

APPROVED

By the Rector of Rīga Stradiņš University

As of 29 March 2021

by decree No. 5-1/166/2021

Policy for the Support of Rīga Stradiņš University Students With Functional Limitations

1. General Provisions

- 1.1. Student with special needs is a Rīga Stradiņš University (hereinafter referred to as RSU) student with functional limitations¹ requiring adaptation of the study environment and process in order to create equal opportunities for obtaining higher education.
- 1.2. RSU supports students with special needs in various stages related to studies – when selecting a suitable study programme, when enrolling at the higher education institution, and in the study process (study materials, taking examinations, etc.) – and creates appropriate social and physical environment. RSU implements various measures (services) to support all students, which are also suitable for students with functional limitations in order to promote their independence and inclusion in the study process.

2. RSU Support Measures

- 2.1. **Student Services**² – Student Services provides current and prospective students with information and services related to the study process and general information about RSU structural units.
- 2.2. **Accessible physical environment** – part of the buildings where the study process at RSU takes place are accessible to people with special needs.³

In buildings undergoing reconstruction, environmental accessibility is ensured gradually in accordance with building codes and safety requirements. Depending on the chosen study programme, the study process may take place in several buildings, which are located in different districts of Riga, therefore, often it is necessary to travel different distances on a daily basis.

¹ Disability Law: Limited functioning – a disorder of a physical or mental nature caused by a disease, trauma or congenital defect (body's capabilities; abilities to learn, communicate, orientate oneself, move about, take care of oneself, control one's behaviour, activities and participation) which restricts the capacity of a person to work, to take care of oneself and makes it difficult for a person to integrate into society.

² <http://www.rsu.lv/studentiem/studentu-serviss>

³ See: details of academic structural units: <http://www.rsu.lv/par-rsu/kontakti-un-rekviziti>

- 2.3. **RSU Library services**⁴ – many resources (databases, e-books) and services are available remotely. The reading machine "Bruno"⁵ is available for library users with special needs.
- 2.4. **Student portal “MyRSU”**⁶ – students have access to a student portal and a mobile app that combine an option to view everything a student needs in one place, from basic needs such as lecture and lesson schedules and e-studies environment, as well as e-mail, to innovations that significantly facilitate student's daily life.
- 2.5. **Scholarships** – if two or more applicants have equivalent academic results and research activity performance, the minimum scholarship will first be awarded to the student with a disability⁷.
- 2.6. **Study loan** – the borrower informs the credit institution that the person has group I or II disability, which is confirmed by a disability certificate. If after the start of the disbursement of loans the borrower has been determined disability group I or II or if the group changes from moderately expressed disability to more severe (to group I or II), the loan guarantee covers the loan principal balance and interest on the full use of the loan, as well as exempts the borrower from the loan repayment.⁸
- 2.7. **Mentor programme**⁹ – provides mentoring that includes information on support and adjustments at the university.
- 2.8. **Psycho-emotional support for students**¹⁰ – RSU Clinic of Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy offers both individual and group therapies.
- 2.9. **RSU Career Centre**¹¹ – offers RSU students the opportunity to attend career counselling and psychological counselling free of charge.
- 2.10. **Reasonable adaptations** – modifications to the study environment and study process that can provide equal opportunities for learning, referring to the RSU Study and Environmental Accessibility Guidelines.
- 2.11. **E-platform adjustments** – the possibility to adjust text size, text and background colour, font changes, etc. in RSU internet platforms (e-studies, rsu.lv, student portal). For example, suitable for students with dyslexia.

4 <http://www.rsu.lv/biblioteka>

5 <https://www.rsu.lv/atbalsts-lietotajiem-ar-ipasam-vajadzibam>

6 <https://my.rsu.lv/>

7 Scholarship Award Regulations, Cabinet Regulation No. 740 of 24.08.2004

8 Regulations on study and student loans for studies in Latvia from the resources of credit institutions, which are guaranteed from the state budget, Cabinet Regulation No. 231 of 21.04.2020

9 <http://www.rsu.lv/studentiem/mentoru-programma>

10 <http://psihosomatika.lv/page/jaunumi/psihomocionalais-atbalsts-RSU-studentiem>

11 <https://www.rsu.lv/karjeras-centrs>

3. Procedures by Which a Student With Functional Limitations May Receive Support

The University has established a Support Group approved by the Rector, which organises, coordinates and develops appropriate support measures for students with functional limitations, as well as reviews individual student cases, inviting the student and the head of his / her study programme.

- 3.1. The Support Group consists of a representative of the Student Services, a representative of the Department of Infrastructure, RSU Fire Safety and Civil Protection Specialist, a representative of the Library, a representative of the Communications Department and a representative of the Student Union.
- 3.2. In order to implement appropriate support measures, it is important to identify information about students with disabilities. Upon commencement of studies or during studies, the student submits an application to the Student Services regarding the existence of functional limitations and the need for adjustments in the study process. According to the Support Group's conclusion on the need for adjustments and recommendations, the head of the study programme organises the flow of information to the RSU departments involved in the implementation of the programme about the student and his needs for adjustments.
- 3.3. The staff involved in the implementation of the study programme shall act in accordance with the RSU Study and Environmental Accessibility Guidelines.

Rector

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