UZBEKISTAN STATE WORLD LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY

LIFELONG LEARNING EQUAL ACCESS POLICY

Fair and Non-Discriminatory Access to Lifelong Learning at UzSWLU

Approved: 5 January 2024 | Period of application: 2024–2030 | Next full revision: January 2027

1. Purpose

Uzbekistan State World Languages University (UzSWLU) is committed to education for all. This policy ensures that the lifelong learning activities organized or supported by the University are open on fair and non-discriminatory terms to everyone who wishes to take part, whether or not they are enrolled as degree-seeking students.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all faculties, departments, centers and administrative units of the University and to everyone who organizes, delivers or takes part in University lifelong learning activities. It covers:

- access to library collections, reading rooms, computers, catalogs and digital educational resources;
- public lectures, seminars, conferences, cultural and community education events;
- short courses, professional development and vocational training for people who are not enrolled in a degree program;
- educational outreach in schools and communities, including activities supported by student volunteers;
- online educational resources and guest access to the University's IRBIS electronic library catalog and available full-text materials.

3. Legal framework

The policy is based on the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. ZRU-637 "On Education" of 23 September 2020, which establishes continuous education and equal rights to education, and on the Charter and the Education Policy of the University.

4. Principles

- **Equal access:** lifelong learning opportunities are open to University members and to people outside the University on the same terms.
- **Non-discrimination:** direct and indirect discrimination is prohibited on the grounds of ethnicity, race, color, nationality, language, religion or belief, disability, health condition, citizenship, immigration or residency status, sex, gender, gender identity, age, marital or family status, pregnancy, social or economic background, political or other opinion, place of residence, or any other status protected by law.
- **Openness:** information about activities, conditions of participation and any fees is published clearly and in advance.
- **Accessibility:** barriers that prevent people from taking part are identified and removed wherever reasonably possible.

5. Commitments

5.1 Eligibility and participation

- Decisions on eligibility and participation use relevant, transparent and consistently applied criteria.
- Registration may be required for borrowing, safety, capacity management, certification or the protection of information systems, but it must be proportionate and must not be used to exclude anyone because of a protected characteristic.
- Where an activity has limited capacity, places are allocated according to published and objectively relevant criteria.

5.2 Free and open access

- External users may register at the Information Resource Center and use its collections, reading rooms and computers; registered members may borrow eligible books for home reading.

- The electronic library provides guest access to available online materials without prior registration.
- Services designated as free are provided free of charge to all users.

5.3 Reasonable accommodation

Organizers consider reasonable accommodation for participants who need it, including accessible seating, additional time, alternative formats, interpretation, captioning, assistive technology, remote participation or relocation to an accessible venue. The University progressively improves physical access to its buildings and the accessibility of its digital resources.

5.4 Concerns and protection

Participants and prospective participants may raise access concerns through the University's official channels or with the unit responsible for the activity. External users receive the same respectful and confidential consideration as University members. Retaliation against anyone who makes a good-faith complaint, requests accommodation, supports another complainant or takes part in a review is prohibited.

6. Responsibilities

- **University leadership:** holds overall responsibility for this policy and its review.
- **Faculties, departments and centers:** apply the policy in the lifelong learning activities they organize.
- **Network Center for Retraining and Professional Development of Pedagogues:** applies the policy in retraining, advanced training and short courses.
- **Information Resource Center:** provides public access to library collections and the electronic library.
- **Facilities and information technology units:** improve physical and digital accessibility.

7. Monitoring and reporting

Area	Indicator	Frequency
Participation	Number of external participants in lifelong learning activities and library users	Annual
Accommodation	Number of accommodation requests and how they were met	Annual
Concerns	Number of access-related complaints and corrective actions	Annual
Feedback	Feedback from persons with disabilities, international participants and community partners	Annual

8. Review

This policy was approved on 5 January 2024 and applies for the period 2024–2030. It is reviewed every year, taking into account feedback from groups that may face barriers to participation, and a full revision is undertaken every three years, with the next full revision due in January 2027, or earlier if relevant legislation or the University's structures change.