



HEA Teaching and Learning Conference December 2024

Driving Changes in Teaching and Learning through Policy and Innovation

HEA AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS
HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY



MU: UDL & U. Building a Culture of Inclusion on Campus

Name of Institution/Organisation	Aims/Objectives
Maynooth University	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).
Who led the initiative?	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:
Centre for Teaching and Learning Faculty UDL Teaching and Learning Fellows	<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.
Date and timeframe of the initiative	Rationale and Identified Needs
Academic years 2023 – 2025 (Phases 1 and 2 of Initiative)	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).
What was the reach of the initiative?	Frameworks, Policies, or Strategies Aligned (internal, local or national)
12 Plus One Guides 6 Universal Design for Learning Open Education Resources 6 Staff Practice Exemplars 4 MU: UDL & Me, UDL T&L Fellow videos 9 MU: UDL & U, staff and student videos 1 MU: UDL & U campaign, over 4 weeks. No. of participants 47 1 Social Justice Week event, 7 March 2024, No. of participants 29 1 MU: UDL & U. Open Mic session, 1 May 2024, No. of participants 21 3 international conference presentations 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 1 co-sponsorship of the 'UDL International Symposium: Learning Together', 8-9 June 2023 1 commissioned research report to explore the evidence on the effectiveness of UDL as an approach to creating more inclusive higher education practice. 1 short review of models of good practice in embedding inclusive higher education in teaching and learning practice.	<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



Categories	Elements	Topics	Target Groups
Coordinate			Staff
Consult	Innovation in Teaching		Wider community
Create	Professional Development	Inclusive and Equitable Teaching Practices	
Celebrate & Continue	Research and Evaluation		
		Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Approaches	