

**POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS FROM VULNERABLE AND
UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS AND STUDENTS WITH
DISABILITIES**

In accordance with the principle of equality and equal opportunities in education for all students, including those from vulnerable and underrepresented social groups and students with disabilities, Aspira University of Applied Sciences will continuously implement its policy of action, assistance and affirmative support. The need to shape this policy stems from the desire to provide the above students with quality higher education by increasing equal opportunities, appropriate programs and modes of adaptation to their interests and needs, as well as from our lecturers' individual experiences with different forms of vulnerability among the student population with the aim to enable them to better develop their abilities and acquire knowledge through inclusive access, support services and separate measures of support.

The policy of support and assistance to students from vulnerable and underrepresented groups and students with disabilities is based on the ethical responsibility, fairness and sensitivity of Aspira University of Applied Sciences working to increase equality of opportunity during the process of enrolment, education and academic life in Aspira University of Applied Sciences.

When enrolling, with emphasis on:

- encouraging interest in the study programs of Aspira University of Applied Sciences by informing students with disabilities and students from vulnerable and underrepresented groups about the benefits of enrolling in this study
- providing targeted financial support relevant to study program, based on the identification of specific needs.
- Involvement of student representatives in the support policy.

During the educational process, with emphasis on:

- differentiated approach, i.e. individualized approach in supporting and assisting students in student responsibilities and enabling more ways of including and engaging students who belong to this group during the teaching process
- assistance in student responsibilities, guided by the principle of adaptation of obligations to student needs, which includes educational support during studies, especially during practical work and internships, preparation of students for certain courses and, if necessary, development of individualized educational plans and preparation for exams, extended time for written exams, etc.
- creating conditions and measures that include various adjustments of working methods that will be stimulating for students in terms of maximum participation in curricular and extracurricular activities, having a sense of inclusion and a situation of trust as well as achieving appropriate success in studying
- providing support services to students belonging to these groups (mentoring,

counselling and guidance, support for academic and emotional adjustment)

- organizing workshops on learning techniques and social skills and, simultaneously, educating and empowering teachers to meet the different needs of their students in the educational process through professional educational seminars.

In academic life, with an emphasis on:

- availability of information on their rights in higher education
- mentoring and psychosocial support for students in achieving their academic goals
- a network of institutional support, including the Centre for Career Development and Support in order to improve emotional adjustment, inclusion and sense of belonging to the academic environment
- involvement of Aspira University of Applied Sciences in the support network for students with disabilities at the level of the Croatian Conference of Universities of Applied Sciences through its representative, exchange of information and corresponding measures
- creating a culture of acceptance and respect for diversity in order to prevent loneliness and/or isolation of students from vulnerable and underrepresented groups as well as students with disabilities.

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Dostaviti:

1. *Notice board*
2. *Administrative board*
3. *Student office*
4. *Archives*