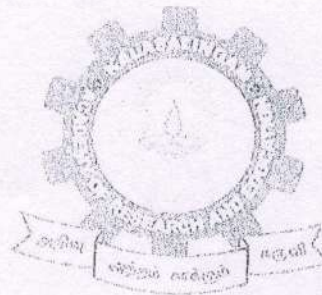


**Policy Document to Ensure Barrier-Free Environment
for Persons with Disability
(BFEPDP 2018)**



Policy Number : KARE/IQAC/PWD/2018/001

Approved by BoM on 37th 15.07.2018





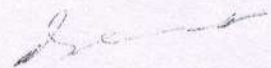
KALASALINGAM ACADEMY OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
(Deemed to be University)
(Under the section 3 of the UGC Act 1956)
Anand Nagar, Krishnankoil-626126, Srivilliputtur (Via), Tamil Nadu, India.
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Policy Number : KARE/IQAC/PWD/2018/001

Original / Revision Number : JULY 2018

Policy Preparation and Verification Team

Prepared by	 Dr. K. Sundar Professor, Department of Biotechnology
Reviewed by	 Dr. C. Sivapragasam Director / IQAC
Compiled by	Dr. C. Ramalingan Professor, Department of Chemistry
Approved by	 Dr. S. Saravanasankar Vice Chancellor
Approved date by the BoM	37 th 15.07.2018

POLICY ON BARRIER-FREE ENVIRONMENT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

1. Preamble

Kalasalingam University (KLU) aims to provide quality education to the rural and weaker sections of the community. The institution ensures equality and dignity to all individuals including persons with disabilities. The institution believes strongly that accessibility should not be based on sympathy but is very much the right of every individual. The institution undertakes measures that are in alignment with the National Policy Statement, which recognizes that persons with disabilities are valuable human resources for the country and seeks to create an environment that provides them equal opportunities, protection of their rights and full participation in society.

In alignment with the universities' policy of providing an equal opportunity to the students with disability to bring them to the mainstream, the university has started special undergraduate program in B.Tech. Computer Science and Engineering for the students of Speech and Hearing Impaired. This is a first of its kind not only in the country but also in Asia. In addition, the university also offers a B.Ed. (Special Education) program with the aim to produce teachers who are specialized in teaching kids with speech and hearing disability.

With this as a basis have prepared a policy for the empowerment of persons with disability.

2. Purpose

- To provide opportunities for students with disability by organizing special degree programs/training programs to make them employable.
- To ensure barrier-free access to disabled individuals in academic, administrative and residential blocks.
- To provide signages at strategic locations so that disabled individuals and others can navigate seamlessly throughout the campus.
- To provide accessibility menus in the institution website, screen reading software and magnifier in the institute systems for easy access by disabled individuals

3. Scope of the Policy

The policy is relevant to all the members of the campus community.

4. Policy Statement

The policy of KLU is not to discriminate against anyone on any basis including disability. The university provides an inclusive environment and encourages the participation of differently abled staff, students and visitors for a gratifying campus experience. The university also ensures that the differently abled staff and students get equal access to all the buildings and also provides assistive technology during the college working hours.

5. Reservation in Admissions

In alignment with the Right to Persons with Disability Act, 2016, the institute follows the state government norms for admission of students with disability.

6. Provision for Accessibility in Facilities

As per the Rule 15 of RWPD Act of 2016, which deals with the accessibility standards for buildings for barrier-free built environment for persons with disability, all the major buildings of the institute have provision for barrier-free environment. These include ramps and handrails, elevators, signage, accessible toilets, wheelchairs and battery cars. These facilities would provide easy access to the disabled individuals to various places in the campus such as health centre, canteen, library and gymnasium.

All the academic, administrative and residential buildings are equipped with ramps and handrails. Steps would be taken to provide at least one restroom with wheelchair access in the ground floor of each building. The university ensures the display of easily visible signage, layout diagrams for easy access to the campus and also provides designated parking space for wheelchair users. Assistance such as wheelchair, battery car would be provided if the visitors or staff, students required one. Whenever required human assistance would be provided to any disabled individual including visitors.

7. Provision of Assistive Technologies

The university has created a accessible website following Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 to facilitate accessibility to different categories of persons with disabilities. Assistive technologies such as screen reading software and, magnifiers for individuals with low-vision individuals are also provided to the staff and students.

