

Teaching & Learning Conference 2024

Driving Changes in Teaching and Learning through Policy and Innovation



ALTITUDE

THE NATIONAL CHARTER FOR UNIVERSAL
DESIGN IN TERTIARY EDUCATION

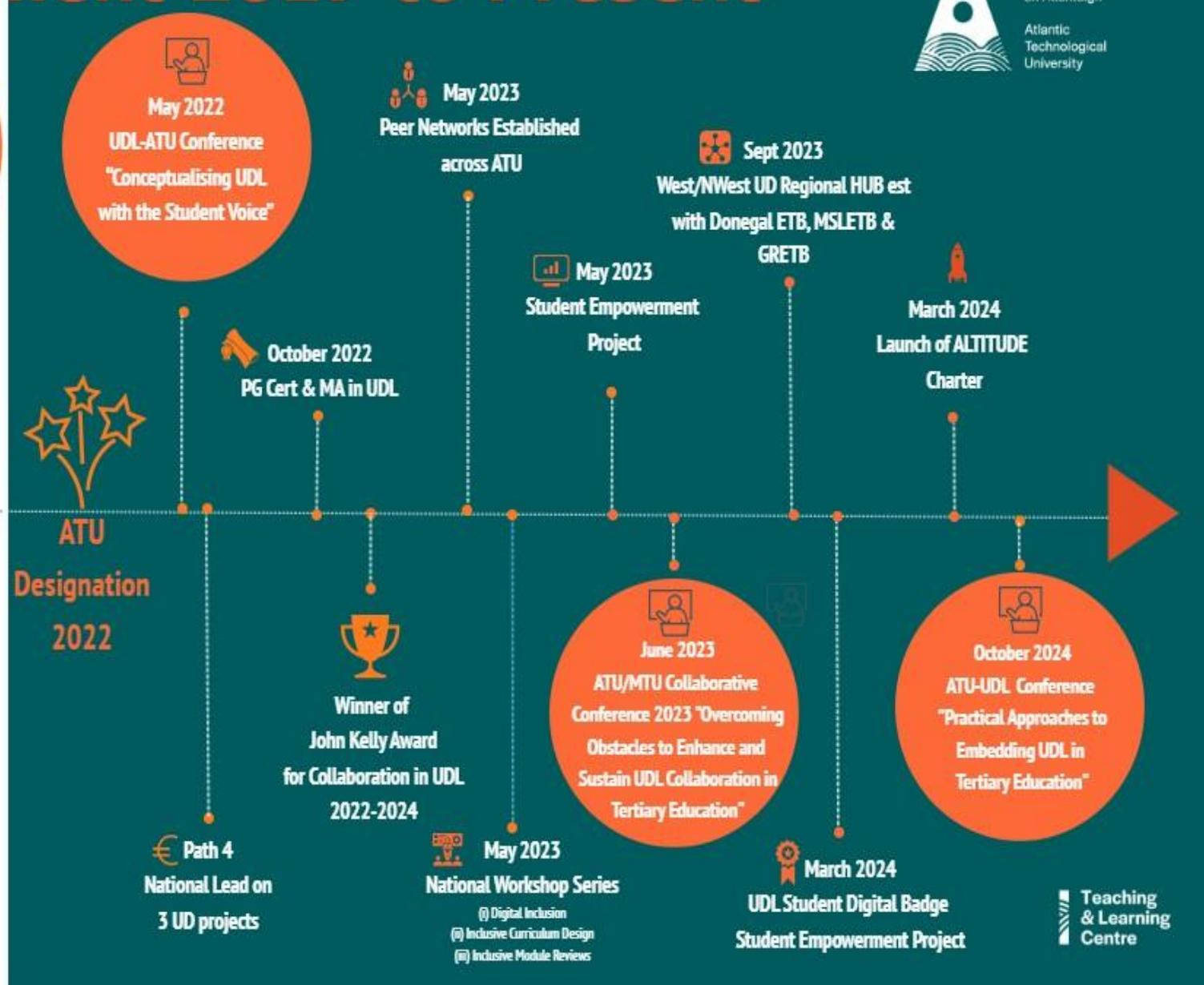
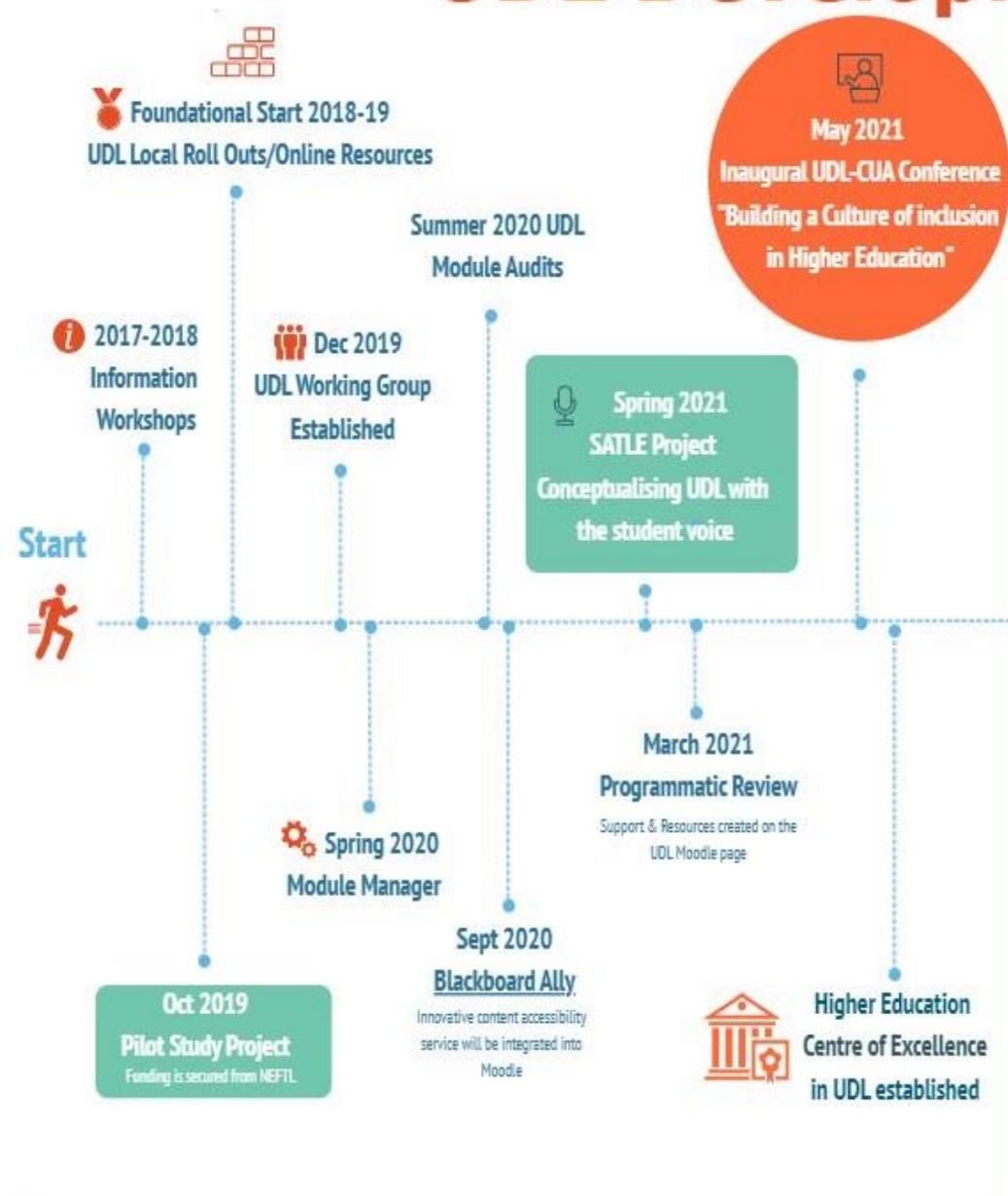
Scaling New Heights in Ireland:

