STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
National University of Ireland, Maynooth
5 things you need to know about being a student with a disability at NUI Maynooth

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WE'RE DELIGHTED YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT STUDYING AT NUI MAYNOOTH.

Did you know that over 5% of our students have a disability?

That's one of the highest participation rates in the country and we're doing all we can to get that figure even higher.

Here at NUI Maynooth, we have a reputation for being welcoming and we have a strong tradition of encouraging broader access to higher education. We strive to create an inclusive campus community where all students are afforded the same opportunities to learn, socialise, participate and progress. We have a wide range of supports that put you, the student, at the centre of your academic journey. Our supports are designed to be enabling, that is, to help our students become independent in their learning, thereby easing the transition from school to college and from college to career.

Once you get here, you'll find that NUI Maynooth is a modern campus with accessible lecture theatres and buildings. Technology is widely used by lecturers, and assistive technology is available all across the campus. The Disability Office can help support students with comprehensive learning support programmes, state-of-the-art technology, and a welcoming and supportive atmosphere.
HOW DO I DISCLOSE MY DISABILITY?

The Disability Office at NUI Maynooth supports full-time, part-time and mature entry students at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Students who typically register with the Disability Office include students with the following disabilities:

- Asperger’s Syndrome/ Autism
- ADD/ ADHD
- Blind/ Vision Impaired
- Deaf/ Hard of Hearing
- DCD – Dyspraxia/ Dysgraphia
- Mental Health Conditions
- Neurological Conditions (incl. Brain Injury, Speech and Language Disabilities)
- Significant Ongoing Illnesses
- Physical Disability
- Specific Learning Difficulty (incl. Dyslexia and Dyscalculia)

Students applying for full-time undergraduate degrees at NUI Maynooth apply through the CAO. By ticking the Disability Box on the CAO application form you can let us know that you have a disability or specific learning difficulty. For more information on DARE go to accesscollege.ie

Part-time and postgraduate students apply directly to NUI Maynooth and should indicate that they have a disability or specific learning difficulty on the appropriate section of their application. For more information go to admissions.nuim.ie

As part of your CAO application you can also tick the box to apply for DARE (Disability Access Route to Education). DARE is a supplementary admissions scheme which offers college places on reduced points to school leavers with disabilities. For more information on DARE go to accesscollege.ie

APPLYING TO DARE

BY 1st FEBRUARY
Apply to NUI Maynooth through the CAO at www.cao.ie

BY 1st MARCH
Indicate that you have a disability/ specific learning difficulty by ticking the disability box on your CAO application
Complete Section A of the Supplementary Information Form
Indicate your wish to be considered for DARE

BY 1st APRIL
Return your Second Level Academic Reference (Section B) to the CAO
Return your Evidence of Disability (Section C) to the CAO

JUNE
You will be informed in writing of the outcome of your application to DARE

AUGUST
Offers are made to eligible DARE applicants
You will be invited to a comprehensive orientation programme for students with disabilities
You will be asked to register online with the Disability Office
A Disability Advisor will work with you to identify the academic supports that are right for you

You don’t have to be eligible for DARE to get support in college. All students with a disability, regardless of whether they come through DARE or not, can avail of a variety of academic supports while studying at third level.
To receive support as a student with a disability at NUI Maynooth you must first register with the Disability Office. There are three steps when registering with the Disability Office.

1. PROVIDE VERIFICATION OF YOUR DISABILITY
Students with a specific learning difficulty, such as dyslexia, must provide a report from an appropriately qualified psychologist. All other students must provide a report from an accepted consultant/specialist. If you don’t have a report you can print an Evidence of Disability Form from our website and get your consultant/specialist to complete this.

Go to access.nuim.ie/disability for information on the documentation we require, consultants/specialists that can verify a disability and the age limits on reports.

2. REGISTER ONLINE
You will be asked to complete an online registration form which provides us with important information on the areas where you might experience difficulty in university. The online form also gives you an opportunity to sign-up for innovative academic skills modules to support your learning.

3. CONFIRMATION OF SUPPORTS
In many cases our Disability Advisors can determine the supports and accommodations you will require following a review of your supporting documentation (verification of disability and the online registration form). In some cases, however, a one-to-one meeting with a Disability Advisor will be arranged so we can better understand your needs.

It is important to register early with the Disability Office to ensure your supports are in place for the start of the academic year.
**WHAT SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE?**

We have in place a range of supports to ensure that students with disabilities have the same opportunities for participation and progression as the rest of the University community. Two key objectives underpin the supports at NUI Maynooth:

1. **Supports are provided to help students reach their full academic potential in university.**
2. **Supports are designed to be enabling, equipping students with the necessary skills to become independent learners.**

Students who might need significant support are invited to **LAUNCHPAD**, a residential orientation programme that helps students manage the transition to college. All other students are invited to a comprehensive information session on the supports available to students with disabilities.

A dedicated **DISABILITY ADVISOR** in the Disability Office will work with you to identify the supports you need to help you achieve your academic goals.

**STUDENT CENTRAL** is an academic support programme for students with significant learning needs. Students who typically avail of this support include students with Asperger’s Syndrome, Attention Deficit Disorder or issues such as depression or severe anxiety. Support is tailored to meet the individual needs of the student, with the objective of improving academic outcomes and helping the student meet the demands of his or her course.

A Disability Advisor will work with you to identify appropriate **EXAMINATION ACCOMMODATIONS**. These might include, for example, extra time, a smaller venue or the use of educational technology.

Some students may require support from an **EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT WORKER**, such as an academic/personal assistant, a note taker or a sign language interpreter.

Educational technology training is available in the **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE (ATC)** and selected software is mainstreamed in all computer rooms across the campus.

**MAINSTREAMED ACADEMIC SUPPORTS** include the Mathematics Support Centre, the Writing Centre and Library Training Sessions. There is also an identified person in each Academic Department to help you with any course-related concerns.

Go to [access.nuim.ie/disability](http://access.nuim.ie/disability) for information on the supports available.

**WHAT DO STUDENTS SAY?**

- I am visually impaired. I was very worried and apprehensive before coming to college because of my disability, but the supports available have helped me so much.
  
  Lynda Ward, 
  BA in Music and Business

- I have dyslexia which means I have trouble spelling and writing. I have a lot more confidence in my academic ability now and hope to do a Masters when I graduate.
  
  Donal McClean, 
  BA in English and Sociology

- I have a physical disability and have limited mobility in my upper and lower limbs. Having a notetaker in lectures and a scribe for exams really helped me.
  
  James Cavley, 
  BA in Geography and Business
WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

**NUI MAYNOOTH OPEN DAYS**
Come to one of our Open Days and find out for yourself what NUI Maynooth is really like. Open Days offer the best opportunity to visit the University, meet and talk to the lecturers from different departments and chat to staff in the Disability Office about any queries you may have. Open Days take place on the last Friday and Saturday of November. Information days take place on the last Saturday of April and June. For more information go to admissions.nuim.ie

**DARE ADVICE CLINICS**
NUI Maynooth hosts Advice Clinics for students who are applying to DARE and HEAR. This is a unique opportunity to meet with an Advisor to talk through your application. Students, parents, guardians, teachers, and guidance counsellors are all very welcome.
Go to admissions.nuim.ie and accesscollege.ie for more information on upcoming Advice Clinics.

**CONTACT DETAILS**
Tel: 01 708 6025
Email: access.office@nuim.ie
Web: access.nuim.ie/disability
Address: Disability Office, Map Lodge, North Campus, NUI Maynooth, Co. Kildare

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