## Teaching and Learning in the Real World: UD as a Lens to Let Quality Consider Reality

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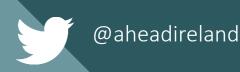




creating inclusive environments in education and employment for people with disabilities









#### In this session, we will:

 Reflect on empowering learning experiences we have had

 Explore changing demographics and emerging pressures in the system

 Consider how we can meaningfully respond to support students and staff

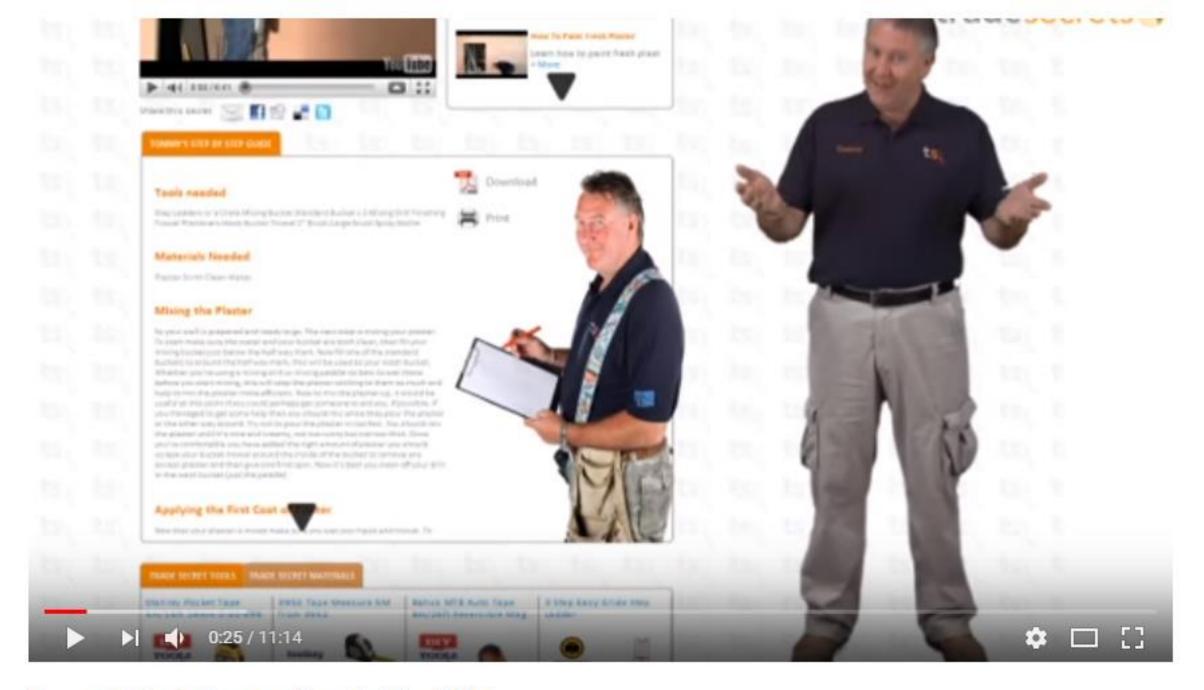




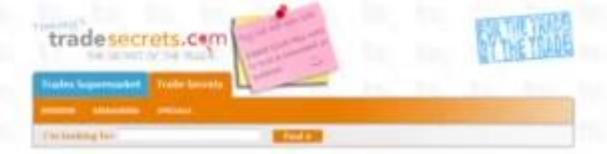








Tommy's Trade Secrets - How To Tile A Wall





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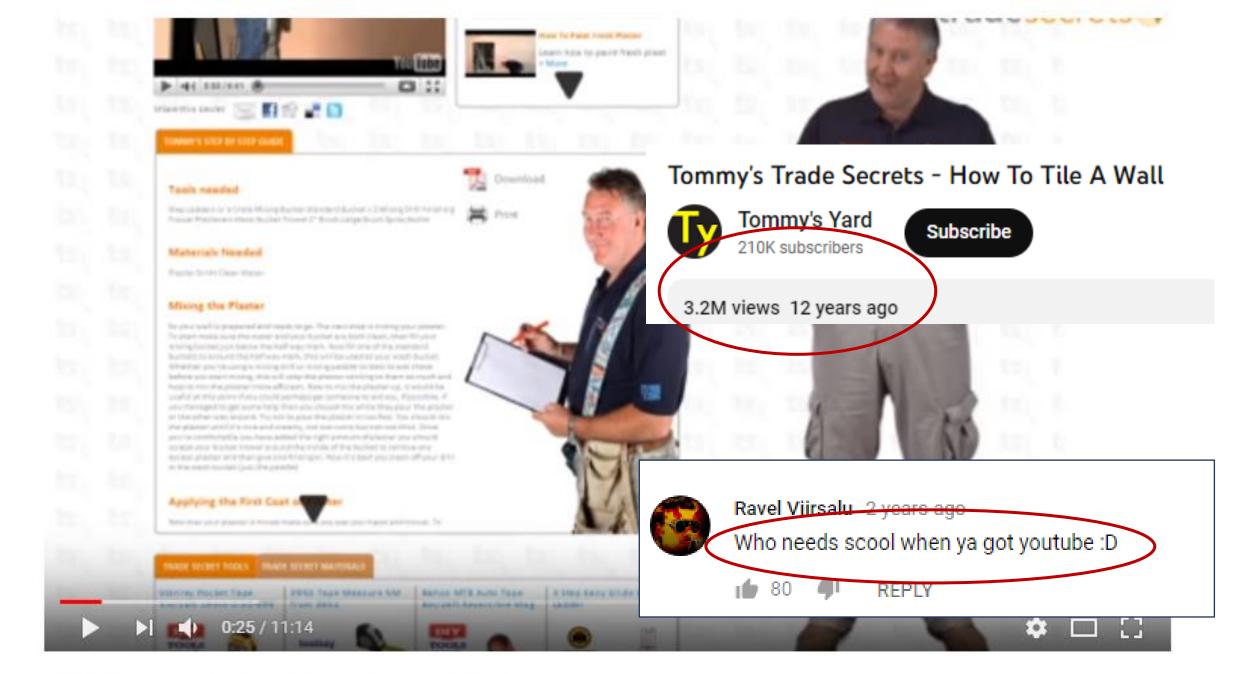












Tommy's Trade Secrets - How To Tile A Wall

#### Tommy's Tools

- His video was accompanied by a **printable guide with checklists and images**.