8. Provision of Scribes during Examination

The Controller of Examinations is authorized to appoint scribes for candidates who are eligible to avail the services, following the norms of KLU. The scribe should not be an employee of KLU or its sister institutions and, he/she should not be in any way related to the candidate who is appearing for the examination. The education qualification of the scribe should be lower than that of the candidate.

9. Facilitating Scholarships for Divyanjan

Various state and central governments and NGOs are providing financial assistance to differently abled students. The institution would facilitate the financial assistance to the persons with disability by informing the students about the availability of various scholarship opportunities available to them and helping them in applying for the same.

10. Programs for Divyanjan Students

KLU's commitment in creating Equal opportunity for all is evident by the three programs that are offered by the institution:

1. B.Tech. Program for the Speech and Hearing-Impaired Persons (SHIP)
2. B.Ed. (Special Education)
3. Skill-development Program for those with Vision Impairment

Opportunities are also provided to these students with disabilities to participate in various co-curricular and extracurricular activities. In addition, physical rehabilitation measures would be provided to the SHIP students by giving free access to the audiology laboratory, speech therapy and counselling sessions. The B.Ed. program also aims to develop rehabilitation professionals

The university would collaborate with organizations for creating economic rehabilitation opportunities for persons with visual impairment by offering skill-development programs in the campus. Braille material, screen reading software and computers would be provided to these students.

11. Placements for SHIP Students

The university would take sincere efforts, through its placement office, to place the students in reputed companies. Required training is also provided by the. Personality development programs and placement training, to impart the required skill sets, for the BTech (SHIP) students are provided by the Training and Placement Office of the institution to make them employable; this will ensure a dignified life for them.

KLU is a staunch believer of inclusiveness in education and would like to bring that to practice involving all the stakeholders.



Vice-Chancellor

Name: Dr. S. Saravanasankar

Copy submitted to the Chancellor & Vice Presidents – for the favour of information
CC to: Registrar, Controller of Examinations, Directors and Deans
CC to: All HoDs with request to circulate among Faculty members and Web Admin



KALASALINGAM
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Support service for people with disabilities

Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education provides a support system for disabled people to access their rights and needs.

Library service

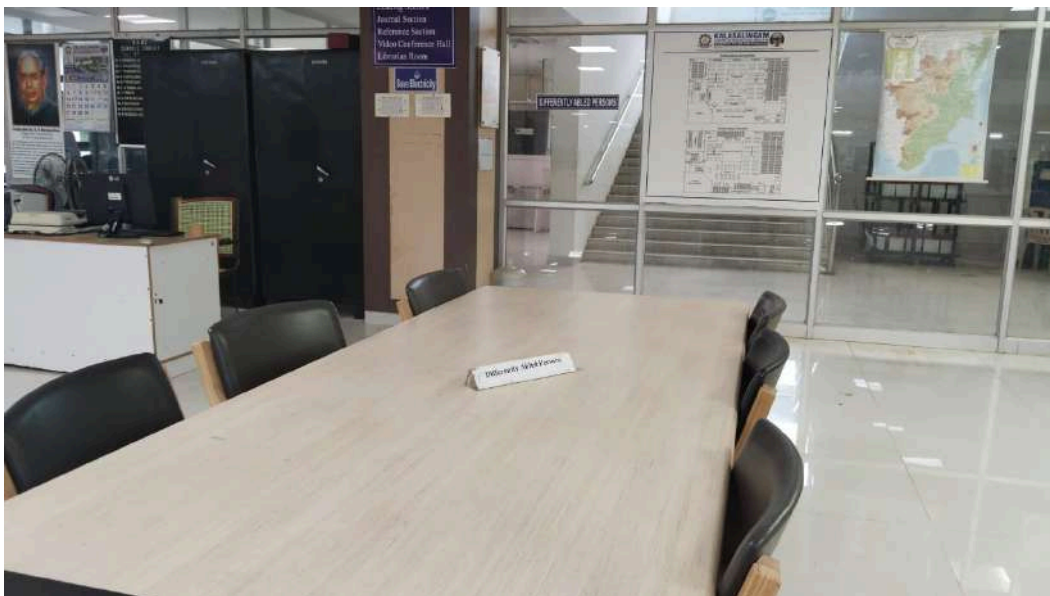
Ramps

To promote equitable access to information and resources, the library provides ramp access at its entrances. These ramps ensure that individuals with mobility impairments can comfortably and independently enter the building, fostering inclusivity and equal opportunity within the library environment.

