



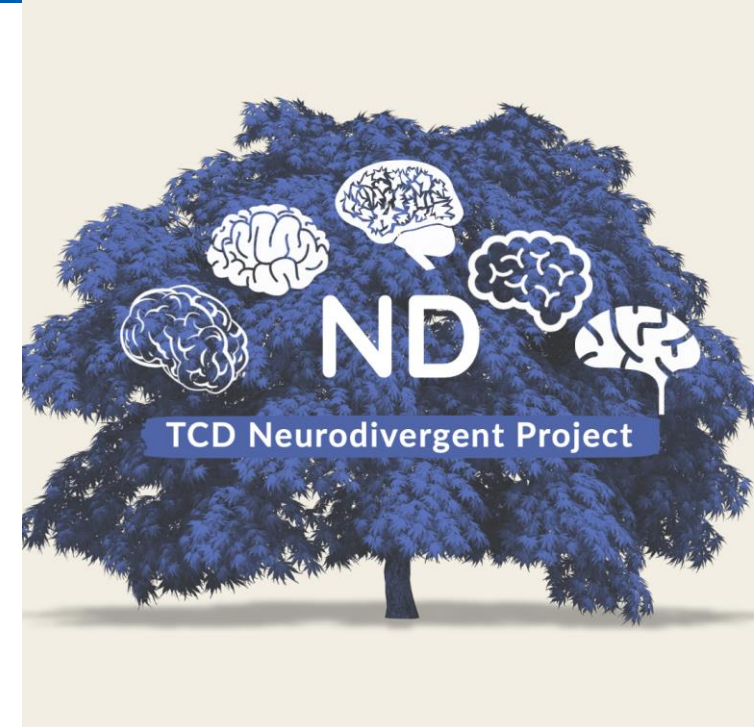
Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Trinity Disability Service Neurodivergent Project

Clare Malone

Senior Occupational Therapist

Tuesday 22nd March 2022



Neurodiversity at Trinity

- More than 54% of students currently engaging with the Trinity Disability Service are neurodivergent.
- The number of students seeking supports is increasing annually, particularly in the Autism and ADHD disability categories.
- Student progression and retention issues are a concern, where Autistic students (24%) are among the groups at highest risk of withdrawal from their studies at Trinity (Reilly., 2018).
- The Disability Service Neurodivergent Project was launched in July 2021 to review and improve upon existing supports and to develop further resources to address barriers to participation in the student role.
- The project has been developed using an Occupational Therapy approach based upon the Person-Environment-Occupation Model (Law et. al, 1996).



Neurodivergent Project Aims

Student Supports Pathways

Deliver individual student support pathways that are tailored to the specific needs of neurodivergent students.

Transition Resources

Develop resources and initiatives to assist students at key transition points in the third level journey.

The University Environment

Address physical, social and institutional barriers to student participation in the university environment.

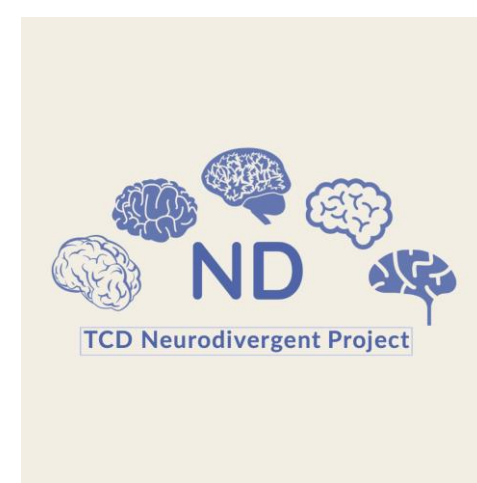
Student Supports Pathways

- Development of an autism-specific needs assessment pathway to provide connection to support services and resources and an ongoing review of accommodation needs.
- Provision of evidence-based 1:1 support services including occupational therapy and specialist academic support.
- Research and development of ADHD resources to assist students with an existing diagnosis as well as those experiencing barriers to assessment or awaiting formal diagnosis.
- Improvement of online resources to provide practical, neuroaffirmative information and guidance for prospective and current students.



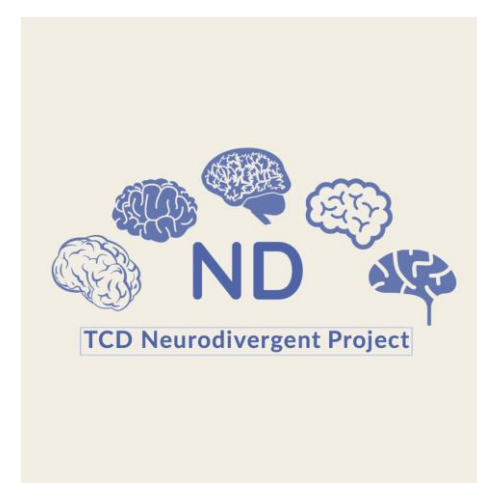
Transition Resources

- Delivery of a specialised pre-entry and orientation pathway involving adaptation of pre-entry events, summer activities and a two-day orientation programme for incoming students.
- Weekly drop-in service to provide a resource for queries and connection to supports.
- Weekly outreach support in Trinity Hall student accommodation to engage students around adapting to independent living.
- Analysis of student progression data to identify needs regarding course completion.
- Collaboration with Disability Service employability resources to ensure accessibility for neurodivergent students.



The University Environment

- Weekly co-facilitated autism drop-in group to assist with social connections and peer support.
- Coproduction and delivery of academic and student service staff training programmes to provide neurodiversity education and awareness.
- Community engagement and connection to neurodiversity organisations.
- Collaboration with TCD Sense sensory project to support activities focused upon the physical university environment.



References

Law, M., Cooper, B., Strong, S., Stewart, D., Rigby, P., & Letts, L. (1996). The Person-Environment-Occupation Model: A Transactive Approach to Occupational Performance. *Canadian Journal Of Occupational Therapy*, 63(1), 9-23.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/000841749606300103>

Reilly, D. (2018). Outcomes for students with disabilities in Trinity College Dublin. *The AHEAD Journal*, (9). Retrieved 2 December 2021, from <https://www.ahead.ie/journal/Outcomes-for-students-with-disabilities-in-Trinity-College-Dublin->

Trinity Ability Co_op. (2021). *Autism Awareness Month Special*. Trinity Ability co_op Podcast [Podcast]. Retrieved 2 March 2022, from
<https://podcasts.google.com/feed/aHR0cHM6Ly9hbmNob3luZm0vcy80MmNmMTE5NC9wb2RjYXN0L3Jzcmw/episode/MjQ0NGUyZGUtMWE0My00NmM0LWFmNDItMmU1YjkwODg2NzFj?sa=X&ved=0CAUQkfYCAhcKEwigkLCJyvfzAhUAAAAAHQAAAAAQ>
[AQ](#).

<https://www.tcd.ie/disability/services/AS-Support/index.php>



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Thank You

malonec6@tcd.ie

085 7585835

<https://www.tcd.ie/disability/people/malonec.php>

