

DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING COURSE IN THE LIBRARY NUI MAYNOOTH



NUI MAYNOOTH
Ollscoil na hÉireann Mú Nuad

OUR MISSION

TO PILOT THE NATIONAL DISABILITY AUTHORITY ONLINE TRAINING COURSE ON DISABILITY AWARENESS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STAFF DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

TO SUPPORT

AWARENESS OF PHYSICAL, HIDDEN and INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

THE COURSE

In December 2011 the Library in NUI Maynooth were asked by the Staff Development Office to pilot the National Disability Authority's Disability Awareness Online Training Course. NUI Maynooth library is the first in Ireland to offer the course to staff. Eight members of library staff completed the course.

FEEDBACK

A survey using Bristol Online Surveys was sent to all staff who completed the module. Their feedback was analysed and was very positive. Staff felt that it was a good basic introduction to improving their awareness of all forms of disability including hidden, physical and intellectual disability. All staff who completed the course had encountered users with disabilities. Having completed the course the majority indicated that their ability to support users with disabilities was 'very good'. It was felt that the support received from the library was very encouraging. The certificate awarded on completion of the course was seen as valuable. One participant commented "It is nice to see proof that I have completed this course, gives a feeling of confidence and achievement."

OUTCOMES

The results of the survey were presented to Library staff and to the Staff Development Office. It is hoped that completing the course will support improvements in the library environment which will enhance the library's service to all users. As a result of this pilot the course has been rolled out to all library staff and it is hoped it will be rolled out university wide in the near future. Staff have been invited to present their findings on the course to the Irish Universities Association Equality Network.

NUI Maynooth has the highest number of students with disabilities – almost 3.5% of our student body has a hidden, physical or intellectual disability

SUCCESS OF COURSE
The course is now being rolled out to all library staff

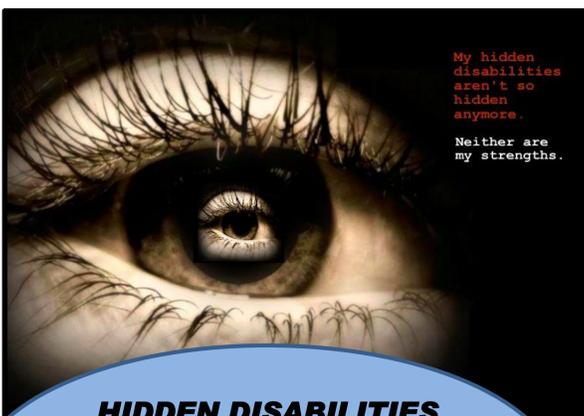
The course is free of charge and can be accessed at:

Source: <http://access.nuim.ie/disability>

<http://training.nda.ie/signups/new/dcc1>



Three of the library staff who completed the NDA Disability Training Course: Helen O'Connor, Linda O'Connell and Judith Murphy



HIDDEN DISABILITIES
ADHD
EPILEPSY
DYSLEXIA
ASPERGER'S SYNDROME



'The Blind Leading the Blind' featured Andrew Green a student at NUIM and who is blind leads participants on a 'blindfolded' tour of NUI Maynooth to let them 'see' the campus from his perspective.

<http://library.nuim.ie/>
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Living learning and working with special educational needs