



SDG 10

# Reduced Inequalities

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



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## Breaking Barriers: Unpad Empowers All Students Through Inclusive Learning Hubs

In support of SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities, Universitas Padjadjaran (Unpad) inaugurated the Disability Service Center, Assistive Learning Hub, and Telkom Digital Talent Corner at the Kandaga Building and Central Library in Jatinangor on Thursday, September 5, 2024. These facilities, developed in collaboration with Unpad, the British Council, and PT Telkom Indonesia, aim to ensure that higher education is accessible to students from all backgrounds, including students with disabilities and students from economically disadvantaged families.

Unpad Rector, Prof. Rina Indriastuti, stated that these facilities not only provide inclusive educational access but also support the development of high quality and internationally recognized human resources. “These facilities are designed to prepare young people, especially Unpad students including students with special needs, to transform into talents who will contribute to Indonesia’s development toward a Golden Indonesia,” said the Rector. By providing digital technology and assistive learning services, Unpad ensures that all students have equal opportunities to enhance their academic and digital skills.

With the inauguration of these facilities, Unpad reinforces its commitment to creating a higher education environment that is inclusive, high quality, and accessible to all, actively contributing to the reduction of social and educational inequalities in Indonesia. Students are encouraged to make full use of these facilities to improve competencies, broaden knowledge, and contribute to national development.





## Raising Disability Awareness on Campus: Unpad Promotes Inclusive Higher Education

Promoting disability awareness and inclusion on campus is essential to reducing inequalities in education. On Thursday, September 5, 2024, Universitas Padjadjaran (Unpad) hosted a seminar titled “Inclusivity in Higher Education” at Bale Sawala, Unpad Rectorate Building, Jatinangor, to foster understanding and awareness of the challenges faced by students with disabilities.

Dr. Dante Rigmalia, M.Pd., Chair of the National Disability Commission of Indonesia, highlighted that only 5.12 percent of students with disabilities in Indonesia graduate from higher education, demonstrating the significant barriers they face. He emphasized that higher education not only empowers students to advocate for themselves but also strengthens their independence and career opportunities.

The seminar stressed the importance of establishing Disability Service Units at universities, which provide equal access to educational services, ensure respect for students’ rights, and create a supportive learning environment. Dr. Dante explained that inclusivity goes beyond admission; without proper support from the campus community, students with disabilities may face discrimination and limited growth.

Unpad’s initiative, including its Disability Service Center, serves as a concrete step toward creating a globally recognized, inclusive, and equitable higher education environment. The seminar also shared best practices for inclusive education in Indonesia and around the world, encouraging the campus community to increase awareness, provide support, and actively promote inclusivity for students with disabilities.

## Empowering Students with Disabilities: Unpad's Inclusive Campus in Action

Aghniyya Haura Nuryaman, known as Anika, is a new student at Universitas Padjadjaran (Unpad) for the 2024/2025 academic year. As a student with hearing disability, she chose to pursue higher education in the Department of Social Welfare, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences through the National Selection Based on Test (SNBT).

Anika was inspired to study at Unpad not only by her mother, an alumna, but also by the university's disability-friendly environment. During orientation, she benefited greatly from Sign Language Interpreter and Disability Accommodation services, which helped her fully participate in campus activities.

Her story demonstrates Unpad's commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive campus, where students with disabilities can access quality education, pursue their aspirations, and prepare for future leadership or entrepreneurial roles. Anika hopes to one day build a school for all children, both hearing and deaf, reflecting the broader impact of inclusive education on society.



## Unpad for All: Advancing Equal Access to Higher Education

Universitas Padjadjaran (Unpad) actively contributes to SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities by expanding fair and inclusive access to higher education. In the 2024/2025 academic year, Unpad launched several pro-equity policies within its new student admission process. Through its Independent Selection program, the university provides diverse admission pathways, including score-based selection, partnership schemes, and international classes. Importantly, Unpad facilitates a special examination for prospective students without UTBK scores, ensuring that applicants from all backgrounds, including holders of the KIP-Kuliah scholarship and students with disabilities, have equal opportunities to pursue higher education.

Further reinforcing this commitment, Unpad introduced four pro-equity programs in 2024 aimed at students from marginalized or underrepresented groups. These include scholarships for students with disabilities entering through national admission routes, invitations for high-achieving students from frontier, outermost, and underdeveloped regions (3T),

invitations for first-generation students whose families have never attended higher education, and opportunities for outstanding students from schools that have not yet been represented at Unpad. These initiatives not only acknowledge structural inequalities in access to higher education but also provide concrete pathways to bridge these gaps.

Additionally, Unpad emphasizes affordability and fairness by maintaining tuition fees (UKT) without any increase in 2024, while adopting a progressive scheme aligned with families' economic capacities. This decision reflects sensitivity to the economic recovery of Indonesian society after the pandemic and reinforces the principle that education should not be a privilege for the few, but a right accessible to all. Through these comprehensive measures, Unpad demonstrates its role as a higher education institution that actively works to reduce inequalities and foster inclusive, equitable growth in line with the vision of SDG 10.



## The EmpowerID Initiative

In 2024, Universitas Padjadjaran (Unpad) strengthened its commitment to **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities** by launching the *Enhancing Disability-Inclusive Education in Indonesian Universities (EmpowerID)* program in collaboration with Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU). This initiative aims to build a more accessible and supportive academic environment for students with disabilities, ensuring equal opportunities to learn, participate, and succeed in higher education.



As part of EmpowerID, Unpad welcomed two academic staff members from GCU in April 2024 for a series of workshops and knowledge-sharing sessions. These involved key stakeholders, including the Disability Services Task Force, students with disabilities, learning support offices, and academic program leaders. The collaboration focused on capacity building, exposure to best practices, and designing strategies for a permanent Disability Support Unit at Unpad. Areas of development include the integration of assistive technologies, academic and social support programs, staff and student training on disability awareness, and the promotion of inclusive values across the campus community.

This initiative reflects Unpad's belief that university excellence is not only measured by academic achievements but also by the inclusiveness of its learning environment. EmpowerID embodies Unpad's progressive vision to empower students with disabilities by guaranteeing equal access to education, career opportunities, healthcare, and active participation in society. By embedding accessibility and respect into its institutional culture, Unpad demonstrates leadership in reducing inequalities and advancing the goals of **SDG 10** within higher education.

