



UDL: It's Time to Talk About the 'Why'?

Croke Park (Dublin), March 13th & 14th 2017

**Conference
Programme**

UDL: It's Time to Talk About the 'Why'?

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This year's annual international AHEAD conference will take place in Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin on March 13th & 14th 2017.

This Universal Design for Learning (UDL) conference, will explore why UDL is for you. If you, as an educator or support staff member, are working with a very diverse student population, then how do you understand their requirements and respond to them in your practice? You have to anticipate the unique learning needs of millennial students, who are tech savvy and have expectations of successful careers in a changing world. Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a framework of flexible design in education that supports you in maintaining robust standards while connecting with a diverse range of students, including those with disabilities, in a flexible and innovative way that keeps you ahead of the game.

This international universal design for learning (UDL) event run by AHEAD in co-operation with the LINK network will discuss the 'why' of UDL in further and higher education and feature 2 days of presentations and interactions in other innovative formats. Learn the ropes of UDL, hear about the latest research in inclusive education, network with professionals from across the globe and have your say in the beautiful Irish capital city of Dublin.

Keynote Speaker



Katie Novak, Ed.D., is an internationally recognised expert on Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and has more than 14 years of experience as a teacher and school administrator. She is a member of CAST's Professional Cadre and has written several books on the topic of UDL. [View Katie's web-page.](#)

What's Happening?

This 2 day event will feature over 30 contributions from across Europe and beyond. This year, we are also hosting the UDL Park featuring project exhibits and app demonstrations in the marketplace, engaging games in the playground, stimulating chat in the Conversation Corner plus plenty of opportunity to network with like minded professionals in the picnic area. Fees include 2 day entrance, lunches, an afternoon drinks/nibbles reception and tea/coffee throughout.

Fees

Selected contributors will receive 20% off the standard registration fees below.

AHEAD Member Rate	€240
AHEAD Non - Member Rate	€295

To find out if your organisation is a member of AHEAD, [check out our list of members.](#)

More Info & Booking

See the full programme below. For more information, [visit the conference web-page](#) or contact event manager Dara Ryder - dara.ryder@ahead.ie.

Coming
April!

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Day 1 - March 13th

Morning Session

09:00	Registration Opens	
10:00	Welcome and Introduction Prof. Michael Shevlin (Chair of the Board of AHEAD)	
10:05	Opening Remarks Dr. Graham Love (CEO, Higher Education Authority)	
10:20	Keynote Presentation Katie Novak (International UDL Expert)	
11:30	Tea/Coffee Break - UDL Park Playground & Park Bench Open for Visiting	
	Breakout Session 1 - Choose Your Path (no switching mid session please!)	
	Main Hall	Green Room
12:00	Creating a 'ripple effect' to embed inclusive practices Paddy Turner (Sheffield Hallam University and NADP) Following a successful inclusive transformation of a single module that created a ripple effect of change, this presentation will reflect on how this model was reproduced on a larger scale. How can success be measured? Will early adopters really tip the balance?	Engaging disabled students in strategic projects: two case studies from the Open University Dr. Chetz Colwell, Kate Lister, Ruth McFarlane, Jitse van Ameijde (Open University UK) The Open University (UK) will present their approach to engaging disabled students in two related innovative projects: the development of an accessibility policy covering both teaching & learning and support; and an investigation of the language students use to speak about their disability which will inform University terminology.
12:30	The role of the disability coordinator within the UDL framework Carla Van Oost, Hanne Vrijssen (VIVES University College), Debbie Van Loo (AP University College), Meggie Verstichele (SIHO) Two university colleges in Belgium, represented by the disability-coordinators, discuss how the UDL framework is used within their higher education institution. They want to open discussions about how the disability coordinator can play its role as UDL ambassador within the higher education institution.	Eye Opener - How teacher trainers can coach students during internships taking the diversity of students into account Katrien Durinck, An Standaert (University College Ghent) The goal of the Eye Opener project was to support teacher trainers in adequately addressing the diversity of students during their internships. During one year, teacher trainers of different teacher training institutes participated in an inter vision group guided by two process managers. UDL was one of the inspiring frameworks.
13:00	Lunch	

