

Trinity disAbility Service 25 Years Anniversary

Celebrating 25 Years of Accessibility and Inclusion
at Trinity College Dublin
2000 - 2025

25 Years



Trinity disAbility Service 2000 - 2025



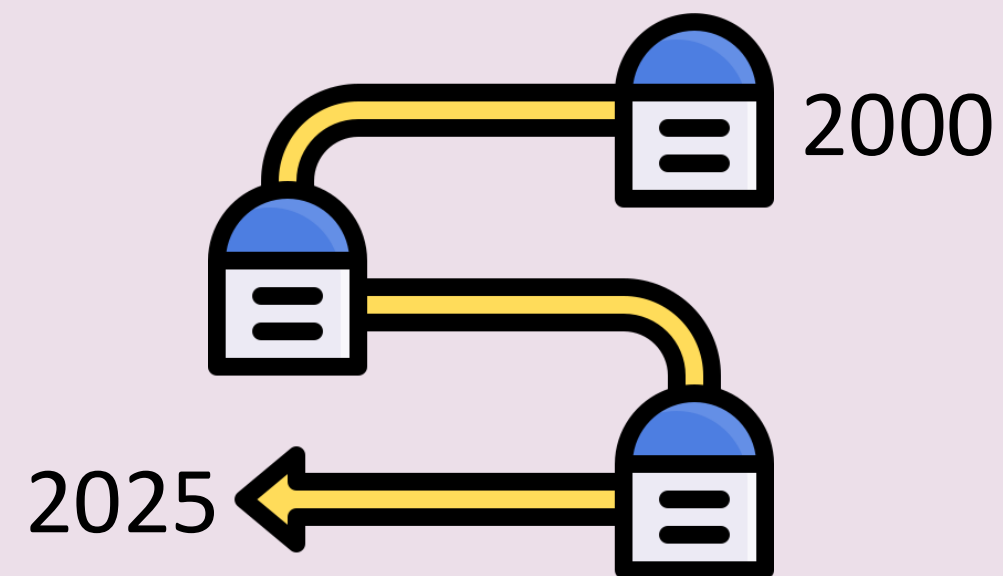
Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



Celebrating 25 Years of Accessibility and Inclusion at Trinity College Dublin

2025 marks 25 years of empowering students, fostering inclusion, and advancing accessibility in higher education.

This milestone is an opportunity to reflect on our achievements, engage our community, and set a vision for the future.





This year marks an incredible milestone for the DisAbility Service at Trinity College Dublin: our 25th Anniversary!

Over the past quarter-century, we've worked tirelessly to enhance access, provide support during College, and enable successful transitions for our disabled student community. Together with students, staff, and visitors, we've created a more inclusive and accessible campus, and now, we're ready to reflect, celebrate, and set the agenda for the next 25 years.



Front Square Pathway, Trinity College Dublin.

We invite you to follow our journey throughout 2025 as we showcase the impactful collaborations, reflect on our achievements, and set bold goals for the future. This is more than an anniversary—it's a call to action to build on our legacy and continue creating a campus where everyone belongs.



Scan the QR code
to view all events for the
Trinity disAbility Service
25 Years Anniversary.



Trinity disAbility Service Journey 2000-2025



On October 14th, 2025, the disAbility Service celebrates its 25th Anniversary with the launch of a commemorative booklet, Trinity disAbility Service Journey 2000-2025.



Scan the QR code to view the 25 Years Anniversary booklet.

25 Years of Trinity's disAbility Service



Welcome to the 25th Anniversary of Trinity College Dublin's DisAbility Service, marking a quarter-century of dedication to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for students with disabilities.

Since its establishment in 2000, the disAbility Service has played a pivotal role in transforming Trinity into a leader in accessibility, ensuring every student can fully participate in college life and achieve their academic and personal goals.

Linda Doyle, Provost and President Trinity College Dublin



I am absolutely delighted to congratulate the Trinity disAbility Service on reaching this significant milestone. Celebrating 25 years of impact offers a moment to reflect on all that has been accomplished - and to reaffirm our commitment to fostering an ever more inclusive College community in the years ahead.

Photo credit: TCD News & Events (2021).



Opening Reflections

As the Director of the disAbility Service at Trinity College Dublin, I have had the privilege of witnessing and contributing to a remarkable journey of transformation. Over nearly three decades, Trinity has evolved from a place where accessibility was an afterthought to a university where inclusivity and support for disabled people are central to its mission.

**Declan Treanor,
disAbility Service Director.**

Origins & Milestones

1995

A Special Needs Committee is established.

2000

The Setup of Trinity's Disability Service.

2005

The Disability Act 2005 became law, strengthening rights and accessibility for people with disabilities.

2010

The pathways in Trinity's Front Square were completed.



