



**UNIVERSITY OF PISA  
VETERINARY SCIENCES DEPARTMENT**

**DEPARTMENTAL POLICY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES  
AND LSD**

Identification code  
POL-DSV-001

Date:  
23/03/2022

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**Document issued by:**

DEPARTMENTAL GROUP FOR DISABILITIES and LSD.

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**PURPOSE**

The Veterinary Sciences Department is committed to ensuring the full inclusion of students with disabilities and with LSD within its courses of study and in the life of the Department, taking into account the provisions of current regulations. It sets out the principles in this regard in the Departmental Policy document.

**SCOPE**

The Departmental Policy applies to all students in the Veterinary Sciences Department with disabilities, including temporary disabilities, and with LSD.



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### INTRODUCTION AND PRINCIPLES

The University of Pisa promotes the inclusion and accessibility of students with disabilities and specific learning disorders (LSD), in order to guarantee the right to education and inclusion to all enrolled students, in accordance with current legislation, and taking into account the guidelines ([https://www2.crui.it/crui/cnudd/linee\\_guida\\_CNUDD/LINEE\\_GUIDA\\_CNUDD\\_2014.pdf](https://www2.crui.it/crui/cnudd/linee_guida_CNUDD/LINEE_GUIDA_CNUDD_2014.pdf)) of the CNUDD (National Conference of University Delegates for Disability).

In implementation of Law 17/1999 (of integration and modification of the Framework Law of February 5, 1992, n. 104 for the assistance, social integration and rights of disabled persons) is designated the Delegate of the Rector for the inclusion of students with disabilities, who is responsible for support activities for students with disabilities and those with specific learning disorders (LSD), for whom the law provides special dispensatory and compensatory measures of educational flexibility during the course of university studies (Law 170/2010).

Support activities are managed centrally by the Office of Services for the Integration of Students with Disabilities (USID) and by the University's LSD Desk. The interventions, which are personalized in relation to individual needs, can take the form of welcome and inclusion services in the university, transportation, support for teaching (such as computer and technological aids, teaching tutors, monitoring of architectural barriers), mediation in relations with teachers, supply of teaching materials in accessible formats, assistance of a specialized figure in communication support, information desk on the possibility of practicing sports in accessible and equipped facilities in the area.

In addition, each department has a Teacher Referent (hereinafter referred to as the Referent), appointed by the Department Director, who acts as a facilitator to overcome the teaching difficulties that students with disabilities and LSD may encounter during their studies, promoting communication between students and university services and monitoring the situation in his or her department.

At the Department of Veterinary Sciences, the Referent is assisted by the Departmental Group for Disabilities and LSD (hereinafter Departmental Group) (see the web page of the Departmental Group: <https://www.vet.unipi.it/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/link.pdf>), appointed by the Director, approved by the Department Council (Del. 57/2021) and coordinated by the Referent. The Departmental Group has been charged with drafting a Departmental Policy (hereinafter Departmental Policy) on the subject of disabilities and LSD that can represent the Department's commitment, in collaboration with the representatives and bodies of the University, in order to



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communicate correctly, guide and support people with disabilities and LSD in participating in university life in the Veterinary Sciences Department.

In defining the Departmental Policy, the basic reference was the definition of disability provided by the ICF (International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health, WHO 2001<sup>1</sup>), which is an international classification system of the health status of people developed by the World Health Organization.

According to the ICF, "disability" is the umbrella term that refers to impairments, activity limitations, and restrictions on participation. Disability is understood within the ICF as the consequence or result of a complex relationship between an individual's health condition, personal factors, and environmental factors that represent the circumstances in which he or she lives.

Because of this relationship, different environments can have a very different impact on the same individual with a certain health condition. An environment with barriers (e.g., inaccessible buildings), or without facilitators (e.g., lack of availability of aids) will limit the individual's ability to participate and fulfill oneself; other, more facilitating environments may foster it.

On the basis of the concepts expressed by the ICF, therefore, we reaffirm the importance of a facilitating environment, a concept that is considered of fundamental inspiration for the Departmental Policy.

1 ICF, WHO 2001: International classification of functioning, disability and health: ICF.  
<http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/42407/9241545429.pdf;jsessionid=750A31CE025CE60DD436C05570A8EFAB?sequence=1>

### COMMITMENT

The Veterinary Sciences Department is committed to taking into consideration the situations that may arise in the case of students with disabilities and with LSD who follow or intend to follow the courses of study of the Department, trying to identify, case by case with the University services, the most appropriate solutions in accordance with current legislation, the needs of the student and the reasonable feasibility.

