SDG 10
REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Content Overview

01	Support for Underrepresented Groups	Page 2 - 4
02	Disability Support Services	Page 5 - 12
03	Disability Access Schemes	Page 13 - 16
04	Dedicated Office for Inclusivity	Page 17

01 Support for Underrepresented Groups

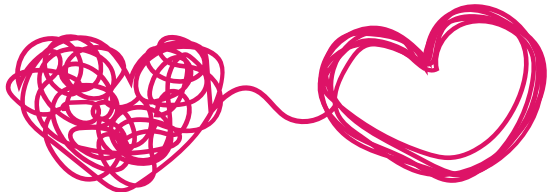
Malaysia is a multi-ethnic country with long history of tradition and culture. While this diversity contributes to the nation's strength, differences in social and economic circumstances may also influence individuals' access to opportunities, resources and participation in various aspects of society.

As one of Malaysia's leading public higher education institutions, Universiti Malaya recognises its responsibility to contribute towards a more inclusive and equitable society. The University acknowledges that members of its community may encounter different challenges and barriers, particularly those from underrepresented groups.

In this regard, Universiti Malaya continues to strengthen its institutional commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion through policies, support mechanisms and targeted initiatives that promote equitable access to education, campus facilities and opportunities for personal and professional development.

Examples include:

- **Free Laptop Distribution** (Page 3)
- **Program Pembangunan Siswa Sulung** (Page 4)



Free Laptop Distribution

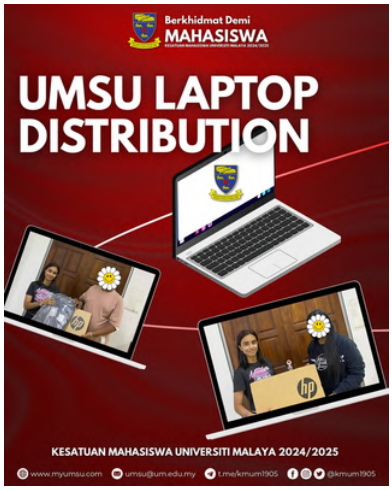
With the world moving towards systemisation and digitalisation, laptop has become a staple for students to experience their university life. Starting from arranging their class schedule to assessing course resources all the way to graduation, all of the process involve digital system where electronic devices become important.

However, not everyone is as fortunate as others whereby the technology could be not accessible as compared to someone else. Seeing the challenge faces by the students, Universiti Malaya through its Student Affairs Department has initiated a free laptop distribution programme targeting B40 students (bottom financial quintile group).

Other than the support given by the Students Affair Department, the Universiti Malaya Students Union also had collaborated with YB Fahmi Fadzil, Lembah Pantai Parliamentary member, to distribute free laptops to targeted student especially from underrepresented communtities.

These supports aim to improve their student life experience by providing them with the necessities for them to go through daily life on campus.







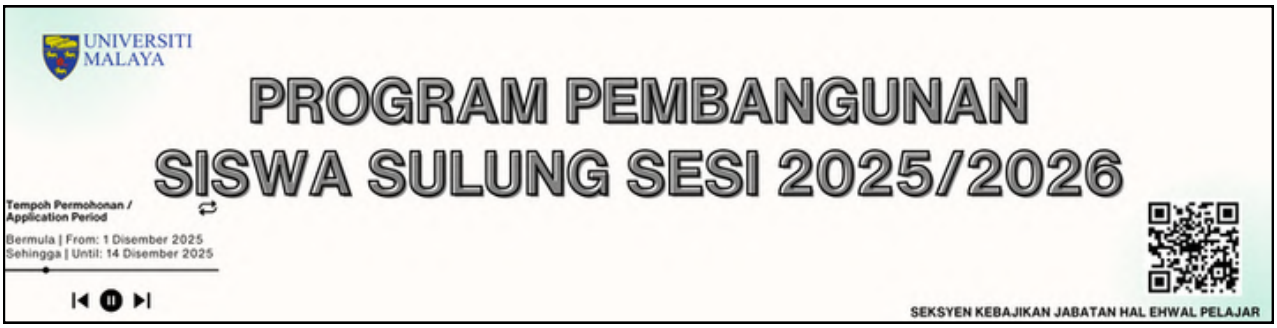
Program Pembangunan Siswa Sulung

Program Pembangunan Siswa Sulung is a programme introduced through the Ministry of Higher Education in increasing assesibility towards higher education. The programme provides supports in the form of tuition fee coverage for the first children in the family to receive formal tertiary education.