- Begun with **full review of tools needed**, what each was for and how to use them.
- Gave low cost/free alternatives where possible, and gave methods for spreading out the job.
- Utilised the strengths of video slow motion, close-ups, replays, time-lapse, jump cuts.
- Told us what had to be done precisely and what I could wing a little.









Reflection: Think of a learning experience where the instructor met you where you were at, and you felt empowered to learn on your own terms.

What about the experience made you feel that way?



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Tommy completely understood his audience...



One third of the HE student population are aged 24 or over (HEA, 2022a)

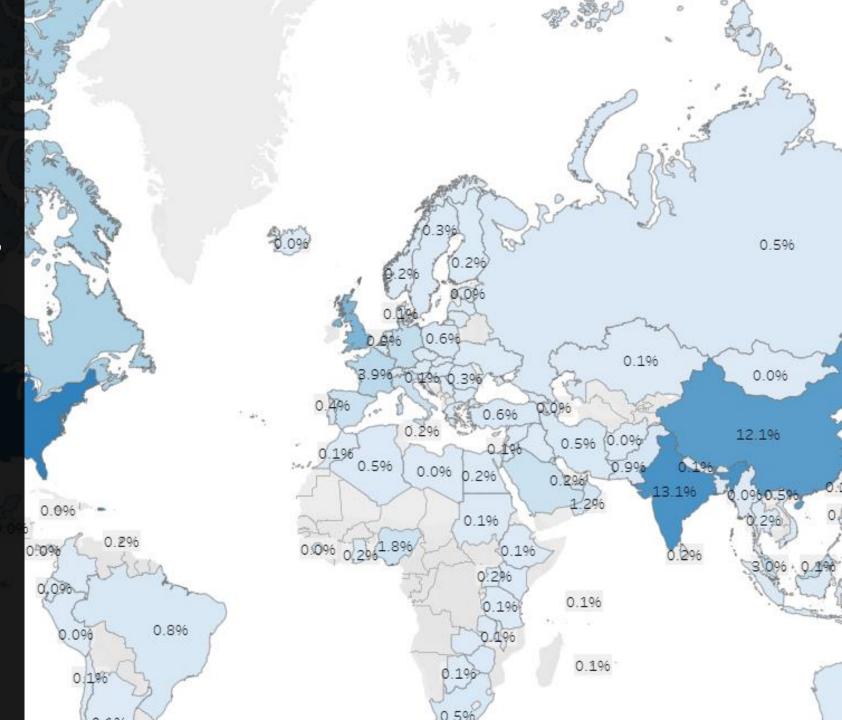
11% of HE student population have children (HEA, 2022b)



12% are international students coming from all corners of the globe.

