

**İstanbul Bilgi University**

**LAURATE** INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES

**ANNUAL REPORT OF**

**UNIT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY**

**FOR THE 2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The 2016-2017 Academic Year Report, which covers the activities carried out by the Unit and Commission of Students with Disability, has been prepared in consideration of the issues set forth in the report for the 2015-2016 period, and explains the works carried out in this period and the suggestions for future.

Students with visual, physical disability, dyslexia, Asperger syndrome (learning difficulty), hearing disability, autism, chronic diseases and memory deficits were provided with support related to transportation, free car-park, attendant, dormitory, book grants, scholarship and exam arrangements in the 2016-2017 academic year. Thus, the total number of students receiving support was 28. The list of the support provided according to disability types is shown in the chart below.

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| --- | --- |
| **Disability** | **Support** |
| Visual Disability | * Ability to record the courses * Extended time during exams and homeworks, separate exam and observer opportunity * Ability to take exams using computers with screen reader * Free of charge photocopy and scanning * Screen reader |
| Visual Loss | * Ability to record the courses * Course notes and exams written in large font sizes * Observer and reader during exams, exam in separate classroom * Extended time during exams and homeworks |
| Physical Disability | * Recording the courses * Observer and reader during exams, printer * Exam in separate classroom, extended time during exams and homeworks * Ability to take exams using computers in case of writing difficulty |
| Hearing Impairment | * Faculty members teaching the course with their face turned towards the students, aloud and speaking clearly * Provision of course notes and materials in advance to the extent possible * Provision of homeworks and tasks to be assigned in writing * Extended time for homeworks * Extended time during exams |
| Learning Difficulty | * Ability to take the exam in a separate and quiet place with a separate observer * Extended time during exams and homeworks and tolerance against spelling errors |
| Chronic diseases (diabetes) | * Permission for eating and saccharimetry during courses and exams |
| Writer’s Cramp | * Ability to use computers during courses and exams * Exam in a place other than the general exam location and a separate observer * Half of the regular exam time given as extra time during exams |
| Post-traumatic Memory Disorder | * Statement of exam questions briefly and simply and appointment of a separate observer and taking exams in a place other than the general exam location with extra time given * Permission to elect courses with lesser credits in total |
| Autism | * Provision of course notes in advance to the extent possible * Explanation of exam questions and courses by the relevant faculty member using short and simple sentences when necessary |
| Asperger Syndrome | * Support given for orientation and [acquaintance](http://tureng.com/en/turkish-english/mutual%20acquaintance) with the department |

**2. PHYSICAL ACCESS**

**The Works Completed**

* The deficiencies of the disability walkway in Santral campus whose construction was completed were continued to be corrected in 2016-2017 academic year, and repair and improvement works were carried out for the walkway.
* Efforts were continued for taking the measures required for the correction of entrances to the buildings with elevation difference inside **santralistanbul** campus.
* The construction of ramps in the areas required in each of the tree campuses was revised and necessary works were continued.
* Accessibility arrangement works were carried out for the entrance of the Historical Gate in Santral Campus.
* The Faculty of Law Building that has been newly-opened in Santral Campus has been constructed in consideration of accessibility by persons with disability.

**Actions That Must Be Taken**

* The Technical Directorate performed a preliminary work for construction of warning and tactile guiding blocks at the start of stairs in indoor areas for the visually-impaired in each of the three campuses as set forth in the 2015-2016 report, however works could not be advanced further.
* Actions taken for providing appropriate accessibility conditions at the first and last stops of shuttles in campuses and the city in order to allow students with disability to get on the vehicles could not be completed successfully.
* Works were not completed for the provision of audio warnings at the emergency exits of the buildings. Alternative works and inquiries should be made on the issue.
* The ramps that must be built at the entrances of the Lokma and Papaz businesses providing services in **santralistanbul** campus and the works that must be carried out by the operators of these businesses for providing accessibility by persons with disability were supervised by the Technical Services Unit, and no progress could be achieved in relation to the provision of the menu written in Braille in these two locations.
* Efforts should continue to ensure that classrooms are made more suitable for access by persons with disability. No solution could be found for wheelchair users especially in big lecture halls in **santralistanbul** campus. The Technical Directorate performed a preliminary investigation and survey, but no progress could be achieved on the issue.

**3. EDUCATION, EXAMINATION CONDITIONS AND EDUCATION MATERIALS**

**The Works Completed**

* Special exam arrangements for students with disability, which were made available pursuant to the decisions of the Board of Faculties and High Schools, were continued to be monitored at the time of exams for each student individually.

**Actions That Must Be Taken**

* Efforts should be spent for implementing different learning and teaching techniques for our students with disability according to their disability.
* No progress could be achieved in relation to the inspection and implementation of the draft directive on the **Performance of Special Arrangements for Courses and Exams for Students with Disability**, and the relevant academic authorities must be informed.
* The Braille printer which was purchased for the library of **santralistanbul** campus could not be installed as no there was no room in the library.
* No area could be allocated inside the library in **santralistanbul** campus for the education materials of students with disability, and no supporting tools such as notebook computers with screen reader and magnifying software installed could be made available in the library as there was no room.
* The efforts spent for adding a course related to universal design to the curriculum of the Faculty of Architecture taking into consideration of the decisions of the Higher Education Board proved fruitless.
* No program could be made for providing all faculty members (including mainly academic supervisors) and administrative staff with necessary information on students with disability.

**4. WEB ACCESS**

**The Works Completed**

* The infrastructure of the website of the Unit for Students with Disability has been completed by the web management.
* The supervision of access by the visually-impaired to the university website is continued through regular meetings held with the visually-impaired, Accessible Education Officer, IT WEB management.

**Actions That Must Be Taken**

* The “Accessible Education Unit” website could not be launched as no content was uploaded. This will be completed by the end of December 2017, at the latest.
* Efforts should be continued for ensuring access by the visually-impaired to all announcements posted on the website of the university in cooperation with the IT unit.

**5. WORKS ON THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILTY IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**

**The Works Completed**

* Mine Cöbek, Commission Member and Occupational Safety Expert, continued to provide information on how persons with disability should be prepared in case of emergency (earthquake, fire, etc.) and what they should do to protect themselves.

**Actions That Must Be Taken**

* Continuity of emergency information must be ensured, and this information shared must be posted on the Accessible Education website.
* The report on “Works on the Protection of Persons with Disability in Case of Emergency” must be shared with all units.

**6. EVENTS**

* Asst. Prof. İdil Işıl Gül attended the panel “Right-Based Approaches in Disability Studies: Nothing for us, Without Us” held at the 1st Disability Research Congress held at İstanbul University on 24 October 2016 as lecturer.
* Participation was ensured in the name of Bilgi University to the “Workshop on Barrier-Free Universities” held at Zonguldak Ecevit University in May 2016.
* The 8th İstanbul Regional Meeting held at Marmara University on 30 May 2016 was attended.
* The “9th Regional Meeting” held at Boğaziçi University on 3 April 2017 was attended.
* Cooperation and communication is maintained with other institutions and organizations taking into consideration the activities carried out for students with disability.

**Commission**

*Prof. Atilla Eriş, Prof. Koray Akay, Asst Prof. İdil Işıl Gül, Asst. Prof. Itır Erhart, Elka Özkan, Hulusi Orhangazili, Yalçın Kara, Burak Mutçalıoğlu, Safiye Tüfekçiyaşar, Sema Bozkır, Mine Cöbek, Aybala Işık, Alev Çavdar, Nuri Burak Yetgin*