



Forums for Students with Disabilities

Background

Students with disabilities are an integral part of the University of South Africa (UNISA), entrusted with the responsibility of championing the rights and academic interests of students with disabilities within the university. In the midst of academic challenges confronting students with disabilities, students recognised the need to establish regional student forums that would serve as a frontline in all issues of students with disabilities within the university.

In 2011, students with disabilities converged in different regions of UNISA to establish forums that would function as a concerted voice of students with disabilities under the recognition of structures of UNISA. It was recognised that challenges of students with disabilities need well-coordinated and collective efforts to tackle them, through collaboration with Student Representative Council (SRC), Advocacy and Resource Centre for Students with Disabilities (ARCSWiD) and other relevant stakeholders. One of the responsibilities of student forums is to foster awareness of disability issues on UNISA campuses and create supporting mechanisms for all students with disabilities. In 2012, representatives from all forums converged at the UNISA main campus in Pretoria to launch the National Association of Students with Disabilities, which would practically enhance the capacity to resolve the challenges facing students with disabilities at the national level.

Mission

The mission of the Association and its forums is to give adequate platform for students with disabilities at UNISA, to drive the programmes that affects students with disabilities, in ensuring academic success and full involvement by students with disabilities.

Vision

The vision of the Association and its forums is to protect and promote the rights of students with disabilities in the university.

ARCSWiD is currently in the process of resuscitating the forums for students with disabilities. The stages of this initiative are planned to take place as follows:

Activities	Date
Call for nominations	04 – 11 September 2024
Nominated candidate's publication	16 – 20 September 2024
Voting process	25 – 27 September 2024
Announcement of results	30 September 2024