As one of the public institutions in Malaysia, the programmed extend to Universiti Malaya where it will support first-generation students especially the one coming from underprivileged families.

As of 2025, it is the fourth edition of the support programme where thousands of students have received its benefit. With the inception of this programme, it will help to increase the education level of Malaysians in general by providing them an avenue in continuing their tertiary level education.





Disability Support Services

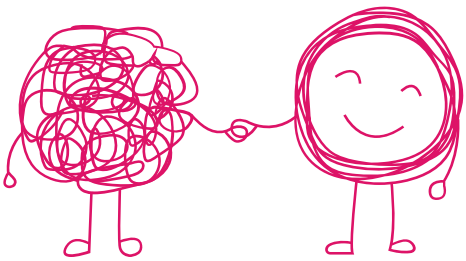
Universiti Malaya strives to foster an inclusive, accessible and supportive campus environment for persons with disabilities . Guided by its commitment to equality, dignity and equal opportunities, the University seeks to ensure that persons with disabilities are recognised as valued members of the university community and are able to participate meaningfully in academic, social and campus activities.

Beyond the provision of support and assistance, Universiti Malaya places emphasis on strengthening disability awareness and promoting a culture of inclusion across the campus. Through a range of events, programmes and engagement activities, the University seeks to enhance understanding of disability-related needs, encourage interaction and participation, and cultivate greater awareness among students, staff and the wider university community.

These ongoing efforts reflect the University's commitment in advancing disability support systems as an integral part of its broader inclusivity agenda.

Examples include:

- **Celebrating Inclusivity at UM: Inclusivity Carnival 2025** (Page 6)
- **Projek Syawal Istimewa: Cahaya Kasih UM 2025** (Page 6)
- **Adaptive Diving: Disability Support Through Therapeutic Recreation** (Page 6)
- **Disability Awareness and Empathy Training for Dentistry Students** (Page 7)
- **Meet & Greet with Students with Disabilities** (Page 7)
- **Satu Hari, Satu Bahasa Isyarat** (Page 8)
- **International Day of Persons with Disabilities Fun Run** (Page 8)
- **Accessibility and Universal Design Training Course** (Page 9)
- **Celebrating the Launch of "Journey of Glory" by AUN-DPPnet** (Page 10)
- **UM Special Committee on Neurodiversity** (Page 11)
- **Developing Inclusive Employment Guidelines for Neurodiverse Communities** (Page 11)
- **UM-InOKU Guidelines for an Inclusive Campus** (Page 12)



Celebrating Inclusivity at UM: Inclusivity Carnival 2025

The Inclusivity Carnival 2025, held on 26 April at Dewan Tunku Canselor showcased UM's dedication to promoting an inclusive and accessible campus environment. Participants enjoyed engaging in Bocce and Tandem Cycling activities alongside individuals with special needs from Special Olympics Malaysia (Putrajaya), the Malaysian Association for the Blind (MAB), and UM's Centre for Counselling and Disability Empowerment (CCDE). Complemented by pre-event training sessions, dental screenings, and educational booths, the carnival provided a holistic experience that emphasised fun, learning, and meaningful interaction.



Projek Syawal Istimewa: Cahaya Kasih UM 2025

Projek Syawal Istimewa: Cahaya Kasih UM 2025 reflects UM's commitment to supporting persons with disabilities through inclusive welfare initiatives. In conjunction with Hari Raya Aidilfitri, the project brought joy to children of staff from the OKU community by providing new festive clothing, ensuring they could celebrate Syawal with dignity and happiness.



Adaptive Diving: Disability Support Through Therapeutic Recreation

UM Medical Centre (UMMC) specialists participated in the Adaptive Diving: Dive With a Purpose programme, organised by Diveheart Malaysia in collaboration with Hospital Rehabilitasi Cheras at Mimpi Perhentian Resort (6–8 October 2025). The initiative provided children with disabilities the opportunity to experience guided open-water diving following months of structured training. In a zero-gravity underwater environment, participants were able to move more freely, supporting physical rehabilitation while strengthening emotional confidence and resilience.

The involvement of UMMC medical experts ensured safe implementation and reinforced UM's commitment to inclusive support services that enhance the well-being, dignity, and empowerment of persons with disabilities.

