

TEACHING AND LEARNING CASE STUDY	
Name of Institution/ Organisation	Maynooth University
Who led the initiative?	Centre for Teaching and Learning Faculty UDL Teaching and Learning Fellows
Date and timeframe of the initiative	Academic years 2023 – 2025 (Phases 1 and 2 of Initiative)
What was the reach of the initiative?	<p>12 Plus One Guides</p> <p>6 Universal Design for Learning Open Education Resources</p> <p>6 Staff Practice Exemplars</p> <p>4 MU: UDL & Me, UDL T&L Fellow videos</p> <p>9 MU: UDL & U, staff and student videos</p> <p>1 MU: UDL & U campaign, over 4 weeks. No. of participants 47</p> <p>1 Social Justice Week event, 7 March 2024, No. of participants 29</p> <p>1 MU: UDL & U. Open Mic session, 1 May 2024, No. of participants 21</p> <p>3 international conference presentations</p> <p>1 Staff information session on ‘Creating a Culture of Inclusion in the Classroom: Research Foundations for Universal Design for Learning (UDL) & Models of Good Practice’, 15 November 2024, No. of participants 51</p> <p>1 co-sponsorship of the ‘UDL International Symposium: Learning Together’, 8-9 June 2023</p> <p>1 commissioned research report to explore the evidence on the effectiveness of UDL as an approach to creating more inclusive higher education practice.</p> <p>1 short review of models of good practice in embedding inclusive higher education in teaching and learning practice.</p>
Initiative Title	MU: UDL & U. Building a Culture of Inclusion on Campus
Aims/Objectives	<p>The aim of the MU: UDL & U initiative was to contribute to inclusive education on campus by drawing on the principles and practice of Universal Design for Learning (UDL).</p> <p>The Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) in collaboration with the Maynooth Access Programme, awarded four UDL focused T&L Fellowships to Maynooth University colleagues under the HEA PATH 4, Phase 1 - Universal Design for Education Fund, for a two-year period. The UDL Faculty T&L Fellows worked together with CTL staff to co-design and implement the MU: UDL & U initiative within which we</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collated and developed UDL educational resources and guidelines to assist staff in learning about and applying UDL principles in their practice • designed and implemented a short UDL awareness campaign to prompt and support MU staff to make small incremental changes to increase the inclusiveness of their teaching, learning and assessment practices • collated faculty specific exemplars of good UDL practice to inspire and share good practice across the University • contributed to cross-campus conversation, including those with senior leaders, about how to nurture a culture of inclusive education • co-sponsored the ‘UDL International Symposium: Learning Together’, 8-9 June 2023. • shared our work in institutional, national and international settings.
<p>Rationale and Identified Needs</p>	<p>This initiative responds to the growing diversity of the Maynooth University student population and reflects our commitments under the ‘Students and Learning’ heading of the Maynooth University Strategic Plan 2023-28 to ‘educate our students in an inclusive environment in which everyone can thrive personally and intellectually, in which they have a space to understand themselves as people, as engaged citizens and as independent thinkers’ (2023, p. 14).</p>
<p>Frameworks, Policies, or Strategies Aligned (internal, local or national)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher Education Authority (2022) <i>National Access Plan. A Strategic Action Plan for Equity of Access, Participation and Success in Higher Education 2022-2029</i>. Accessible at https://hea.ie/policy/access-policy/national-access-plan-2022-2028/ • Maynooth University (2023) <i>Maynooth University Strategic Plan 2023-2028</i>. Accessible at https://strategy.maynoothuniversity.ie/ • Maynooth University (2023) <i>Maynooth University Student Success Strategy</i>. Accessible at: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/assets/document/MU_SSI%20-%20Student%20Success%20Strategy.pdf • Maynooth University (n.d.) <i>Maynooth University Student Charter</i>. Accessible at: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/edi/student-charter • National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (2021) <i>Next Steps for Teaching and Learning: Moving Forward Together</i>. Accessible at https://www.teachingandlearning.ie/wp-content/uploads/Next-Steps.pdf
<p>Summary (371/400 words)</p>	<p>MU: UDL & U. Building a Culture of Inclusion on campus</p> <p>Drawing from Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles in teaching, learning and assessment practices is an important element of Maynooth University’s commitment to the provision of a more inclusive learning environment and experience for all our students.</p>