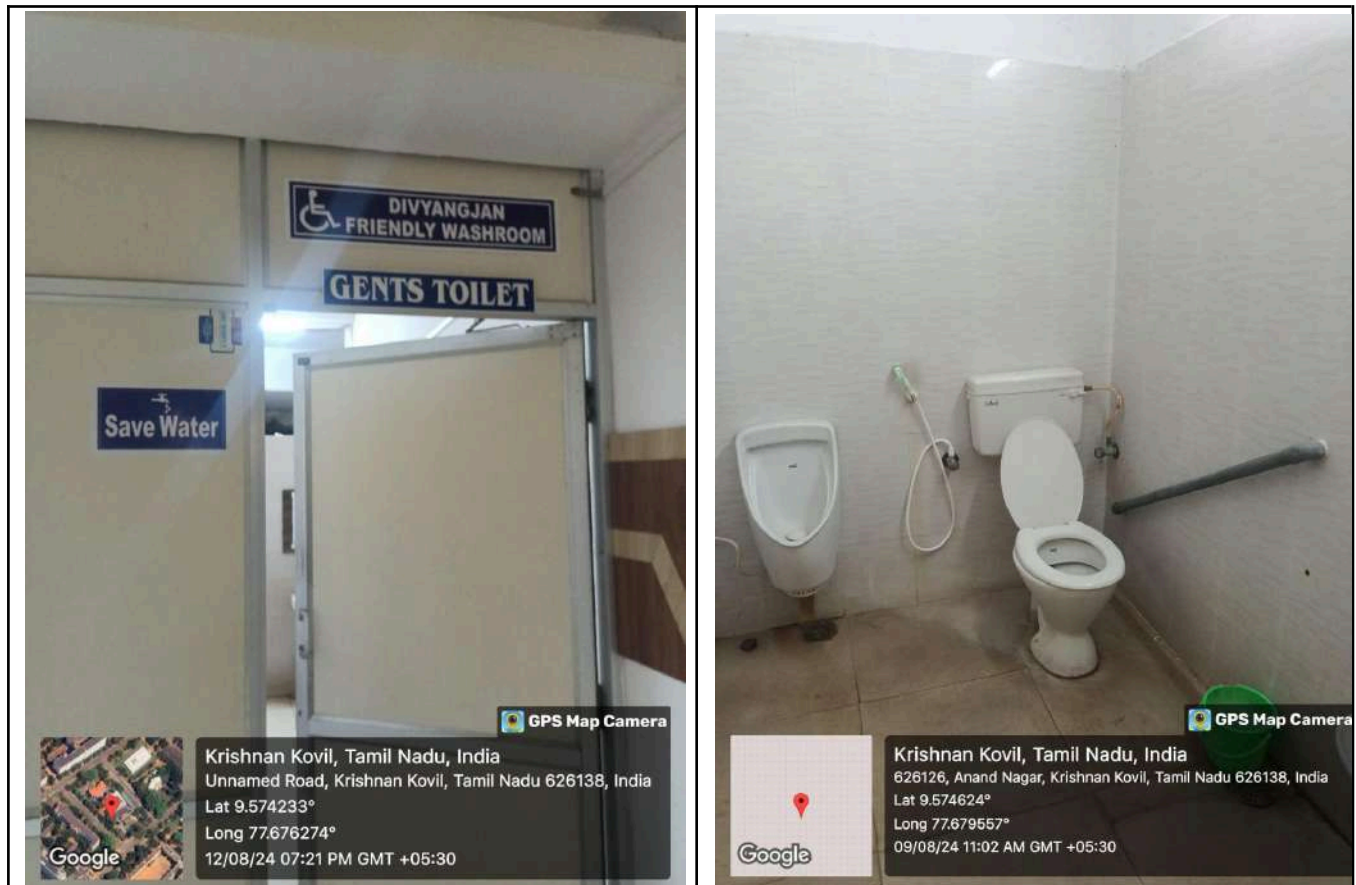


Designated Service Point

The central library offers a designated service point near the entrance specifically for differently abled patrons. To ensure accessibility, two staff members are assigned to provide assistance; their contact information is prominently displayed adjacent to the table, enabling users to readily request support.