22.6% are not from a 'white: Irish' ethnic background (up from 12.7% in 15/16)

(HEA, 2022a)





17.8% of HE Equal Access
Survey Respondents self
declare a disability (up from
12.3% in 15/16)

(HEA, 2022)

Number of students in higher education registered with the disability services has risen by over 268% in last 12 years.

(AHEAD, 2022)



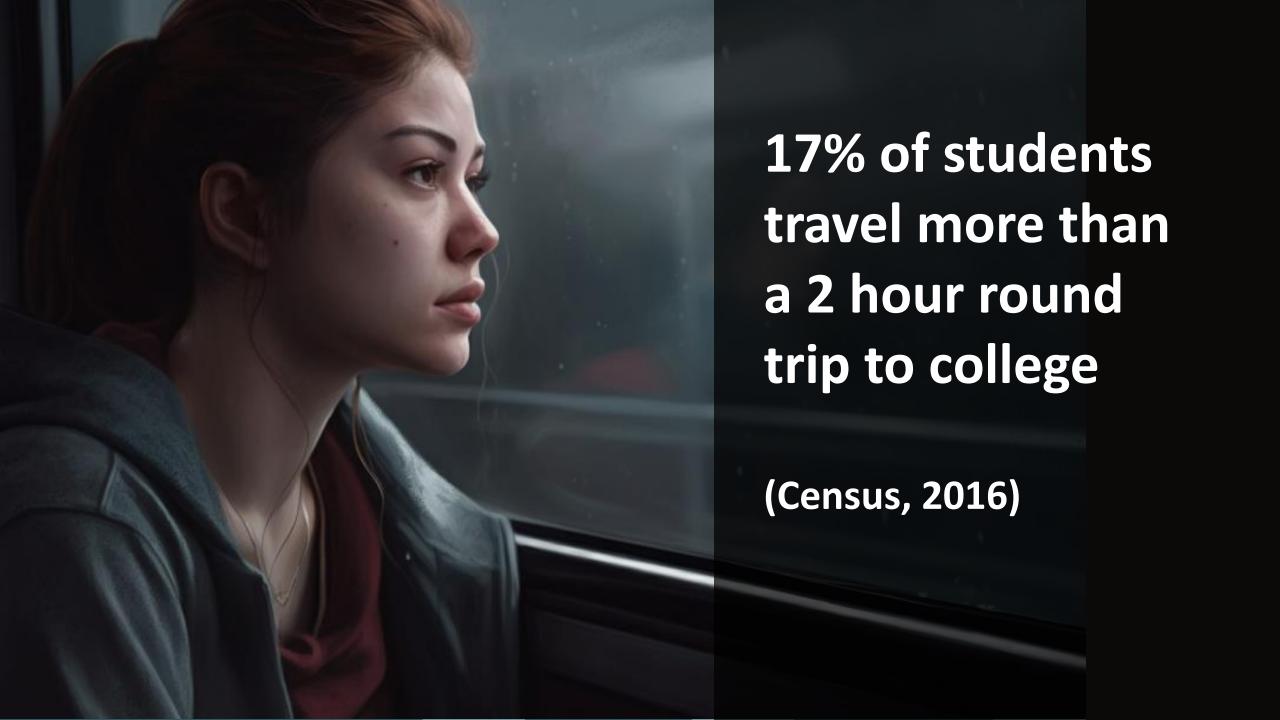
Average rents in Ireland have increased by 82% in last 12 years, compared to EU average of 18% (BPFI, 2022).

Students spend 89% more per month on housing than they did 15 years ago.

45% of students live with their parents/relatives (up from 45% in 2007).

