Students with Disability Policy

1. STRATEGIC PLAN THEME AND COMPLIANCE OBLIGATION SUPPORTED
   Strategic Plan Theme: Learning and Student Engagement

2. PURPOSE
   The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that all current and prospective students with disability and students who are carers of people with disability (“students with disability”) have inclusive access to Curtin University’s (“the University”) buildings and facilities, services, information, events, academic programs, complaint process and public consultations.

3. POLICY STATEMENT
   3.1 Students with disability will have equitable access and practical support to participate fully in the life of the University, including but not limited to:
   • access to services and events;
   • access to buildings and facilities;
   • receiving information in accessible formats;
   • receiving a high quality service from staff;
   • opportunities to make complaints;
   • opportunities to participate in public consultation; and
   • opportunities for employment at Curtin.
   3.2 The University will have a Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (DAIP) which will give effect to this Policy and meet the requirements of existing State and Commonwealth legislation.
   3.3 The University will use Universal Design principles to guide the design of its building, facilities, academic programs, and services.
   3.4 No policy or practice of the University will directly or indirectly discriminate against students with disability. The University will foster positive informed and unprejudiced attitudes towards students with disability amongst its staff and students.
   3.5 All University staff will make reasonable adjustments to allow access for students with disability to the academic programs, services and facilities of the University on the same basis as other students. The University is not required to provide an adjustment that would impose unjustifiable hardship or compromise the health and welfare of the student or others.
   3.6 The University will provide support services to assist students with disability and will provide information to assist staff to meet obligations under disability legislation and the University’s DAIP.
   3.7 The University is entitled to request information or documentation from a qualified and relevant health practitioner about the student’s disability and individual requirements in order to provide reasonable adjustments for that student.

4. SCOPE OF POLICY
   This Policy is applicable to all current and prospective students and staff on all the University’s Australian onshore campuses and locations.
   The guiding principles of this policy will inform practices on the University’s overseas campuses and locations.

5. DEFINITIONS
   (Note: Commonly defined terms are located in the Curtin Common Definitions. Any defined terms below are specific to this document)
   Carer of a person with disability
   Carer is an individual as defined in the Carer’s Recognition Act 2010
Disability discrimination
When a person with disability is treated less favourably than a person without disability. Discrimination may be either direct or indirect (and otherwise, as defined in Disability Discrimination Act 1992, Section 5).

Direct disability discrimination
When a person with disability is treated less favourably than a person without disability in similar circumstances (and otherwise, as defined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 Section 5).

Indirect discrimination
When a person with disability is expected to comply with a requirement or condition, however because of their disability, does not or is not able to comply. The requirement or condition will also be likely to have the effect of disadvantaging persons with disability in a way that is not reasonable (and otherwise as defined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992, Section 6)

Inherent Requirements
The academic requirements of the course or program, and other requirements or components that are inherent in or essential to its nature. (AHRC website and otherwise as defined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 Section 21A).

Reasonable Adjustment
A measure or action taken to assist a student with a disability to participate in education and training on the same basis as other students. An adjustment is reasonable if it achieves this purpose while taking into account the student's learning needs and balancing the interests of all parties affected, including those of the student with the disability, the education provider, staff and other students (and otherwise as defined in Disability Standards for Education, Sections 3.3, 3.4).

Universal Design
The design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need to adaptation or specialised design (and otherwise as defined by Dr. Sheryl Burgstahler, University of Washington (Universal Design of Instruction (UDI): Definition, Principles, Guidelines and Examples).)

Unjustifiable Hardship
In determining whether ‘unjustifiable hardship’ applies, all relevant circumstances of the particular case will be take into account, including: the nature of the benefit or detriment to all persons concerned, the disability of the person and the financial circumstances of the provider (and otherwise as defined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 Section 11).

6. SUPPORTING PROCEDURES

Students with Disability Procedures

7. RELATED DOCUMENTS/ LINKS

Carer Recognition Act 2010
Disability Access and Inclusion Plan
Disability Discrimination Act (1992)
Disability Standards for Education 2005
Disability (Access to Premises – Buildings) Standards 2010
Disability Services Act 1993 (WA)
Diversity and Equity Policy
Fieldwork Policy
Students with Disability Procedures
Travel Procedures for Students
REVISION HISTORY

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