Disability Awareness and Empathy Training for Dentistry Students

A session on Disability Awareness and Empathy was conducted with students from the Faculty of Dentistry, led by En. Firdaus Abu Hassan from the Centre for Counselling & Disability Empowerment (CDE). The training aimed to raise awareness about the needs of students with disabilities and promote understanding among peers. By encouraging empathy and inclusive practices, the session helped cultivate a supportive campus environment where all students can thrive together.





Meet & Greet with Students with Disabilities

A Meet & Greet session was held with 35 students with disabilities, creating a safe and meaningful space for open dialogue with university management. The session allowed students to share their experiences, needs, and aspirations, fostering understanding, trust, and a stronger sense of inclusion within the UM campus community.



Satu Hari, Satu Bahasa Isyarat





The Satu Hari, Satu Bahasa Isyarat initiative by the Centre for Counselling and Disability Empowerment (CCDE) UM introduces simple Bahasa Isyarat Malaysia (BIM) signs to the campus community. Through the Satu Isyarat, Sejuta Makna project, students and staff are encouraged to learn basic signs that help improve communication with the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing community. This small but meaningful effort promotes awareness, empathy, and better understanding across campus.

By sharing these short educational videos in conjunction with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, CCDE helps build a more inclusive environment where everyone feels welcomed and supported. The initiative also strengthens everyday interactions, making UM a place that values connection and accessibility for all.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities Fun Run





The Charity Fun Run held on 16 November 2025 in conjunction with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPWD) marked a meaningful expression of UM's commitment to promoting inclusivity and disability awareness. Organised by the UM Medical Centre (UMMC), the event drew strong participation from the UM community, UMMC personnel and surrounding neighbourhoods, reflecting a shared dedication to celebrating diverse abilities and fostering a more understanding society. Beyond a recreational activity, the run served as a platform to strengthen public awareness, highlight the importance of equal participation, and encourage a more empathetic and supportive campus culture.

Accessibility and Universal Design Training Course

In collaboration with ASEAN University Network - Disability and Public Policy Network (AUN-DPPnet), Universiti Malaya has successfully organised the 9th batch of the Accessibility and Universal Design Training (AUDT) course.

The program brought together 13 outstanding Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) from across ASEAN, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Brunei, Thailand, and Vietnam.
Designed to strengthen accessibility and inclusivity, the AUDT course aimed to equip participants with essential knowledge and practical skills to address accessibility challenges faced by PwDs. The training emphasized disability-related policies, universal design principles, and the implementation of inclusive access in both public and private buildings.
A key feature of the program was the hands-on Access Audit conducted at Rawatan Utama Klinik Am (RUKA), Universiti Malaya Medical Centre. Participants assessed real-world accessibility barriers, proposed practical improvements, and later compiled their findings into comprehensive audit reports. These reports were formally presented at the conclusion of the program, demonstrating the participants' growing expertise as future Access Inspectors.







Celebrating the Launch of "Journey of Glory" by AUN-DPPnet



The ASEAN University Network–Disability and Public Policy Network (AUN-DPPnet) proudly launched its commemorative book, *Journey of Glory*. The publication captures the network's evolution from its early beginnings into a respected regional platform advocating for inclusivity, equal access to education and enhanced opportunities for persons with disabilities. Featuring notable milestones, impactful initiatives and the inspiring journeys of scholars who have transformed challenges into achievements, the book highlights the depth and reach of AUN-DPPnet's mission.

Beyond documentation, *Journey of Glory* reflects the network's sustained commitment to empowering individuals from underrepresented groups through scholarship programmes, research collaborations and capacity-building efforts. These initiatives provide essential guidance, support and opportunities for students and emerging leaders with disabilities across ASEAN. By uplifting voices and enabling progress, AUN-DPPnet continues to cultivate a community of changemakers who contribute meaningfully to a more inclusive and equitable region.



UM Special Committee on Neurodiversity



The Special Committee on Neurodiversity, chaired by the Registrar, YBrs. Prof. Ir. Dr. Abdul Aziz Abdul Raman, reflects a meaningful step towards strengthening inclusive governance within UM. The committee held its first meeting on 18 December 2025, serving as a platform to advance discussions and initiatives related to neurodiversity, with a focus on developing more inclusive policies, support systems, and campus practices that recognise and accommodate diverse cognitive and learning needs. It underscores the university's commitment to fostering a supportive environment where both students and staff are valued and enabled to participate fully in academic and workplace settings.