(Eurostat, 2022, 2007)





57% of full-time student population work during term-time (up from 45% in 2007)

In this group, they work an average of 17 hours per week

(Eurostat, 2022, 2007)

Negative correlation - time spent in employment and overall grades achieved

(Tessema et al 2014; Pike et al 2008)





Three quarters of Irish academics (72%) surveyed in 2015 believed that their working conditions had deteriorated.

Believed students were presenting with a greater variety of needs, which in turn increased the pastoral aspect of academics' work.

(Clarke et al, 2015)

Over half (55%) did not believe that management in their institutions supported the teaching aspects of their role.

Over a third (39%) of academics expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of pedagogical support to which they had access.

(Clarke et al, 2015)





1 in 10 UK academics said their workloads were entirely unmanageable. Further 1/3 said workloads were unmanageable most of the time.

Average of 2 days worth of extra hours above contract worked each week.

(UCU, 2022)

A significant percentage of new entrant students have a disability but do not disclose and register for support.

There has been a 44% rise in the number of students with disabilities per support staff member in the last 8 years.

(AHEAD, 2022)



For all that has changed...

How much have our programmes and systems fundamentally changed?





Inclusion is not just about inviting everyone in to the room...

Its about inviting them to redecorate with us...

#### National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030

'The level of participation in higher education that Ireland now requires is unprecedented and requires us to engage in a fundamental re-examination of our programmes, pedagogy, delivery channels, supports for students, and the entire funding and governance framework.'

(Department of Education & Skills, 2011)

Report of the Strategy Group
January 2011



#### National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030



Report of the Strategy Group January 2011



"The increasing diversity of students...will have to be matched by teaching and assessment methods that will enable students from a range of backgrounds to discover, exploit and build on their strengths."

(Department of Education & Skills, 2011)

'Over-assessment is a problem that impacts on student and staff workloads.'

'Problematic 'bunching' of assessment can result in peak assessment loads being unsustainable for students, even when students manage their time reasonably well'

(QQI, 2021)

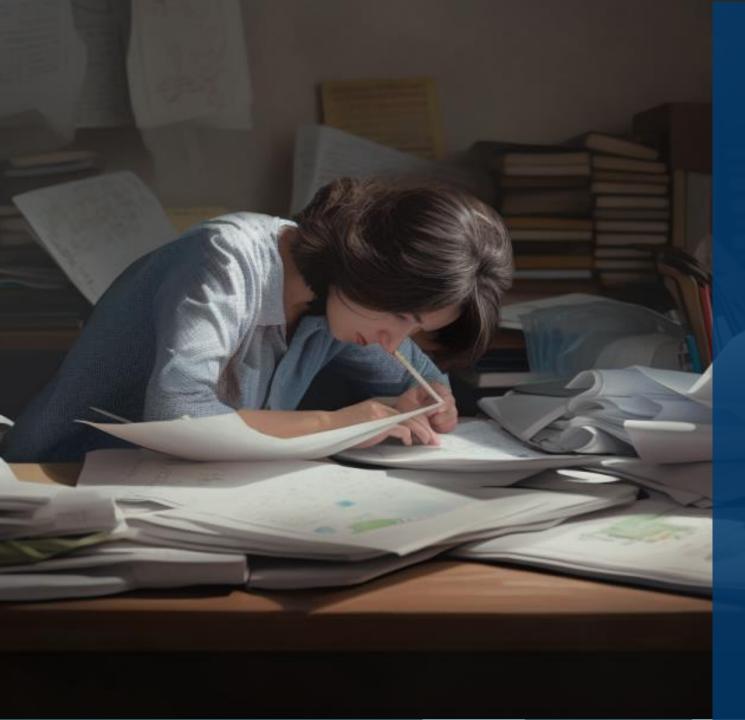


'We need imaginative and forward-looking approaches to assessment to keep up with ...the number and diversity of students ...and evolving expectations, such as giving students more choice in how they are assessed'

'The preponderance of the end-of-semester two- to three-hour written examination is under the magnifying glass now.'



(QQI, 2021)



Examinations particularly disadvantage the English as Second Language cohort in terms of final grades in comparison to other assessment methods.

(Smith, 2011)

Diverse students feel exams are not always authentic or relevant to what they had learned, or how performance is measured in the world outside.

