10

REDUCED INEQUALITIES







REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN AND AMONG COUNTRIES

Reduced inequalities to reduce people's inequalities in the area under SNRU's responsibility

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Policy and Commitment to SDG 10: Reduced inequalities

Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University, Fiscal Year 2025

Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University (SNRU) is a university for local development in Thailand's upper Northeast, a region of great ethnic diversity with wide economic and social gaps. Reducing inequality is therefore central to its mission and to SDG 10, Reduced Inequalities. The University Council's 2025 policy directs the university to run an "Educational Opportunity" program to reduce social inequality and a "Future Farmers" program to bring A new generation of farmers returns to their home communities, taking concrete action and regularly monitoring and evaluating progress. The university serves people of every age and background, from local school students and older adults to village scholars and students from Laos, Vietnam, and China. To widen access to education, SNRU offers scholarships for students facing financial hardship. It runs short courses with local schools, whose credits students can bank and transfer into degree programs, and develops courses with community leaders for local residents. For students with disabilities, the university's Disability Support Service Center for Higher Education (DSS) provides support from admission onwards, including campus facilities and learning materials such as Thai Sign Language videos. It also trains staff and students in Thai Sign Language so that students with disabilities can learn alongside their peers on equal terms. In society and the community, SNRU carries out area-based research guided by the sufficiency economy philosophy to tackle poverty and household vulnerability in Sakon Nakhon. It promotes well-being at every stage of life, especially for older people, and sustains the cultures of the Sakon Nakhon Basin's ethnic groups through cultural tourism and support for local artisans. Within the university, staff are recruited under the merit system, and applications are welcome from people of all backgrounds, including foreign nationals. SNRU aims to be a place where everyone has equal access to opportunity and a key force for closing the gap between the region's cities and rural areas.

Key Activities & Projects :

Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University (SNRU) continuously tracks the enrolment of under-represented groups: students with disabilities, students from low-income families, disadvantaged students receiving scholarships, and international students. Data for academic years 2023-2024 show the following:

- Low-income students: About 30% of undergraduates borrow from the Student Loan Fund (Type 1, for students in financial need), showing the university's role in expanding access to higher education for low-income families in the Northeast.
- Scholarships: The university arranged scholarships from royal and private foundations for 164 students in 2023 and 135 in 2024.
- Students with disabilities: Admitted through a special quota, 39-40 students with disabilities are enrolled each year.
- International students: Each year, 24-26 students from Lao PDR study at the graduate level, most with tuition fee reductions of 40-70%.

No	Category	2023 Total	2023%	2024 Total	2024%	Total (2023-2024)
	Thai Students (Undergraduate)					
1	Students with Disabilities	39	0.48	40	0.5	79
2	Students from Low-Income	2,415	29.89	2,423	30.11	4,838
3	Disadvantaged Students	164	2.03	135	1.68	299
	International Students					
4	Students from Lao PDR	26	-	24	-	50
	Total undergraduate	**8,080**	**100**	**8,048**	**100**	

Key Activities & Projects : Access to university track underrepresented groups' applications

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Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University (SNRU) offers a range of admission routes so that groups with fewer educational opportunities can enter higher education. All admission rounds run through an online application system (regis.snru.ac.th), which records applicant data systematically, and dedicated units track each group:

- Disability Support Service Center (DSS): students with disabilities
- Student Development Division: scholarship holders and Student Loan Fund borrowers
- Graduate School: international students

In 2025, the university offered the following admission routes for these groups:

1. Disability quota: Every year since 2011, SNRU has admitted up to 20 students with disabilities to bachelor's programs. The DSS supports them from application and orientation through to inclusive study. In academic year 2024, 12 new students with disabilities were admitted, up from 5 in 2023.
2. Provincial and local government quota: Provincial and local administrative organizations can nominate students from their areas, who then return to develop their home communities. This route runs alongside the quota round for academic excellence, activities, sports, and good character. For academic year 2026, the list of eligible candidates was announced on 19 August 2025, and the interview list on 5 September 2025.
3. Weekend program: For working adults who want to continue their studies. Applications for academic year 2025 were open from 9 January to 9 June 2025.
4. Multiple open admission rounds: Regular-program applications for academic year 2025 ran continuously from 3 September 2024 to 9 May 2025, including transfer students, with an additional round opening on 1 December 2025. Applicants from remote areas therefore have several chances to apply.
5. International students: The Graduate School admits 24-26 master's and doctoral students from Lao PDR each year, most with tuition fee reductions.









Key Activities & Projects : Disability Access Schemes

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Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University (SNRU) runs a support scheme that gives people with disabilities equal access to education from before admission through graduation. The Disability Student Education Development and Promotion Unit (DSS Center) in the Student Development Division delivers it in four parts.

1. Access before admission

SNRU accepts applicants with any type of disability through a special quota of up to 20 students a year, offered every year since 2011. It also visits special schools to guide students on further study. In 2025, the DSS team visited:

- the Udon Thani School for the Deaf on 4 February 2025
- Si Sangwan School, Khon Kaen, on 10 February 2025

At these visits, students with disabilities learned about applications, programs, and the support they would receive.

2. Physical accessibility

Campus buildings have 15 ramps, 18 accessible parking spaces, and accessible toilets in every building so that students, staff, and visitors with disabilities can get around and use the buildings easily.

3. Learning support (reasonable accommodation)

The DSS Center has specialist staff:

- three sign language interpreters
- three special education officers
- two computers and IT officers
- advisers on special education and disability law

The center provides sign language interpreting, technology, and learning materials such as Thai Sign Language videos and one-to-one advice so that students with disabilities can study alongside their peers. In academic year 2024, 40 students with disabilities were enrolled across five faculties.

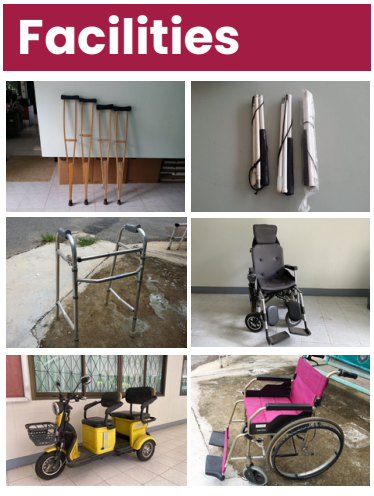
4. Networks and service standards

On 9 December 2025, SNRU hosted a study visit by the 2025 Seminar Network of Higher Education Disability Student Service Centers, organised by the Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation, in the Student Council Meeting Room, Building 20. President Asst. Prof. Chakrit Chanchitpricha welcomed the group, and DSS Center Head Mr Teerayut Sadaeng presented the university's approach to educational services for students with disabilities. DSS staff and students with disabilities also shared their experiences, helping to raise DSS service standards and strengthen the network.









Sakon Nakhon Rajabhat University (SNRU) offers opportunities for students with all types of disabilities to apply for undergraduate studies. The university employs a selection process, including an examination and special privileges, allowing qualified disabled students who have completed their high school diploma (or equivalent) to directly enroll. This special quota admits no more than 20 students per year and has been consistently offered every academic year since 2011. As a result, SNRU currently has students with disabilities studying alongside non-disabled students, all supported by the Disability Support Services (DSS) Center within the Office of Student Development and Promotion.