Developing Inclusive Employment Guidelines for Neurodiverse Communities

A public consultation forum was held in March 2025 to gather feedback for the development of a Guideline for the Employment of Neurodiverse Individuals, an initiative led by UM to advance inclusive employment practices in Malaysia. The session brought together community representatives and stakeholders to contribute perspectives and recommendations that would help shape a comprehensive and practical framework for supporting neurodiverse individuals in the workplace.



The guideline is intended to serve as a reference for creating fair, accessible, and supportive employment opportunities for neurodiverse individuals, including persons with autism, ADHD, dyslexia, Tourette syndrome, and other neurodevelopmental conditions. As a pioneering initiative by UM, it aims to promote equitable recruitment, workplace accommodations, and sustainable career development pathways while encouraging greater workforce participation and inclusion for neurodiverse communities.

UM-InOKU Guidelines for an Inclusive Campus

The UM-InOKU Guidelines for an Inclusive Campus introduced by UM represent a major step towards strengthening inclusivity and accessibility for persons with disabilities within higher education institutions. Officially launched in March 2025, the guidelines were developed as a comprehensive framework covering policy and governance, teaching and learning, campus accessibility, and support systems for students and staff with disabilities. The initiative aligns with the Persons with Disabilities Act 2008, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), and Malaysia's inclusive education agenda.

The UM-InOKU Guidelines are also set to become an important reference for public universities in Malaysia in managing the needs and welfare of persons with disabilities on campus. The framework emphasizes equal access to education, accessible infrastructure, inclusive teaching practices, mobility assistance, peer support, and disability-friendly accommodation. In addition, the initiative has attracted regional attention through the ASEAN University Network (AUN), where UM proposed the guidelines as a model for developing inclusive campuses across ASEAN universities.

Launched in 2025

Universiti Malaya Inclusive Campus Guidelines for Persons with Disabilities



10

Disability Access Schemes

Universiti Malaya (UM) recognises that creating an inclusive and accessible campus requires a coordinated support system that responds to the diverse needs of persons with disabilities (PwD). Through its Disability Access Scheme, the University seeks to strengthen institutional support and facilitate access to appropriate assistance, resources and opportunities, ensuring that persons with disabilities are supported throughout their university experience.

This commitment is reinforced through a network of dedicated support structures, including designated officers, administrative offices, student committees and associations that focus on disability inclusion and advocacy. These respective bodies play an important role in facilitating communication, coordinating support, representing the interests of persons with disabilities and fostering collaboration between students, university management and the wider campus community.

By strengthening these support mechanisms and encouraging active participation from both the University and its student community, UM strives to establish a more responsive and supportive environment where persons with disabilities can access the assistance they need, exercise their independence and participate fully in university life.

Examples include:

- **Persatuan Mahasiswa Istimewa Universiti Malaya (PERMIUM)** **(Page 14)**
- **AUN-DDPnet Scholars Monthly Support Programme** **(Page 15)**
- **Student Support and Inclusive Engagement through the JTKD OKU** **(Page 15)**
- **PPDK P.I.N.T.A.R UM: Strengthening Disability Support Services** **(Page 16)**

Persatuan Mahasiswa Istimewa Universiti Malaya (PERMIUM)





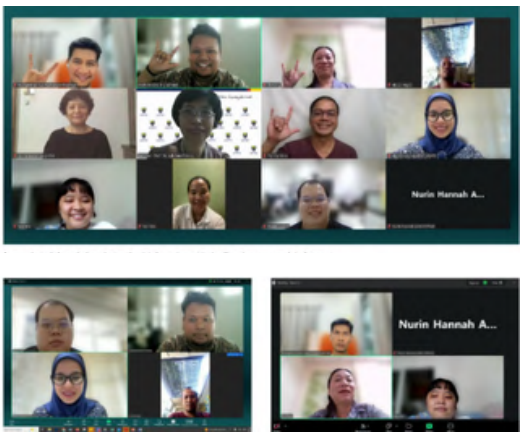


In 2025, Persatuan Mahasiswa Istimewa Universiti Malaya (PERMIUM) continued to champion peer support and inclusion for students with disabilities on campus. As a recognised student society, PERMIUM provided a platform for members to connect, share experiences, and build networks that strengthen belonging and mutual encouragement. Throughout the year, club activities focused on raising awareness of disability issues, fostering understanding among non-disabled students, and creating opportunities for social engagement and empowerment. PERMIUM's efforts helped cultivate a supportive community where underrepresented students feel valued and confident to participate actively in university life.

