



Summary

From October – December 2025, a Healthy Trinity Ambassador audited 10 sites 3 times (see audit data) and assessed the microwaves based on three criteria

1. condition of microwaves,
2. quantity of functioning microwaves,
3. queue length.

There are currently 28 microwaves in total over 10 locations. The audit found that most microwaves were in good condition, but poor signposting and inaccurate map listings made them difficult for students to locate. While 7 areas had sufficient microwave capacity, key high-traffic areas such as the Arts Building, Goldsmith Hall, and S2S experienced long queues due to inadequate microwave numbers, with Arts facing waits of up to 35 minutes at peak times. Some buildings listed as having microwaves, including Trinity Business School, SNIAM, and Lloyd, had none available. This report recommends improved signage and adding microwaves in high-demand or currently under served locations.

Overall Condition of Microwaves:

- **Good:** 8 locations had clean, functional microwaves with clear instructions.
- **Fair:** 1 location at JCR showed minor issues (e.g., worn buttons, slight residue).
- **Poor:** 1 location at arts block had cleanliness concerns, 2 microwaves out of order.

Sufficiency of Microwaves:

- **Adequate:** 8 locations had enough microwaves for peak usage (2–3 units per area).
- **Inadequate:** 2 locations at Arts and S2S had insufficient microwaves, leading to longer wait times.

Queue Length Observations:

- **Short** (0–2 people): 7 locations during peak lunch hours.
- **Moderate** (3–5 people): 1 location.
- **Long** (6+ people): 2 locations at Arts and Goldsmith with insufficient microwaves available at peak times.

Microwave Audit Report – Trinity College Dublin Campus

January 2026

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Date of Audit: October – December 2025, Term 1 2025

Auditor: Doireann McConnell, Healthy Trinity Ambassador; Sophie Matabaro, Healthy Campus Officer, Healthy Trinity.

Total Locations Audited: 10

Methodology

Microwave Map

Healthy Trinity Ambassadors visited 6 sites and audited 28 microwaves in 10 locations, [audit data saved here](#).

Fig.1 Microwave Map

Microwave Audit Assessment Criteria



Microwaves were assessed based on condition of microwaves, sufficiency of microwaves, and queue length by a Healthy Trinity ambassador.

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Key Recommendations

Overall, from this report the main feedback is the lack of signposting regarding the microwaves that make them difficult for students to access. I queried the location at the security desk of the business building and was told that they didn't have any microwaves in the building. Also, in SNIAM and the Lloyd Institute where microwaves were listed, I asked students who replied that they did not exist in those buildings.

Another query came from students in the school of linguistic, speech and communications building on Leinster Street to add a microwave. There is one in the building, however students do not have access to it.

Maintenance & Cleaning:

- Deep clean and repair microwaves at the 1 poor-condition location (SJH).

Increase Capacity:

- Add at least one additional microwave at the 3 high-traffic locations with long queues.
- There are no Microwaves in Trinity Business School, SNIAMS, or Lloyd.
- Students walking to the Arts building, increasing queue length.

Signage & Instructions:

- Ensure all microwaves have clear usage and cleaning instructions to maintain hygiene.

Location Highlights

- **Arts Building:** Poor condition, long queues, insufficient units: add microwaves and improve hygiene.
- **Goldsmith Hall:** Good condition but long queues: one additional microwave needed.
- **S2S:** Good condition but only one microwave.
- **JCR Hamilton:** Fair condition and adequate capacity.
- **Hospital campuses (St. James & Tallaght):** Good condition and adequately supplied.
- **House 51:** Badly signposted and difficult to access.
- **Business Building, SNIAM and Lloyd Institute:** reported by staff and students no microwaves available.
- **Linguistic, Speech and Communication Building:** microwave available but not accessible to students

Key Issue Arising from the Report:

- Queues at Arts Block microwaves: every day from 11-1. At peak times taking 35 minutes



Detailed Microwave Audit:

#	Name	Location	Condition	No. of Micro waves	Sufficiency	Queue Length	Action Needed

1	TCD SU, House 6 Upstairs in TCD SU (which is in House 6 right beside Front Arch), has a kitchen with two microwaves, a toaster and a kettle. All students welcome		Good	3	Inadequate	Long	More microwaves needed
2	House 51 The SU Cafe provides three microwaves you can use to heat your own food. There are seats too.		Unable to access				Badly signposted & inaccessible
3	Dining Hall / Atrium Trinity Catering and TCDSU have provided two microwaves at room 50 on the first floor above the Atrium.		Good	2	Adequate	Short	N/A
4	Arts Building There are four microwaves you can use to heat your own food. There are seats too.		Poor 	4	Inadequate	Long-particularly 11-2pm	Additional Microwaves needed
5	Student-2-Student (S2S) The S2S have a microwave, seating and friendly faces in House 47.		Good	1	Inadequate	Moderate	2 nd microwave needed
6	The JCR Hamilton		Fair 	3	Adequate	Short	N/A
7	D'Olier St		Good	1	Inadequate	Moderate	2 nd microwave needed
8	St. James Hospital, Montgomery Room		Good	6	Adequate	Short	N/A

9	St. James Hospital, Student Space		Good	4	Adequate	Short	N/A
10	Tallaght Kitchen		Good	2	Adequate	Short	N/A

Background

Trinity Sustainable and Healthy Food Plan

[Health promotion](#) is tasked with creating environments that support health. Under action “**3. People – Community through Food**” Trinity commits to Social Student Food [Commitment 3.1] achieved through Action 3.1.1 **Student food spaces**.

Healthy Trinity Ambassadors to work with Director of Student Services to create a comprehensive map of [locations](#) where students can prepare their home cooked food, audit locations annually and develop feedback system for microwave upkeep and end-of-life replacement.

Trinity Catering and the Unit of Dietetics in the School of Medicine has led the [Healthy Trinity Healthy Eating group](#) since [2017](#) and [this snapshot](#) of actions undertaken to promote sustainable and healthy eating since then demonstrates the diversity of lenses our community applies to food. Of particular note, are the Living Lab data gathered since 2017 by the School of Medicine and College Health and [the food strategy for Catering](#) developed by Trinity Catering and Trinity Business School.

Audit Data

Healthy Trinity Ambassadors Audit Data

Name of assessor	Week of term	Date	Month	Zone name	# of Micro waves	# of people queuing	Condition	#status working	Start time	End time	Minutes spent	Time desc.	Was it clean?
Doireann	8	Friday 10 October 2025	October	1. Goldsmith Hall	3	long	Good	yes	13:02	13:22	20:00	Lunch	yes
Doireann	8	Saturday 11 October 2025	October	2. Front Square House 6	2	Short	Good	yes	09:50	10:00	00:10	Morning	no
Doireann	8	Sunday 12 October 2025	October	3. House 51	?	N/A	N/A	No access	11:37	11:44	00:07	Morning	yes
Doireann	8	Monday 13 October 2025	October	4. Dining Hall	2	Short	Good	yes	12:32	12:42	00:10	Afternoon	yes
Doireann	8	Tuesday 14 October 2025	October	5. Arts Building	4	Short	Poor	yes	12:42	13:15	00:33	Lunch	no
Doireann	8	Wednesday 15 October 2025	October	6. S2S	1	Moderate	Good	yes	10:12	10:22	00:10	Morning	yes
Doireann	8	Thursday 16 October 2025	October	7. JCR Hamilton	3	Short	Fair	yes	16:22	16:42	00:20	Evening	yes
Doireann	9	Friday 17 October 2025	November	8. D'Olger ST	1	Short	Good	yes	12:49	13:08	00:19	Lunch	yes
Sanskriti	8	Monday 13 October 2025	October	9. SJH Montgomery	6	Short	Good	yes	13:08	13:28	00:20	Lunch	yes
Sanskriti	8	Monday 13 October 2025	October	10. SJH SU	4	Short	Good	1 broken	13:40	13:50	00:10	Lunch	yes
Sanskriti	8	Thursday 16 October 2025	October	11. Tallaght Hospital	2	Short	Good	yes	11:37	11:44	00:07	Morning	yes