“Redesigning Front Square in 2010 to include accessible pathways marked a turning point — showing that accessibility is central to Trinity's identity, not an afterthought.”
– **Declan Treanor,**
Director disAbility Service.

Disability is a guiding principle that puts every person's ability first.



Origins & Milestones

From its beginnings in 1995 to its current role as a national and international leader in inclusive education, the Trinity disAbility Service has marked key milestones – from the establishment of the Special Needs Committee and the launch of the Inclusive Curriculum, to the redesign of Front Square for universal access and the opening of the Trinity disAbility Hub in Printing House Square.



Community & Impact

The Trinity disAbility Hub is more than just a space
— it's a movement for inclusion and innovation.

TCD Sense Project

Explore Sensory Maps
and Inclusive Spaces
on Campus.



Trinity Ability Co_op

Student-led inclusion
initiatives.



Inclusive Internship Programme

25 student internships
offered across 17
departments.



Neurodivergent Projects

ADHD Clinic and
Sensory Supports.



User-led Accessibility Audits

Students Auditing
and Improving
Spaces.



disAbility Hub

Opened in 2022 – Centre
for Disability Support
and Innovation.



2,860 students registered with
the disAbility Service in 2025
(12.6% of the total student
population) — a 4,370%
increase since 2000, when just
64 students were registered.”



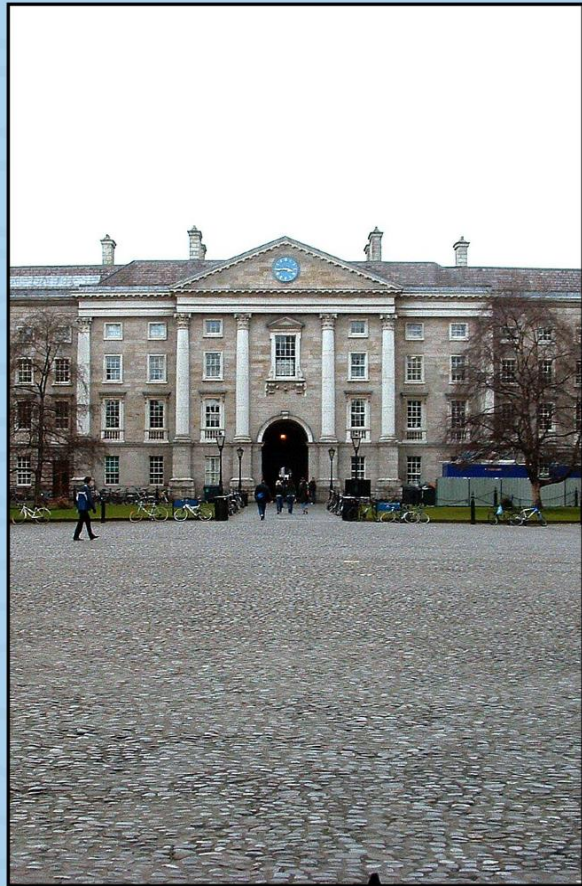
Community & Impact

Since 2000, student registrations have
increased by over 4,000%, with 2,860
students supported in 2025 alone.
Through user-led accessibility audits,
inclusive internships, and neurodivergent
supports, the Service continues to lead
the way in creating an inclusive campus
for all.

Trinity
disAbility Hub

Accessible Pathways - Paving the Way

Before 2010



Exclusion

The installation of accessible pathways through Front Square in 2010 marked a turning point in the College's history, not just in terms of physical access, but also in its willingness to evolve and embrace inclusion.

After 2010



Inclusion

Accessible Pathways – Paving the Way

The creation of accessible pathways through Front Square in 2010 was more than a construction project — it was a declaration. Trinity College Dublin chose to move forward, not just physically but philosophically, by recognising that inclusion must be built into the foundations of our shared spaces.

"We weren't just building paths. We were building futures."
— Declan Treanor, disAbility Service Director



Scan the QR code
to read the full story.

www.tcd.ie/disability



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From Paper to Passport

Transforming how we support each student



LENS gives each student a personalised route through college.

“Students often describe their LENS as their 'disability passport', a document that speaks on their behalf so they don't have to repeatedly explain or justify their needs.”



Scan the QR code
to explore the
full LENS journey.

