

A Snap Shot of Life at Trinity College, Dublin

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Nordic Network on Disability Research,

May 2007

Who we are !



Certificate in Contemporary Living Students on the steps of Trinity College, University of Dublin



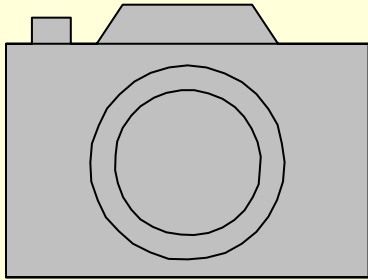
Certificate in Contemporary Living

- The Certificate is a two year full time course for students with learning disabilities.
- Ten Modules: liberal arts, expressive arts, develop skills for contemporary living and future employment.
- Nineteen students will graduate in September.
- These students with learning disabilities will make Irish history as the first graduates from a university setting.

Finding out, what works about the Certificate ?

- National Disability Authority in Ireland has funded a study to describe:
- What students think about the Certificate?
- What family members or support staff think about the Certificate?
- What staff think about the Certificate?

What the students think of the CCL?



PHOTOVOICE

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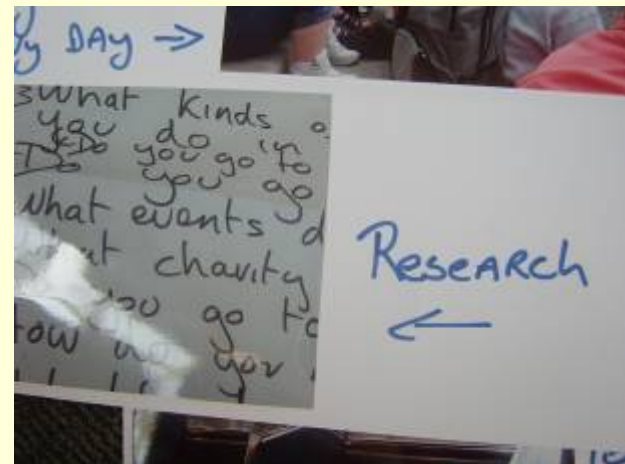
- Learning how to use the camera
- Taking a camera home
- Taking photos across at Trinity College
- Talking about the photos with a researcher



- Choosing six photos to tell a story
- Making a poster of the six photos with a caption for each
- Talking about the photos with other students in a focus group.



Jan's Story



Gina's Story



Research Talk

- PHOTOVOICE has three parts:
 1. **Selecting** – students chose photographs that told the story of their day
 2. **Contextualizing**- students talked about their photographs together and what they meant for being at Trinity.
 3. **Codifying**- identifying themes and issues

What we found out?

- Common things in the day of a student life in Trinity:
 1. “We can travel independently”
 2. “College helped me to make new friends”
 3. “Class work”

Independence

- “when I first started college as a student, I didn’t know how to the train on my own... I got the courage to get on the train and travel on my own to Trinity college... a big step up as a achievement.”



What Gina says about independence

- “then we came into Trinity, I never knew my way into Dublin... we use to travel in and out with Una and one day Una rang me and I said I’m nearly here (Trinity)”.



What Jan says about independence

- “ I use to come in with Una, but I turned around and said I don't need my hand being held anymore. I'm twenty something years old. I don't need to be babysat anymore.”



Friendship

- “ my friend and I in the classroom, standing together, as buddies as students who are great friends who do the same thing in college”.
- “ I know my friends, I hope to keep them after college, I’m happy I made them”.



What Gina says about friendship

- “They (mentors) are not treating us like we have a disability. They are treating us more like ordinary people”.



What Jan says about friendship

- “Orla and I have met a few times and we get on really well, we go out after college and have been to the cinema a few times. We are going to keep in touch after we finish college”.



Class work

- “At the end of the day we are all here to study and hopefully get a job after”.



What Jan says about Class work

- “ we get to study the history of another country... we are going to Hungary”.
- “ I like art and also the drama... we might be able to set up our own (art) workshop when this is over”.



What Gina says about class work

- “Now when we come to Trinity... it shows that I can work in a large group... it’s quite good as we are all sitting around and there is different opinions and different expressions”.



What college has done for you?

- “Coming to this course has made me realise that there is lots of people out there with disabilities... I’m not the only one”
- “ Working together”
- “Having friends here”



- “ I think it has really opened me up... taking part in a job!”.
- “I would have to say I really enjoyed being a student at college it has been a great challenge”.
- “ I have enjoyed every bit of it”.



Where to from here?

- “ I wish for that in the future after this course, I will do a special needs assistance course”.
- “to get married”
- “to keep working away where I am doing my work experience.”
- “to learn how to drive”
- “ To get a part time job in Starbucks café and to visit my sister in Australia”
- “ To get a job and travel to Thailand”
- “To do another course”