10.6.6 Support for Underrepresented Groups

2024–2025

The Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport is committed to supporting underrepresented groups as a vital part of fostering a fair and equitable society. These communities often face systemic barriers that lead to marginalization, requiring targeted assistance to help them overcome challenges and realize their full potential. Through its dedicated efforts, the Academy empowers individuals to thrive and make meaningful contributions to society. This support takes various forms, tailored to address the unique needs and circumstances of different groups.

Accessibility Center – Individualized Disability Advising, Academic Accommodations and Psychological Support

The Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) demonstrates its institutional commitment to social justice, social inclusion, social integration, equal opportunity, and non-discrimination through its dedicated Accessibility Center and established Disability Accommodation and Support Framework. The Center provides individualized disability advising, reasonable academic accommodations, assistive technologies, and access to psychological support services, addressing the specific educational and personal challenges experienced by students with disabilities and other underrepresented groups. Through tailored academic guidance and coordinated support, AASTMT seeks to eliminate barriers to learning, prevent disability-related discrimination, and reduce social inequality, enabling students with disabilities to participate fully and equitably in academic and campus life. These institutional support mechanisms strengthen inclusive education, promote student well-being and academic progression, and contribute to upward social mobility by creating equitable opportunities for disadvantaged students to achieve their educational goals.



Accessibility Center
Disability Policy

Goodwill Incubator – Mentoring and Entrepreneurship Support for People with Disabilities (2024–2025)

As part of its commitment to **social justice, social inclusion, equal opportunity, and reducing socioeconomic inequalities**, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT), through its Entrepreneurship Center and in collaboration with Rowad 2030, established the **Goodwill Incubator** to empower entrepreneurs with disabilities.

Established in **2024**, the initiative provides specialized mentoring, entrepreneurship training, individualized consultation, and prototype development support to help participants develop innovative business ideas and pursue self-employment opportunities.

During the academic year **2024–2025**, the programme supported **30 participants** through **15 mentoring sessions**, promoting entrepreneurial skills, economic independence, and upward social mobility.

Through these targeted support mechanisms, AASTMT contributes to **disability inclusion, equitable access to professional development, and economic empowerment**.

Goodwill Incubator

Disability Rights and Inclusiveness Campaign — 9 November 2024

As part of its ongoing commitment to social justice, social inclusion, social integration, equal opportunity, and non-discrimination, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) actively participated in a Disability Rights and Inclusiveness Campaign on 9 November 2024, coordinated through the Department of Cultural and Social Activities at Abu Qir Campus, in connection with a national initiative involving the Ministry of Higher Education and Hope Donors. The campaign engaged AASTMT students in promoting awareness of the rights of persons with disabilities, challenging discriminatory attitudes and social stigma, and encouraging greater understanding of the barriers faced by disadvantaged and underrepresented groups. Through student participation and community engagement, the initiative aimed to strengthen inclusive practices, foster respect for diversity, and promote the full and equitable participation of persons with disabilities in educational and social life.



Inclusiveness Awareness Initiative Evidence link: https://www.aast.edu/en/sdg/goals.php?page_id=101010006&unit_item=10101

Autism Awareness Symposium — 4 December 2024

As part of its ongoing commitment to social justice, social inclusion, social integration, equal opportunity, and reducing social inequality, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) organized a student-supported symposium entitled “Towards a Better Tomorrow for Autistic Children”, held on 4 December 2024 at Al Farsi Hall, Abu Qir Campus. The symposium focused on raising awareness of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), promoting inclusive education, and addressing the social and educational challenges experienced by autistic children and individuals with disabilities, who may face discrimination, exclusion, and barriers to equal participation. Through awareness-raising and engagement with the university community, the initiative sought to strengthen understanding of neurodiversity, encourage supportive attitudes, and promote the social integration of underrepresented and marginalized groups. The event complemented AASTMT's broader institutional efforts to create an inclusive and non-discriminatory environment, safeguard equal opportunities, and reduce barriers to educational participation.

Autism Awareness Symposium

https://www.aast.edu/en/sdg/goals.php?page_id=101010006&unit_item=10101

Symposium: “The Role of AASTMT in Supporting and Caring for People with Disabilities”

As part of its ongoing commitment to social justice, social inclusion, social integration, equal opportunity, and non-discrimination, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) organized a symposium entitled “The Role of AASTMT in Supporting and Caring for People with Disabilities” on 22 December 2024. The event highlighted the Academy's institutional efforts to support and empower students with disabilities, a historically underrepresented group, through accessible educational opportunities, inclusive learning environments, and specialized academic support services. The symposium also celebrated the achievements of students with disabilities, promoting their recognition, active participation, and sense of belonging within the university community. By raising awareness of disability rights and highlighting the importance of individualized guidance, reasonable academic accommodations, and student support, the initiative reinforced AASTMT's efforts to address discrimination, social inequality, and educational exclusion. The event contributed to strengthening inclusive education, social integration, and equal opportunities, while emphasizing the role of institutional support in facilitating academic progression and upward social mobility.



