



---

# **Special/Equal Access Policy for Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya.**

---

Version1.0

DECEMBER 5, 2017

**Part A. (external document)**

**Special/Equal Access Policy for Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya.**

The SAP will address the following.

1. Self-reporting a special need/Identification of students with disabilities
2. Evaluation of application for special access
3. Benefits/reasonable accommodations granted
4. Compliance with special access policy
5. Coordinating Centre for Students with Disabilities (CCSD)

**A-1. Self-reporting a special need/Identification of students with disabilities**

Student upon registration at the faculty can apply for consideration of benefits that are provided under special access policy. The relevant application forms will be distributed to the new students during the registration process and need to be handed over to the dean's office within (two weeks) of enrolment.

Current students can obtain applications from the dean's office upon request. Student has to be currently enrolled in the course for consideration of the application. Both new entrants and current students are urged contact the CCSD for further information on special accommodation and application process.

Eligibility for granting special access will include;

- a) Permanent physical conditions that will require special access (e.g. impairment of vision/hearing, anatomical deformities)
- b) Temporary physical conditions that will require special access (e.g. injuries/fractures)
- c) Re-consideration of the current status of special access granted

**A-2. Evaluation of application for special access/reasonable accommodations**

The applications will be evaluated by a committee nominated by the dean. The committee will have representation from the CCSD (Currently Dr. Samanmalee Sumanasena).welfare committee, medical specialists and other academic staff members as required. The decision of the committee will be conveyed to the dean, who will make final recommendations on granting privileges/reasonable adjustments appropriate for the situation.

**A-3. Benefits/reasonable accommodations/adjustments granted**

The benefits/reasonable accommodations/adjustments granted will be decided on a case by case basis. These benefits/reasonable accommodations/adjustments are intended for facilitating the requirements of a student to minimize the obstacles in achieving his/her fullest potential. If the applicant finds it difficult to continue with his/her studies under the currently granted benefits/reasonable adjustments, he/she can re-apply with a letter

## **Special/Equal Access Policy (SAP) for Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya ver.1.0**

requesting amendments. This application will also be processed as described for a new application.

**The exemptions/reasonable accommodations pertaining to examination related matters will be granted according to the examinations by-laws of the University of Kelaniya. Granting of extra-time for examinations will be subjected to the certification of the Medical Board chaired by the Chief Medical Officer of the university.**

### **A-4. Compliance with special access policy**

The faculty within its limitations will make the best effort to provide the physical and psychological support required to students with disabilities /special needs students. Two working documents have been prepared to systematically address the deficiencies that currently exist in order for better accommodation of special student needs and maintain long term compliance.

- a. Proposed scheme for addressing psychological well-being of students
- b. Recommendations for implementing physical infrastructure required for special access

### **A-5. Coordinating Centre for Students with Disabilities (CCSD)**

The remit of the *Coordinating Centre for Students with Disabilities (CCSD)* is to offer students with disabilities relevant and timely advice, guidance and medical, psychosocial and academic support as necessary to enable equal and equitable access to university education as their peers without disabilities, promoting individual growth and independence. The main focus of the centre is to offer a safe space in which students with disabilities can meet an advisor and discuss their concerns and needs and gain advice on a multitude of areas including their medical, academic, psychosocial or socio-economic concerns. In addition, the centre encourages diversity and equal and equitable participation of all students with disabilities in all aspects of university life by decreasing barriers and promoting inclusion. This includes promoting renovation and upgrade of existing buildings and pre-planning of new infrastructure projects in keeping with current legislature, advice on making accessible sanitary amenities and washrooms as well as appropriate inclusive hostel facilities and extending library resources, helping to mainstream disability into policy and practice. In addition, the centre is committed to challenging societal and attitudinal barriers deterring students with disabilities from full and equal participation in university life, with the support of the entire student body.

**END OF DOCUMENT**