Campus facilities for disability

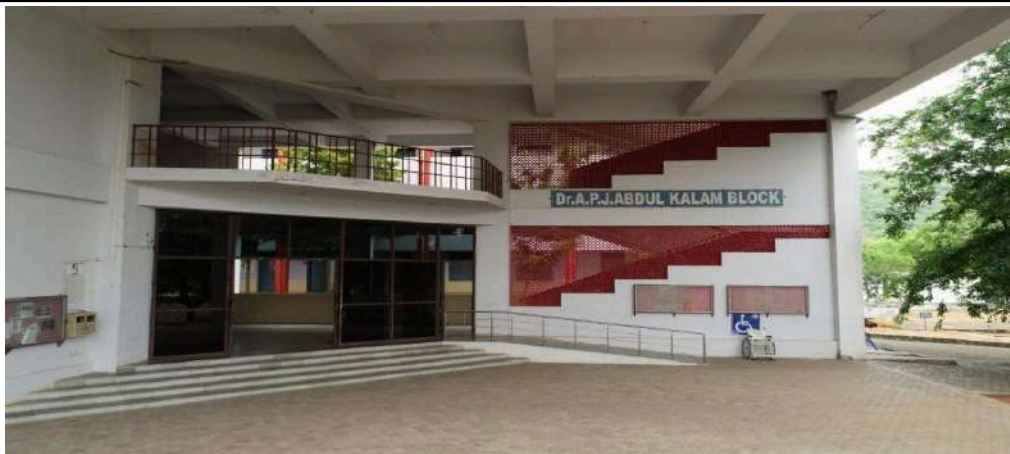


Toilets for Disabled (Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education)



1. Disabled Toilet
2. Accessible toilet for disabled people
3. Ramp, Handrails and Wheelchairs

Ramps and handrails are installed at all academic blocks with wheel chairs at various locations for the ease and safe access of facilities in the campus for the disabled persons.
The institution has disabled friendly, barrier free environment.



Ramps in all blocks

Ramps and handrails are installed at all academic blocks with wheel chairs at various locations for the ease and safe access of facilities in the campus for the disabled persons.

Description:

1. Built environment with ramps/lifts for easy access to classrooms.
2. Divyangjan friendly washrooms
3. Signage including tactile path, lights, display boards and signposts
4. Assistive technology and facilities for Divyangjan accessible website, screen-reading software, mechanized equipment
5. Provision for enquiry and information : Human assistance, reader, scribe, soft copies of reading material, screen reading

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https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Fkgz7kVWfZk1Fg9RIPdK-dOUWPP2qdir/view?usp=drive_link

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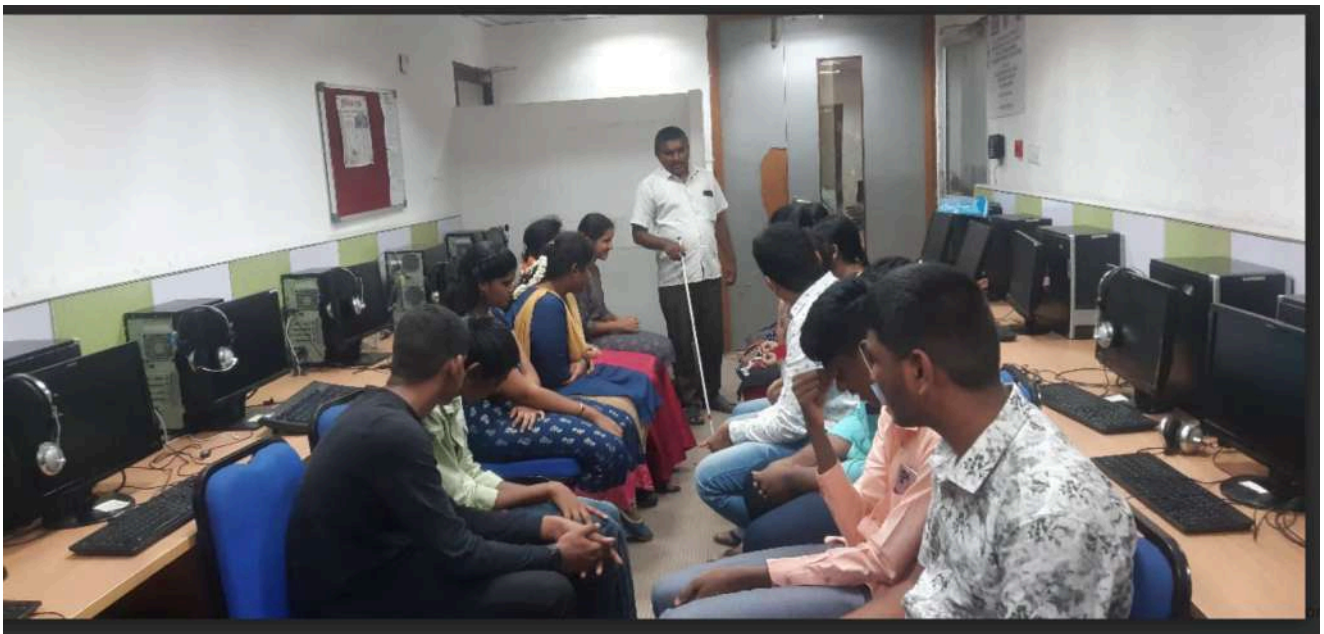
Policy for differently abled:

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Karna Vidya Foundation:

A 6-month computer training program was conducted for visually impaired students, benefiting a total of 22 participants from 01.09.2022 to 28.02.2023 at Tifac-Core Building, KARE campus. The program was fully funded by the management, including training cost, free accommodation and meals for the entire duration. This initiative aimed to empower visually impaired students with

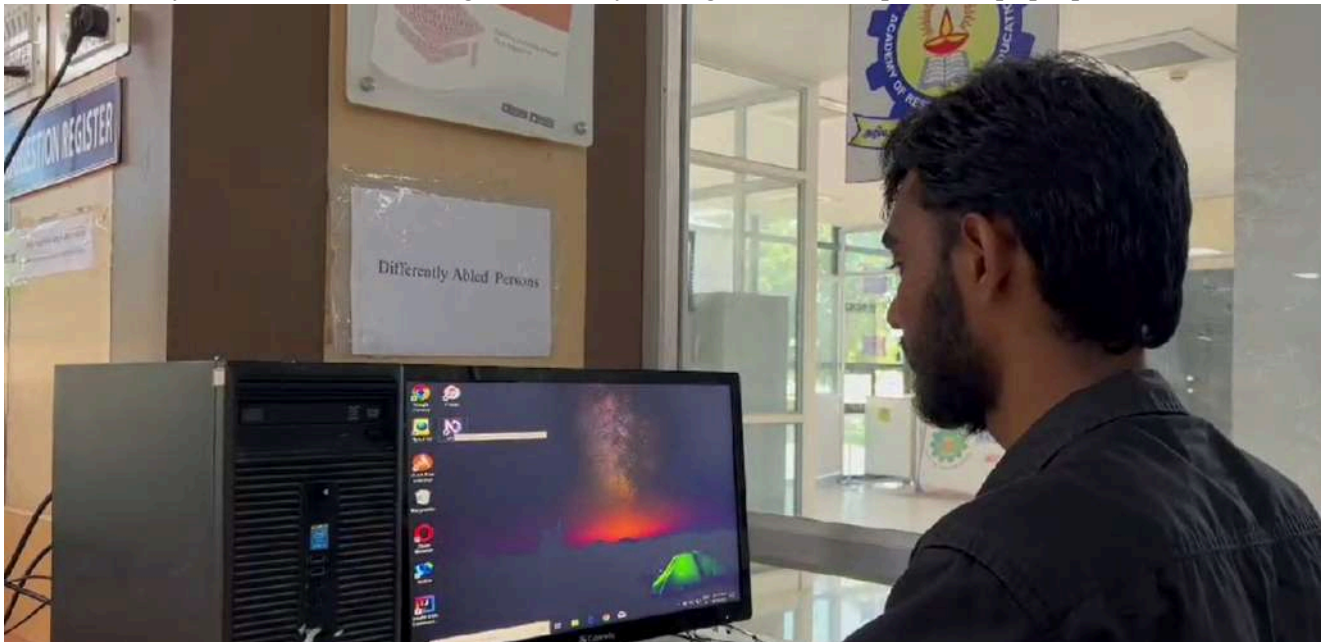
essential computer skills, providing them with opportunities for personal and professional growth. The comprehensive support ensured that the students could focus on their learning without any financial or logistical concerns.