https://aast.edu/en/centers/ac/contenttemp.php?page_id=99600026

Third Forum: "Towards a Better Tomorrow for Autism Children" – 12 April 2025

As part of its ongoing 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 Sustainable Development Department, co-organized the Third Forum entitled "Towards a Better Tomorrow for Autism Children" on 12 April 2025, at its Abu Qir Campus, in collaboration with the Committee of People with Disabilities of Lions District 352 Egypt. The forum aimed to raise awareness of autism spectrum disorder, promote the rights and inclusion of children with autism, and strengthen community understanding of the challenges faced by persons with disabilities. By encouraging dialogue, awareness, and collaboration among relevant stakeholders, the initiative contributed to promoting inclusive education, social integration, equal opportunities, and the reduction of discrimination and social exclusion. The forum also reflected AASTMT's commitment to engaging with underrepresented and vulnerable groups, supporting their participation in educational and social environments, and fostering a more inclusive society.



Autism Awareness Day

Autism Awareness Campaign – 26 June 2025

As part of its 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 the College of Medicine at El Alamein Campus and the Arab Medical Students' Association (AMSA),conducted an Autism Awareness Campaign scheduled for 26 June 2025, at Jaidaa Kinderland Academy, in collaboration with Dr. Marwa Saeed. The initiative was designed as an interactive educational session aimed at enhancing public understanding of autism spectrum disorder, correcting common misconceptions, and discussing practical approaches to creating more inclusive and supportive communities. By promoting awareness, encouraging constructive dialogue, and addressing social stigma and barriers affecting individuals with autism, the campaign sought to strengthen disability inclusion, social integration, equal opportunities, and inclusive education.

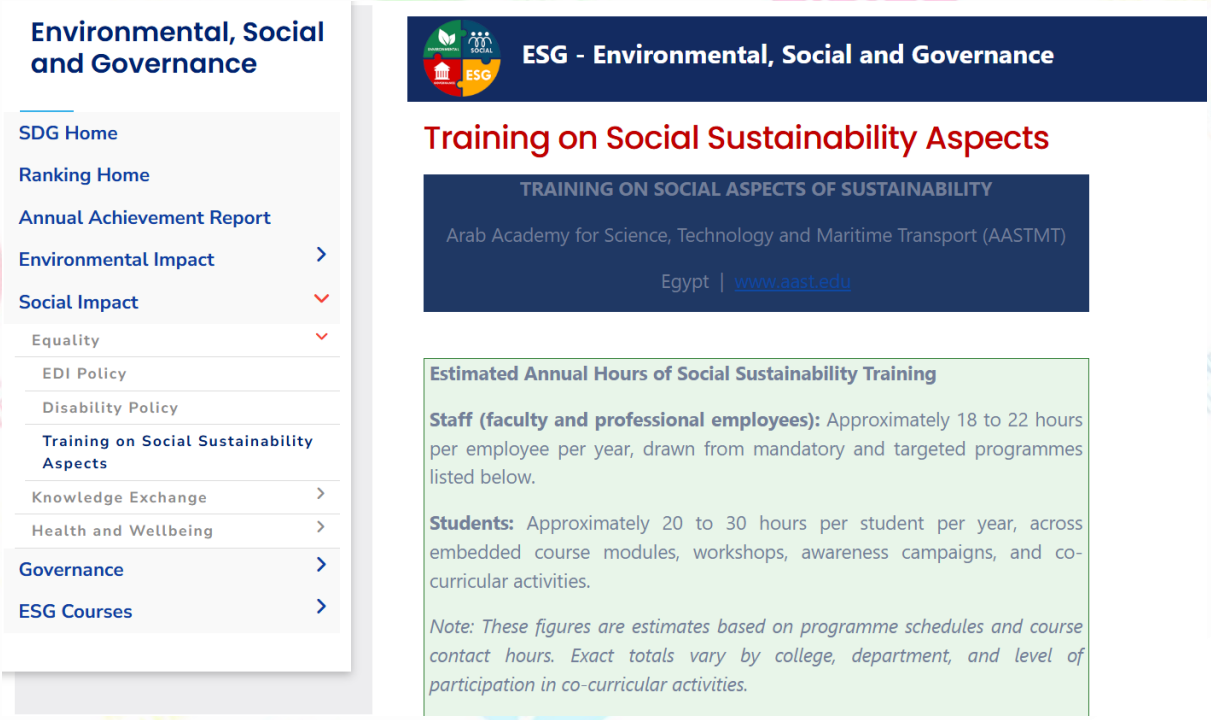


Autism Awareness Campaign

https://aast.edu/en/colleges/medicine/elalamein/event-details.php?event_id=2266&event_type_id=1&language=1&unit_id=1011&view=1

