

How Student Partnership enhances disability support



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AHEAD Conference 2022

Outline

- Trinity Disability Service Strategic Plan 2020-2025
- Employment of Interns
- The Forum for Disabled Staff and Postgraduate Students
- Student Partnerships with the Disability Service
- Trinity Ability co_op
- Projects co-produced with the Trinity Ability co_op
- Future developments

Background

Student Partnership Policy:

- Chapter Five: Opportunities for feedback into the services that are provided through informal and formal mechanisms.

Trinity Disability Service Strategic Plan:

- Promote the Trinity Ability co_op and other student partnerships to ensure the student's voice is front and central in all student disability services.

Trinity Disability Service Strategic Plan 2020-25



Our drive towards inclusion is the most critical development within this strategic plan, **while real and meaningful student partnerships will be central to its success.**



Mission

To create an accessible, transformational, educational environment in an interdependent University community and provide a platform for innovation and inclusion



Vision

Engage the wider university community in empowering students with disabilities



Values

Inclusive, Advocating, Collaborative, Inquisitive, Pioneering, Positive disruptors, Dynamic

Context

- DS Mission: To create an accessible, transformational, educational environment in an interdependent University community and provide a platform for innovation and inclusion.
- DS Vision: Engage the wider University community in empowering students with disabilities.
- DS Values: Inclusive, Advocating, Collaborative, Inquisitive, Pioneering, Positive disruptors, Dynamic.

Disability Service Objectives



- Civic Action: Create a more inclusive campus.
- Organisation: Provide an effective and dynamic service that anticipates and responds to the emerging needs of our diverse students with disabilities.
- Research: Provide professional, evidence-based services to impact students with disabilities positively.
- Education: Empower students with disabilities to develop to their full potential and inspire them to meet the challenges of the future.

Context

- Objectives will be achieved through innovative approaches and continuous review of service delivery while also maximising partnerships and joint working opportunities.
- Objectives set annually will be achieved through innovative approaches and continuous review of service delivery while also maximising partnerships and joint working opportunities.
- Disability processes reviewed annually - all staff asked to align objectives against the student partnership - students asked to 'walk through' services to ensure that services are student centered and easy to understand.
- Co-production – all areas expected to work with students in developing services e.g. orientation, community engagement.

Employment of Interns

Disability Inclusion Pathway with Employability ran by Trinity Careers

Three levels

Level 1 – foundation skills, volunteer opportunity

Level 2 – deeper skills development, CV formed

Level 3 – apply for internship

58 students applied; 2 interns employed

<https://www.tcd.ie/disability/services/career/employability.php>



The poster features the title 'Trinity Employability' in large blue and grey text, with 'Disability Inclusion Pathway' in red below it. A horizontal line with colored segments separates the title from the content. Below the line is a stylized tree logo and the text 'Trinity Disability Service - Development and Engagement'. At the bottom, a dark red banner contains the text 'Apply Now!' and 'Closing Date: 5 PM, Friday 4th October 2021'.

**Trinity
Employability**

Disability Inclusion Pathway

Trinity Disability Service -
Development and
Engagement

Apply Now!

Closing Date: 5 PM, Friday 4th October 2021

Lived Experience

Lived Experience student workers, volunteers & interns have unique knowledge, abilities and attributes. They draw on their own life-changing experience, service use and their disability journey.

The Student Partnership is intended to inform the Disability Service and other University decision makers, including employers and funding bodies and to support change across the university by improving understanding of the benefits of the real student engagement in all areas impacting their lives.