— **Playground & Park Bench Open for Visiting (UDL PARK)** —

— **Conversation Corner (UDL PARK)** —

Day 1 - March 13th

Afternoon Session

14:00	Launch of UDLL Guidelines Kjetil Knarlag (Universell)	
14:15	UDL: learning by doing - European examples of Universal Design for Learning Judith Jansen (Expert centre handicap + studie), Elinor Olausen (Universell)	
14:50	Move to Breakout	
	Breakout Session 2 - Choose Your Path (no switching mid session please!)	
	Main Hall	Green Room
15:00	Addressing the 'Why' of UDL within the Teaching for Understanding classroom Dr. Marian McCarthy, Dr. Brian Butler (University College Cork) Academic staff registered for the Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education at UCC use a Teaching for Understanding approach to research and document their teaching and their students' learning. This framework is a valuable catalyst for Universal Design for Learning approaches.	The 2 Way Learning Street – How Mentoring Benefits All Christel Berg (Lund University) We apply the maxim “what is necessary for students with disabilities is of benefit to other students” to the concept of mentoring in higher education. Introducing the new agent of change: The chance for mentors to experience and learn from students with disabilities – the two way learning street.
15:30	Embedding Universal Design: Partnerships for Success Dr. Lisa Padden, Sue Meehan (University College Dublin) UCD Access & Lifelong Learning have partnered with UCD Teaching & Learning with the aim to embed universal design and inclusivity in the teaching practice across the university. This presentation will outline the facets of the partnership and our current projects.	The Deaf Student Voice: Experiences of Irish Sign Language Interpretation in Higher Education Caroline McGrotty (AHEAD) Key findings of recent empirical research which documented the experiences of Deaf students who use Irish Sign Language as their primary language, focusing in particular on how they interacted and worked with interpreters in higher education settings.
16:00	UDL PARK	
16:00	Marketplace, Bandstand and Picnic area open for afternoon reception	
17:30	Day 1 Closes	

Playground & Park Bench Open for Visiting (UDL PARK)

Conversation Corner (UDL PARK)

Day 2 - March 14th

Morning Session

- 09:30** | **Day 2 Registration Opens**
- 10:00** | **Conference Reopens** - Ann Heelan (Executive Director, AHEAD)
- 10:05** | **Students as Partners in Assessment and Feedback: A Sectoral Approach to Change**
Dr. Geraldine O'Neill (Associate Professor, National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning)
- 10:35** | **Doing what we preach: examining the contradictions of the UDL discourse in faculties of education**
Frederic Fovet (University of Prince Edward Island)
- 11:05** | **UDL and Reasonable Accommodations – the systemic changes required in Higher Education in Ireland**
Julie Tonge (UCD Access & Lifelong Learning), Declan Treanor (Trinity College Dublin)
- 11:35** | **Coffee Break**

Breakout Session 3 - Choose Your Path (no switching mid session please!)

Main Hall

Green Room

- 12:00** | **Mental Health Matters: How UDL practices benefit students with mental health difficulties in higher education**
Dr. Esther Murphy (Research Fellow, Trinity College Dublin)

This presentation draws on findings from recent research by AHEAD and NLN. The focus will be to share the positive outcomes experienced by students with mental health difficulties when UDL principles of multiple representation, expression and action and engagement are embraced by HEIs.
- 12:30** | **A review of transition supports for all first year students on a third level campus within a UD Framework**
Suzanne McCarthy, Naoise Webb (National Learning Network)

An exploratory study of first year student supports that adopt Universal Design principles. This presentation will provide a summary of the data gathered from a learning profiler programme with first year ITB students. It will also provide a brief analysis of demographic data of student engagement in the psychology-led academic support service at ITB.

- A student's integrated apps journey: accessibility for the road ahead**
Jamie Crabb, Adam Hyland (Diversity and Ability (DnA))

The workshop will illuminate how different apps lend themselves to different stages of a learner's journey drawing on a student case study. We illustrate how integrating strategies and apps can enable a user-led integration forming a holistic and meta-cognitive workflow.
- Integration of Students with Asperger's Syndrome into the Student body**
Sylvia Mooney, Fionnuala Walsh (Dublin Institute of Technology)

An Asperger's Social group in DIT, "The Thursday Club". Taking part in college is an anxious time for students but if you have in-adequate social awareness, then you may become isolated. One of the ways DIT DSS help students with AS integrate into college life is through 'The Thursday Club'.