Software for blind people: Screen-Reading Software-NVDA & Narrator

Screen readers such as Non-Visual Desktop Access (NVDA) & Narrator are made available at the library computers and they facilitate reading the text on the screen using computerized voice to assist the persons with visual disability or low-vision in reading. Availability of magnifiers in computers helps people with low-vision.



Video Link for the software is :

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SF2VVsbqDsepvFYGV_5V_Zzwn9RGa9T-/view?usp=drive_link

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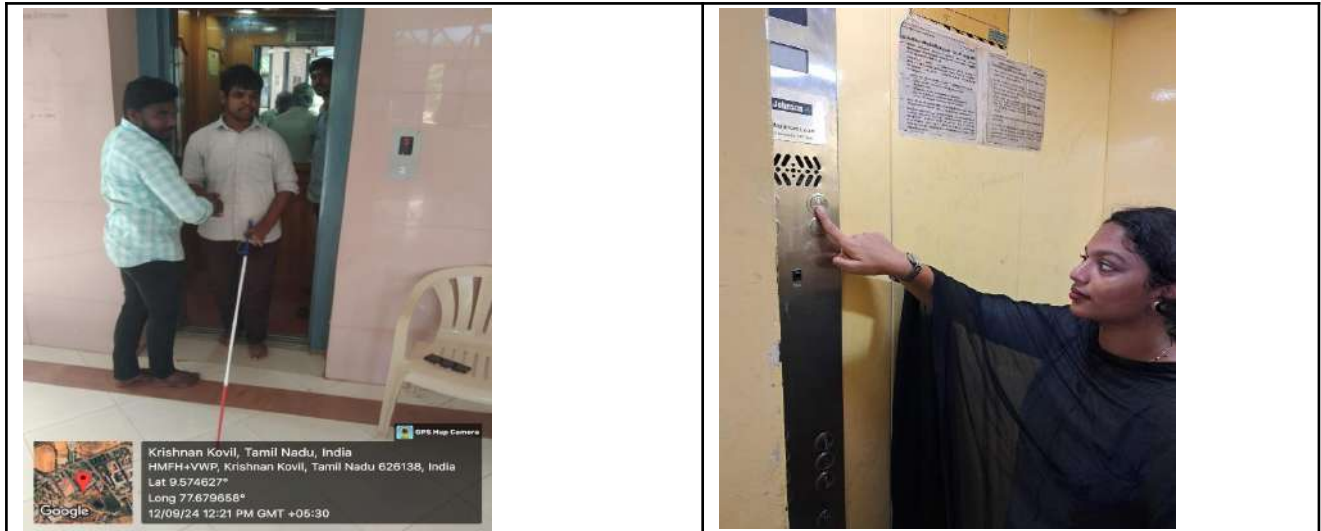
Voice assistance in ATM Machine

Inbuilt voice assistance ATM machines are present in KARE campus, and they simplify the cash handling setbacks experienced by the visually challenged. These ATM machines promote self handling abilities of the visually challenged.



ATM machine with Voice Assistance





Presence of disabled-friendly lifts (braille inscriptions on call buttons)

- Assistive persons in lifts for disabled students at a university can significantly enhance accessibility and support.
- They are trained in Understanding different disabilities and individual needs, Safe lifting and transfer techniques and Emergency protocols.
- Set up a dedicated phone line or intercom system at lift entrances.
- By implementing assistive persons in lifts, universities can create a supportive and accessible environment for disabled students.
- This initiative not only enhances the university experience but also promotes inclusivity and community engagement, ensuring that all students have equal access to campus facilities

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https://docs.google.com/document/d/181Jhl2kxrzwWOZHWzbGOK7BldFrLoFTH/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=113938024005760959391&rtpof=true&sd=true



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Access schemes and support services for people with disabilities such as mentoring or other targeted support

Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education is the first institution in India to offer the special B.Tech. Program for the Speech & Hearing Impaired Persons (SHIP). This course is aimed at those people who need special attention and give them an opportunity to adapt themselves to the real time challenges in the Engineering field. The University has framed the curriculum and syllabus in such a way that after the completion of this course, these students will be on par with other Engineering graduates to cater to the needs of industries. All the classes are handled by the specially trained teachers. This course was inaugurated by the former President of India Honorable Dr.A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on 05 Jan. 2007.

Following courses are offered for the SHIP students.