ALTITUDE - The National Charter for Universal
Design in Irish Tertiary Education

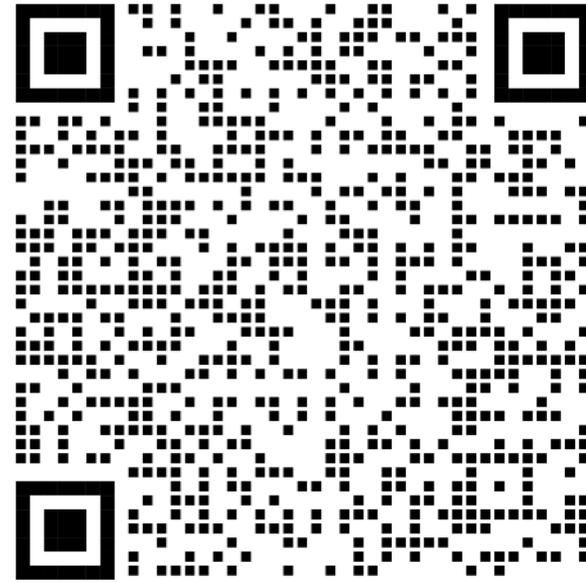
Dr. Niamh Plunkett, Maureen Haran, (ATU)



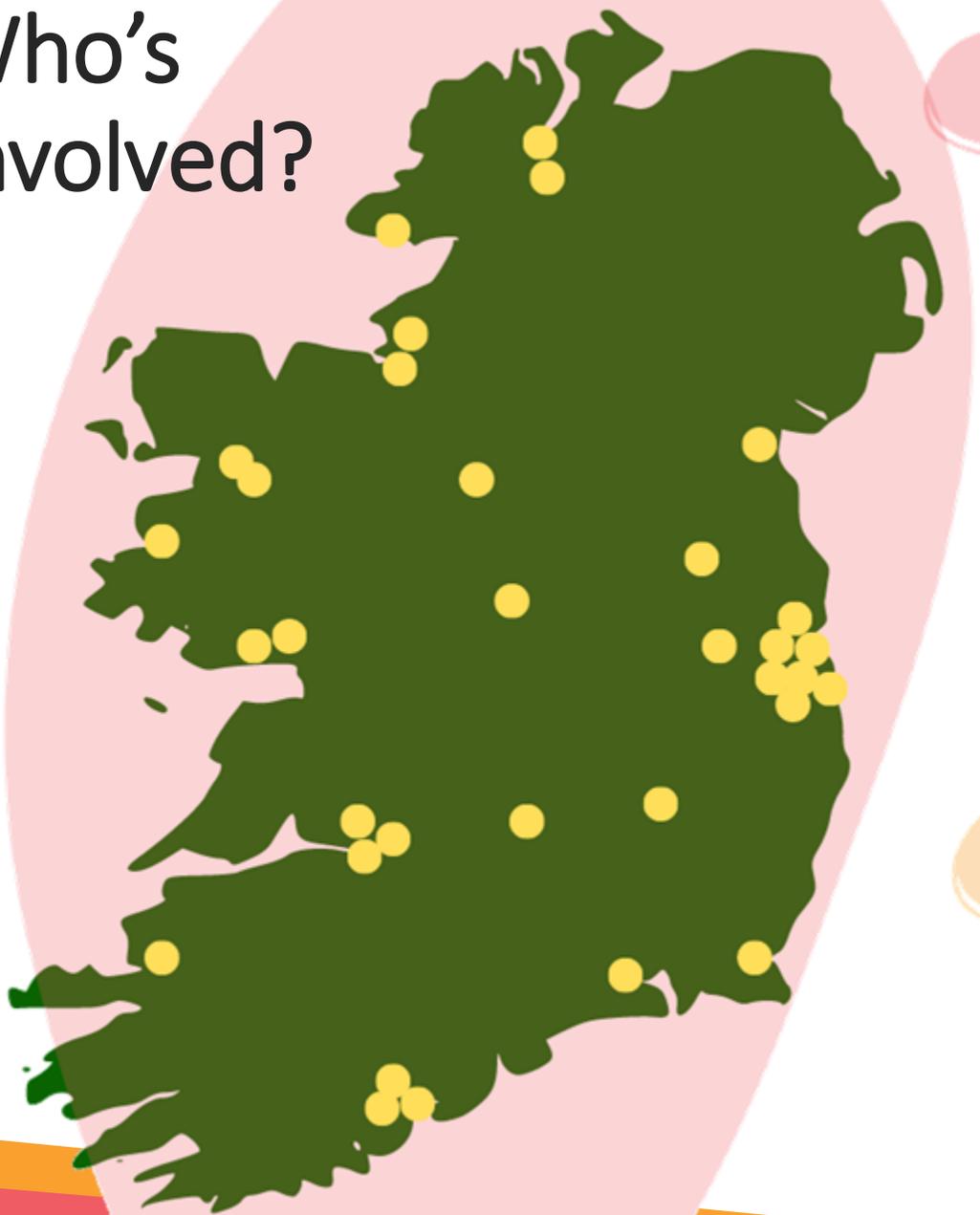
UDL Development 2017 to Present



Policy and Sectoral Context



Who's Involved?