The Forum for Disabled Staff and Postgraduate Students

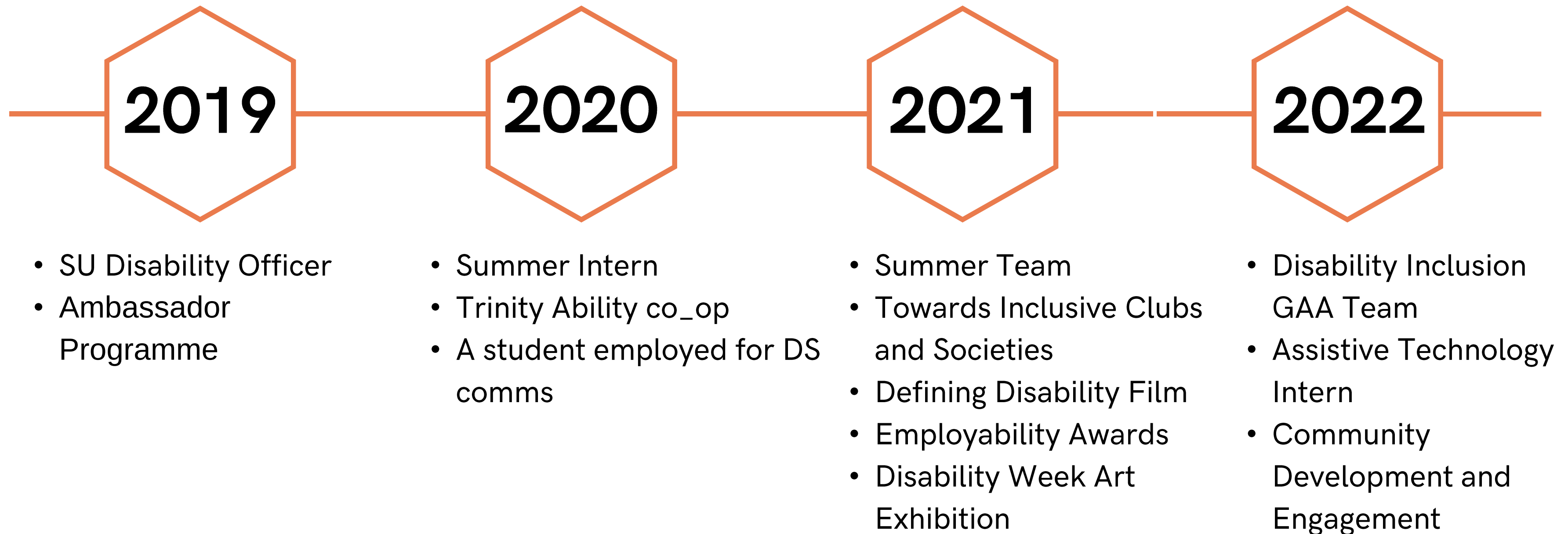
The Forum for Disabled Staff and Postgraduate Students in Trinity College Dublin provides a voice for disability equality within the University.

The Forum holds a range of events throughout the year decided by its membership. Events so far have included themes such as:

- Barriers and enablers to engagement in the Trinity College Dublin community.
- Supports available for disabled PhD students.
- Ableism and academia.

Trinity Disability Service Student Partnership

Timeline



Disability Service Ambassador Programme

- In summer 2016, 12 student ambassadors were employed to develop and change existing supports and information provided to prospective and incoming students with disabilities.
- Through the programme, the students had the opportunity to build their confidence in public speaking, effective communication, group facilitation, networking and leadership skills.
- The programme provided ambassadors with monthly workshops to students to develop the skills necessary for events and tasks.



SU Disability Officer

- Part-time position in the Student's Union to represent Students with Disabilities.
- Provided the Officer support when planning Disability Week and with their caseload.
- In 2019 supported the Officer with student-led project ['The Same, but Different: A Documentary Exploring the Lives of People with Disabilities in College'](#)



