

## **UBTEB ESTABLISHES SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION UNIT**

UBTEB has established a special needs and inclusive education Unit under Planning and Development purposely to cater for special needs students. We believe that disability is not inability and endeavor to bring students with special needs on board for national assessment to enable them acquire competent skills that can help them compete in the labour market. We passionately do our work within the mandate drawn from Ministry of Education and Sports which is to conduct examinations in Business, Technical and Vocational Professions in designated specialized training institutions in Uganda.

UBTEB understands and appreciates the need to cater for students with special needs that have abilities and potential but hindered by disability of various categories. As the saying goes give people flowers where they can smell them UBTEB has put in place a strategy to create conducive examinations environment by having all aspects of Special needs students catered for to enable them achieve their dreams.

UBTEB provides special needs education in compliance with the Salamanca statement and framework for action on special needs Education 1994, which Uganda is signatory, the United Nations convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (2008) in consonance with the government constitution (1995), enacted persons with disability act (2006). The instruments demand for access, equity and quality as regards educational services for persons with special learning needs. The instruments emphasize;

- a)** The Right of all children, including those with temporary and permanent needs for educational adjustments to attend school.
- b)** The Right of all children to attend school in their home communities in inclusive classes.
- c)** The Right of all children to participate in a child-centered education meeting individual needs.

- d) The Right of all children to participate in quality education that is meaningful for each individual.

UBTEB Special needs Education Unit is in consonance with the above and has set its vision, mission and objectives to achieve their goals. We work in partnership with Ministry of education and sports Special Needs Education and Inclusive Education Department, relevant line ministries and institutions that provide special needs education services.

#### Categories of Students with Special Needs and Aspects of Examinations

<b>No</b>	<b>Special Needs Category Description</b>	<b>Aspects of Examination provided</b>
1	a) Blind: The Candidate does not have sight and uses Braille for his or her communication during examination. b) Low vision: The candidate has partial sight that does not enable him or her to read ordinary print.	Braille.  Large Print or Large Font.
2	c) Deaf: The candidate does not hear or has no speech. d) Hard of hearing: The candidate is partially Deaf.	Sign Language interpreter.
3	Dyslexic: The candidate with inherited condition that makes it extremely difficult for them to read ,write and spell any language they know	Support personnel Transcriber, reader or tape recording assistant
4	Mental Learning Disabilities: The candidate with IQ below the average	Transcriber , reader and tape recording

	that is 75 and is referred as a person with sub normal intelligence.	
5	Physical Disability( without hands and limbs)	Support personnel
	All categories	Counseling services Extra time 1 hour

### **What are special needs?**

Special needs are conditions or factors that hinder normal learning, development and participation of individuals in education program for example physical disabilities blindness, deafness, physical impairments, mental retardation/ learning difficulties ,dyslexia but other needs like epilepsy , asthma , orphans , street children, HIV Orphaned children. Physically and emotionally abused children in war affected areas etc. Every person has needs but not all needs are special needs, therefore in this particular case UBTEB considers those extreme needs that require Examinations special arrangements for SNE students to compete in Examinations.

### **What are special Educational Needs?**

Special education needs are needs that require educational adjustments to enable a learner perform education tasks. These learners have different abilities and potentials and in most cases do not perform like the rest of the learners as such they have special learning and educational needs which is not the same as others. Therefore for them to perform education tasks require to have educational adjustments for example Braille for the blind, sign language interpreter for the deaf, tape recorder and transcriber for the dyslexic learners, support personnel for physically handicapped during Examinations and learning. UBTEB Special needs Department have put all these considerations in place to enable special needs students participate in quality examinations and achieve their dreams. Therefore UBTEB require special needs students to register with the Special needs Department with a medical document to ascertain the candidates' state of affair.

### **What is a special need Education?**

The system of education which provides appropriate modifications in the curriculum, teaching methods, learning materials and medium of communication in order to meet special educational needs in an individual. It is learner centered flexible and adjustable to individual needs and potentials. As UBTEB has put access arrangement by registering candidates with special needs and ensuring all aspects of examinations are catered for.

UBTEB therefore calls upon institutions to register special needs students and inform the Board so that assessment can be done to ascertain the conduciveness of the Examinations centres and verify the nature of student's disability through medical tests. This will enable the Examinations board to make arrangements for aspects of Special needs Education.

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