National Collaborators

- AHEAD (Lead Collab)
- Education & Training Boards Ireland (ETBI)
- Irish Universities Association (IUA)
- National Tertiary Office
- SOLAS
- Technological Higher Education Association (THEA)

Official HE Partners

- ATU (Lead)
- MTU (Partner)
- UCD (Partner)
- UoG (Partner)

Regional Collaborators

- CETB
- CDET B
- DCU
- Donegal ETB
- Hibernia College
- IADT
- LMETB
- MU
- MIC
- MSLETB
- SETU
- TCD
- Tipperary ETB
- TUD
- TUS
- UCC
- UL



Vision of the ALTITUDE Project



“Tertiary education institutions where **all** learners are **transformatively included** through **universal design** in **education**.”

Mission of the Project



“To support HEIs and ETBs to make sustainable progress towards systemically embedding a universal design approach, which places human diversity at the heart of tertiary education design and fosters student success for all.”

ALTITUDE - Project Outputs



ALTITUDE Charter



UNLOCKING
INCLUSION TOOLKIT –
Supporting
Implementation



Technical Report





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THE NATIONAL CHARTER FOR UNIVERSAL
DESIGN IN TERTIARY EDUCATION

Development of the Charter

Strategic Foundations & Scaffolding

Learning, Teaching &
Assessment

Supports, Services &
Social Engagement

Physical Environment

Digital Environment

(Burgstahler, 2009; Kelly & Padden, 2018)

Huge Cross
Sectoral
Collaboration



Deep Literature
Review



Significant Staff
& Student
Consultation



Senior
Stakeholder
Dialogue



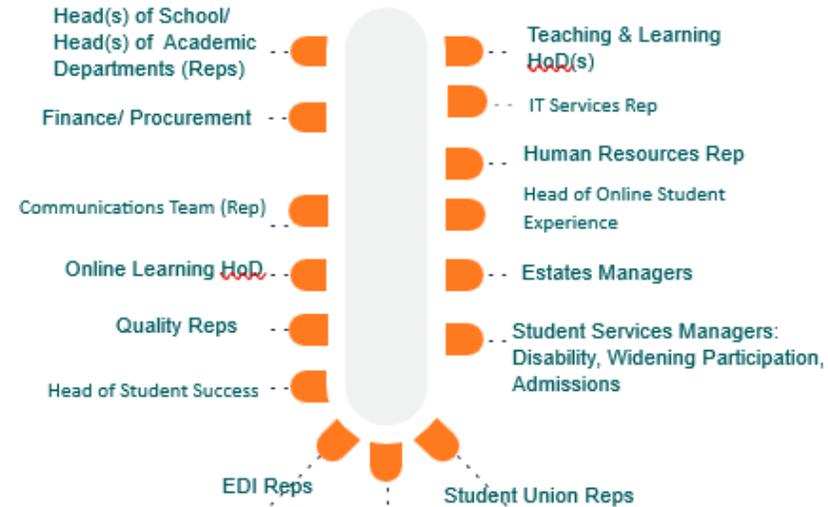
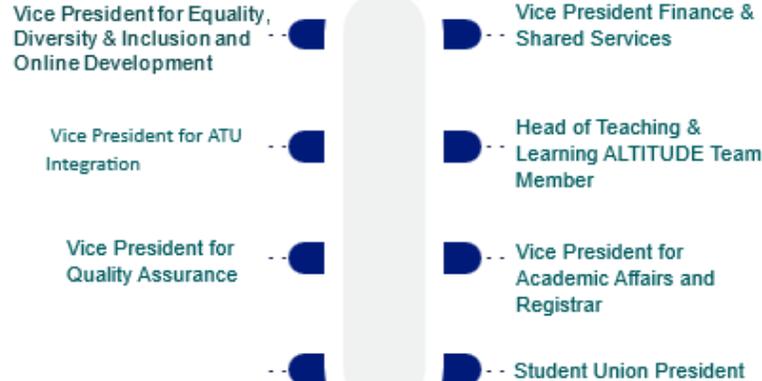
ATU ALTITUDE STEERING COMMITTEE



