



Centre for Teaching and Learning Teaching and Learning Fellowships 2023-24

Strand 2. UDL - Building a Culture of Inclusion in Maynooth University Strand information and application form – Revised July 2023

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a set of principles that supports a more inclusive learning environment for **all** students. Maynooth University is committed to “... being a community that promotes and advances equality, respects and values diversity, and develops a collegiate environment of excellence with equality, in which the human rights, the responsibilities and diversity of all students and staff are recognised and respected” ([Maynooth University](#), 2018 p.4). Embedding UDL principles in teaching, learning and assessment practices is an essential element of this commitment. This is your opportunity to play a key role in building a culture of inclusion in Maynooth University.

To support this objective, CTL in collaboration with the Access Office, are funding **three** UDL Fellowships, one UDL Fellowship has already been awarded to the Faculty of Social Sciences. We are happy to announce that a UDL Fellowship is on offer to the Faculty of Science and Engineering and the Faculty of Arts, Celtic Studies and Philosophy. These Fellowships are open only to individuals (no team applications will be accepted). Each UDL Fellow will be awarded €5000 to support their engagement with this initiative.

These Fellowships are funded under the [National Forum SATLE 2022 Fund](#) and the [HEA PATH 4, Phase 1 - Universal Design for Education Fund](#). The UDL project is part of a wider MU Path 4 Phase 1 project, a collaboration between Access (Lead) and CTL, which focuses on supporting and embedding Universal Design for Education approaches to benefit all students. The UDL Fellowship project forms part of Strand 3 of the wider project and it is focused on supporting staff to embed UDL in their teaching, learning and assessment practice.

The UDL Project

The UDL Faculty Fellows and strand lead Dr Adeline Cooney will work together to co-design and implement this UDL initiative. The team will collaborate to:

- collate and develop UDL educational resources and guidelines to assist staff in learning about and applying UDL principles in their practice (complete by February 2024)
- design and implement a short UDL staff awareness campaign to prompt and support staff to make small incremental changes to increase the inclusiveness of their teaching, learning and assessment practices (complete by April 2024)
- evaluate the effectiveness of the UDL campaign (complete by August 2024)
- collate faculty specific exemplars of good UDL practice to inspire and share good practice across the University (complete by August 2024).

Fellowship applicants are not expected to have specialist knowledge or extensive experience of UDL; a working knowledge and interest in learning more about UDL are the main criteria. UDL Fellows will have opportunities to develop their knowledge and experience of UDL over the duration of this initiative. This initiative is team-based with Fellows ensuring their faculty's viewpoints and goals are represented. Representation will involve Fellows using their (and colleagues') discipline specific knowledge to ensure that all collaborative and individual outputs are relevant to each faculty. Fellows will also facilitate information sharing with faculty staff and support their engagement with this initiative.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed with reference to the following criteria:

- understanding of UDL principles and practices in higher education
- a track record of commitment to/applying UDL in one's own practice
- clarity and feasibility of recommendations for developing a UDL culture at Faculty level.

Who will review the applications?

The applications will be reviewed by a panel, which will include members of CTL, the Access Office, and the Associate Deans for Teaching and Learning.

Conditions of the Fellowship

Applicants awarded a UDL Fellowship will need to:

- Commit to engaging with all elements of the UDL project and to meeting the agreed deliverables and timelines.
- Ensure the spend of Fellowship funding is recorded appropriately and in line with financial guidelines, in readiness for any future auditing process. **Please note** Fellowship funding must be used to support each Fellow's engagement in the UDL initiative or to support professional development activities with respect to UDL to support project implementation. This can include, for example, buy-out of teaching, attending a UDL conference or workshop, guest webinars or seminar speakers.
- Submit the actual expenditure summary, showing all budget spent or committed, by the project end date.

How to apply

Complete the [UDL Application Form](#) linked here and submit by the deadline, **Friday 18th August 2023**. If you have a question about any aspect of the UDL project or the application, please contact adeline.cooney@mu.ie