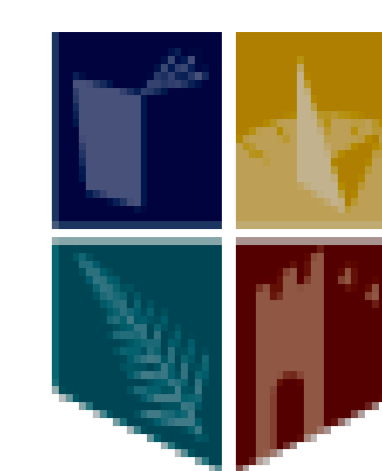


# DISABILITY AWARENESS TRAINING COURSE IN THE LIBRARY NUI MAYNOOTH



NUI MAYNOOTH  
Ollscoil na hÉireann Mú Nuid

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

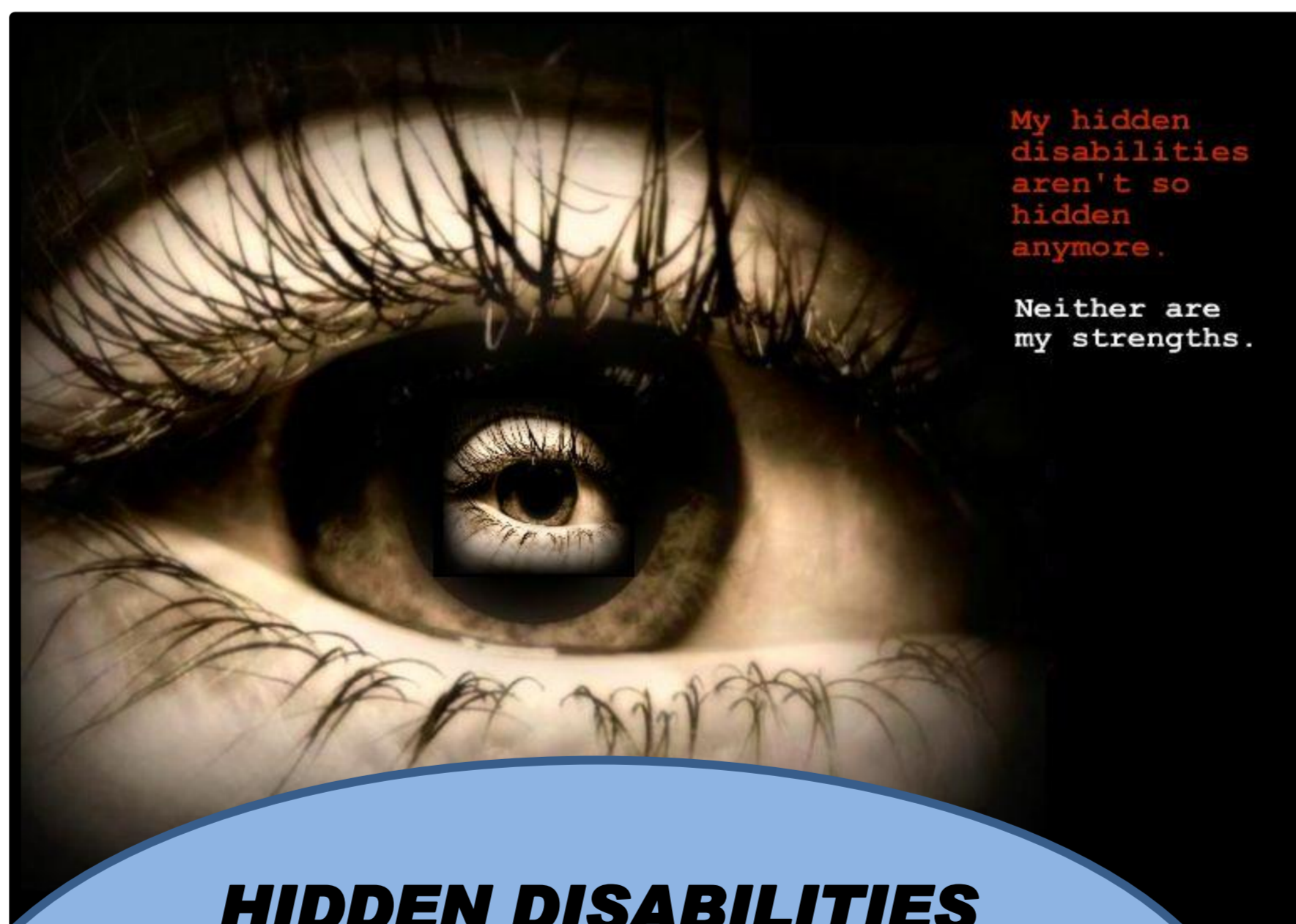
**The course is free of charge and can be accessed at:**

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**

Photo by kind permission of David Feingold



'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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**nda**  
Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais  
National Disability Authority

Living learning and working  
with special educational needs