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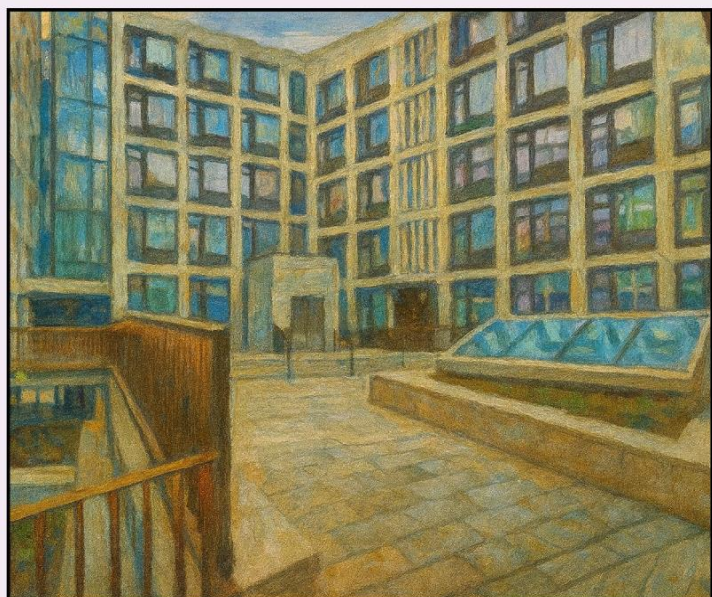
LENS From Paper to Passport

LENS transformed how disability support is delivered at Trinity. What began as a paper-based process has become a streamlined digital passport — empowering students to advocate for their needs and enabling staff to respond with understanding and action.

LENS doesn't just store information; it tells a story of trust, collaboration, and progress. It reflects a university that listens, adapts, and believes in the right of every student to be seen, supported, and successful.

Trinity
disAbility Hub

Occupational Therapy – A Support Model



Occupational Therapy in the Trinity disAbility Service supports students to fully engage in university life through personalised, practical, and inclusive approaches. Grounded in theory and research, we collaborate with students and staff to build sustainable routines, overcome challenges, and foster belonging and wellbeing.

"What I really liked was how the Occupational Therapist made me feel open enough to be authentic."

"I loved how clear and easy it is to implement in life. My OT understands what I'm going through, there is no need to hold anything back, there is never any judgement."

"After seeing the OT, I felt more relaxed and confident in my ability to manage college life, and I saw an improvement in both my mental health and my grades."

2003

Unilink Service established by Dr Clodagh Nolan

2009

5-year review launched leading to first full time Occupational Therapy Position

2011

Launch of Shared Service Model, introducing Occupational Therapy roles at DCU, TUD, UCD, and Marino Institute of Education

2015

Awarded the National Ann Beckett Award from the Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland

2025

Six Occupational Therapists currently employed within the Trinity disAbility Service

Sensory Processing

Planning & Organisation

Social & Leisure Activities

Managing Your Environment

Structure & Routine

Health & Wellbeing



Scan the QR code to explore OT resources and student experiences.

www.tcd.ie/disability



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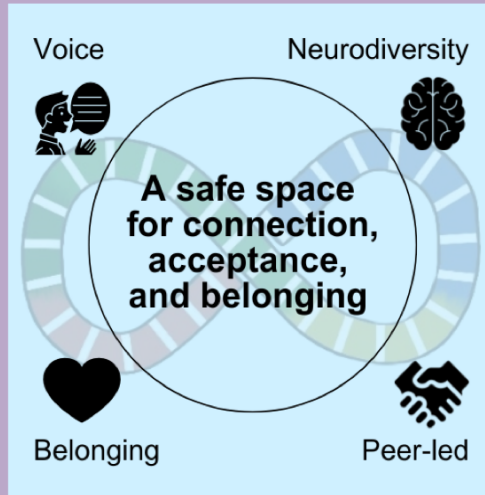
Occupational Therapy – A Support Model

Occupational Therapy at Trinity is more than a support — it's a partnership. Rooted in empathy, research, and collaboration, the OT model empowers students to build meaningful routines, overcome barriers, and flourish in university life.

From sensory processing to wellbeing, OT helps students reconnect with what matters most: feeling understood, belonging, and thriving both inside and outside the classroom.

Trinity
disAbility Hub

Led by Students – Ability Co_op & DUNeS



DUNeS – Recognition Timeline

- 2021 DUNeS was first proposed.
- 2023 DUNeS was granted provisional recognition by the CSC.
- 2025 DUNeS acquired full recognition.



Empowering change through student-led disability and neurodiversity advocacy.

Trinity Ability Co_op – Peer Advocacy Milestones

- 2020 Ability Co_op founded at Trinity.
- 2023 Collaboration with DUNeS & disAbility Service.
- 2024 Led Inclusion Week student activities. Launch of 'Now You See Me' Ability Co_op campaign.
- 2025 Ability Co_op's status as an Irish Disabled Person's Organisation (DPO).



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Led by Students – Ability Co_op & DUNeS

At Trinity, student voice has been the driving force behind progress in disability inclusion and neurodiversity awareness. Through the peer-led leadership of the **Ability Co_op** and **DUNeS**, students have redefined what it means to belong, advocate, and lead change on campus. From grassroots organising to national recognition, these student groups are not just shaping policy — they're building a culture where difference is not just accepted but celebrated.