The Veterinary Sciences Department is committed in particular to:

- a) adequately disseminate among interested parties the Departmental Policy document for students with disabilities and with DSA;
- b) provide precise information at the level of incoming orientation on services for students with disabilities and with LSD offered by the University (USID, LSD Desk) and the support provided by the Departmental Group;



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- c) communicate in a clear and transparent way at the level of orientation the educational courses offered by the Department so that each student can assess the correspondence of a particular path compared to their inclinations, desires and personal potential;
- d) provide matriculated students with precise information on services for students with disabilities and with LSD offered by the University (USID, LSD Desk) and on the support activities of the Departmental Group of the Veterinary Sciences Department;
- e) to facilitate communication between the appropriate bodies of any problems concerning students with disabilities and with LSD;
- f) promote awareness among teachers of regulations concerning students with disabilities and LSD and of the services offered by the University, and acknowledge any problems that may arise in the courses of study, using, when necessary, the intervention of experts from USID and the LSD Desk;
- g) consider reports of problems related to architectural barriers, usability of classrooms and common areas of the Department and work to find solutions in synergy with the University services;
- h) monitor the knowledge of the University and Department services regarding disabilities and LSD within the Veterinary Sciences Department;
- i) facilitate the full expression of the abilities of all persons and especially students with disabilities and LSD.

**OPERATING PROCEDURES**

- a) The Departmental Group will disseminate the Departmental Policy document by publishing it on the Departmental website in the page dedicated to services for students with disabilities and LSD (<https://www.vet.unipi.it/dipartimento-di-scienze-veterinarie-referente-disabilita-e-dsa/#:~:text=Il%20Referente%20per%20il%20Dipartimento,%2B39%20050%202216707>);
- b) during incoming orientation events, the Referent will provide information on services for students with disabilities and LSD offered by the University (USID, LSD Desk) and on the support provided by the Departmental Group of the Veterinary Sciences Department;
- c) during the incoming orientation events, the Presidents of the Courses of Study describe in a clear and transparent way the educational paths of the individual Courses of Study offered by the Department, with particular reference to the theoretical and practical activities that are necessary for the achievement of the degree, so that each student can assess the correspondence with respect to their inclinations, desires and personal potential to



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- undertake a particular path; in case of doubt, the student can contact the services offered by the University, also through the Departmental Group;
- d) when defining the timetable of the lessons of the first year, the Presidents of the Courses of Study reserve, during the meeting on student services, a space in which the Referent informs students about the services offered by the University for students with disabilities and LSD and about the support provided by the Departmental Group; following this meeting, the Departmental Group sends an email to students to remind them of the main information and contact details to be used in case of need;
- e) in order to facilitate the communication of any problems (including those referred to in paragraph c), on the Departmental Group page on the Departmental website students can find information and contacts to request a meeting with members of the Departmental Group: during this meeting we will try to identify the best solutions for each problem, possibly interfacing with teachers, as well as with the University services;
- f) the Referent reports at least annually to the Departmental Council regarding the situation of students with disabilities and LSD and the actions taken by the Departmental Group. In addition, the Departmental Group periodically administers a questionnaire to teachers in order to monitor the situation of students with disabilities and LSD and to highlight any problems that have arisen during courses and examinations. On the basis of the results, the Departmental Group can arrange targeted meetings with experts from USID/LSD Desk. Any problems can also be communicated, when deemed necessary, directly by teachers to the Departmental Group, in order to find the best solutions in constant relationship with the University services;
- g) the Departmental Group collects reports from students and Department staff, related to architectural barriers, usability of classrooms and common areas of the Department through the dedicated email address [supportodisabilita@vet.unipi.it](mailto:supportodisabilita@vet.unipi.it) and evaluates solutions in synergy with the University services;
- h) The Departmental Group, as part of the questionnaire administered to the students of the first year of the courses of study in the second semester by the Tutoring Body of the Department regarding student services, includes, for monitoring purposes, questions about knowledge of services for students with disabilities and students with LSD offered by the University and the Department and questions about improvement actions to be taken;
- i) the Departmental Group strives, in accordance with the philosophy expressed by the ICF, and in agreement with the USID experts/LSD Desk, to generate positive actions, also with the involvement of the student community, to facilitate the full expression of the abilities of all people and especially of students with disabilities and with LSD who live and study in the Department.