(Tai et al, 2022a)

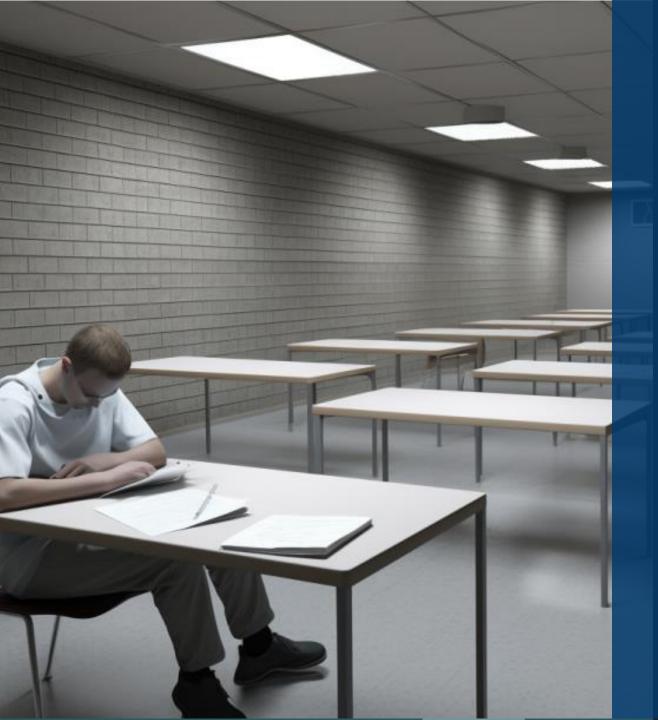
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85% of students with disabilities registered with services receive exam accommodations (15,162).

Evidence points to large numbers of undisclosed students with disabilities, who do not register or receive exam accommodations.

(AHEAD, 2022)





Accommodations do not always lead to equitable academic outcomes (Brett, 2016; Kilpatrick et al. 2017), nor address students' actual access requirements (Waterfield and West, 2006).

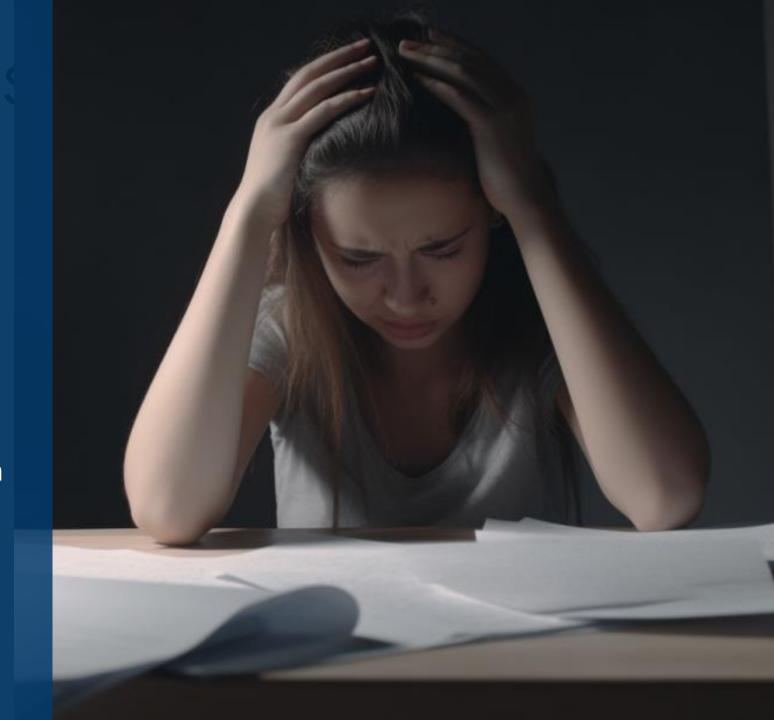
Common exam accommodations such as placing students into a separate room can cause students to feel excluded or different (Hanafin et al., 2007)

Students with disabilities often report selecting their units according to an assessment format that aligns with strengths; many describe avoiding examinations

(Morris, Milton, and Goldstone, 2019).

"This...has reminded me of 1 thing I'll miss from having things be online. No memory alone based exams. In 1st year, I failed my psychology exams and scraped passes in my criminology ones. Now in 2nd year, in both of my subjects for my end of term assignments (criminology) and exams (psychology), which was open book but still timed, I've been top 5 or 10 of my entire year."

