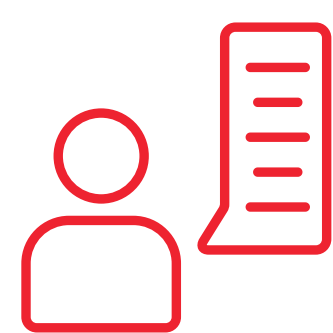


## Title: School of Chemistry EDI Committee - Accessible Laboratory

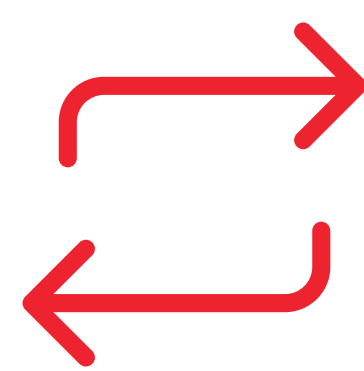
Presenter: Dr Ger McGlacken, School of Chemistry

Authors: Dr Ger McGlacken | School of Chemistry EDI Committee



### Case Study Synopsis

Laboratory practice is an essential component in the education of science and in particular the discipline of chemistry. Indeed, the practice of chemistry in a laboratory setting is an essential element of the accreditation of our degree programmes by the Royal Society of Chemistry. In the School of Chemistry, students participate and experience the world of real-life chemistry through experimentation in our laboratories. However, on a survey of our practice it became evident that access to the laboratory was limited for some students. This good practice case study showcases the School of Chemistry commitment to Equality Diversity and Inclusion in the survey, design, funding and installation of the first wheelchair accessible chemistry laboratory space for use by undergraduates.



### Intended Changes

The School of Chemistry offers the practice of chemistry for ca. 900 students in a laboratory setting each year. Despite this number, we identified a gap in that we were unable to cater for students with reduced mobility. Furthermore, the lack of specialist facilities has likely deterred students with disabilities from applying for our degree programmes.



### Additional Information

It is our hope that this will encourage Diversity and Inclusion and is a direct example of the Schools commitment to the principles of Equality Diversity and Inclusion.



### Key Impacts

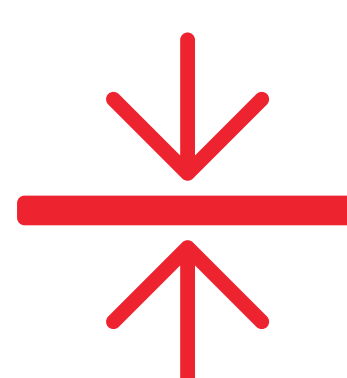
- A new lab space was designed through consultation with published literature for best practice and implemented through consultation with Buildings & Estates and the technical team in the School of Chemistry responsible for the space (Dr. Aoife O'Sullivan, Dr. Ian O'Connor and Dr. Tom O'Mahony). Funding for the project (€16,277) was sourced by Dr. Ger McGlacken through the Disability Support Service at UCC and the project was delivered for the start of the 2022-23 academic term.
- The School can now offer the full laboratory experience using a custom laboratory bench, sink and air extraction system which is wheelchair friendly and will have a legacy for years.



### Video Links | Graphics



Impact: The lab space is now complete with lowered bench and plumbing, along with a mobile extraction unit. This intervention opens the avenue for more students to experience the practice of chemistry.



### Area of Alignment

Learning & Teaching  
Student Success