abled students.



SCHOLARSHIPS & FREESHIPS:

- Provision of financial support through Scholarships and Freeships are provided for differently abled students who wants to pursue higher education at USTM.
- They are also exempted from the tuition
- The University provides free hostel accommodation for these students.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY:

- The university provides students with disability learning / educational tools and devices so they could use these material for their studies
- Types of assistive devices are procured to assess the educational needs of differently abled students enrolled in the university.
- Soft copies of reading material are provided in the library.
- Assistive Software and disabled friendly keyboard are also provided.

DISABLED FRIENDLY INFRASTRUCTURE:

- Infrastructure of the university is constantly being built, reconstructed, adjusted and adapted to the needs of students with physical disabilities.
- All existing structures as well as future construction projects in the campus are to be made disabled friendly.
- Special facilities such as ramps and rails and make other necessary changes to suit the special needs of differently-abled persons are to be created.
- Restrooms with Divyangan Facilities are provided with proper signage
- Parking Facilities specially earmarked for Specially Abled are assigned in numerous areas in the campus.
- Green Vehicles are provided for movement in the campus. The security personnel in the entrance gate are directed to immediately take care of it in the entry itself.
- Signage including lights, display boards and signposts are placed in various prominent places for easy accessibility and access.

PLACEMENT & EMPLOYABILITY ASSISTANCE:

- The faculties and placement officers study the aptitude of differently-abled students and assist them in getting appropriate employment when desired by them after their studies.
- Skill Based Training is designed keeping in mind the needs and capabilities of the divyangyan.
- Soft Skill & Personality Development courses are included in the curriculum, preparing them for the employability market.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE COUNTER:

- A Special Assistance Counter is established in the Administrative Block for providing information and assistance to the disabled students.
- The Block Officers as well as all the Administrative Officials are directed to offer any assistance to the disabled students in their respective blocks.
- Scribes are also provided for examination when required.

OBSERVATION OF IMPORTANT DAYS:

- Celebrate important days pertaining to disability such as the World Disabled Day, White Cane Day, etc., in the University and also in the neighbourhood in order to create awareness about the capabilities of differently-abled persons.



World Sight Day

In a bid to create social responsibility among students on the occasion of World Sight Day about 4000 students of the University of Science & Technology Meghalaya have pledged to donate their eyes and help the cause of the visually challenged people across the world.

At USTM student with disability will always be heard and understood. He or she will always be able to participate and contribute to the process of making comfortable conditions for learning, studying and living.