

Workstream 4.2: Implementation of Universal Design for Learning

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This work stream deals with implementation of Universal Design for Learning (UDL); a set of principles for curriculum development that give all individuals equal opportunities to learn, including students with disabilities. UDL is a new concept in higher education. Hence, its implementation requires a dramatic shift in how we think about educational practice, so that a greater diversity of students, including those with disabilities are accommodated.

Objectives	Key Achievements
Develop a coherent UDL policy for the TU Dublin, based on clear vision and strategies;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through CPD on universal design for TU Dublin staff, a discussion document on key policy issues focused on UDL has been developed for wider consultation across TU Dublin. • Several engagement workshops with the National Centre for Excellence in Universal Design (CEUD) to map the UD landscape within TU Dublin. CEUD is currently writing a position paper on UD policy using TU Dublin as an exemplar. • An external benchmarking exercise on UD policy has been undertaken to explore key issues in universities, including DCU, ATU, GMIT, UCD and MTU. • A key partnership of the Centre for Higher Education Research Policy and Practice (CHERPP) between TU Dublin, University of Ontario Institute of Technology and Durham College has facilitated collaborative research and practice projects in universal design. • This workstream has been a catalyst for the extension of the Community of Practice to European partners through EUt+.
Initiate and build upon the support networks and partnerships as primary UDL resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UD Award for TUDUBLIN: CEUD conferred TU Dublin with a Recognition of Excellence award in celebration of a decade-long collaboration with its founding Institutions, and the new University's commitment to Universal Design. • Partnerships: Significant partnership building with key UD organisations - CEUD, AHEAD, CAST, University of Washington's Do-It Centre, UDL IRN, EUt+, CHERPP, Enactus, Enable Ireland. MOU signed with CAST post UD conference in Dublin Castle. • UD Community of Practice: The WS 4.2 team has established a vibrant UD community of practice of circa. 30 TU Dublin staff, funding participants to present at, and participate in UDLHE Digicon and CAST conferences over Transform Edu period. • Assistive Technology: An assistive technology (AT) community of practice is now also active: key workshops delivered with AHEAD and promotion of engagement with AT Hive and participation at Gather 2022. • Accessibility: Transform EDU staff piloted the first iteration of accessibility training with CEUD for the Irish Computer Society. Accessibility checkers have been added to TU Dublin's VLEs – Brightspace and MOODLE. • The CoP his forming the basis of an active research group contributing papers to TU Dublin events and International Conferences. • Through collaborations with the Association for Higher Education Adults with Disabilities (AHEAD) the Student Voice was captured in an innovative exhibition entitled Connected Voices in Learning. • Circa. 25 TU Dublin staff have now completed the AHEAD UDL digital badge and 8 are now badge facilitators.
Identify priority programmes for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Creative Digital Media programme has become an exemplar for learner engagement. The programme team has adopted makerspaces as a means of facilitating students create a variety of art and technology artefacts. The spaces

engagement of learners as UDL partners.	<p>also facilitate the students to connect and to build relationships with each other and with their teachers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Transform EDU team has developed TU Dublin’s Construction Mathematics website as a prototype exemplar for embedding UDL principles.• Many technical and design programmes in TU Dublin have embedded the principles of Universal Design in modules and project work, whilst students have also regularly participated in the annual Universal Design Grand Challenge Student Award. Universal Design is a 5 credit semester long module currently delivered to undergraduate students. An introductory lecture has been prepared for lectures to embed in other relevant modules. //Hyperlink this 5 ECTS module?//
Initiate redesign of curriculum processes and enhance teaching and learning, while maintaining learning outcome standards at designated NFQ levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In collaboration with WP5, the workstream team has embedded universal design in TU Dublin’s Quality Framework, through School and Programme review processes. These processes mandate schools to be accountable for EDI performance and require schools to resource UDL practice appropriately. See School Review and School Self Evaluation Reporting policies, approved by the Academic Council.• An innovative exhibition entitled Connected Voices in Learning celebrated learner diversity through UDL. Learners revealed the richness of their personal learning stories by participating in the creation of a trilogy of inspiring poems with Colm Keegan. The new University Education Model (UEM) team have used these poems for staff engagement in developing the framework of learner experiences. The poem takes pride of place in every First Year of Study handbook.• A poster of individually designed postage stamps reflecting individual learning journeys is now available, reflecting the unique qualities of learner journeys – the inspirations, the personalities, the barriers, struggles and successes.

Impact and Continuity

The work of the project will continue through TU Dublin’s Universal Design Community of Practice. It is intended to formalise coordination of the Community of Practice through the TU Dublin EDI Directorate. Likewise, it is intended to formalise the roadmap for collaboration with CEUD, CAST and AHEAD through a renewed Memoranda of Understanding.

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