

TAHA HUSSEIN DISABILITY SERVICE CENTER ALEXANDRIA UNIVERSITY



VISION:

TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE, ACCESSIBLE, AND SUSTAINED UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

MISSION

DEVELOP AN ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE DISABILITY SERVICE CENTRE TO BE A UNIQUE REFERENCE IN KNOWLEDGE, CULTURE, AND SOCIAL INTEGRITY; AIMING TO BUILD A PERSON THAT IS ABLE TO SURVIVE AND INTERACT POSITIVELY WITH COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE IN THE UNIVERSITY ALONG WITH CIVIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITIES.

VALUES

TRUST- TEAM WORK – LEADERSHIP – COMMITMENT – FOCUS ON TARGET INDIVIDUAL

ABOUT THE CENTER

In 1976, a disability service center was established in Faculty of Arts/Alexandria University to provide their services exclusively to blind students of the faculty. In 2018 Alexandria University, AMIDEAST and Helm Institution for Consulting Inclusive Solutions formalized their cooperation on the establishment of a university disability center through the Higher Education Initiative Public University Scholarships program, and with a mutual desire to support Egyptian students' quality higher education. In 2019 and based on this protocol of cooperation, Alexandria University council decided to renovate and construct the blind service center to become "Taha Hussein Disability Service Center" which provides its services to ALL Alexandria University students with all types of disabilities across the whole university campus.

CENTER VENUE

The center is located at the Faculty of Arts, Alexandria University

Address: El-Gaish Rd, Al-Shatby Bab Sharqi, Alexandria Governorate.

CENTER GOALS

- Expand the campus resources to a reasonable extent for students with disabilities on the basis of ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION
- Provide EQUAL BENEFITS AND SERVICES for students with disabilities through working on ASSISTIVE & ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGY and ACCOMMODATION
- Help students with disabilities to overcome the social challenges and developing confidence, and live the life they deserve.
- Create a positive and inclusive university community

• Spread disability awareness inside and outside the university campus.







• Work on students' empowerment.





CENTRE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Ensure the equal access to university education with no discrimination
- Afford and track accessibility (learning programs Buildings)
- Provide assistive technology (equipment, and software)
- Give academic support (center staff, volunteers)
- Apply accommodations (lectures, testing)
- Raise disability awareness
- Develop the skills of students with disability through participating and embracing the benefits of the university (Training-Activities)
- Protect the Rights and responsibilities of students with disability in the light of the Egyptian Disability Law number 10, year (2018).

STAFF AND DEPARTMENTS OF THE CENTER

Taha Hussein Disability Service Centre is composed of 23 staff members, and 10 departments, each one provides a specific service distributed across four floors:

- Management (the executive director and the vice executive director)
- Social governmental Service (1 social worker)
- Students affairs (2 Disability services coordinators)
- Braille (5 Braille printers), (3 Alternative format specialists)



- Audio library (one accessible noise isolated Voice and Recording Studio), (3 sound and editing engendering specialists)
- Social work (2 social workers)
- Activities (Sport- Arts) (1 art director)
- Inclusion and Marketing (1 marketing specialist, 1 inclusion specialist)
- Post graduate services (1 coordinator)
- Library (3 librarians)



• Information Technology (7 computer labs), (2 Assistive technology specialist and 2 Accessible technology specialist)



TARGET POPULATION



CENTRE SERVICES

- Adjust and apply the admission procedures for students with disabilities
- Produce Alternate formats: processes and procedures for producing alternate format for students with vision, physical, motor, learning and mental disabilities
- Providing accessible PDF
- Providing accessible Microsoft Word
- Braille services
- Providing the academic materials in Audio versions
- Intake services
- Accessible Testing services
- Determine social case managements and life coaching sessions.
- Afford volunteering to help students in achieving their academic requirements.

• Train students and staff on equipment and software









CENTRE ACHIEVEMENTS

- In 24/7/2019: the establishment of the center board of directors.
- In 28-7-2019: the approval of the center staff members' professional hierarchy.
- An interactive database for 1061 students with disabilities was built.
- In Cooperation with AMIDEAST, the center was equipped with various devices, assistive tools and software for students with disabilities.





• The physical accessibility codes were adopted in constructing the center building.







- Establishment of a committee for the whole university physical accessibility consultation in cooperation with Faculty of Engineering.
- Establishment of a committee to asses, edit and modify the accessibility of university websites, systems, and applications in cooperation with University Information Technology Center.
- Tracking of educational academic platforms to ensure accessibility.
- Establishment and announcement of the policy and list of provided accommodations.

- Formulate the accommodation requests for the academic years 2019-2020 & 2020-2021 (lectures accommodation – note taker accommodation, testing)
- Activate the academic advisor contribution in six faculties.
- Make the initiative of changing the exam format to students with disabilities and obtained the university council approval to change it from subjective to objective for the academic years 2019-2020 & 2020-2021.
- Develop an accessible e- exam system for blind students in cooperation with the measurement and assessment university center (under trial)
- Advocate for students with disabilities rights student admission policies, and got the university council agreement of accepting a blind student in Faculty of Engineering for the first time in Alexandria University history in the academic year 2019-2020.
- In 27/11/2019: the establishment of a sub disability service center in faculty of commerce.
- Achieve many partnerships with Egyptian ministries and Alexandrian NGO's; for example, in a share with "Nozha Rotary Club" we built a voice and audio studio following the sound isolation criteria in order to turn the written lectures and books into audio material for blind and students with intellectual disabilities.









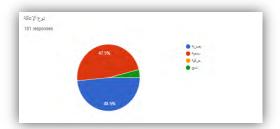






• During the pandemic of COVID - 19 in the academic year 2020-2021, we accomplished a questionnaire of students with disabilities to select the type of exam format they want to accommodate.





• Establish a center Facebook page.

https://www.facebook.com/TahaHussein.Center2019

• Create a team of talented students with disabilities in all aspects of art, and sponsored them to publish their novels in three governmental newspapers.







ابتسامة العذاب قصة: محمد صلاح نتاج ورشة الكتابة والسيكودراما بمركز طه حسين جامعة الإسكندرية 2020 / قصص قصيرة,القسم الأدبي



• Participate in "THE ROAD TO ACCESSIBLE HIGHER EDUCATION IN EGYPT" conference in March 2021



• First Cultural Salon held in September 2021



