SULLAMUSSALAM
SCIENCE COLLEGE

Accessibility Guidelines and Standards

Policy Document

Sullamussalam Science College Areekode

Affiliated to the University of Calicut

Kerala | India

1. Preamble

Sullamussalam Science College is committed to providing an inclusive, equitable, and accessible educational environment for all learners, including persons with disabilities and individuals with diverse needs. In alignment with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, and the UGC Accessibility Guidelines and Standards for Higher Education Institutions and Universities (2022), the College adopts these Accessibility Guidelines to ensure barrier-free participation in academic, administrative, and campus life.

Accessibility at Sullamussalam Science College is viewed not merely as infrastructure compliance, but as a culture of inclusion, dignity, and respect.

2. Objectives

The objectives of these guidelines are to:

- Ensure equal access to education for students with disabilities and diverse needs

- Create a barrier-free physical, digital, and academic environment

- Promote inclusive teaching–learning and assessment practices

- Provide reasonable accommodations based on individual need assessment

- Institutionalize accessibility through governance, monitoring, and accountability

3. Scope

These guidelines apply to:

- Students (UG & PG), research scholars, and prospective applicants

- Teaching, administrative, and support staff

- Academic departments, hostels, libraries, laboratories, and all campus facilities

- Digital platforms including websites, LMS, ERP, and online services

4. Governance and Institutional Mechanism

4.1 Equal Opportunity & Accessibility Cell (EOAC)

The College shall constitute an **Equal Opportunity & Accessibility Cell** with the following responsibilities:

- Conduct need assessment and recommend reasonable accommodations

- Coordinate implementation of accessibility measures

- Liaise with external agencies (CRCs, DDRCs, NGOs)

- Handle grievances related to accessibility and discrimination

- Support compliance for NAAC, UGC, and statutory reporting

4.2 Policy Oversight

Accessibility shall be integrated into:

- IQAC processes

- Strategic planning and budgeting

- Infrastructure development and procurement

5. Need Assessment and Reasonable Accommodation

5.1 Need Assessment Process

1. **Application** by the student/staff in a prescribed format

2. **Assessment** by the EOAC / Need Assessment Committee

3. **Provision of reasonable accommodation**, with external expert support if required

5.2 Reasonable Accommodation Measures

May include:

- Assistive technologies and devices

- Academic flexibility (attendance, course load, assessment mode)

- Mobility and seating arrangements

- Scribes, readers, interpreters (including ISL)

- Counseling and psycho-social support

6. Accessible Physical Infrastructure

The College shall progressively ensure:

- Step-free access to buildings, classrooms, laboratories, library, and offices

- Ramps, handrails, non-slip flooring, and accessible pathways

- Accessible toilets on each floor

- Reserved and accessible parking spaces

- Clear, high-contrast, tactile and bilingual signage

- Accessible emergency exits and evacuation plans

All new constructions and renovations shall comply with Harmonised Guidelines for Universal Accessibility (2021).

7. Inclusive Mobility and Campus Navigation

- Barrier-free internal roads and walkways

- Orientation support for students with visual disabilities

- Provision for tactile maps / raised-line campus maps (where feasible)

- Priority access to campus transport and facilities

8. Accessible Information, Communication and ICT

8.1 Digital Accessibility

The College shall ensure that:

- Official website, LMS, ERP, and digital platforms comply with WCAG 2.1 Level AA / GIGW

- Online forms, notices, and documents are screen-reader compatible

- Videos include captions and transcripts

- Digital content follows Unicode standards

8.2 Procurement Policy

All ICT hardware, software, and services shall comply with **IS 17802 (BIS ICT Accessibility Standards)**.

9. Accessible Curriculum and Teaching–Learning Practices

Faculty members shall adopt **Universal Design for Learning (UDL)** principles by:

- Providing learning materials in accessible formats (digital, large print, audio)

- Using multiple modes of instruction and engagement

- Allowing flexibility in assignments and presentations

- Ensuring inclusive classroom interaction and respectful communication

The syllabus shall clearly state available accessibility and support provisions.

10. Accessible Assessment and Examination System

The College shall provide:

- Extra time, scribes, readers, or assistive technologies as required

- Alternative modes of assessment (written/oral/project-based)

- Quiet and distraction-free examination spaces

- Accessible question papers and result formats

No student shall be disadvantaged due to disability during evaluation.

11. Student Support Services and Campus Life

- Inclusive participation in sports, cultural, and co-curricular activities

- Accessible hostels, dining facilities, and common areas

- Counseling, mental health, and wellness support

- Gender-inclusive and disability-sensitive campus practices

Student bodies shall actively promote inclusive engagement.

12. Grievance Redressal

The College shall maintain a **confidential, accessible grievance redressal mechanism** for:

- Accessibility-related concerns

- Discrimination or denial of reasonable accommodation

Grievances shall be addressed promptly and fairly.

13. Capacity Building and Awareness

The College shall conduct regular:

- Sensitization programs for faculty, staff, and students

- Training on inclusive pedagogy and digital accessibility

- Workshops on disability rights and inclusive campus culture

14. Monitoring, Review and Continuous Improvement

- Annual accessibility audit and action plan

- Periodic review by IQAC and EOAC

- Inclusion of accessibility indicators in institutional reports

15. Commitment Statement

Sullamussalam Science College reaffirms its commitment to building a barrier-free, inclusive, and compassionate academic ecosystem, ensuring that diversity is respected and every learner is empowered to achieve their full potential.

Reference:
UGC. *Accessibility Guidelines and Standards for Higher Education Institutions and Universities*, Ministry of Education, Government of India, June 2022.