

# Collaborative Knowledge Exchange with University of Galway

# id+futures

## Key Team Members

The Cumas Team, University of Galway  
The id+futures project team, University College Cork  
Senior Fellows, id+futures project, UCC

id+futures is funded under the Programme for Access to Higher Education ( PATH 4)

## Our Story

### Strategic Goal: Collaboration, Coordination and Collegiality:

Collaboration, Coordination and Collegiality are core goals of the id+futures project (2024-2026). The id+futures project builds on the work of the id+ project (2022-2024) which introduced the concept and practice of inclusive education and co-learning for students with intellectual disabilities in University College Cork. The id+futures project works with other Higher Education (HE) partners to enhance sectoral capacity in design and delivery of inclusive co-learning. This includes knowledge sharing events.

### Partnering with the University of Galway, Cumas programme:

The id+futures project has formally partnered with the Cumas programme at the University of Galway providing support in programme design, for student recruitment strategies and processes, for co-learning and ongoing support with consideration of students' welfare issues and other matters arising.

*"I want to thank the UCC team for their invaluable support and guidance in the design and delivery of the University of Galway-Cumas programme. Your insights and support for our planned learning goals in recruitment, learning design, co-learning academic leadership and support were instrumental in the success of this programme. I also want to acknowledge the support and guidance in the unplanned events that you supported us with as well, especially those instances which involved student welfare."*

Dr Jacqueline Murphy, Academic Lead CUMAS programme, University of Galway (30 March 2026)

## Key Impacts (current and envisaged)

### Programme Design Support:

In 2023, the first informal discussions between the id+ project (now id+futures) UCC and University of Galway began. The id+project Lead and Academic Lead provided mentoring and guidance on programme design for students with intellectual disabilities in higher education. This led to the inclusion of a formal work package in both institutions' application proposal for funding under PATH 4:Phase 2 of the National Access Plan 2022-2028.

In 2024, members of the Cumas Programme team subsequently completed the UCC micro-credential: Including People with Intellectual Disability in Higher and Further Education. The micro-credential provides core information and skills to build capacity in inclusive education for staff working in Higher Education. Participants learned practical strategies to include learners with intellectual disability and facilitate co-learning and to begin the process of designing curriculum and developing innovative methodologies and practices to include students with intellectual disability in mainstream learning settings.

### Recruitment:

In 2025, Cumas recruited its first students for the Certificate in Foundational Learning and Community. Dr Nicola Maxwell id+futures Academic and Research Co-Director supported Cumas to prepare for student recruitment (online) and the interview process (in person) over two days in February.

### Cumas Co-Learning Planning:

Three inclusive co-learning workshops were delivered by Senior Teaching Fellows - Dr Therese Kenna, Dr Anne Marie Martin and Dr Eva McMullan - for staff in all HEIs in April, May and December, 2025. Cumas team members attended.

Planning for co-learning in University of Galway between Cumas and id+futures began during summer 2025. Dr Nicola Maxwell and Senior Teaching Fellows - Dr Therese Kenna, Dr Anne-Marie Martin and Dr Eva McMullan delivered an in-person Co-Learning workshop in University of Galway on 25 September 2025.

### Knowledge Sharing:

We continue to collaborate and discuss issues both planned and as they arise. These discussions have included strategies for recruiting Peer Buddies in co-learning modules and supporting student voice and student welfare.

In June 2026, we will formally meet to discuss learning for Cumas from this collaboration.

The id+futures team thank their collaborators on the Cumas programme for always extending a warm welcome and for the considered discussions. It is a privilege to be part of the development of the Cumas initiative for students with intellectual disability.



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