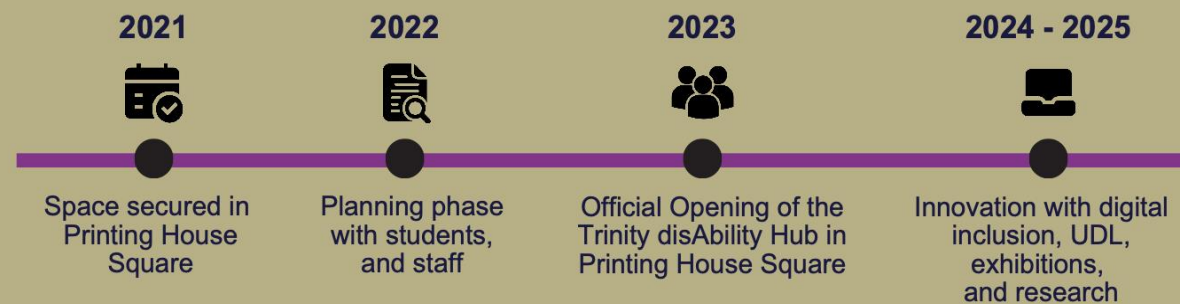
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Scan the QR code to explore how students are leading change.

www.tcd.ie/disability

The disAbility Hub – Home for Innovation

A space for creativity, access, co-creation, and future thinking in disability inclusion.



The disAbility Hub is more than a space — it's a home for student voice, inclusive research, and innovation in accessibility and neurodiversity.



Scan the QR code to explore the Hub and its projects.

www.tcd.ie/disability



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The disAbility Hub – Home for Innovation

The Trinity disAbility Hub is a living space where innovation, inclusion, and creativity thrive. Co-designed with students, the Hub is a bold step forward in building a university that listens, reflects, and leads in accessible design, Universal Design for Learning, and digital inclusion.

It stands as a physical and symbolic home for research, collaboration, and the student voice — a future-thinking space where disability inclusion starts with community and grows into change.

Trinity
disAbility Hub

TCD Sense
Think Sensory ...



Creating an Inclusive Campus

Quiet, inclusive, sensory-friendly spaces for every student.

TCD Sense transforms Trinity's campus into a more inclusive, sensory-friendly environment through quiet zones, respite rooms, and over 80 adapted spaces. Grounded in universal design, the initiative supports wellbeing, belonging, and participation for all students.



80+ TCD
Sense Spaces

Explore Sensory
Spaces with the
TCD Sense Map



Sensory supports
to help every
student thrive in
learning, social
life, and wellbeing.



Scan the QR code to
learn more about the
TCD Sense Project.
www.tcd.ie/disability

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TCD Sense – Creating an Inclusive Campus

TCD Sense reimagines Trinity's campus as a place where **every student can feel calm, focused, and included**. With over 80 sensory-friendly spaces — from quiet zones to respite rooms — the initiative supports wellbeing, participation, and belonging for all.

Rooted in Universal Design, TCD Sense goes beyond accessibility to foster a culture of understanding, comfort, and respect — making the invisible, visible.

Trinity
disAbility Hub

INCLUSIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

By providing disabled students with meaningful professional opportunities, within a supported environment, the Inclusive Internship Programme strives to see all interns achieve their professional potential and to help Trinity's professional community become increasingly inclusive.



Staff

- Monthly training
- Employer onboarding
- Weekly drop-in support
- Resource development for all future incoming employees
- Accessibility audit



AVAILABLE SUPPORTS

Interns

- Application process support
- Onboarding
- Weekly peer meetings
- 1:1 occupational therapy
- 1:1 Employment support
- Connection with relevant industry mentors



STAFF FEEDBACK

- "It was wonderful to bring a student perspective in to our work; it inspired some creative pieces of work that we believe will really resonate with the student body."
- "Making trainings personal and real rather than lots of information is much more powerful and has helped us all to grow in our compassion."

INTERN FEEDBACK

- "It has been very empowering to feel understood or at least listened to in the work place. I feel much more confident about my ability to thrive in an office setting after this experience."
- "My confidence and communication skills have grown significantly throughout the programme and it has allowed me to gain valuable experience in an area I had previously been nervous about exploring."



Inclusive Internship Programme

The Inclusive Internship Programme at Trinity opens professional doors for disabled students through a model of **personalised support, confidence-building, and collaboration**. With mentoring, training, and peer connection at its core, the programme empowers students to explore their potential and thrive in the workplace — while also shaping a more inclusive Trinity staff culture.

This is not just about employment — it's about **belonging, contribution, and possibility**.

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