	<p>To support the University community in leveraging the potential of UDL in fostering inclusive teaching and learning practice, the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) worked with UDL T&L Fellows from all three Faculties to co-design the ‘MU: UDL & U. Building a Culture of Inclusion on campus’ initiative.</p> <p>To date the team has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created a hub of resources including six Creative Commons licensed Open Education Resources (OER), 12 Plus One how-to guides, six staff practice exemplars, and four MU: UDL & ME UDL Fellows’ video insights to assist staff in learning about and applying UDL principles in their practice • Organised a four-week UDL Awareness Raising Campaign to raise awareness of UDL principles and to support staff to make small incremental changes to increase the inclusiveness of their teaching, learning and assessment practices. This campaign will be run again in semester 2, 2024-25. • Facilitated three staff and student events: ‘Introduction to MU: UDL & U’ during Maynooth University Social Justice Week, ‘MU: UDL & U Open Mic’ and ‘Creating a Culture of Inclusion in the Classroom: Research Foundations for Universal Design for Learning (UDL) & Models of Good Practice’ • Liaised with senior leaders regarding inclusive education in Maynooth University • Contributed to consultation around the Maynooth University Centre for Excellence in Inclusive Higher Education • Worked with international reviewers and hosted an international speaker for two staff professional learning events • Presented at three international conferences: ‘Power of Potential: Sharing Experiences from Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Journeys’, University of Worcester, UK, June 2024; ‘The 2nd International UDL Symposium. Including Every Learner: In the school, in the home, in alternative learning setting’, Maynooth University, September 2024; ‘ECRICE 2024, the 16 European Conference on Research in Chemical Education’, Lisbon, September 2024 <p>Phase 2 of the project runs in academic year 2024-25 with ongoing development and dissemination of resources, a re-run of the MU: UDL & U Campaign, and end of project reporting including recommendations for future work.</p>
<p>Did you collaborate with internal and/or external stakeholders to deliver?</p>	<p>MU Staff and students All three MU Faculties Maynooth Access Programme (MAP) Vice-President for Students and Learning Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning</p>

	<p>Office of the Vice President for Equality and Diversity Student Skills and Success The Maynooth University Social Justice Week Steering Group Maynooth University Library External experts as reviewers of project outputs Independent Researcher on commissioned research HEA through PATH4 Funding</p>
Organisation and Planning	<p>Project design and management was led by the Centre for Teaching and Learning in consultation with MAP (Path 4 Lead).</p>
What resources did you need?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PATH 4 Funding to support the appointment of UDL Teaching and Learning Fellows from each of the three Faculties, the design and production of Open Education Resources, review work with international experts, staff events and the MU: UDL & U campaign, attendance at national and international conferences. • SATLE Funding to support the co-sponsorship the 'UDL International Symposium: Learning Together', 8-9 June 2023 and the commissioned research to explore the evidence on the effectiveness of UDL as an approach to creating more inclusive higher education practice and a short review of models of good practice in embedding inclusive higher education in teaching and learning practice. • Centre for Teaching and learning staff time to manage and support the achievement of the project.
Has it been evaluated? How successful has it been?	<p>In terms of impact, we have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • captured quantitative data that illustrates the number of colleagues who have participated in an initiative activity/event where they learned more about UDL in the context of inclusive education • built capacity in terms of institutional knowledge about UDL in the context of inclusive education through the development of a resource hub for staff • intentionally brought inclusive education and UDL to the attention of the university Faculty T&L Committees through initiative activity and dissemination • contributed to institutional discussion around inclusive education by inviting colleagues from the Office of Vice President for Equality and Diversity to participate in events and initiative meetings • raised the profile of Maynooth University's commitment to inclusive education through national and international conference presentations, and through the commitment to develop Creative Commons licenced Open Education Resources (OER) • engaged in professional learning within professional and academic departments through the work of the initiative

