AMITY UNIVERSITY MAHARASHTRA

Established vide Maharashtra Act No.13 of 2014, of Government of Maharashtra, and recognized under Section 2 (f) of UGC Act 1956.

Institutional Policy & Provision Analysis:
Personal Assistants, Sign Language Interpreters, and Specialized Support Services

Executive Assessment & Core Answer:

Yes, Amity University Mumbai (AUM) officially recognizes and provides accommodations for students and staff with disabilities under its centralized Disability Support Office (DSO), Equal Opportunity framework, and statutory mandates (RPwD Act 2016). However, regarding human-assisted support services such as Personal Care Assistants (PCAs) and Sign Language Interpreters (SLIs), the University operates on a structured dual-track model:

• Institutional Facilitation & Permitted Accommodations: The University permits, authorizes, registers, and provides campus/classroom passes for personal assistants, attendants, and interpreters appointed by candidates or designated organizations, alongside providing university-appointed examination scribes, lab assistants, and psychological counselors.

• Direct Hiring vs. Reasonable Accommodation: While full-time dedicated personal care aides (for daily bodily assistance) are typically the personal responsibility of the student/family, academic communication support (such as sign language interpretation, transcribers, or scribes) can be formally requisitioned through the DSW Disability Committee under the reasonable adjustment provisions.

1. Institutional & Regulatory Framework

Amity University Maharashtra was established under Maharashtra Act No. 13 of 2014 and is recognized under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act 1956. Its disability governance complies with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act 2016 and the University Grants Commission (UGC) Guidelines for Accessibility in Higher Education Institutions. The university operates an apex Disability Support Office established to serve as a single-window system coordinating academic, mobility, and examination accommodations.

2. Human Support Services Breakdown: Personal Assistants & Interpreters

2.1 Sign Language Interpreters & Academic Transcribers

Scope & Policy: For students with severe hearing impairment or speech disabilities, the University accommodates communication access in the following manners:

• Permitted Professional Interpreters: Students are permitted to bring certified Indian Sign Language (ISL) interpreters into lecture halls, practical studios, and orientation sessions upon registration with the Dean of Student Welfare (DSW).

• Institutional Scribes / Academic Readers: For all internal and end-semester written examinations, the Controller of Examinations (CoE) directly provides empaneled scribes or transcribers at no extra cost, or permits candidates to bring their own verified scribe meeting government qualification criteria.

• Digital & Peer Transcription: AUM departments encourage peer-note taker programs and audio-recorded lectures (subject to faculty consent) to assist students experiencing auditory or processing limitations.

2.2 Personal Assistants (Campus Attendants & Caregivers)

Distinction & Operations: A clear distinction is maintained between personal physical care and university academic support:

• Personal Care Attendants (ADL Support): For assistance with activities of daily living (e.g., feeding, toileting, dressing, continuous physical maneuvering), students are authorized to have a designated family member or private personal assistant on campus. Special hostel entry passes, gate passes, and campus access cards are issued by the Directorate of Hostels & Security without discrimination.

• Laboratory & Library Assistants: Within university academic facilities (computer laboratories, central library stacks, and science workshops), departmental lab attendants and library staff are officially directed to assist students with physical disabilities in retrieving volumes, operating lab apparatus, or handling study material.

Support Service Category	Amity University Institutional Role	Operational Modality & Logistics
Examination Scribes & Readers	Directly Provided / Approved by Body	Arranged by Controller of Examinations & DSW; eligible students receive certified scribes + compensatory time (20 min/hr).
Sign Language Interpreters (Academic)	Accommodated & Permitted / Case-by-Case	Students are permitted certified ISL interpreters in class; university reviews specialized assistive software and transcribers upon request.
Personal Care Attendants (Mobility/Daily)	Formally Facilitated & Pass-Issued	Campus access passes, dedicated hostel accommodation (e.g., ground floor rooms allowing attendant presence), free gate clearances.
Laboratory & Library Support Staff	Directly Provided by Body	Faculty coordinators and lab assistants assigned to assist students with equipment maneuvering, material fetching, and physical access.

3. Additional Specialized Disability Support Services at Amity Mumbai

3.1 Psychological & Learning Disability Support

AUM Counseling Centre: Operated under the Amity Institute of Behavioral & Allied Sciences (AIBAS), the AUM Counseling Centre ('Way For Well-Being') provides professional clinical counseling, psychometric evaluations, and behavioral crisis support. For students with recognized learning disabilities (such as Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, ADHD), academic departments organize supplementary remedial classes and tailored tutoring.

3.2 Physical Infrastructure & Mobility Assistance

Barrier-Free Campus: The campus is engineered to meet barrier-free architectural standards:

• Ramp connections across all academic blocks, libraries, and food courts.