Academic and Co-Curricular Programmes Promoting Social Inclusion, Equal Opportunities, and Student Support

As part of its commitment to social justice, social inclusion, social integration, equal opportunity, non-discrimination, and reducing social inequality, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) integrates the social dimensions of sustainable development into its academic curricula and co-curricular activities through educational modules, workshops, student-led initiatives, and international engagement programmes. These activities aim to enhance students' understanding of diversity, human rights, disability inclusion, and the challenges faced by underrepresented and disadvantaged groups, while promoting an inclusive and supportive university environment. Through participatory learning, collaborative activities, and opportunities for dialogue, AASTMT encourages mutual understanding, peer engagement, and awareness of barriers to equitable participation in higher education. These initiatives complement the Academy's broader institutional efforts to empower underrepresented groups, strengthen inclusive education, and promote upward social mobility.



Training on Social Sustainability Aspects
https://aast.edu/en/sdg/goals.php?unit_item=10101&unit_item=10101&unit_item=10101&page_id=101010015

Recognizing and Empowering Students with Disabilities – Inspiring Success Stories and Unwavering Dreams

As part of its ongoing commitment to social justice, social inclusion, equal opportunity, non-discrimination, and reducing social inequality, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) organized a symposium entitled “The Academy's Role in Supporting and Caring for People with Disabilities,” under the patronage of Professor Dr. Ismail Abdel Ghaffar Ismail Farag, President of AASTMT. The initiative highlighted the Academy's commitment to providing an inclusive educational environment that supports students with disabilities through accessible educational facilities, psychological and social

support, skills-development workshops, and training opportunities designed to enhance their academic achievement, personal development, and social integration. During the event, outstanding students and graduates with disabilities were honored, including Nada and Nadine Sherif El-Mansi, teaching assistants at the College, and Farah Emad, who presented the ceremony. By recognizing their achievements and showcasing inspiring success stories, AASTMT reinforced the importance of equal opportunities, disability inclusion, empowerment of underrepresented groups, and upward social mobility.



https://aast.edu/en/news/news-details.php?language=1&unit_id=531&news_id=486104162&event_type_id=1

Promoting Equal Opportunities and Career Guidance for Women in Maritime and Offshore Industries

As part of its commitment to social justice, social inclusion, equal opportunity, gender equality, and reducing social inequality, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT), through the Marine and Offshore Engineering Department at the College of Engineering and Technology, in collaboration with the College of International Transport and Logistics, organized a special celebration marking the International Day for Women in Maritime on 21 May,2024 at Al-Farsi Hall.

The initiative aimed to empower female students and encourage their participation in traditionally male-dominated sectors, including maritime transport, offshore engineering, petroleum services, and logistics. The event brought together accomplished women professionals to share their career experiences, professional challenges, leadership

achievements, and success stories, providing female students with valuable role models and practical insights into career opportunities within these industries.

By facilitating interaction between female students and experienced women professionals, the initiative sought to promote career guidance, professional inspiration, gender inclusion, equal access to opportunities, and upward social mobility. It also aimed to challenge gender stereotypes and encourage greater representation of women in technical, engineering, and leadership positions



https://www.aast.edu/en/news/news-details.php?language=1&unit_id=5&news_id=486102551&event_type_id=1

Empowering Female Students through Negotiation Skills and Leadership Development – " She Leads for Universities Initiative"

As part of its ongoing commitment to social justice, social inclusion, gender equality, equal opportunity, non-discrimination, and reducing social inequality, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT), through its Sustainable Development Department and in coordination with the Deanship of Student Affairs, organized two training workshops entitled “Negotiation Skills and Leadership Empowerment” for female students at Al-Alamein Campus on 20 April 2026 and Miami Campus on 27 April 2026. The workshops were conducted within the framework of the “She Leads for Universities” initiative, implemented by the Youth Leaders Foundation (YLF) in partnership with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the National Council for Women (NCW), and UN Women, with support from the European Union (EU). The initiative aimed to empower female students by strengthening their negotiation, communication, leadership, and decision-making skills, enhancing their confidence and readiness to participate effectively in academic, professional, and leadership environments. By providing targeted capacity-building opportunities for women, AASTMT contributed to addressing gender-based barriers, unequal opportunities, and challenges to women's representation in leadership positions, while promoting social integration, inclusive education, women's empowerment, and upward social mobility.



https://aast.edu/en/events/event-details.php?language=1&unit_id=1&event_id=2321&event_type_id=7

Training Workshops for (She Leads for Universities) Initiative - Sustainable Development Administration