10.6.8 Disability Support Services

2024–2025

The Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) is committed to promoting **social justice, social inclusion, equal opportunity, non-discrimination, and reducing educational inequalities** through comprehensive disability support services that ensure equitable access to higher education and full participation in university life.

Guided by its Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) framework and Disability Support and Inclusive Services Policy, AASTMT, through its **Accessibility Center**, provides individualized academic accommodations, assistive technologies, examination adjustments, accessibility guidance, psychological support, and assistance with student residence arrangements. These services aim to remove educational, physical, and social barriers, enhance academic achievement, and promote independent learning and social integration.

During the academic year **2024–2025, AASTMT reported 676 students with disabilities**, according to its SDG 10 statistical records, reflecting the institution's commitment to monitoring disability inclusion. To demonstrate the measurable implementation of its support services, the Academy should additionally report the number of students registered with the Accessibility Center, accommodation requests processed, examination adjustments implemented, and accessible residence placements provided during the reporting period.

Through these targeted support mechanisms, AASTMT seeks to strengthen **inclusive education, equal participation, student well-being, and upward social mobility** for individuals with disabilities.

AASTMT – Disability Support and Inclusive Services Policy

Accessibility Center – Dedicated Institutional Disability Support

As part of its commitment to promoting **equal opportunity, non-discrimination, social inclusion, and inclusive education**, AASTMT maintains an **Accessibility Center** that serves as a dedicated institutional mechanism for coordinating disability-related assistance and facilitating the participation of students with disabilities in university life. The Center provides a focal point for identifying individual accessibility needs, facilitating communication with relevant academic and administrative departments, and supporting the implementation of **reasonable accommodations and disability-responsive educational services**. Through its institutional role, the Center seeks to reduce academic and administrative barriers, enhance access to university resources, and strengthen the independence and academic participation of students with diverse abilities.

AASTMT – Accessibility Center

Academic Accommodations and Individualized Educational Assistance

AASTMT recognizes that **equal access to higher education** requires not only accessible campus facilities but also appropriate academic support that responds to the individual needs of students with disabilities. Through its disability support framework and the coordination of its Accessibility Center, the Academy outlines provisions for **reasonable academic accommodations, educational assistance, accessible learning materials, and coordination with academic departments** to address barriers that may affect students' learning experiences and academic performance. These arrangements are intended to enable students with disabilities to engage more equitably in teaching, learning, assessment, and other academic activities without discrimination. By promoting **individualized support, inclusive education, equal opportunity, and equitable academic participation**, AASTMT seeks to reduce educational inequalities and strengthen students' academic achievement, retention, and opportunities for **upward social mobility**.

AASTMT – Disability Support and Inclusive Services Policy

AASTMT – Accessibility Center

Assistive Technology Support and Accessible Educational Resources

In support of social justice, inclusive education, equal opportunity, and disability inclusion, AASTMT documents the provision of assistive technologies and adaptive educational resources intended to facilitate learning and academic participation among students with disabilities. Through its Accessibility Center and institutional disability support framework, the Academy identifies technologies such as screen-reading software, screen magnification tools, Braille-related equipment, and other adaptive learning resources that respond to different accessibility needs. These technologies are designed to help students overcome barriers to accessing digital information, educational materials, and university learning resources, thereby supporting greater independence and equitable participation in academic activities. By incorporating assistive technology into its disability support arrangements, AASTMT seeks to reduce the digital and educational inequalities experienced by individuals with disabilities and strengthen social inclusion, non-discrimination, academic accessibility, and equal opportunities for educational success.

Assistive Technologies (https://aast.edu/en/centers/ac/contenttemp.php?page_id=99600017)

Psychological, Social, and Counselling Support for Students with Disabilities

In recognition of the importance of psychological well-being, social inclusion, equal opportunity, and non-discrimination, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT), through its Deanship of Student Affairs and Students with

Disabilities Support Unit, provides a framework for psychological and social assistance tailored to the needs of students with disabilities. The Academy documents individual and group psychological support sessions supervised by specialists, alongside academic advising and coordination between relevant university departments.