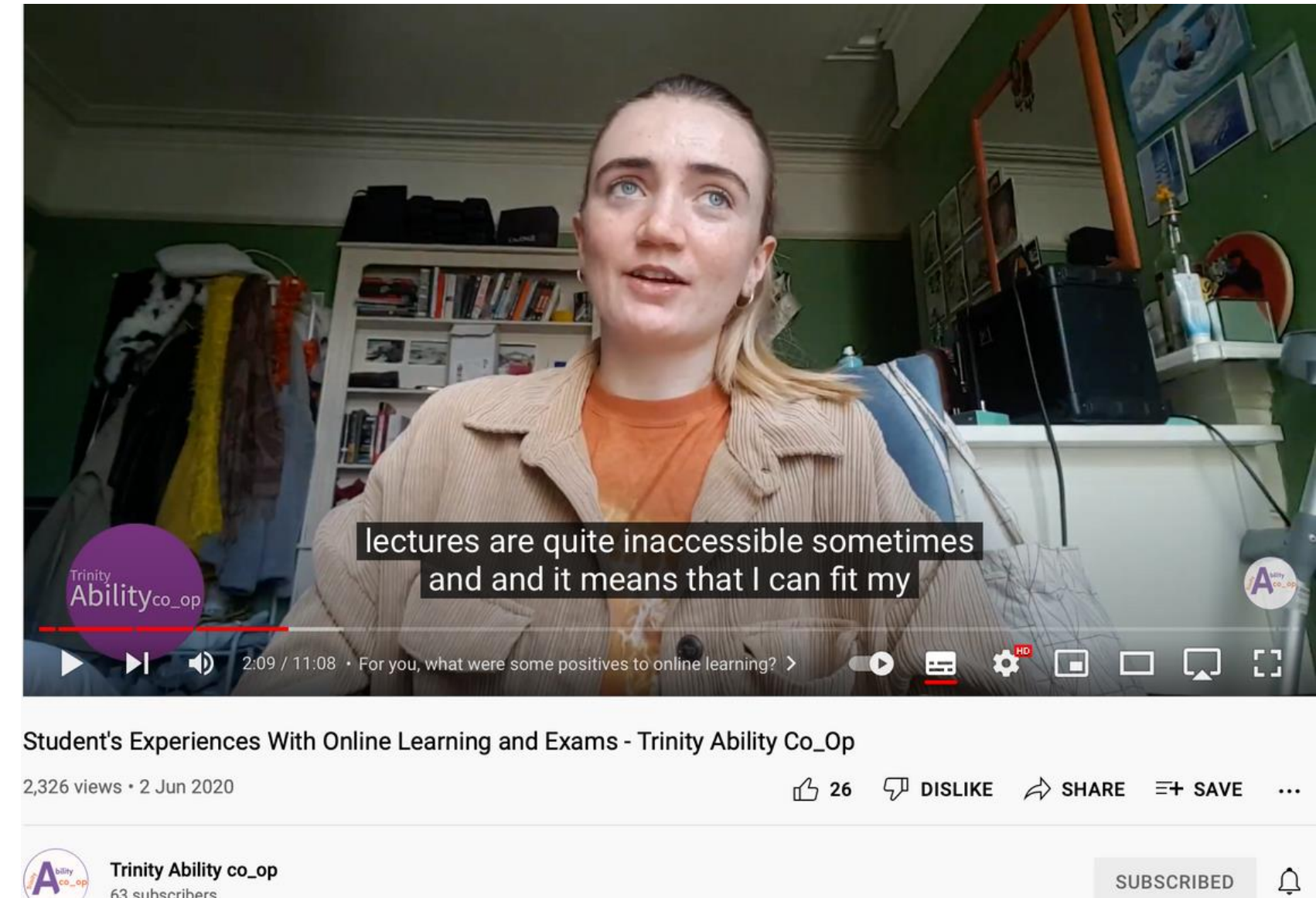
Disability Service Summer Intern 2020

- Employed a student with a disability to intern in the service.
- The intern was tasked with supporting the set up the Trinity Ability co_op, planning preparation for disability pre-orientation and working with DS staff on their individual projects.



Trinity Ability co_op

- Established in May 2020 during the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- A cooperative movement led by students with disabilities towards radical inclusion on Trinity Campus.
- Leadership Team of 9 members with 3 sub-groups: Representative, Communications and Mentorship.
- Activism was mainly through media campaigns such as our ['Student's Experiences with Online Learning and Exams'](#) video with over two thousand views.
- Shortlisted for the [USI Student Achievement Awards for Access Champion of the Year 2021](#).



Student Disability Service Social Media Intern

- A student with a disability was employed to work part-time for the Disability Service's social media communications for the 2020/2021 academic year.
- This was to ensure that the communications we provide will be engaging for students with disabilities.
- Worked on a Social Media Accessibility Campaign which was well received by Trinity campus.

The Berkeley Library

Can you understand
what is being said
in this video?

*Disability Service
Online Accesibility*

*It is important to use fonts and colours
that are accessible on social media.
Graphics like this are inaccessible to
people with visual impairments, who
are colour blind and people with
learning disabilities.*



2021 Summer Team

- After the success of having a student intern for summer 2020, we employed a team of 8 interns.
- Students were leading or contributing to projects such as [TCD Sense](#), [Defining Disability Film](#), [Towards Inclusive Clubs and Societies Project](#) and [Disability Pre-Orientation](#).
- The summer internships were held both in our offices and online.
- Having a larger group with a variety of disability types allowed for a better understanding of the university experience for disabled students allowing us to make changes to our service delivery to best reflect the student's needs.

Welcome Summer Interns!



Towards Inclusive Clubs and Societies Project

- The Trinity Ability co_op aimed to target the specific barriers to inclusion for disabled students and provide clear solutions for clubs and societies.
- Students with disabilities created resources such as Guidelines, a Checklist and Videos for Clubs and Societies to use to become more inclusive to students with disabilities.
- Ran a [podcast series](#) interviewing clubs and societies regarding inclusion.
- Hosting an award for Disability Inclusive Club and Society of the Year later this term.



Defining Disability: Our Stories Film

- Students with disabilities worked with the Disability service to produce a film during the summer of 2021.
- Features three students with disabilities studying in Trinity College Dublin. Scott, Collette, and Jessica have a conversation with filmmaker Bryan Smyth about their journey so far and navigating college as a disabled student. While the three students have similarities, they all experience and define disability differently.
- Students gained confidence in project management, teamwork and telling their stories.

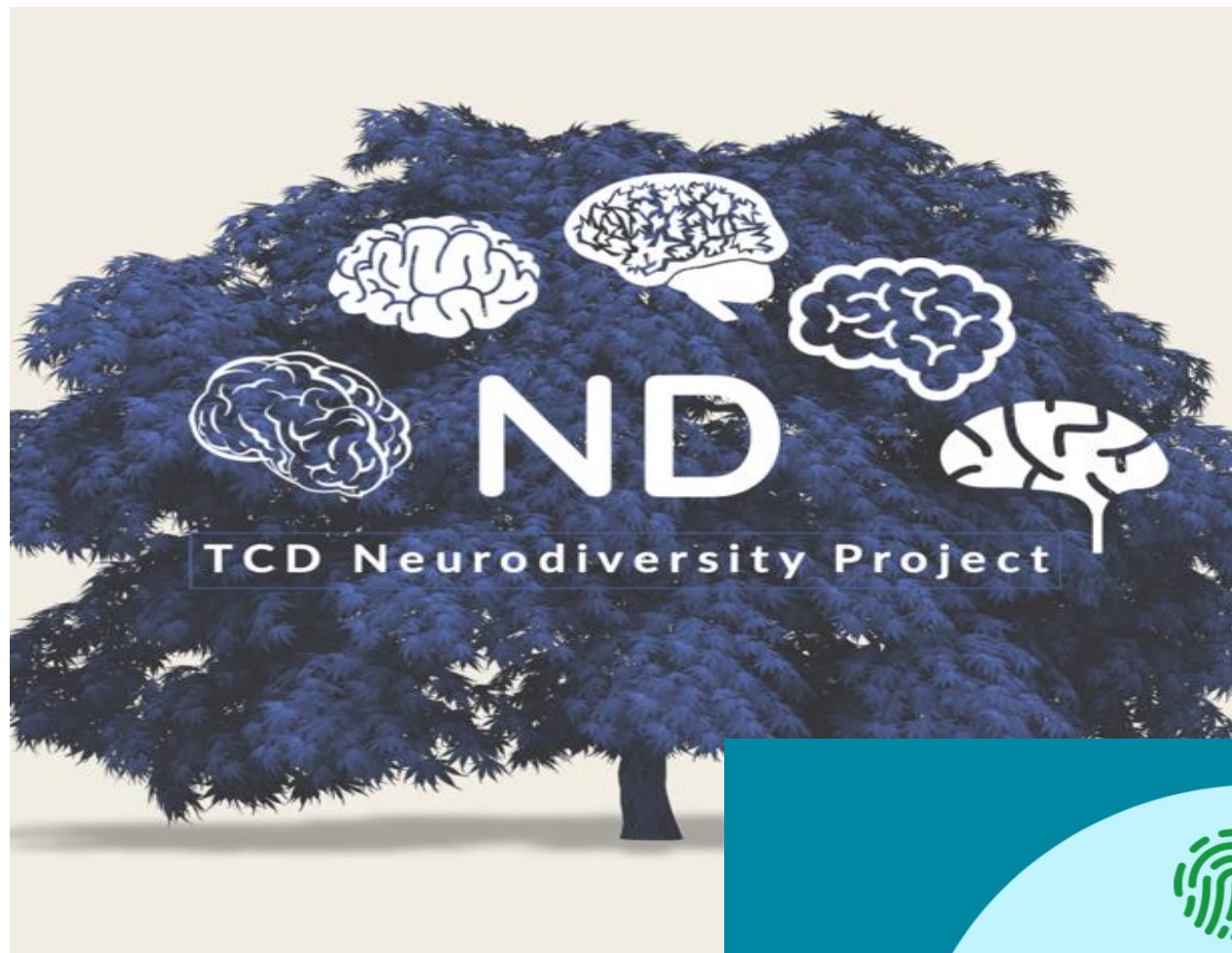


Trinity disAbility Hub in Printing House Square

- Approximately 2,000 students with disabilities are studying at Trinity, and 12% of the total student population have a disability
- The Trinity disAbility Hub will be located at Printing House Square from summer 2022
- There are 10 staff working in the Trinity disAbility Hub



Future developments



Thank You! Any Questions?

Twitter: [@TCDAbility](#)

Instagram: [@tcd.ability](#)

Email: askds@tcd.ie

Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/TrinityDS>