- Chillaxday with Special Students – 20 April 2025: Provided UM students an opportunity to interact with visually impaired students and learn about their campus experience.
- PERMIUM Appreciation Night 2025 – 1 June 2025: Celebrated members' achievements and strengthened community spirit within the club.
- Hari Interaksi PERMIUM 25/26 – 8 November 2025: Created a relaxed and inclusive space for students to engage with and appreciate neurodiverse students through interactive activities, games, and community bonding, while strengthening campus relationships.
- Cakna Suara Kita – Student Advocacy Forum – 13 December 2025: Highlighted challenges faced by the OKU community and promoted advocacy for inclusive education and employment.

AUN-DDPnet Scholars Monthly Support Programme

AUN-DDPnet (ASEAN University Network – Disability and Public Policy Network) Scholars are students with disabilities who receive support through a regional initiative that promotes inclusive higher education, academic success, and equitable opportunities across ASEAN universities. To ensure scholars are able to thrive academically and personally throughout their studies, the AUN-DDPnet Scholars Monthly Support Programme provides continuous guidance, monitoring, and targeted assistance tailored to their needs.



Through regular monthly engagements, the programme supports scholars' academic and research progress while offering mentoring, motivation, and specialised training, particularly for final-year students. It also places strong emphasis on mental wellbeing and accessibility by addressing individual requirements and strengthening collaboration among Deputy Deans, academic supervisors, and Disability Engagement Units. By fostering a supportive and inclusive learning environment, the initiative helps scholars successfully complete their studies while enhancing their confidence, resilience, and overall university experience.

Student Support and Inclusive Engagement through the JTKD OKU

At UM Za'ba Residential College (KK7), the Jawatankuasa Tindakan Kolej Dilantik (JTKD) Orang Kurang Upaya (OKU) is established with its membership renewed annually to support the wellbeing, safety and day-to-day needs of students with disabilities. As part of the college's student engagement activities, the JKTD OKU organised the Talent Showtime during the Townhall and Malam Pengenalan Projek sessions, providing opportunities for students to participate in sharing sessions and arts and crafts activities. These activities foster peer interaction, self-expression and a supportive residential college environment for students from an underrepresented group.



PPDK P.I.N.T.A.R UM: Strengthening Disability Support Services

The Centre for Counselling and Disability Empowerment (CDE), opened applications for contract staff to support the PPDK P.I.N.T.A.R programme. This initiative aims to strengthen the delivery of community-based rehabilitation services for persons with disabilities by engaging dedicated individuals to support programme implementation and daily operations.

By expanding its support team, UM reinforces its commitment to providing continuous and effective services for the PWD community. The recruitment reflects ongoing efforts to enhance care, empowerment, and inclusion through structured support programmes that benefit individuals with disabilities and their families.



Dedicated Office for Inclusivity

Centre for Counselling and Disability Empowerment

In creating an inclusive and diverse community, Universiti Malaya had established the Centre for Counselling and Disability Empowerment (CCDE) as the champion in promoting the enculturation of diversity, equality, and inclusivity on campus. The office is responsible in managing affairs of student with disabilities including welfare and support, conduct events and programmes in nurturing understanding on disabilities as well as educational postings for general community. To better engage with person with disabilities, CCDE has established committees within staff and student groups to ensure seamless communication.

Diability Liaison Officer

One of the committee under CCDE is Disability Liaison Officer where staff from Centre of Responsibilities (CoR) in the University are appointed to act as the connector between the disabled communitied and management. They will assist and support the disabled communities in ensuring they could experience life on campus without trouble.

Buddies@CCDE

Whats better than having peers to guide you during your journey in campus. Buddies@CCDE was established with the aim to provide support, physical or mental, to disabled students by putting in a community that could be together with them throughout their campus life. Buddies@CCDE will assist them starting from their first day of enrollment where they will help during the registration process and conduct the orientation week. Throughout the session, they will conduct events and activities to help build the bond in creating a steadfast community.