• Braille-enabled and voice-assisted elevators in academic towers.

• Dedicated accessible washrooms in all academic and hostel blocks.

• Battery-operated buggies/golf carts and wheelchair availability for inner-campus transit.

3.3 Residential & Hostel Special Allotments

Residential Support: The Directorate of Hostels governs hostel allocations through a specialized Disability Welfare Protocol:

• Priority ground-floor hostel room allotment (single or companion rooms).

• Permission for stay of an attendant or family caretaker where medically certified.
• Direct monitoring and fortnightly welfare meetings led by wardens to oversee housekeeping, laundry, and health support.

4. Step-by-Step Procedure to Request Support Services

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): 1. Registration & Disclosure: Student submits medical certification (RPwD benchmark card or civil surgeon certificate) to the Head of Institution (HoI) at the beginning of the semester.
2. Review by DSW Committee: The Dean of Student Welfare convenes the University Disability Committee (comprising HoIs, senior faculty, administration, and medical representatives).
3. Accommodation Order: Upon verification, the Vice Chancellor's office issues an official directive to academic departments, examination branches, and security for passes and facilities.
4. Timeline: Accommodation decisions are communicated within 10 to 15 working days.

5. Primary University Contact Points

Contact Directory: • Disability Support Office & DSW: Dean Student Welfare, Amity University Maharashtra.
• Psychological & Counseling In-charge/ Clinical Psychologist Team, AIBAS.
• Campus Location: Mumbai-Pune Expressway, Bhatan, Somathne, Panvel, Maharashtra 410206.
• Official Email: registrar@mum.amity.edu / helpdesk@mum.amity.edu

Ramp for easy Walking



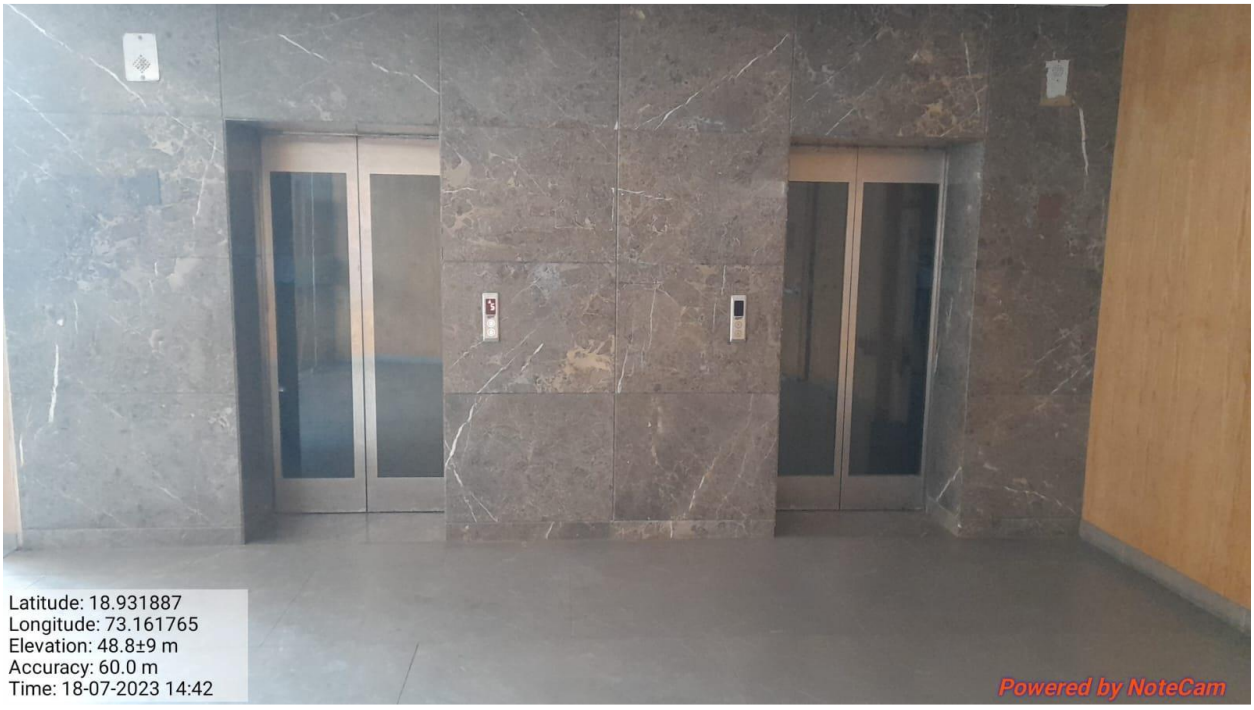
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Wheel-Chair



Elevator



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Battery Operated Vehicles