After completing the 10th grade students are eligible for admission. Students should receive coaching and training in English, mathematics, Physics, chemistry, and computer science, after passing NIOS senior secondary examination students can enroll in the B.Tech SHIP program.

B.Tech. (Computer Science

Engineering)

B.Tech. (Mechanical Engineering)

B.Com

LABORATORY FACILITIES



AUDIOLOGY LAB

The audiology lab, particularly in the context of serving individuals with speech and hearing impairments, is designed to support both academic and clinical needs. To ensure that hearing aids are appropriately fitted and calibrated to meet individual hearing needs. A range of devices for practice and management, enhancing communication for individuals with hearing impairments.

Support for Speech and Hearing Impaired Individuals:

The Customized Assessment and Therapy lab provides specialized assessments and therapy services tailored to the needs of individuals with speech and hearing impairments.



GROUP SPEECH THERAPY



SIGN LANGUAGE DAY CELEBRATION





Students Outreach Program

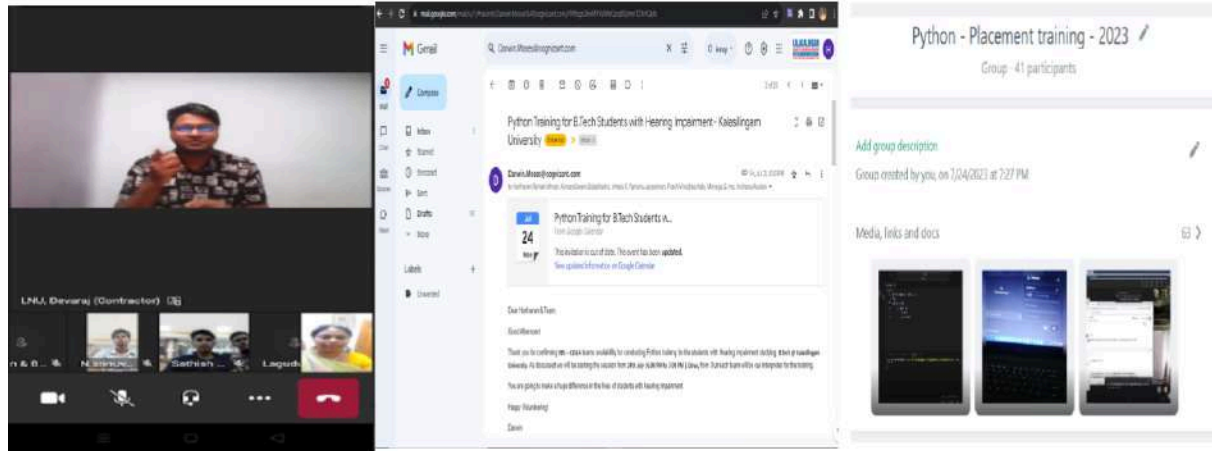


Hearing Impaired
School Students
Outreach Program – BE
CHAMPION'24 on
19.01.2024



Awareness program for utilization of Hearing Aid on 03.04.2024

Python – Placement Training



Placement training for SHIP students from July 24, 2023 to Oct 30, 2023 in association with CTS, Chennai.

Seminar



ONE DAY SEMINAR "IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR DEDICATION TO PERSONAL GROWTH, EMPOWERMENT, AND VALUABLE INSIGHTS GAINED" ON 17 AUGUST 2023

Alumni Engagement - Workshop – Software Testing



KALASALINGAM
ACADEMY OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
(GOVT ENGINEERING COLLEGE)
SCHOOL OF COMPUTING

Department of Computer Science and Engineering
in association with AKCE-KLU-KARE Alumni Association
Organize

**One Day Workshop on
Software Testing**
for CSE SHIP students

Resource Person
Mr. Sripad Prakash
Mphasis, Bangalore

Date : September 02, 2023
Venue : 8401 lab

Event Coordinator
Dr. P. Velmurugadas
Assistant Professor/CSE

Convener
Dr. P. Deepalakshmi, Dean/SoC
Dr. N. Suresh Kumar, HoD/CSE



Workshop on "Software Testing " on 02.09.23

Anti Drug day



Anti –Drug day Pledge on 11.08.2023



Student Holistic Development - Other Events

SHIP



Activity/Events Organized

- Sports Events – Running, Throwball, High jump and Kabaddi



