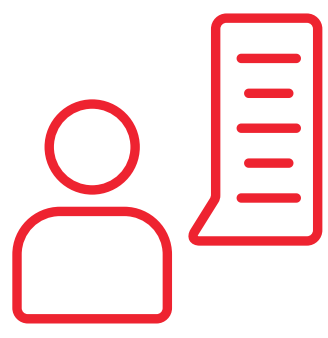


Title: Accessibility Champions

Presenter: Sophie Gahan, Office of the Deputy President & Registrar



Case Study Synopsis

The Inclusive UCC project resides in The Office of the Deputy President and Registrar. The main objective of this project is to enhance staff awareness of, and skillset in, Digital Accessibility. This involves making digital content more readable for students who have a variety of barriers to their learning. Including, but not limited to, learning difficulties and visual or auditory impairments.

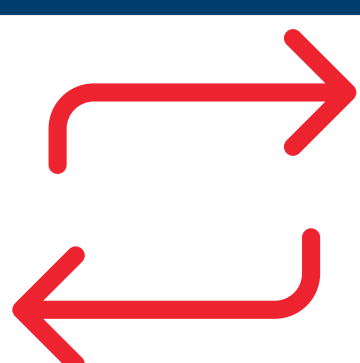
Over the course of the last two years, Inclusive UCC has been providing training, resources, and consultations with staff. In September 2020, the EU Web Accessibility Directive was transposed into Irish Law. This means that all content created by public bodies, must be digitally Accessible.



Key Impacts

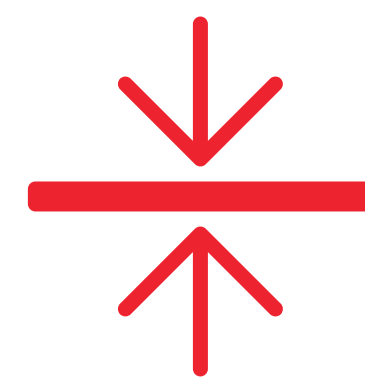
We have broken the implementation of Ally into three distinct phases as follows:

- **Phase 1: Pilot with Students** - As part of the initial pilot of Blackboard Ally, we enabled the tool on 18 modules in the College of Business and Law. We hired four student interns, to work with the academics, and remediate the content that was flagged. Over the eight-week course of the project, there was a 22% increase in content Accessibility across the modules. The total number of students enrolled, was almost 2000. Meaning that as the content is rolled over, year-on-year, the number of students benefitting from the process will drastically increase
- **Phase 2: Pilot with Staff** - As part of Phase 2 of this project, the software is currently being piloted with nine staff across 23 modules. The anticipated impact of this phase, in the short-term, is that these staff members will champion the software to their colleagues and the wider UCC community. The long-term impact is that thousands of students with disabilities will benefit from more Accessible content.
- **Phase 3: Institutional Rollout** - Phase three of the project involves rolling the software out to all staff in January 2023.



Intended Changes

One of the overriding resources that Inclusive UCC is providing to increase staff awareness of Digital Accessibility, is a plugin for Canvas called Blackboard Ally. This tool provides an 'Accessibility score' across all the content on a Canvas module.



Area of Alignment

Learning & Teaching



Additional Information

- All of the initiatives align particularly to Priorities One (Connected Curriculum) and Five (Student Enrolment Plan) of the Academic Strategy.
- One of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals, highlighted under the Connected Curriculum, calls for "Reduced Inequalities". The above Ally rollout and template design both encompass this goal.
- Priority five calls for a more "diverse, inclusive classroom" that "gives the best educational experience." It is simply not possible to provide this experience without taking stock of the Accessibility of our content. The above project has gone above-and-beyond to make this message clear to staff and we strive to continue increasing this awareness.



Video Links | Graphics

