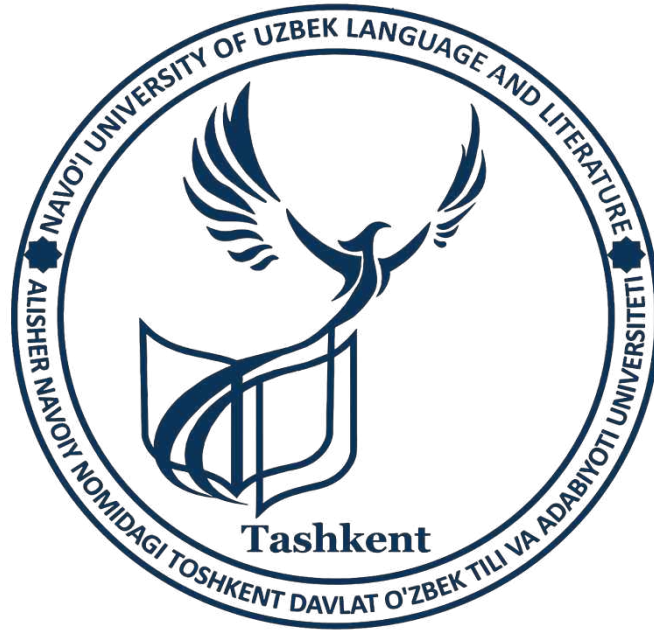




STUDENT PREGNANCY AND MATERNITY GUIDELINES

(2022 - 2023)





STUDENT PREGNANCY AND MATERNITY GUIDELINES

Functional Category	
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Student Pregnancy and Maternity Guidelines

Introduction

This policy offers guidance and support to:

Students who find themselves pregnant during their academic pursuits, their partners, and those who have recently become parents through adoption.

University staff who play a role in advising students facing these circumstances.

Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to any student experiencing pregnancy during their studies, as well as students who are soon-to-be fathers. It also covers students who are partners (including same-sex partners) of expectant parents and those becoming parents through adoption.

Policy Statement

The University is dedicated to ensuring that pregnancy or parenthood does not hinder a student's academic success. While maintaining academic standards, the University commits to flexibility that supports student achievement without disadvantage. The health and safety of pregnant students remain paramount, and all matters under this policy will be handled confidentially, sensitively, and without judgment. Only essential personnel will be informed with the student's consent.

While primarily focused on academic matters, this policy also provides sources of help and advice for related issues.

Rights and Responsibilities

This section outlines the rights and responsibilities of students, staff, and the University.

For Pregnant Students

Confirming Pregnancy: Upon pregnancy disclosure, the University does not require proof. Evidence in the form of appointments or letters from the student's midwife or GP may be requested if pregnancy impacts attendance or academics.

Contacting Academic Department: If a student plans to continue her pregnancy, timely communication with a University representative is recommended. Although the personal tutor is the typical point of contact, an alternative staff member may be

initially preferred. The personal tutor must eventually be informed for proper support allocation.

Implications for Study: A University staff member will meet with the student to discuss pregnancy's potential study impact. A risk assessment may be conducted. A decision about interrupting studies due to the baby's due date, considering academic requirements, will be made in consultation with the student and appropriate advisors.

Assessments and Examinations: Pregnant students nearing assessment deadlines or exams should not be hindered from participating. Health and well-being are paramount. Adjustments such as rest breaks and comfortable seating can be provided.

Field Work: Field work risk assessments must consider pregnancy-related risks. After the 7th month, participation requires assessment. Participation is not allowed after 35 weeks of pregnancy.

Babies/Children on Campus: Babies and children may be in public spaces with staff permission. Approved areas/activities are allowed after risk assessment. Suitable childcare is necessary during scheduled activities. Bringing children to lectures is acceptable, while seminars might require alternatives.

Supporting the Student

Measures include:

- Allowing time off for birth and recovery.
- Facilitating medical appointments and missed class catch-up.
- Extending deadlines based on circumstances.
- Treating resit exams as first attempts if pregnancy hinders initial participation.
- Assisting with reintegration after prolonged absence.
- Decisions should consider the student's input, avoiding a one-size-fits-all approach. Flexibility should align with academic standards and reasonable requests.
- Sources of Information and Help

[Women's Council of TSUULL](#)

[Student's Union](#)

[Department of Youth Affairs, Spirituality, and Education](#)