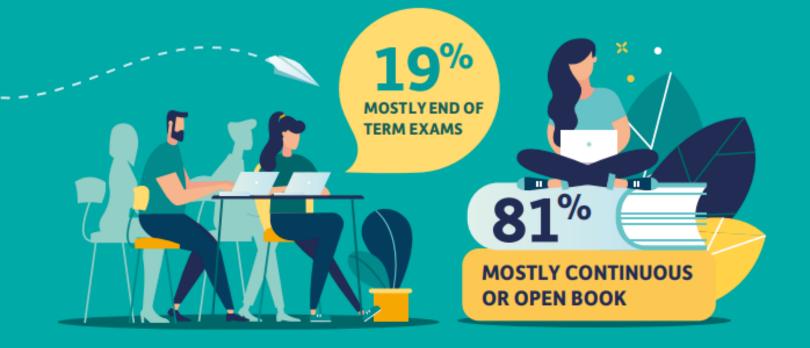
(AHEAD, 2021)



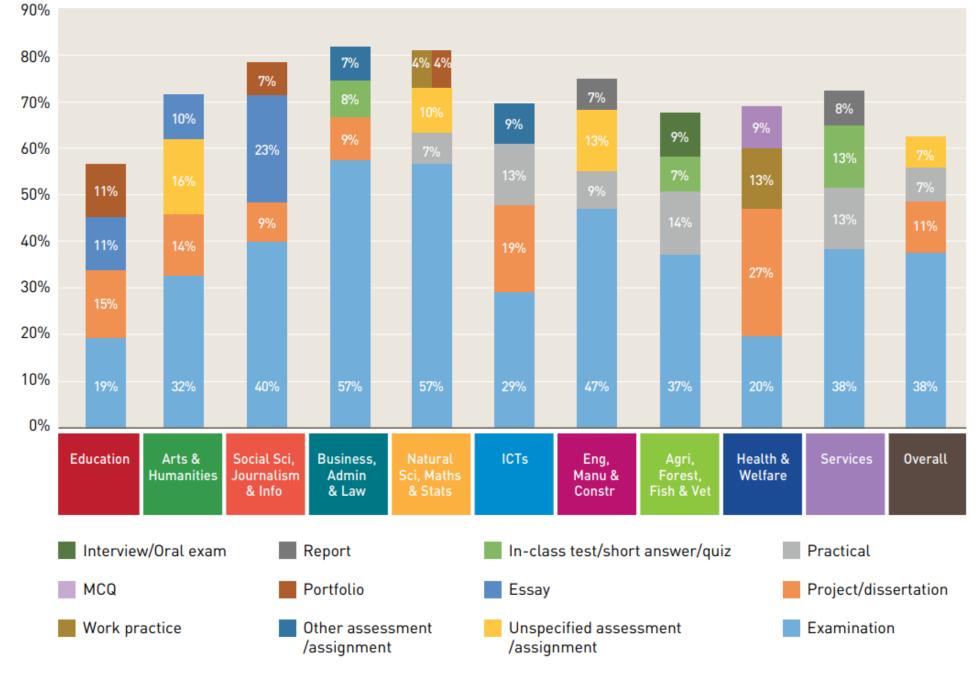
?

In an ideal world what does your assessment look like?

Sample size: 3,594



(IUA, 2021)



(National

Forum,

2016)

Figure 2 Proportion of credit value associated with top four assessment methods in each field of study



Let's get busy redecorating together...



### Let's get busy redecorating assessment to...

- 1. Engage in Supported, Collaborative, Authentic, Programmatic Assessment:
  - Reducing the Assessment Burden
  - Eradicating timed, closed book exams where possible
  - Reducing reliance on grading, involve our students in peer to peer feedback
- 2. Bolster instructional design support for our teaching staff

Reflection: What can you do to start redecorating the student experience in your role, with a focus on reducing pressure for staff and students?

**Think Big!** 



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## Contributions Call from AISHE and AHEAD

We're partnering with AISHE on a special issue of the All-Ireland Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education on all things Universal Design in Tertiary Education!

Seeking submissions from staff and/or students on; Universal Design for Learning (UDL), other Inclusive Pedagogical Approaches or any broader aspect of Universal Design (UD)

Early submissions: 30th October 2023 – Decision February 2024

Later submission: 31st January 2024 – Decision April 2024

**Expected Publication June 2024** 

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# