The Trinity Disability Service Journey 1995 to 2022

The End of a Chapter
The Start of a New Chapter

The first logo used by the Disability Service

27 Years of the Disability Service

The story of the Trinity Disability Service from Room 3055 in the Arts Building in 1995 to Trinity disAbility Hub in Printing House Square in 2022.

Inclusive

Supportive

Kind

Accessible

The most common adjectives to describe the Trinity Disability Service.

1995

Milestone

The Trinity Disability Service Journey Begins

A Special Needs Committee is established in Trinity.

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Disability Service setup in Trinity

1996

Dr. Alan Tuffery, Disability Liaison Officer, was appointed to support students with disabilities at Trinity College Dublin.

Dr. Tuffery was deeply involved in Student Services in Ireland and in the development of Disability Services in College.

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1997 to 1998

Disability Services Coordinator appointed

The Disability Service slowly established some basic protocols and application procedures, but services were very limited.

Government and EU funding improved and in 1998 the then Senior Tutor, David Abrahamson, asked Dr. Alan Tuffery to serve as Disability Services Coordinator.

> **Disability Matters at Trinity**

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Seventy Reserved Places to Students from TAP schools

Introduction of up to seventy reserved places across the range ofundergrduate degree courses in the College to students from the **Trinity Access Programme** (TAP) for schools.

The Trinity Access Programme is part of Trinity's contribution to tackling disadvantage and is a clear demonstration of the College's social mission in action.

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2000

A full-time Disability Officer is appointed

The Disability Service (DS) was formally set up with the employment of a Disability Service coordinator (the present Director Disability Service, Declan Treanor). When the Disability Service was established in 2000 a small number of students with disabilities attended Trinity.

> **I was able to make real connections in Trinity College early on. - Declan Treanor.**

A full-time Disability Officer was appointed. An office in the Arts Building, Room 3055 (formally a respite room) was provided for the service.

The Disability Service was formally established in 2000. It provides support and services to the College's disabled students and staff.

There were a total of 64 students with disabilities in 2000.

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ATIC 2001

The **Assistive Technology and Information Centre** (ATIC) was founded. A partnership between Disability Service, the Library, and Information Service Systems (ISS).

HEA Strategic Initiative Funding was granted to develop assistive technology and services.

" **The importance of accessibility is that it improves the experince for all of us.** "

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2002 Botany Bay

Provision of nine accessible residence rooms in three houses in Botany Bay.

2001-2002

222

(*1.5%)

The number of students with disabilities in Trinity College

***The percentage of the Trinity student population**

> **An accessible College is a better College for everyone**

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ATIC opens in the new Ussher Library

2003

Mark Pollock, inspirational speaker, sportsman, entrepreneur, and who is blind, with Nick Wolfe, complete the Gobi March in September 2003. An arduous seven-day, six-marathon foot race through the heat of the Gobi Desert in China.

The **Assistive Technology and Information Centre** (ATIC) opens in the new Ussher Library.

2002-2003

285
(1.9%)

The number of students with disabilities in Trinity College

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2004 University Strategic Plan Statement

The University's Strategic Plan stated that "Disabled students will find the College more friendly and supportive and they will have access to a learning and social environment which will be more appropriate to their needs".

Unilink - Occupational Therapy Support is established. A unique collaborative mental health project with the Discipline of Occupational Therapy (OT).

In response to a need to provide practical support for students with mental health difficulties, the Unilink service was established in 2004 by Clodagh Nolan, a lecturer in the Discipline of Occupational Therapy.

2003-2004

345 **(2.3%)** **The number of students with disabilities in Trinity College**

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2005 The Disability Act 2005 enacted

The Disability Act 2005 is enacted resulting in several positive measures in the College, including the appointment of an Access Officer and two Inquiry Officers. This included a comprehensive Disability Act 2005 complaints procedure.

With the introduction of the Disability Act 2005, the College set out to audit all services, and buildings, to ensure they were accessible to all.

Student Disability Services (SDS) facilitates potential success for students with disabilities in the college setting by providing advice, support, and academic accommodations in partnership with students and academic departments.

2004-2005

365 (2.4%)

The number of students with disabilities in Trinity College

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2006

The Pavilion Bar is made fully accessible

In 1961, 77 years after its completion, the first pint was served at the Pav. Since then, the structure has been marked by the trail of time.

A 12% rise in student registrations resulted in an increase in the caseloads of Disability Officers (1.5 Disability Officers since January 2006). This represents a student-to-staff ratio of 284:1.

2005-2006

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421
(2.8%)

The number of students with disabilities in Trinity College

The National Institute for Intellectual Disability is launched

The **National Institute for Intellectual Disability (NIID)** was launched by the Minister for Education and Science, Mary Hanafin, TD in May 2006. Offering the first full-time university course in Ireland for people with an intellectual disability.

The **Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities** (TCPID) was formally established as the National Institute for Intellectual Disability (NIID) in 2004 and the NIID developed the Certificate in Contemporary Living (CCL), a two-year fulltime course for students with intellectual disabilities. TCPID is situated within the School of Education, Trinity College Dublin, whose aim to promote the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in education and society.

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2007

Disability Needs Assessment Developed

Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Disability Needs Assessment) was developed by the Disability Service with the School of Education, 22 students graduated from this programme.

The College surpassed the target of 15% CAO quotas for non-traditional students - including those from a socio-economically disadvantaged background, and those with a disability.
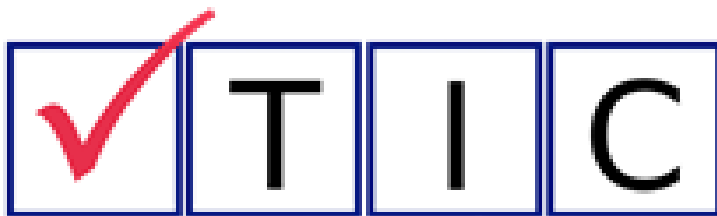
2006-2007

420
(3.2%)

The number of students with disabilities in Trinity College

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2008 Trinity Inclusive Curriculum

The development of the Trinity Inclusive Curriculum (TIC) was a partnership between CAPSL, access initiatives, and the academic community. Trinity received funding for TIC. The aim was to ensure courses in the College are evaluated for inclusive design.

The objective of TIC was to mainstream inclusive principles within the entire College curriculum so as to enable all students.

✓ T I C

The **TIC self-evaluation tool** was designed for use by staff involved with higher-level teaching, assessment, and information provision.

2007-2008

434
(2.8%)

The number of students with disabilities in Trinity College

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eGovernment Web Accessibility Award

2009

An **eGovernment Web Accessibility Award** was presented to the Disability Service for its efforts in making the website accessible to disabled users.

The **College Accessible Information Policy** is approved by the College Board.

02 Ability Awards - Trinity College was selected as an Ability Company at the 02 Ability Awards in 2010. Trinity achieved the status of Ability Company in all six categories of the awards: Leadership, Customer Service, Environmental Accessibility, Recruitment and Selection, Learning Development and Progression, and Retention and Wellbeing.

2008-2009

585
(3.6%)

The number of students with disabilities in Trinity College

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Tenth Anniversary of the Disability Service

2010

The Disability Service held its first symposium and launched the Ten Years of Student Experiences booklet, TCD Disability Service 2000-2010. Trinity College Dublin proudly celebrated the 10th anniversary of the College Disability Service. In 2010 there were almost seven hundred students with disabilities studying at Trinity.

The **Pathways** in the Front Square of Trinity College Dublin was completed, allowing a fully accessible journey through the main square of the campus.

2009-2010

685
(4.2%)

The number of students with disabilities in Trinity College

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Below is an image of the Front Square of Trinity College Dublin from an article entitled "How far will Trinity go for the disabled?" that featured in Trinity News, 15 November 2000. At that time, one of two proposals for paving in the Front Square were rejected by the Sites and Facilities Committee.

Image: Buildings Office

Asperger's Syndrome Support Service Launched

2011

The website for **Asperger's Syndrome Support Service** was officially launched by the Minister for Health, Dr. James O'Reilly in November 2011.

Unilink, in collaboration with TCD Equality Fund, the TCD Staff Office, and the Student's Union, developed the 5 A Day for Mental Health booklet, leaflet and website.

The Pathways to Trinity Website was launched on 11th April 2011.

Trinity received the UK JISC TechDis OASES Award or Institutional Progress on Equality using Technology.

2010-2011

818
(4.9%)

The number of students with disabilities in Trinity College

Trinity **disAbility** Hub

2012

Disability Service held its First Annual Symposium

The **Transition to Employment** website and booklet for students with disabilities was launched.

The **Unilink Service** developed a shared service with Dublin City University, Dublin Institute of Technology, and University College Dublin. Tenders were awarded for each institution.

The Disability Service First Annual Symposium. Phase 1: The Disabled Student Journey a new transition model emerges. The pilot of Pathways to Trinity workshops for second-level students is launched.

2011-2012

911
(5.4%)

The number of students with disabilities in Trinity College

Grant from Genio Trust

The Disability Service received a significant grant from the **Genio Trust** to develop a Transition to Employment project supporting college students and recent graduates experiencing mental health difficulties, in their transition to employment.

The Professional Placement Planning Process and Guide for students with disabilities on professional courses was launched at the Disability Service Second Annual Symposium. Phase 2: Models of Support for Students with disabilities on Professional Placements.

2012-2013

1058
(6.4%)

The number of students with disabilities in Trinity College

Trinity disAbility Hub

2014 Pathways Volunteer Programme is Launched

The **Pathways Volunteer Programme** was launched in June 2014, with 48 students signing up to participate in this ambassador programme.

The **Fatigue Management Booklet** was launched by the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Mary McCarron.

The Trinity Disability Service hosted their **Personal Emergency Evacuation Training** (PEEPs) event entitled 'How do I get out of here?' for Access, Buildings, Disability, and Safety Officers in Higher Education Institutes.

Trinity committed significant funding of €1 million to ensure compliance with the Disability Act 2005.

2013-2014

1186
(7.1%)

The number of students with disabilities in Trinity College

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Student Ambassador Programme Established

The **Disability Service Student Ambassador Programme** was established, with training carried out in the summer of 2015 and 51 students signed up as ambassadors.

Association of Higher Education Careers Services Employability Award presented for the Career Pathways project.

2014-2015

1313
(7.7%)

The number of students with disabilities in Trinity College

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2016 National Ann Beckett Occupational Therapy Award Presented

AOTI
Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland

National Ann Beckett Occupational Therapy Award presented for the Career Pathways Service.

The **One-Week Summer Programme** for students with Asperger's Syndrome (Autistic Spectrum Disorder / Condition) was held.

Ambassador Accelerator Programme was established and rolled out with 12 Ambassadors over a 5-week period in the Summer of 2016.

Occupational Therapy Service, formerly known as Unilink, is changed to **Occupational Therapy Support**.

2015-2016

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1299
(7.6%)

The number of students with disabilities in Trinity College

Ready, Steady GO Summer Camp

2017

The **Trinity Students with Disabilities Ambassador Programme** expanded and recruited 15 new Ambassadors.

The fifth year that the Disability Service (DS) has been providing a disability service to the **Marino Institute of Education (M.I.E.)**.

Trinity Disability Service hosted the **Ready, Steady Go Summer Camp** for twenty secondary schoolstudents with disabilities.

2016-2017

1364
(7.7%)

The number of students with disabilities in Trinity College

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disAbility Hub

Trinity Centre for Aging and Intellectual Disability Officially Opened

2018

The **Trinity Centre for Ageing and Intellectual Disability**, the first dedicated Centre to investigate key issues in ageing, intellectual disability, and the life course, was officially opened.

The first of its kind worldwide, the Intellectual Disability Supplement to The Irish Longitudinal study on Ageing (IDS-TILDA) has been researching ageing in Ireland among people with an intellectual disability aged 40 and over, for the past decade.

Construction work for the Trinity Business School progressed to be followed with the completion of the **Printing House Square** later in 2019. This building will provide student accommodation, a University Health Centre, Disability Services, sports facilities, and space for facilities and services.

2 0 1 7 - 2 0 1 8

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1551
(13.7%)

The number of students with disabilities in Trinity College

2019

Trinity disAbility IDentity Project

Trinity College Dublin became the first Irish university to install a **Disabled Cycle Parking facility.**

Trinity disAbility IDentity Project Timeline
Extensive consultation. Name change consultation through a college-wide survey that included students, staff, and the Trinity community.

The Disability Service launched a new website **www.autism-uni.org** to help students with autism to make the transition from school to university.

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Trinity disAbility IDentity project

The Disability Service began plans to move to its new state-of-the-art home, Printing House Square. As part of this move, the Disability Service embarked upon the **Trinity disAbility identity Project**. The aims of the project included:

- Creating a clear and accepted identity for disability support in Trinity.
- Ensuring that students have a say in how the unit will do and how it will function.
- The naming of meeting spaces after well-known Trinity students with disabilities.
- Opening spaces to the disability community for out-of-hours use e.g., Autism social groups, and disabled activist meeting spaces.
- Ensuring that spaces remain student-centered.

2018-2019

Trinity disAbility Hub

1629
(8.8%)

The number of students with disabilities in Trinity College

Response to COVID-19: **The Disability Service** reacted to the COVID-19-enforced closure of college by switching immediately to the provision of a full service remotely in March 2020

The **Trinity Ability co_op**, a collaborative initiative between students, staff, and other stakeholders working toward inclusion in Trinity, was established.

The Trinity Disability Service Strategic Plan 2020-2025 Empowering Students with Disabilities was launched.

2019-2020

Trinity disAbility Hub

1722

(5.7%)

The number of students with disabilities in Trinity College

2020

The Trinity Ability co_op

The **Trinity Ability co_op** is based within the Trinity disAbility Hub in the new Printing House Square building on Pearse Street. The Trinity Ability co_op space will be student-run and can be used for meetings, project work, events, and exhibitions.

Members of the Trinity Ability co_op can ensure that their voices are heard, and they can take ownership of inclusive practices across the Trinity community.

Membership in the Trinity Ability co_op is open to anyone who is interested in contributing. Simply contact **abilitycoop@gmail.com** to express your interest. Please visit the **Trinity Ability co_op** website to learn more.

2021

Linda Doyle becomes the 45th, and first female Provost of Trinity College Dublin

The **Trinity Sensory Processing Project** was launched to help to make Trinity more inclusive by reviewing and improving new and existing spaces, building sensory awareness, and delivering specialist support to students who experience barriers to managing and adapting to the sensory environments of the College.

HEA Strategic Initiatives: Trinity Disability Service was successful in a funding application to the HEA to develop strategic initiatives that aim to provide additional support to Trinity's students with disabilities and to make Trinity a more inclusive and accessible University.

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1826
(6%)

The number of students with disabilities in Trinity College

Trinity
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2021 TCD Sense

Trinity received €482,364 for Trinity Disability Service. This funding went to several projects including the **Sensory Processing Project**, to create a further inclusive campus by focusing on support and services for students with sensory processing issues.

The **Trinity Neurodivergent Project** was launched in July 2021 to review and develop existing supports to meet best practice standards.

Trinity
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TCD Sense 2021

The College opens sensory spaces on campus. More than 80 individual study spaces have been created within six sensory areas across the Berkeley, Lecky, Ussher, Hamilton, and John Stearne libraries, with an additional five areas to be completed in the future.

The spaces were developed by TCD Sense Project as part of the Trinity Sensory Processing Project, which aims to make College more accessible for students who experience barriers to managing and adapting to campus' sensory environments.

Trinity
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2022

The **Programme for Access to Higher Education (PATH)** is a dedicated fund committed to increasing participation by under-represented students.

The Trinity Disability Service Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025 Empowering Students with Disabilities was launched. All PATH 4 initiatives are in line with the Trinity Strategic Plan.

Phase 1 (2022): Universal Design Fund - Supporting inclusive universally designed education environments for all.

Phase 2 (2023-2025): Proposals for course provision for Students with Intellectual Disabilities.

In the mid 1960s. Trinity was then a small university of about 3,000 staff and students. There were a total of 2061 students with disabilities in 2022.

2021-2022

2061
(*12.8%)

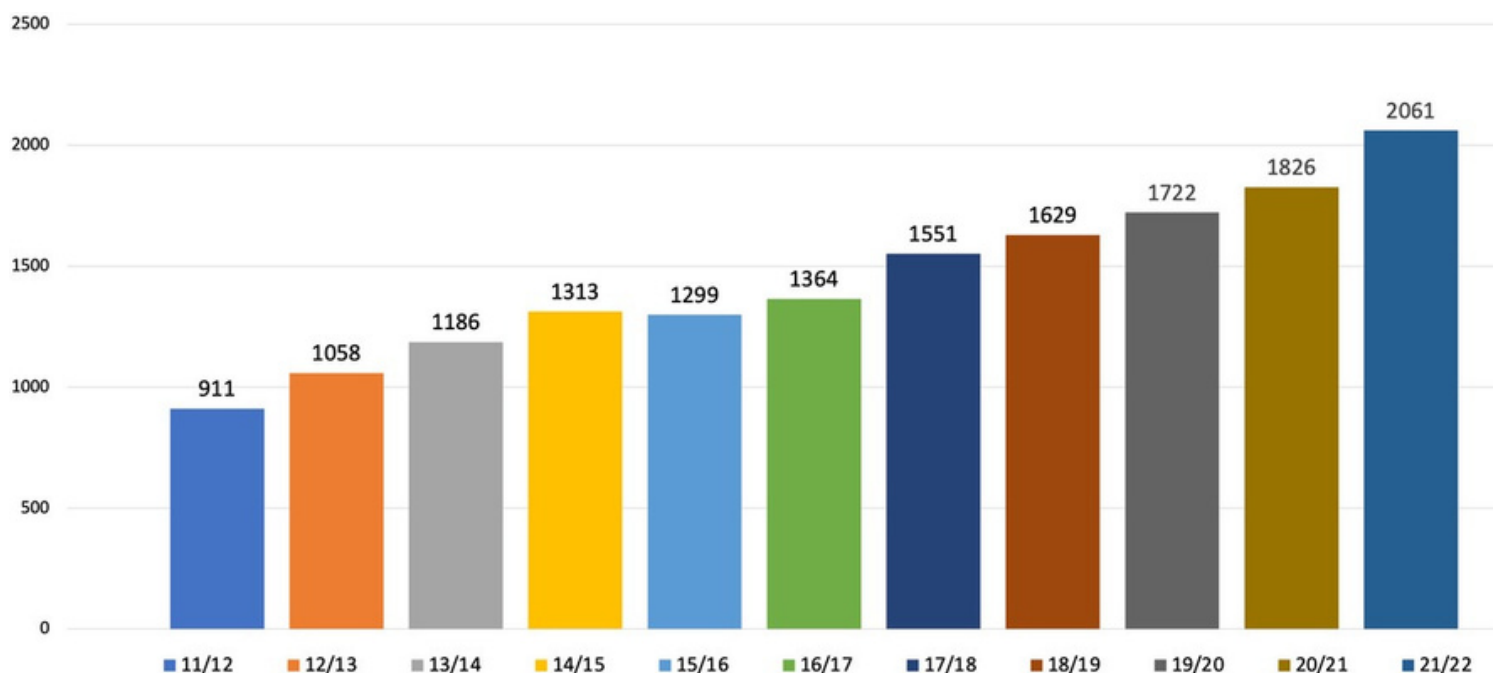**The number of students with disabilities in Trinity College**

*There was a 12.8% increase in students registered with Disability Service in 2022.

Growth and Development

Since its inception in June 2000, the Disability Service has undergone enormous growth and development. During this time, a comprehensive range of supports have been developed to enable students with disabilities to pursue degree programmes across all faculties.

The total number of students availing of **Disability Service Supports** from 2011/2012 to 2021/2022.

- 12.8 % increase in Students registered with DS in 2022

Trinity Disability Service Empowering Students with Disabilities.

Trinity
disAbility Hub

UNIQUE: A Disabled Perspective

The Unique: A Disabled Perspective, Disability Art and Poetry Exhibition, was officially launched by Provost Linda Doyle in An Mheitheal, Printing House Square the Disability Art and Poetry Exhibition House Square, on the 29th of November, 2022. The exhibition was run by the Trinity Ability co_op and the TCDSU, showcasing the work of disabled Trinity students and staff living with disabilities. Drawing on vastly different personal experiences, the works shared an essence of profound authenticity, giving a unique take on disability.

View the **Online Exhibition Guide** for the Unique: A Disabled Perspective, Disability Art and Poetry exhibition.

Printing House Square

2022

The **Trinity disAbility Hub** is Trinity's inclusive community space for students across the disability spectrum.

Printing House Square will be the new home for the **Trinity disAbility Hub**, previously called the Trinity Disability Service. The new space aims "to provide a platform for innovation and inclusion" by directly engaging with students.

Trinity
disAbility Hub

Trinity **disAbility Hub**

The new Disability Service in **Printing House Square** will cover two floors in the centre of three accommodation blocks. The first floor will contain two offices whilst the open-plan lower floor will house six meeting rooms.

As part of this move, the Disability Service has embarked upon the **Trinity disAbility Identity Project**.

Trinity disAbility Hub

Trinity **disAbility** Hub

Trinity disAbility Hub
The New Logo

The new logo was designed by **Trinity Disabled Students** as part of the Trinity disAbility IDentity project. Printing House Square is shaped as per the new logo. Purple is the disabled colour.

disAbility: Describes the activity being provided yet focuses on the positive aspect of the term, 'Ability'. It allows individuals to choose where they place emphasis based on their preferences.

Hub: will be based at the centre of this new hive of activity and will become the point on the Trinity campus from which all disability-related activity/enterprise will emanate.

The collective voice of disabled students, staff, and campuses can look for a greater change.

Trinity Disability Service

Positive Disruptors since 1995

Trinity College aims to create an accessible, transformational, educational environment in an interdependent University community and provide a platform for innovation and inclusion. Engage the wider University community in empowering students with disabilities. Inclusive, Advocating, Collaborative, Inquisitive, Pioneering, Positive disruptors, Dynamic.

People with disabilities are the original disruptors, and innovators, as they've had to find solutions to life's challenges out of necessity. Disrupting the Silence around Disability.

" Our aim is to support you and ensure your college experience is positive. **"**
- **Declan Treanor, Director, Disability Service**.