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> used the learning and outputs from the initiative in accredited postgraduate programmes for staff in teaching and learning in higher education. <p>We will complete a formal evaluation of the initiative, including pre and post Phase 2 surveys, in academic year 2024-25.</p>
<p>Any future plans, including the sustainability of the initiative?</p>	<p>We are currently (academic year 2024-25) running Phase 2 of the initiative which involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> dissemination of existing resources facilitating the MU: UDL & U Awareness Raising Campaign – February/March 2025 including pre and post campaign surveys co-authoring three disciplinary Plus One case studies per faculty completing the End of Project Report including project evaluation and a recommendations statement based on the UDL Landscape Research & Practice study, the UDL fellowship experience and all learning to date from the MU: UDL & U initiative.
<p>Key Learning Points</p>	<p>Key learning points include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the necessity to ensure that inclusive education remains a strategic priority for the University importance of ongoing professional development for staff to promote and embed inclusive education practice both bottom-up and top-down efforts are required as is alignment with other related work on-campus a faculty approach is effective in terms of creating awareness, building knowledge and supporting action raising awareness takes time and a range of approaches our efforts need to be underpinned by the most recent evidence and research in this space, hence our prioritising of a review of the scholarship and models of good practice institutional alignment must be echoed in unit alignment with CTL TEL colleagues facilitating a parallel initiative to enhance VLE accessibility ongoing work would benefit from increased student involvement. <p>Through our work together we have come to a shared understanding of the need to see the principles of Universal Design for Learning as an important aspect of the broader campus-wide commitment to inclusive higher education. This work is a whole-of-institution endeavour which incorporates research, policy and practice. We acknowledge the complexity of the achievement of inclusion while remaining determined to incrementally move towards a more inclusive campus.</p>

Teaching and Learning Focus Areas (please tick all that apply)

Categories	Elements	Topics	Target Groups
Commit <input type="checkbox"/>	Leadership, Strategy & Governance <input type="checkbox"/>	Digital Transformation <input type="checkbox"/>	Students <input type="checkbox"/>
Coordinate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Curriculum and Assessment <input type="checkbox"/>	Education for Sustainable Development <input type="checkbox"/>	Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Consult <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovation in Teaching <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Academic Integrity <input type="checkbox"/>	Wider community <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Create <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Professional Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Inclusive and Equitable Teaching Practices <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Celebrate & Continue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Research and Evaluation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Innovations in Assessment and Feedback <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Student Engagement and Partnership <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Approaches <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		Artificial Intelligence <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Other <input type="checkbox"/>	

Contact Details

Contact Name/s	<p>MU Centre for Teaching and Learning: Lisa O'Regan, Dr Alison Farrell</p> <p>UDL T&L Fellows: Dr Marian Crowley-Henry, Dr Margaret Flood, Prof Denise Rooney, Prof Moynagh Sullivan</p> <p>Maynooth Access Programme: Dr Rosario Ryan</p>
Date	18 November, 2024.
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Links	<p>MU: UDL & U - Building a Culture of Inclusion in Maynooth University Web Page: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/centre-teaching-and-learning/ctl-projects/path-initiative</p> <p>MU: UDL & U Plus One - Providing students with choice of content Link: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/assets/document//7.%20Plus%20Offering%20content%20choice%20example%20Final.pdf</p> <p>MU: UDL & U Plus One - Creating an inclusive space Link: https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/sites/default/files/assets/document//1.%20Plus%20Announcing%20that%20Module%20is%20Inclusive%20Space%20Final.pdf</p> <p>Attachments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MU: UDL & U – Year 1 Overview Cartoon PDF/Image