- 13:00** | **Lunch**

Playground & Park Bench Open for Visiting (UDL PARK)

Conversation Corner (UDL PARK)

Day 2 - March 14th

Afternoon Session

Breakout Session 4 - Choose Your Path (no switching mid session please!)

Main Hall

Green Room

14:00

An Inclusive Practice Toolkit for Academic Staff: The University of Brighton journey in creating a staff development resource to fit our needs

Deborah Gibberd (University of Brighton)

Developing a web-based Toolkit used for advancing Inclusive Practice designed for academics. An illustrated journey showing the need analysis, means, and range of content; how we applied IP ourselves; and how we created an engaging and effective web learning resource which has strategic management buy-in.

Developing the first UDL-based academic program in Israel – a case study

Irma van Slooten, Linda Niewenhuijsen (UDL Nederland), Dr. Shira Yalon-Chamovitz (Ono Academic College)

In this interactive presentation we share the insights of developing the first UDL-based academic program in Israel. We will deal with key elements in the administrative process (to get relevant actors on board), the training process (who, what and how) and initiatives to take the process to the next level (rolling out udl in all parts of the college).

14:30

Towards Firm Assessment Goals and Flexible Assessment means in higher vocational education

Dr. Sander Hilberink, Dr. Mieke Cardol, Drs. Bertine van Hillo Visser (Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences)

In The Netherlands UDL gradually makes its entrance into higher education. The question in higher education is how to apply UDL to assessment. This study identified problems concerning regular assessments. The alternative tests appeared to be in accordance with study objectives and learning objectives.

Equity in Practice on Paper

Ciaran Bulman (WALK)

The principle of UDL is allowing equitable means under which each student can participate inclusively in both higher and further education. But what does equity in education look like? This interactive workshop will challenge your idea of equal in the context of education and demonstrate why equality is essential to inclusive education.

15:00

Move to Main Hall

15:05

Closing Session: Key conference themes explored - what next?

15:45

Conference Closes

Playground & Park Bench Open for Visiting (UDL PARK)

Conversation Corner (UDL PARK)

UDL PARK

Starting at 11:30 on Day 1 of the conference (Mar 13th), we open the UDL Park. Think of it as a place where you can engage with colleagues in a more relaxed, informal setting. You'll get to talk about stuff that matters with other professionals in the Conversation Corner, parttake in engaging games in the playground, take some quiet time to reflect on the Park Bench, learn about UDL projects and practices in the Marketplace (open Day 1 16:00-17:30), and have some more relaxed chat with colleagues and a bit of music too when the picnic area and bandstand open for a reception at the close of Day 1.

There'll be music, chat, food, drinks and a good few surprises to keep you on your toes. Below are just a few of the exhibitors displaying in our exhibition space.

UDL Park Marketplace Exhibitors - More announced in the coming weeks!

Creating a powerful learning environment for every student: Walking the talk in the search for UDL ambassadors

Elke Emmers (University College Odisee & KU Leuven)

PREP4DIT – Supporting Mature Access Students as they transition into College

Trevor Boland, Nevan Bermingham (Dublin Institute of Technology)

An inclusive education model for adults with I.D. and ASD

Kevin Delany, Emma Barrett, Kate Crotty, Moureen Kelly (Brothers of Charity Services Clare)

Leveling the Playing Field

Roisin Kelly, Elaine Kelly, Aoife Walsh (Disability & Learning Support Service, Athlone Institute of Technology)

UDL and Intersectionality: Exploring the wide benefits of UDL in addressing learner diversity

Frederic Fovet (University of Prince Edward Island)

AHEAD Learning Zone - How we use the power of 'online' to support staff in further and higher education

Seònaid Ó Murchadha, Lorraine Gallagher (AHEAD)

Sharon's Shortcuts – IT Training without the Mouse

Sharon Lyons

Online Psychological Support for adults with dyslexia and other neuro-diverse conditions.

Nicola James, Abigail Howard (Lexxic Ltd.)

More info on the UDL Park
will be released in the
coming weeks!



Find out more about the
conference and book
your place>>>>