

Trinity Ability co_op

Trinity Ability co_op is a co-operative movement by students with disabilities towards radical inclusion on campus. We work in partnership with Trinity's Disability Service to ensure that inclusion is a priority in Trinity.

The structure of the co-op is a leadership team of nine students with disabilities which is divided into three sub-groups:

Representative Group: They will be the link to the Disability Service team and represent the co-op in interaction with other offices, groups and areas of the college community. They will also be working on policies to get recognition at a college-wide level.

Communications and Media Group: They will work on PR activities and promotion of the Ability Co-op. This will also include running the social media platforms, the blog and creating content for the Co-op.

Advocacy and Mentor Group: This group is dedicated to the development and mentorship of the current and expanding Ability Co_op members. It aims to advocate for members of the Co-op, as well as all students with disabilities in Trinity. They hope to do this through raising awareness on important issues that face all students with disabilities by giving them a voice that is so loud it can no longer be ignored.

We also have the Trinity Ability co-op forum on Facebook to engage with the broader co-op community where students with disabilities can also participate in projects and discussions of inclusion.

The mission of Trinity Ability co-op:

- To make Trinity an inclusive environment for students with disabilities.

- To raise awareness of the challenges students with disabilities face on a day-to-day basis and how Trinity can best support us as students.
- Create a safe space for students to discuss issues they are having or develop friendships with other students with disabilities.
- Provide opportunities for students with disabilities to develop graduate attribute skills such as communication, project management and teamwork through projects within the Co-op.

Goals of Trinity Ability co-op:

- Inclusion is widely discussed across campus and is a priority in academic teaching and within the student capitations.
- Students with disabilities develop skills from the co-op, which will benefit them in the workforce, which they may have not previously had gotten the opportunity to create.
- Have students with disabilities present in board discussions and are included in conversations of change in Trinity.
- An Ability co-op in every higher education institution and can support each other as a wider community of students with disabilities.
- Raise awareness of the issues faced by students with disabilities on a National Level and lobby to ensure that we are supported in higher education.

2020/21 Goals of Trinity Ability co-op:

- Tackling Zoom online Accessibility: Automatic captioning is currently not being used by lecturers, and the business zoom account has the function to generate closed captioning. If they do not have the zoom business account, we want to lobby to ensure they switch to this as it is more accessible for students with disabilities.
- Creative Content: We want to produce a mini publication, short film and podcast series with the assistance of the Equality Fund. The purpose of this is further to raise awareness of disabilities and the importance of inclusion.

These projects will also be opportunities for students with disabilities to work together and develop on skills such as teamwork, creativity and project management.

- Inclusion Training for all student capitations and academic staff: We want to provide inclusion training to all student capitations and academic staff to ensure that they are aware of the importance of inclusion for students with disabilities. For this goal to be completed, we would work alongside the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Unit in Trinity so that we have the support of college staff.

The strategy of Trinity Ability co-op:

- Work with Trinity to provide inclusion training for the student capitations and academics in college, and for this training to be mandatory.
- Grow our social media presence to ensure that people become more aware of the importance of inclusion of people with disabilities.
- Have media campaigns created by students with disabilities to raise awareness, and these projects will also help develop graduate attribute skills of students with disabilities.

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