



Date - 1/4/2024

4. Meal Assistance and Special Programs

Basic Necessities Support

Amrita's Basic Necessities program partners with student welfare bodies and philanthropic trusts to ensure that financially vulnerable students receive timely food assistance:

- **Emergency Ration Kits:** Pre-packaged kits containing rice, atta, pulses, cooking oil, and shelf-stable vegetables are distributed within 24 hours of request submission on the intranet portal.
- **Meal Vouchers:** Digital vouchers loaded to student IDs permit up to three complimentary mess meals per week. Students can apply via the "Financial Aid" section of the portal, with approval processed in two business days.
- **Family Support Grants:** For students facing prolonged hardship, one-time grants cover grocery expenses for up to two months. Applications require a brief statement of need and guardian income proof, submitted through the "Basic Necessities" application form on the internal site.

Campus Food Pantry Drives

To minimize food waste and support community well-being, the university conducts regular food-bank events:

- **Weekly Surplus Redistribution:** Unserved cafeteria items nearing end-of-day freshness are collected and repackaged into balanced meal boxes. Volunteers coordinate pick-up from each dining hall and set up distribution stalls in the student center.
- **Student-Run Pantry:** A dedicated "Amrita Pantry" space on campus shelves donated non-perishables—rice, lentils, flour, canned goods—available 24/7 through a self-service honor-system rack. Students log items taken or donated via a touch-screen kiosk.

- **Holiday Food Drives:** Before long academic breaks, the university partners with local NGOs to collect excess dining-hall produce and packaged goods. These items are transported to rural outreach centers and community kitchens, benefiting over 500 families each year.

All meal assistance programs can be accessed and tracked through the “Student Welfare → Meal Assistance” dashboard on the amrita.internal website, ensuring transparency and timely support for every student.