ATU ALTITUDE Working Group

Registrar - Vice President Students, Teaching & Learning

ALTITUDE National Project Team Lead
Maureen Haran, Lecturer, UDL CoE Lead



Heads of key professional services relating to the Charter pillars e.g.

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Learning, Teaching & Assessment	Supports, Services & Social Engagement	Physical Environment	Digital Environment
Registrar & Vice President Students, Teaching & Learning		Vice President Finance & Shared Services Vice President for Equality, Diversity & Inclusion and Online Development	



Inside the ALTITUDE Charter

Implementation
Committee/
Working Group



Advance Pillar-Based Goals and Related Actions



ALTITUDE Charter



The 4 Pillars	Learning, Teaching & Assessment	Supports, Services & Social Engagement	Physical Environment	Digital Environment
Goal	Reduce barriers to learning by building more flexibility, accessibility, clarity, learner voice and choice into how programmes are designed and delivered	Reduce barriers to student success by ensuring student services and extra-curricular activities are flexible and accessible for all learners	Reduce barriers in the physical environment by ensuring they are accessible, welcoming, and sensory-aware spaces that support flexible use	Reduce barriers to digital engagement by ensuring digital platforms & materials are accessible, easily navigated & understood by all
Related Actions	Key staff across the four pillars collaborate to make incremental and sustainable progress on the following actions:			
Embed UD in...	quality assurance, programme design and programme validation processes	evaluation processes for support services, facilitating diverse learner input	procurement criteria to deliver accessible and user-friendly built environments	procurement criteria to deliver accessible and user-friendly platforms, websites & apps
Invest in...	instructional design resources and tools which support inclusive educational practices	tools which support ease of access to and use of supports and services	inclusive, sensory-aware spaces for learning, social activity, prayer, and sanitary purposes	digital tools & assistive technologies which facilitate inclusion & UD practice
Provide professional development in...	digital accessibility, digital teaching tools, UDL and the scholarship of learning, teaching, and assessment	digital accessibility, accessible communications & UD beyond the classroom	universal design and relevant national building standards concerning accessibility	digital accessibility, relevant international accessibility standards, & UD principles
Develop Communities of Practice around...	inclusive educational practices such as UDL	delivery of barrier-free learner supports and services through a UD approach	system-wide approaches to inclusion in the built environment	digital accessibility across the institution
Foster Cross Departmental Collaboration on...	the availability of core programme materials in accessible formats	managing the volume of communications sent to learners	flexible layout and use of learning environments	consistent use of the virtual learning environment
Support...	programmes to consider assessment load and embed inclusive educational practices such as UDL in design	student services to embed flexibility and options for engagement in how and when learners utilise services	development of clear mechanisms for learners, staff, and visitors to report physical accessibility barriers	development of clear mechanisms for students, staff, and visitors to report digital accessibility barriers
Nurture diverse student partnerships to support...	evaluation of course accessibility, co-creation of curricula & assessment design	promotion of accessibility & inclusion in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.	evaluation of indoor and outdoor spaces for accessibility, usability, and ease of navigation	the development and evaluation of digital platforms, websites & apps for accessibility and ease of use



What's Next?

1. **Your Call to Action:**
Begin Strategic Dialogue
in Your Institution –
Don't Wait - Get moving!
2. **ALTITUDE Community in
development-** Express
your interest (currently
95 members)
3. **National Adoption
Process Development –**
Senior Stakeholder
Group being formed



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Join the **ALTITUDE**
Community mailing list
for news and updates
to your inbox:



For more information
contact:

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(**ALTITUDE** Project
Lead)
- niamh.plunkett@atu.ie
(Head of Teaching &
Learning ATU Sligo)

[Go to the Project
Webpage](#)

[Shareable Video on
the Charter](#)

