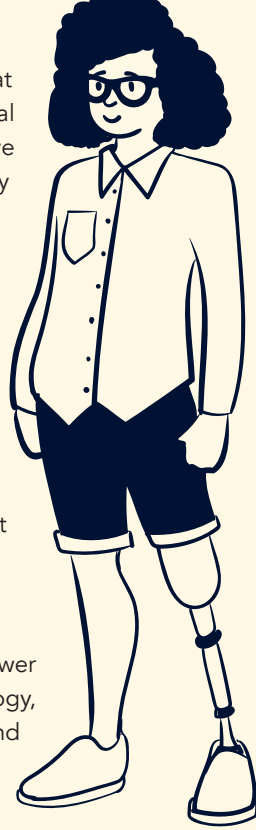


Universal Accessibility & Disability Services (UADS)

About Us

Universal Accessibility & Disability Services (UADS) is a unit that exists to support disabled students and staff and plays a vital role in advising on policy development. The unit plays an active role in committees and forums aiming to embed disability accessibility in everything we do. We encourage students and staff with disabilities/special needs to disclose their disabilities and reasonable accommodations on their application forms for admission and at registration, or as the need occurs. This disclosure will not affect a student's application, but it enables us to plan and prepare for the student's arrival and the support required.



Vision

The Unit strives to be the first choice in providing efficient support services for students with disabilities.

Mission

The unit aims to provide appropriate support services to empower students with disabilities on campus through assistive technology, training & development – encouraging independence and active participation in the academic and extra-co-curricular activities.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How should I approach a person with a disability?

- o Ask before you help
- o Be sensitive about physical contact
- o Think before you speak
- o Do not make assumptions
- o Respond graciously to requests

2. Who do I contact if I cannot read the material being presented in my lectures?

Most modules have a dedicated module site available with course material available. Find out from your lecturer how you can access this site or request the PowerPoint presentations to be emailed to you. You can always ask our Braille and enlargement office for further assistance should you have difficulty consulting your lecturers.

3. I know I am going to have problems with mobility in labs. Who can I contact to assist with my practical assessment

Make contact with your lecturer to arrange a lab assistant to assist with practicals. The lab assistants are adequately trained in JAWS and ZoomText software in the event that the user is visually impaired. Alternatively, you can make contact with our administrative secretary, who will arrange a student assistant from our volunteer database.

4. This is my first time away from home. I know that I'm going to need a personal assistant. Can I apply for funding?

Personal assistance is not covered by the Unit or University. The costs, however, towards a personal assistant is covered by NSFAS Disability. You will need to request assistance from the Unit in this regard.

5. Certain buildings are inaccessible to students with disabilities. Are there alternative routes that can be accessed?

Yes, the unit has made provision for certain lifts to be dedicated to those with disabilities. They can be accessed by student card. Please arrange lift access with the Operations Manager if required. For alternative routes please refer to the 'Accessible Route Map' on the Nelson Mandela University website or request copies from our offices.

6. I would like to be able to talk to students who have a similar disability to mine. Is there a support group?

The unit does facilitate its own programs and events where students with disabilities can interact with one another. A special orientation programme is set up at the beginning of each year to enable the Unit to convey information relating to its services. However there are number of societies and co-curricular activities that students can participate in. The unit advocates for integration and inclusivity in the University community and activities.

7. I do not want any special attention by lecturers and I do not want the lecturer to know that I am a student with a disability but it is really hard because I need their help. Will they understand and treat me the same as any other student?

If you do not feel comfortable approaching the lecturer, please feel free to consult the Student Access Co-ordinators and staff within the Unit.

8. I cannot write for long periods of time but have been managing in my lectures, but because of the upcoming exams I am writing more and I know I will have to write for 3 hours during my exams. I do not want my wrist to cramp up like last year. Can I get extra time or someone else to write for me during my exams?

Yes, you will be required to indicate the need for this during your concession application before you can request the use of a scribe. Once approved, you can book a scribe using our online service. This must be done, 7 days in advance to allow the Unit to arrange a scribe timeously. In the case of exams, the Unit will liaise with the exams office to ensure that your requirements are met during the exam process.

9. I want to further my education and believe I am capable of doing so, but I am worried that I will be excluded from employment, thereafter, because of my disability.

The Nelson Mandela University Graduate Placement department located at each campus has a comprehensive resource database and qualified staff that will be able to talk to you about your concerns.

10. Is transport available to all students with disabilities?

Yes, specialised vehicle transport is available. The decision to offer transportation as a related service to students with disabilities should be made when the student, because of his or her unique needs, cannot access the regular shuttle transportation services on campus or cannot access the buildings comfortably. Arrangements can be made with the Student Access Co-ordinator and Transport Facilitator to make use of this service.



11. What is a concession letter?

A concession letter is a document of requirements needed by a student with a disability, to reach their full potential during their academic year at the university. These requirements are indicated by the student during the concessions application process, with the help of supporting documentation provided by health care professionals.

Foundational Statements

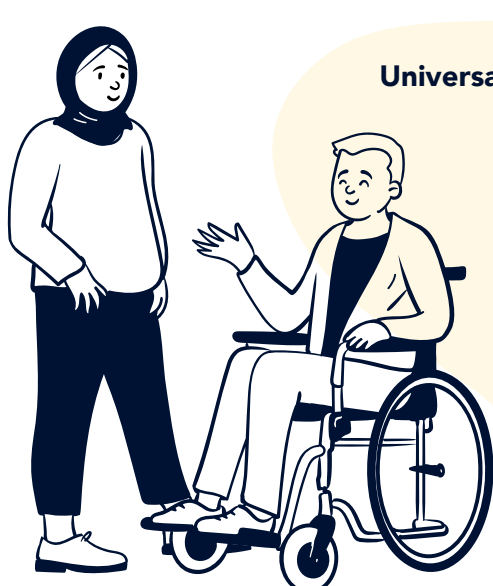
- To advocate inclusivity and integration of students with disabilities without any discrimination.
- To facilitate provision of reasonable accommodations to enhance access for success of differently abled students with disabilities.
- Centre of excellence

Universal Accesibility and Disability services (UADS), located within the Student Life and Development, aims to assist students and staff with disabilities by:

- Establishing reasonable accommodations and support systems;
- Increasing awareness about and advocating for persons with disability;
- Increasing awareness of the abilities of persons with disabilities amongst staff and students, thus providing persons with disability with an equal opportunity to participate fully in all aspects of student/staff life at Nelson Mandela University.

Universal Accessibility & Disability Services (UADS) Support Services

- Braille Transcription and Enlargement Service
- Orientation and Mobility Training
- Advocacy and Advice
- Test and Exam concessions
- Accessible Student Housing
- Accessible Transport
- Assistive Devices
- Scribes and Readers



South campus Main Building, Ground Floor, Room 009

T: 041 504 2313 / 4756 E: Disability@mandela.ac.za

George campus

T: 044 801 5041 E: Jonita.Swart@mandela.ac.za

Braille Office

T: 041 504 2510 E: Braille@mandela.ac.za Ground Floor, Admin Building, North campus

