T.C. ISTANBUL

NİŞANTAŞI UNIVERSITY BARRIER-

FREE LIVING DIRECTIVE

(Acceptance: Senate Decision dated 03/12/2024 and numbered 2024/19)

PART ONE

Objective **Purpose, Scope, Basis, Definitions and General Principles**

ARTICLE 1 - (1) The purpose of this directive is; It is aimed to meet the academic, social and psychological support needs of students with disabilities who study in all programmes/departments at Istanbul Nişantaşı University, as well as to solve the accessibility problems that students with disabilities may encounter during their education periods and to awareness. It is to regulate the working procedures and principles of the **"Istanbul Nişantaşı University Barrier-Free Life Unit**" established to work in line with this purpose.

Scope

ARTICLE 2 - (1) This directive covers the working procedures and principles of the **"Barrier-Free Life Unit**" established within Istanbul Nişantaşı University, which continues its activities under the supervision and chairmanship of the Vice Rector for Education.

Basis

ARTICLE 3 - (1) This Directive has been prepared based on Article 11 of the Regulation on Disability Counselling and Coordination in Higher Education Institutions, prepared in accordance with Article 15 of the Law No. 5378 on Persons with Disabilities dated 01/07/2005.

Definitions

ARTICLE 4 - (1) In this directive,

a) Unit: Istanbul Nişantaşı University Barrier -Free Living Unit,

b) Disabled Student: Students who have difficulties in adapting social life and meeting their daily needs due to congenital or acquired loss of physical, mental, spiritual, sensory and social abilities to various degrees, who are affected by attitudes and environmental conditions that limit their full and effective participation in society on equal terms with other individuals, and who need counselling and support services throughout the education and training process,

c) Istanbul Nişantaşı University Higher Education Units: All faculties, institutes, colleges and directorates affiliated to Istanbul Nişantaşı University,

d) Unit Coordinator: Istanbul Nişantaşı University Barrier-Free Living Unit Coordinator,

e) Academic Counsellor: Faculty members working in the Barrier-Free Life Unit,

f) Psychological Counsellor: Psychologists and specialists who work in the Life Without Disabilities Unit and provide Guidance and Psychological Counselling services,

g) Experts from different disciplines to work on disability: Experts who will cooperate in studies to solve the behavioral, emotional and medical difficulties that may occur in the direction of participation of disabled students studying in higher education programmes in education and social life,

h) Rector: Rector of Istanbul Nişantaşı University,

i) University: Istanbul Nişantaşı University,

j) Senate: Refers to the Senate of Istanbul Nişantaşı University.

General Principles

ARTICLE 5 - (1) The following principles shall be observed in the fulfilment of the services determined within the scope of this directive:

a) In order to provide education in equal and accessible conditions, concrete arrangements such as accessible materials, space arrangements and the use of digital tools are made.

b) In the decisions to be taken and services to be provided for students with disabilities, the opinions of students with disabilities, families of students with disabilities, non-governmental organisations working on disability rights, academicians from various disciplines within the University and different Universities can be taken, their experiences can be evaluated, and cooperation can be provided when necessary.

c) All kinds of arrangements and services to be made by all units of Istanbul Nişantaşı University for disabled students are carried out under the coordination and consultancy of the "**Barrier-Free Life Unit**".

PART TWO

Functioning Structuring and Working Principles of the Disabled

Student Unit Functioning of the Disabled Student Unit

ARTICLE 6 - (1) The management of **the "Istanbul Nişantaşı University Disabled Student Unit"** consists of the **"Barrier-Free Life Unit Coordinator",** at least one academic counsellor, at least one psychological counsellor and experts from different disciplines on disability (sociologists, social workers, special education specialists, specialists working in medical departments, etc.) they are assigned within the university, under the chairmanship and responsibility of the Vice Rector responsible for education determined by the Rector of Istanbul Nişantaşı University. The University student representative and the disabled student representative may also be invited to the meetings for their opinions to take an active role in the decisions to be taken and the arrangements to be made. The disabled student representative is responsible for evaluating the effective applicability of the decisions taken and providing feedback to the unit. When necessary, academics working in different disciplines are also included in the meetings for the exchange of views and support.

(2) The Unit reports directly to the Rectorate in its activities. Unit members are appointed by the Rectorate of Istanbul Nişantaşı University for a period of three years members whose terms of office expire may be reappointed.

Disabled Student Unit Coordinator

ARTICLE 7 - (1) Istanbul Nişantaşı University Coordinates the implementation of the decisions to be taken in the Disabled Student Unit, supervision of the work carried out, realization of the arrangements for disabled students and coordinates the work in cooperation with the personnel working in the Departments Deanships Institute and School Directorates in order to meet the needs.

