Alexandria University commitment and policy that ensures accessibility

Alexandria University already has an institutional commitment to equality and non-discrimination, together with disability-accessibility provisions. Its published values commit the university to equal opportunities without discrimination on grounds of religion, race, gender or age.

Alexandria University Policy on Inclusive and Equitable Access to Lifelong Learning and Community Educational Activities.

1. Policy Statement

Alexandria University is committed to promoting inclusive, equitable and lifelong learning opportunities for all members of society, including individuals who are not formally enrolled at the University.

The University shall promote fair and non-discriminatory access to its publicly available educational resources, community learning activities, professional development programmes and educational outreach initiatives, subject to applicable regulations, eligibility requirements, capacity and available resources.

The University recognizes education as a fundamental means of empowering individuals, strengthening communities, promoting social inclusion and supporting sustainable development.

2. Purpose

This policy aims to:

1. Promote equal opportunities for members of the public to benefit from University educational and community activities.
2. Prevent discrimination in access to learning opportunities.
3. Facilitate participation by people with disabilities and individuals from disadvantaged or underrepresented communities.
4. Encourage lifelong learning, vocational education and professional development.
5. Establish transparent procedures for registration, participation, reasonable accommodation and complaints.
6. Support the University's contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

3. Scope

This policy applies to University-organized activities and resources that are designated for public or external participation, including:

- **Libraries and educational resources:** Publicly accessible library collections, reading facilities and digital educational resources.
- **Public lectures and educational events:** Seminars, awareness campaigns, cultural activities, workshops, conferences and educational exhibitions.
- **Short courses and vocational training:** Continuing education, professional training, community skills development and employability programmes.

- **Professional postgraduate programmes:** MBA, Executive MBA, professional diplomas and other programmes admitting eligible external applicants.
- **Educational outreach:** School visits, science demonstrations, Children's University activities, community literacy programmes and educational convoys.
- **Online learning:** Open educational materials, public webinars and online training opportunities.

4. Principles of Equal Access

Alexandria University shall promote access to its publicly offered educational activities without discrimination based on gender, age, disability, religion, nationality, socioeconomic background or other status protected by applicable law.

Participation shall be governed by clear and objective requirements appropriate to the nature of each activity.

Admission to degree programmes, including MBA and Executive MBA programmes, shall remain subject to published academic admission criteria. This policy does not waive academic requirements or guarantee admission.

5. Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities

The University shall take reasonable steps to ensure that eligible participants with disabilities can access educational activities and resources.

Such measures may include:

- Accessible learning spaces and appropriate physical arrangements.
- Alternative educational formats and assistive technologies, where available.
- Accessible digital learning materials.
- Reasonable adjustments to participation and assessment arrangements.
- Coordination with the Taha Hussein Centre for Students with Disabilities and relevant University units.

Where a requested adjustment cannot be provided, the responsible unit shall consider an appropriate alternative.

6. Financial Accessibility

The University shall clearly communicate whether each activity is free of charge or subject to fees.

Where feasible and permitted by University regulations, faculties and centres are encouraged to provide free educational activities, reduced fees, scholarships or sponsored places for participants facing financial barriers.

No activity shall be described as free unless participation is genuinely free of the stated charges.

7. Public Information and Registration

University faculties, institutes and centres organizing activities for external participants shall publish, where applicable:

- The objectives and educational content of the activity.
- Eligibility and registration requirements.
- Dates, locations and participation arrangements.
- Applicable fees.
- Accessibility arrangements and contact information.
- Any restrictions arising from capacity, safety or professional accreditation requirements.

Information should be communicated through appropriate channels to reach the intended communities.

8. Community Educational Outreach

The University shall encourage faculties, staff members and student volunteers to participate in educational outreach activities, particularly in underserved communities.

These may include school-based lectures, practical demonstrations, environmental awareness activities, health education, adult literacy programmes and vocational guidance.

Outreach activities shall be organized in coordination with relevant schools, community organizations and local authorities, where required.

The University shall seek to ensure that participation is inclusive, safe and appropriate for the age and needs of beneficiaries.

9. Responsibilities

Community Service and Environmental Development Sector

Coordinate the implementation and monitoring of community educational access initiatives.

Education and Student Affairs Sector

Support inclusive participation, student volunteering and accessibility arrangements.

Faculties, Institutes and Training Centres

Apply transparent eligibility and registration procedures and maintain appropriate activity records.

Taha Hussein Centre and Relevant Support Units

Provide technical advice and coordination concerning disability accessibility and reasonable accommodation.

Quality Assurance and Relevant Administrative Units

Support periodic evaluation, documentation and institutional reporting.

10. Monitoring and Evaluation

The University shall encourage the collection of annual information on publicly accessible educational activities, including:

- Number and types of public educational events.

- Number of short courses and vocational training programmes.
- Number of external participants, where records are available.
- Number of outreach activities delivered outside University premises.
- Participation of student volunteers.
- Accessibility arrangements and reasonable accommodations provided.
- Feedback and complaints received and actions taken.

Personal information shall be handled in accordance with applicable data-protection requirements.

11. Complaints and Continuous Improvement

Participants shall be informed of an appropriate channel for submitting concerns about discrimination, accessibility barriers or unfair participation procedures.

The responsible University units shall review complaints in accordance with applicable institutional regulations and take appropriate corrective measures.

12. Review and Approval

This policy shall become effective upon approval by the competent University authority.

It shall be reviewed periodically, preferably every three years or earlier when required by legislation, institutional developments or identified accessibility needs.

Approval Authority: University council

Policy created 2020

Policy reviewed 2021

Evidence supporting this proposed policy

The November 2025 Community Service Council report documents educational seminars, workshops, training courses and literacy activities, while the university's disability-support initiatives demonstrate practical commitments to accessibility.