Trinity
disAbility Hub

Directions to the Trinity disAbility Hub

Printing House Square is located between the GMB/Botany Bay and Aras an Phiarsaigh. It can be accessed from Pearse Street opposite Goldsmith House, or through the old Printing House arch.
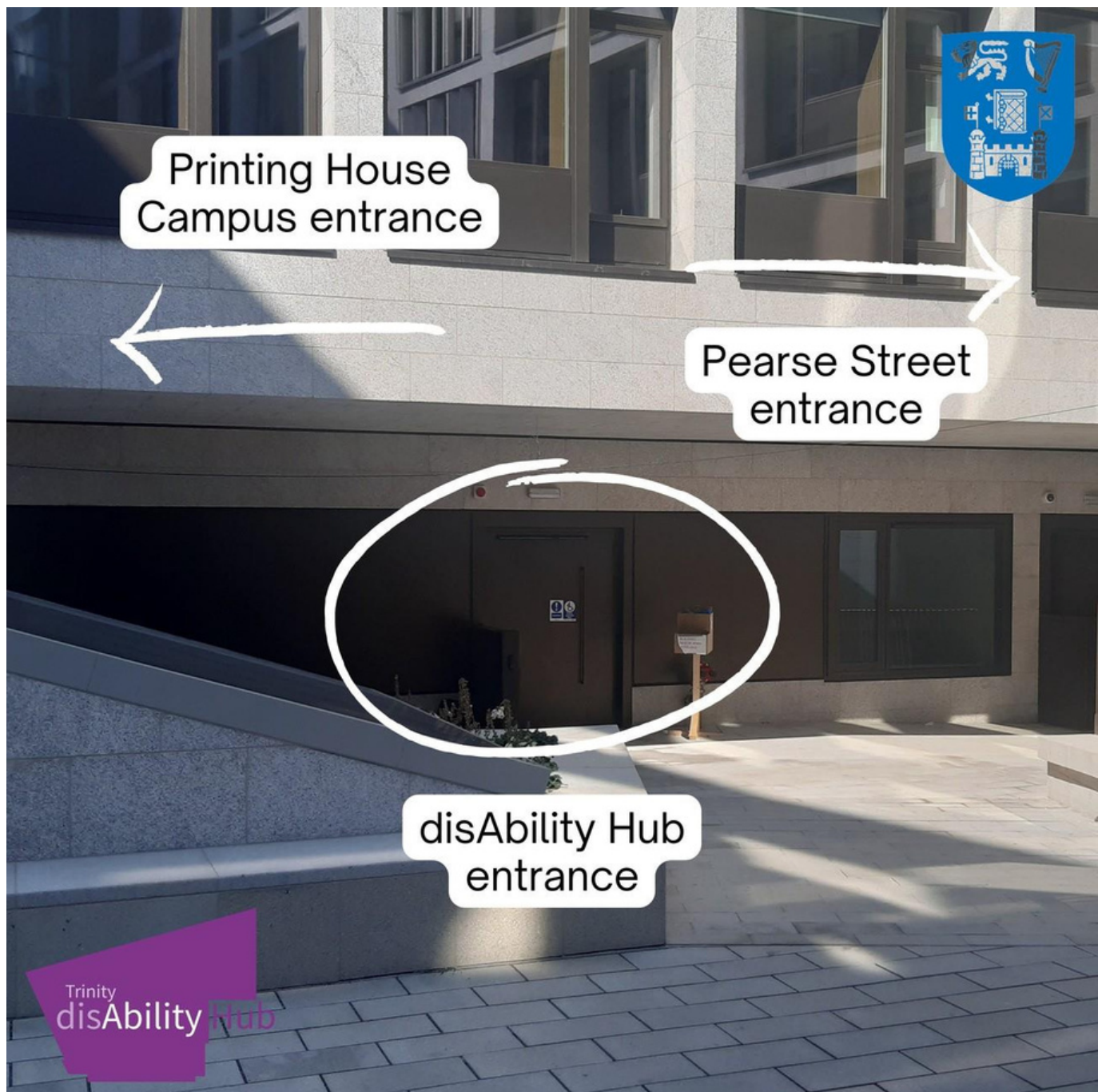
Trinity
disAbility Hub

Google Map location of the
Trinity disAbility Hub

Scan the QR code below for directions to the Trinity disAbility Hub space in the new Printing House Square.

Trinity
disAbility Hub

Location of the Trinity disAbility Hub

The Trinity Disability Service is now located in the Trinity disAbility Hub in Printing House Square.

A New Chapter

Trinity disAbility Hub

Trinity Disability Service

Trinity Disability Service
Trinity disAbility Hub,
Printing House Square,
Trinity College Dublin,
Pearse Street,
Dublin 2.
Email: askds@tcd.ie
Phone: +353 1 896 3111

Disability Service Website

Scan the QR code above for the Trinity Disability Service website.

Trinity disAbility Hub