

**İstanbul Bilgi University**

**LAURATE** INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES

**ANNUAL REPORT OF**

**UNIT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY**

**FOR THE 2011-2012 ACADEMIC YEAR**

1. **General Information on the Unit**

a) The Unit Coordinator and Unit Officer of the Unit for Students with Disability of İstanbul Bilgi University are Sema Bozkır and Gözde Kılıç, respectively.

b) There are no employees at the unit who have student status.

c) The Unit for Students with Disability carries out its activities in **Santral** Campus. The unit office is an accessible one.

1. **Our University in Numbers:** Please find in the table below the information on the sex, disability, disability rate, faculty, institute, high school and department of the students with disability at our university.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Disability** | **Rate** | **Sex** | **Faculty – High School – Institute** | **Department** |
| 1 | Visual |  | Male | Faculty of Law | Law |
| 2 | Visual | 90% | Male | Faculty of Law | Law |
| 3 | Visual |  | Female | Institute of Social Sciences | LL.M. in Human Rights Law Program |
| 4 | Learning Difficulty |  | Male | Vocational High School | Associate Program in Sports Management |
| 5 | Learning Difficulty |  | Male | Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences | Undergraduate Program in Business Administration |
| 6 | Physical (dystonia – hand cramp) |  | Male | Faculty of Natural Sciences and Literature | Undergraduate Program in Comparative Literature |
| 7 | Physical | Wheel Chair | Female | Faculty of Natural Sciences and Literature | Undergraduate Program in Psychology |
| 8 | Physical | 90% Wheel Chair | Female | Faculty of Engineering | Undergraduate Program in Computer Engineering |
| 9 | Physical | 51% Walking Loss | Male | Faculty of Natural Sciences and Literature | Undergraduate Program in Computer Sciences |
| 10 | Physical and Visual Loss | 87% Total (Walking, vision) Wheel Chair | Female | Faculty of Natural Sciences and Literature | Undergraduate Program in Psychology |
| 11 | Physical | 70% Walking difficulty, crutches and walking with an AFO on the left | Female | Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences | Undergraduate Program in International Relations |
| 12 | Physical | Function loss (67%) | Male | Institute of Social Sciences | Graduate Program in Banking and Finance |
| 13 | Physical | Function loss | Male | Faculty of Communications | Undergraduate Program in Media Communication Systems |
| 14 | Diabetes |  | Male | Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences | Associate Program in International Trade and Business |
| 15 | Physical | Orthopedic, joint mobility restriction, deformity | Female | Faculty of Communications | Undergraduate Program in Visual Communication Design |

1. **Auxiliary (Supportive) Technological Tools at the University**

Our university offers the following for the students with disability:

* Web access
* Ability to register online for courses from student pages
* Access to courses and exam schedules
* Photocopy/scanning
* Electronic library
* Braille printer
* Power wheelchair
* Screen reading application

1. **Regularly-Provided Services and Accommodations**

**a) Services and Accommodations Offered for Detection of Students with Disability**

Booklets are distributed to enrollment desks at the time of registration of new students, officers are requested to guide students in person and through this means, students with disability are contacted. All students are informed on the Unit by means of posters hang on the boards and leaflets posted in education buildings within the academic period, and thus awareness is raised among all students.

In addition, faculties and high schools are contacted and information is received from faculty members on students with disability. A communication network is aimed to be established also on the web page under the heading “Life at Bilgi”.

**b) Services and Accommodations Offered for Orientation of Students with Disability and Their Adaptation to the University**

Newly-enrolled students are offered special orientation support through the Student Council. Students receiving service from the Unit are followed-up throughout the year.

**c) Services and Accommodations Offered for Academic Services**

i) **Registration for Courses:** Contact with students is maintained by means of following up online registrations made for courses, and students are ensured to receive support from their supervisor if required. In case of a problem related to transportation among campuses, communication is ensured among units in order to resolve the problem faced by students.

ii) **Services and Accommodations for Accessibility of Course Materials:** Visually-impaired students are provided with scanning support. A visually-impaired student was provided with a notebook computer and a screen-reader on the computer.

iii) **Services and Accommodations Supporting Course Content:** There was no student who made a special request. The academic success of students is monitored, and discussions are held with the relevant faculty member if necessary.

iv) **Services and Accommodations for Exams:** An application is ensured to be filed with the relevant Faculty and High School Councils with a petition for ensuring that special exam arrangements are accommodated as required by the disability of students, and the application is monitored by means of exchanging correspondence with the relevant faculty members.

v) **Services and Accommodations Offered for Physical Access to Course Laboratories and Classrooms:** Students with physical disability are provided with a special desk for use during exams and courses, and an opportunity to study together with faculty members. Actions are taken together with the faculty member teaching the course for changing the classroom if a more suitable classroom is needed.

