

AGH UST welcomes students with disabilities

People with disabilities are among us

Since 2000, our University has been implementing the programme ‘**AGH UST as a Disability Friendly University**’, which aims to solve problems faced by students with various disabilities. The methods and forms of teaching are adapted to the students’ individual needs resulting from disability. To provide better support for students with disabilities, we cooperate with other universities in Krakow regarding both educational issues and in the creation of conditions promoting social inclusion of the people enrolled in the programme.

As a modern university, a leader in the field of cutting-edge technologies, AGH UST takes a range of innovative initiatives. These include efforts to create an accessible environment for people with disabilities. We attach special importance to the elimination of architectural barriers in order to improve accessibility of the AGH UST facilities to everyone who wishes to pursue a degree in the most innovative fields of study in Poland. We ensure that the newly erected buildings meet the highest standards of accessibility.

Our support covers:

- **Advice, guidance and assistance** in any disability-related issues
- **Accommodation in a dormitory** adapted to the needs of a person with disabilities
- **Information on financial aid** offered by AGH UST and other institutions
- **Sports activities** (possibility to pass PE and obtain ECTS points), e.g. gym, wheelchair fencing, swimming
- Services of **sign language interpreters** and lipspeakers for deaf and hard-of-hearing students
- Access to **the AGH UST Main Library** collections in alternative forms, and in the reading room, to a text magnifier and a workstation adapted to the needs of students with disabilities
- Possibility to **rent assistive devices** (including voice recorders, FM systems, text and image magnifiers)
- **Copying of notes** and teaching materials to the A3 size (for the visually impaired, deaf and hard-of-hearing students, and students with writing difficulties)
- Dedicated **English language courses**, e.g. for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, and for blind and visually impaired students
- **Access to a disability informatics workroom and adaptation of teaching materials** (e.g. digitization, printing in the Braille alphabet), as well as examination and end-of-course test adjustments
- **Psychological and educational support**
- Services of **personal assistants**
- Participation in **training and integration** events
- Participation in **professional development projects**

The AGH UST support for students with disabilities is coordinated by the Office for Students with Disabilities, which also endorses initiatives of the Association of Students with Disabilities - the first of its kind in Poland. Students can seek legal advice and assistance while communicating with university authorities, and also obtain the support they need to solve various problems. Students with disabilities can participate in a variety of activities, including adaptation camps, integration events, workshops and courses organized by the AGH UST Office for Students with Disabilities.

Our academic community involves a number (around 350) of students with varying degrees and forms of disability. From year to year, the forms of support for disabled students and doctoral students are extended, and the activities of the university are increasingly tailored to their needs. We equalise opportunities for people with disabilities so as to enable them to pursue higher education and to facilitate their entry into adulthood.