Academic Counsellor

ARTICLE 8 - (1) It ensures the transfer of the adaptations needed by the students who continue their education in the higher education programmes/departments of the University to the faculty members, carries out studies with the **"Barrier-Free Life Unit Coordinatorship"** to ensure the academic conditions to be considered in line with the student's needs, and provides consultancy to faculty members and disabled students.

Psychological Counsellor

ARTICLE 9 - (1) It provides interviews with the student for the solution of behavioral and emotional difficulties that may arise in the direction of participation of disabled students who continue their education in the higher education programs of the University in education and social life, and provides support as a consultant and practitioner for social responsibility projects and awareness studies in the fields of activity of the **"Life Without Barriers Unit Coordinatorship".**

Experts from Different Disciplines to Work on Disability

ARTICLE 10 - (1) It conducts interviews with the student for the solution of behavioral, emotional, technological and medical difficulties that may arise in the fields of behavioral, emotional, technological and medical difficulties that may occur in the direction of the participation of disabled students who continue their education in the higher education programs of the University in education and social life. Provides consultancy to the studies carried out in the fields of activity of the **"Life Without Barriers Unit Coordinatorship"** within the framework of expertise. They can support the activities to be carried out in social responsibility projects, awareness activities and similar areas as an organizer and consultant.

Duties of the Disabled Student Unit

ARTICLE 11 - (1) The duties of the **"Istanbul Nişantaşı University Disabled Student Unit**" are as follows:

a) To obtain the information of disabled students who are entitled to receive education in the higher education programmes of the University from **"Student Affairs Department**" determine the needs of the registered disabled students regarding education training, scholarship administrative, physical housing, social and similar areas during their education, to take measures to meet these needs, to identify offer solutions the necessary arrangements in coordination with other units and Departments at the University,

b) In order to organize curricula in a way that does not hinder the academic, physical and social lives of students with disabilities, to adapt the educational environment in which the disabled student continues, to provide equipment for the disabled, to prepare special course materials, to organize appropriate educational and research environments; to carry out studies and support studies on digital access, accessibility of distance education materials and physical space improvements,

c) carry out publication activities related to disability for students and lecturers at higher education level, to define disability and disabled people for lecturers, to analyze the problems encountered

To prepare documents containing the problems and the necessary arrangements to be made, to increase the level of awareness, to provide consultancy services to those concerned and to provide in-service training to the University staff, when necessary,

d) To prepare and execute the work programme of the unit, prepare the annual activity report and submit it to the "Vice **Rector of Istanbul Nişantaşı University**",

e) Developing programmes/departments and projects, organizing seminars, conferences and similar activities to increase the level of awareness and sensitivity in the field of disability,

f) To create an accessible website that includes publications, documents and information for the parties of the subject, allowing disabled students to express their problems and requests and to communicate with the unit, and to update the website at least once a year, to prepare an interactive platform and access guides where disabled students can express their problems,

g) To supervise the implementation of decisions taken and strategies determined in the fields of disability and accessibility,

h) To make efforts to provide the necessary tools and equipment to help disabled students with financial difficulties to continue their education,

i) To make arrangements for the inclusion of methods and accessibility solutions for individuals using different learning methods in the undergraduate programmes of higher education institutions by including appropriate areas in the courses and training programmes and to carry studies for their implementation,

j) In order to ensure the full participation of students with disabilities in educational life in line with the principle of equal opportunity, taking into account that all higher education students are subjected to fair and accurate measurement and evaluation, to provide solutions to the needs of students such as time, place, material, assistant, reader, printer, marker, etc. related to exams, to take measures according to differences, to cooperate with the relevant departments to make arrangements, to provide consultancy to the lecturers and to organize information seminars for lecturers on exam adaptations,

k) To ensure that informative documents on employment opportunities and professions are prepared with the support of the relevant units and delivered to students with disabilities,

l) To carry out studies to make the university campuses and the buildings and open spaces on the campuses healthy, safe, accessible and accessible for everyone, not only for disabled students.

m) The Barrier-Free Life Unit is obliged to submit an annual report on the activities of the unit to the rectorate within one month following the end of each academic year.

PART THREE

Miscellaneous and Final Provisions

Cases Not Provided

ARTICLE 12 - (1) In cases where there is no provision in this directive, the provisions of other relevant legislation and the decisions of the senate and the boards of the relevant units are applied, taking the opinion of the **"Disabled Student Unit Coordinatorship".**

Repealed Directive

ARTICLE 13 - (1) As of the effective date of this directive, the Istanbul Nişantaşı University Disabled Student Counselling Unit Directive, which was accepted at the meeting of the University Senate dated 03/12/2024 and numbered 2024/19, has been abrogated.

Enforcement

ARTICLE 14 - (1) This directive on the organization and working principles of the **"Istanbul Nişantaşı University Barrier-Free Life Unit"** enters into force on the date of its adoption by the Istanbul Nişantaşı University Senate.

Execution

ARTICLE 15 - (1) The provisions of this directive are executed by the Rector of Istanbul Nişantaşı University.