**vi) Services and Accommodations for the Use of Library and Computer Laboratory:** The library and laboratory are suitable for the size of wheelchairs. If necessary, the library can provide resources and access to e-resources for longer terms.

d) **Services and Accommodations for Accessibility of Information and Information Resources:**

No request was received from students for access to information resources requiring special measures. Students are provided with scanning support according to their disability. Assistance is requested from faculty members when necessary.

e) **Services and Accommodations for Architectural Environmental Planning:**

Wheelchair ramps are completed and easier access is offered at some entrances in response to the difficulties faced by students in terms of architectural access.

**f) Services and Accommodations Offered for Lodging and Transportation:**

Students in need of dormitory are offered free-of-charge lodging and a specifically-designed room. Adjustments are made for transportation among campuses to the extent possible. Special transportation service is provided to two students with physical disability during exams. One student with disability makes use of staff shuttles during the academic period.

**g) Accommodations and Services Related to Scholarship Opportunities:**

Scholarships and book grants are provided.

**h)** **Accommodations and Services Related to Social Environment of the University:**

No attempts were made on the issue.

**i) Other Accommodations and Services:**

Two of our students with physical disability have an attendant accompanying them. In addition, the High School of Health Sciences of our university offers the students in need physical treatment support.

1. **Annual Operations**

**a) Meetings and Events Held with Students with Disability**

Within the scope of Social Responsibility elective course, a disability hunt was performed inside the campus together with BİLGİ TOG (Community Volunteers) Club and our students with disability, and they reported the results.

**b)** **One-to-one Meetings Held With Students with Disability**

We hold one-to-one meetings with our students with disability who receive support from our university when they need and are available.

**c)** **Activities Carried out for Academic Accessibility and Academic Staff**

There is no special activity carried out. Students are informed personally for special exam arrangements at the time of exams.

**d)** **Activities Carried out Across the University**

BİLGİ TOG (Community Volunteers) Student Club has held a workshop titled “FREE FROM BARRIERS” (*ENGEL SİZSİNİZ*) for participation by the students with disability and a movie was screened with participants with their eyes covered for empathy with the visually impaired.

**e) Accommodations for Accessibility of Physical Surrounding**

Ramps were built in the areas required and improvement activities were carried out in terms of transportation (e.g. arrangement of shuttle hours). Cooperation is held with the Faculty of Architecture.

**f)** **Social Life Events Held at the University**

No event was held within the 2011-2012 academic year on the subject.

**g)** **Activities Carried out in Cooperation with Other External Institutions**

Participation was ensured to the 6th Workshop on Barrier-Free Universities and the Meetings for the World Report on Disability at World Bank.

**VI. Units, Centers or Commissions Providing Support for Disability**

The academic and administrative units of our university carry out more participatory and longer-term works on disability every passing year. Mainly Rector’s Office and General Secretary’s Office, as well as other administrative and academic units carry out works on the issue.

**VII. Activities Planned for the Next Year at the University**

We have determined various targets for the 2012-2013 academic year upon the assignment of Prof. Atilla Eriş, Vice Rector, as Chairman of Accessible Education Committee. First of all, the University web page is planned to be revamped for the 2012-2013 academic year together with the newly-elected Unit Members, and schedules are created for participation in the relevant national and international workshops and campus access is planned to be improved.

**VIII. Contact Information of Unit for Students with Disability**

Student Support Center

**Accessible Education Unit**

Sema Bozkır, Unit Official

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**IX. General Problems Encountered and Expectations.**

Accessibility issues outside the university may also affect the university.

Important issues include the fact that vehicles are not accommodated for accessibility, that necessary accommodations are expensive, that it takes long to improve campus access, and that it is difficult or impossible to improve access later.

In general, we expect the Accessible Education Committee to provide more institutional services and raise awareness.