# Introduction

The core principle of Universal Design for Learning - of accessibility - plays to all learners

strengths, and it very much levels the playing field for the learner.

My name is James Northridge, and I'm the lead for Inclusive UCC.

What we're trying to do here is build on the great pockets of inclusive practice that are happening at our university to make it more institutional.

How can we support every learner?

How can we support all staff to be fully inclusive?

Our population here in UCC is very diverse.

The HEAR scheme, students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds, the DARE scheme, students with disabilities, the mature student pathways, so students who are returning to learning and our QQI FET route for students who are coming in through the further education pathways, a lot of international students that are here studying with us, and we have students who come on exchange throughout the academic year. So there's a huge mix in our student population.

So the question I'd ask you is put yourself in the shoes of your learner. There isn't a one size fits all and there isn't a stereotypical student.

Our students are very varied. I think coming to it with that rounded view of students is really important.

It's about leveling the playing field. It's about making learning accessible for all students.

So why not come on the journey with us?