AASTMT – Students with Disabilities Support Unit

Fahim Foundation Partnership: Strengthening Psychological Support and Inclusive Student Well-being

As part of its continued commitment to social justice, social inclusion, equal opportunity, non-discrimination, and reducing social inequality, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Fahim Foundation for Mental Health Support on 4 April 2026, establishing a framework for strengthening psychological support services and promoting mental health awareness across the Academy's campuses.

The partnership aims to develop specialized psychological support mechanisms, including a proposed psychological support unit, mental health awareness programmes, psychological first-aid training, workshops, and student capacity-building activities. These initiatives seek to address psychological and social barriers that may affect students' well-being, academic participation, and integration into university life.

Through this collaboration, AASTMT seeks to promote inclusive education, social integration, equitable access to psychological support, and a supportive learning environment that responds to students' diverse needs.

By promoting inclusive education, student well-being, social integration, and equitable access to institutional support services, AASTMT seeks to create a supportive learning environment where students with disabilities can participate with dignity, confidence, and independence.



Center for Innovative Media and Marketing-Alexandria | AASTMT

Residential Assistance and Daily Living Support for Students with Disabilities

As part of its commitment to social justice, disability inclusion, equal opportunity, and reducing social inequality, AASTMT provides specialized residential assistance designed to support students with disabilities and facilitate their equitable participation in university life. Through coordination between the Students with Disabilities Support Unit and the Deanship of Student Affairs, the Academy documents accommodation arrangements that respond to individual accessibility and daily living needs, particularly those of students with visual impairments.

These arrangements include dedicated supervisors in male and female student residences, continuous assistance for visually impaired students, allocation of ground-floor accommodation, and meal delivery to student rooms where necessary. Such services aim to enhance safety, reduce daily living barriers, and support students' independence and well-being while pursuing their academic studies.

By extending disability support beyond the classroom to residential and daily living environments, AASTMT promotes social inclusion, reasonable accommodation, independent living, equal participation, and inclusive higher education. These measures contribute to SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities, Indicator 10.6.8: Disability Support Services, by helping students with disabilities access practical assistance that supports their continued participation in university life.

AASTMT – Students with Disabilities Support Unit: Accommodation Support

Phycological Support – AASTMT Alamein Campus

The Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT), through the **Deanship of Student Affairs at its El Alamein Campus**, promotes **social justice, social inclusion, equal opportunity, and non-discrimination** by providing confidential psychological counselling, student guidance, and social support services to enhance students' well-being and equitable participation in university life.

These services are available to all students, **including students with disabilities**, who may access counselling through the Deanship of Student Affairs. Where additional accessibility arrangements or individualized assistance are required, coordination with the Academy's Accessibility Center can facilitate appropriate referrals and support tailored to students' needs.

By promoting accessible psychological and social support, AASTMT aims to reduce emotional, psychological, and social barriers, strengthen **disability inclusion, academic achievement, and social integration**, and ensure equal opportunities for students with disabilities to participate fully in educational and extracurricular activities.

AASTMT El Alamein Campus – Psychological Support
https://aast.edu/en/student-affairs/elalamein/contenttemp.php?page_id=65600065 on AASTMT webpage

Mental Health and Well-being Support for Students with Disabilities – AASTMT Accessibility Center

As part of its institutional commitment to social justice, social inclusion, equal opportunity, non-discrimination, and reducing social inequality, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT), through its Accessibility Center and the Deanship of Student Affairs, provides a framework for professional, confidential, and individualized psychological and mental health support for students experiencing emotional, psychological, or mental health challenges, including students whose long-term mental health conditions constitute disabilities.

The Academy's disability support framework recognizes the importance of addressing both visible and non-visible disabilities and facilitating access to appropriate counselling, mental health guidance, disability-related assistance, and reasonable accommodations. These provisions seek to reduce psychological and social barriers that may limit students' academic participation, personal development, and engagement in university life.

By promoting equitable access to mental health and disability support services, AASTMT seeks to strengthen inclusive education, disability inclusion, social integration, independent participation, and equal opportunities for students with diverse needs. Such support contributes to creating a university environment that respects individual differences, protects student dignity, and encourages academic achievement and upward social mobility.

Accessibility Center-Alexandria | AASTMT