

7.1.7: The Institution has a Differently-abled (Divyangjan) friendly, barrier free environment

- In line with the UGC communication and guidelines regarding compliance with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and in consonance to the National Education Policy NEP that highlights inclusive practices to ensure quality education, Pondicherry University ensures a differently-abled (Divyangjan) friendly, barrier-free environment to promote accessibility and inclusivity.
- The campus facility is designed to provide a comfortable and accessible environment for all. It features ramps, elevators, and accessible pathways for easy mobility, along with specially designed restrooms and designated classroom seating for added convenience. Additionally, ramps with railings, audio supported elevators; e- battery for PwD, desktops with document readable software, wheel chairs are some of the facilities that makes it a barrier-free infrastructure ensuring that everyone, including differently-abled individuals, can fully participate in all aspects of university life without restrictions.
- Additionally, the institution supports learning through assistive technologies and tailored services for students with visual, auditory, or cognitive impairments. These initiatives demonstrate the institution's dedication to provide an inclusive, equitable space where differently-abled individuals can actively engage in academic, social, and cultural activities without obstacles.
- Pondicherry University provides free education to differently-abled students in all the programmes. The Central Library houses the state-of-the-art Louis Braille Centre for the Visually-impaired students and scholars to access content using assistive technologies and gadgets. However, with significant addition to campus infrastructure, amenities and services over the years, and increasing student enrolment.
- The HEPSN (Higher Education for Person with Special Needs) Cell of Pondicherry University actively conducts online meetings with differently-abled students and serves as a service point to various requests from the students. University has also appointed Liaison and Grievance Redressal Officer for Persons with benchmark disabilities.
- Recently, under the initiatives of IQAC, an Internal Accessibility Audit (IAA) was conducted to study and access the facilities in the campus. This accessibility audit focused on the physical environment (space, buildings and amenities) only. The goal of Accessibility Audit was to identify barriers that may hinder the participation and engagement of differently-abled stakeholders and to implement measures that promote equal access and opportunity.
- Conducting an Accessibility Audit helped in identifying areas that needed improvement, and to implement necessary changes, and create a campus environment that prioritizes inclusivity.