

STUDENT PREGNANCY AND PARENTING SUPPORT POLICY 2023



**SAMARKAND STATE
INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN
LANGUAGES**





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STUDENT PREGNANCY AND PARENTING SUPPORT POLICY

Functional Category	The functional category of this policy can be classified as "Student Welfare and Support Services" or "Student Services and Well-being." These policies are designed to provide support and assistance to students who may face specific challenges or needs during their academic journey, ensuring that they have access to the necessary resources and accommodations to succeed while maintaining academic standards. This category focuses on addressing the well-being, rights, and responsibilities of students in various situations, such as pregnancy and parenting, to help them overcome obstacles and continue their education.
Approval Date	2023
Effective Date	2023
Policy owner	Rector
Policy Administrator	Consultant to the Institute's rector for Matters Relating to Women
Last revision date	2023
Next revision date	2024

STUDENT PREGNANCY AND PARENTING SUPPORT GUIDELINES

1. Foreword

These guidelines are established to provide comprehensive advice and support for students facing pregnancy or parenthood during their academic journey at the Samarkand State Institute of Foreign Languages (SamSIFL). They encompass not only expecting mothers but also fathers-to-be, partners, and individuals adopting parenthood.

2. Guiding Principles

These guidelines apply to students experiencing pregnancy and students preparing to embrace fatherhood. They also extend to students who are partners (including same-sex partners) of expecting individuals and those undergoing the transformative journey of adoption.

3. Our Commitment

At SamSIFL, we firmly believe that one's educational aspirations should never be thwarted by the challenges of pregnancy and parenting. We are resolute in our commitment to provide the utmost flexibility to foster student success, all the while upholding our academic standards. The health and safety of expecting students are of paramount importance to us, and we are dedicated to handling these matters with sensitivity, respect, and confidentiality. Information sharing is restricted to staff members requiring such details for legitimate purposes and is contingent upon the student's consent. While the primary focus of these guidelines is academic, additional resources and guidance on related matters are provided at the conclusion of this document.

4. Rights and Responsibilities

In this section, we outline the rights and responsibilities of SamSIFL students, faculty, and the institute itself.

4.1. Expecting Students

4.1.1. Pregnancy Confirmation

Students disclosing their pregnancy are not obligated to provide evidence. However, if pregnancy's impact on attendance or academic performance needs assessment, students may be asked to provide substantiating evidence, such as medical appointments or letters from their healthcare providers. Discretion and student consent are paramount when

handling pregnancy-related information. Students opting for pregnancy termination or in cases of miscarriage are not required to disclose this to SamSIFL. Absences related to such events are categorized as "sick leave" without necessitating specific reasons.

4.1.2. Contacting Academic Departments

We advise students intending to continue their studies throughout pregnancy to promptly notify SamSIFL staff. While the personal tutor is typically the initial point of contact, students have the option to engage with staff members with whom they are most comfortable. However, prompt communication with the personal tutor is essential to ensure the implementation of appropriate support. SamSIFL can only provide accommodations if students inform staff about their pregnancy.

4.1.3. Academic Implications

A SamSIFL staff member will meet with the student to assess pregnancy's potential impact on their studies and may conduct a risk evaluation as outlined in section 4.1.7. Depending on the expected due date, temporary study interruption may be necessary. The student, with guidance, decides on the need for an interruption (suspension) and its duration, considering their program's academic requirements. Subsequently, the student is directed to the Head of Student Support in Student Services or the Women's Council for further guidance and to formalize the interruption.

For students choosing to continue their studies during pregnancy, regular meetings with their Personal Tutor or another designated staff member are scheduled to assess the effectiveness of any accommodations. Additional adjustments are made as needed.

4.1.4. Assessments and Examinations

Students nearing their due dates during assessment periods or exams should not face obstacles. Ensuring the student's health, safety, and well-being is paramount. Pregnant students may require rest breaks and more frequent restroom visits during exams. Depending on the nature of the examination, other accommodations may be needed, such as a more comfortable chair.

Students concerned about exams or deadlines due to pregnancy-related health conditions exacerbated by stress are advised to consult their healthcare provider. If advised not to sit exams or meet deadlines, alternative assessment methods are explored, following SAMFL's academic department guidelines.

4.1.5. Fieldwork

For students participating in fieldwork as part of their studies, it is vital to include this in SamSIFL's risk assessment. Specific fieldwork risks are discussed

with an appropriate staff member. Starting from the 7th month of pregnancy, students can engage in fieldwork after a risk assessment, considering the nature of the fieldwork and the student's health. Fieldwork participation is not permitted after 35 weeks of pregnancy.

4.1.6. Children on Campus

Students can bring infants and children into public campus areas. With staff approval, babies and children can also attend 1:1 meetings. To bring them to other areas or activities, approval from the Head of the Academic Department following a location/activity risk assessment is required. Students must arrange suitable childcare during scheduled teaching or research activities and should not assume that staff or fellow students will provide childcare during classes. In emergency situations, students can bring children to lectures, although not typically to small group seminars or tutorials. However, mother students can use childcare facilities on campus.

SamSIFL aims to be flexible, but lecturers may deny access for reasons such as possible disruption, health and safety concerns, inappropriateness of the topic for children, or if the child is excluded from school or nursery due to an infectious condition. In all cases, students are responsible for supervising their child and ensuring their safety, never leaving the child unattended.

5. Supporting Our Students

SamSIFL offers various measures to facilitate uninterrupted academic progress and provide support before and after study interruptions. These include:

- Allowing time off for the birth and recovery period, with study interruption arrangements for extended absences (through Student Services for undergraduates and the course Director or Supervisor for postgraduate students).
- Authorizing absences for medical appointments before and after childbirth, along with arrangements for catching up on missed classes.
- Providing extensions to deadlines when a student's circumstances make meeting them challenging.
- Allowing resit examinations to be treated as first attempts if pregnancy or childbirth prevents students from taking them as usual.
- Offering support to aid students' reintegration after a prolonged absence.

It is essential to consider students' perspectives and preferences rather than applying a standardized set of arrangements. Decisions should result from

discussions with the student. While flexibility is encouraged, academic standards must be upheld. A balance should be struck between ensuring students are not disadvantaged and avoiding preferential treatment. SAMFL is not obliged to grant every request but should strive to accommodate reasonable ones.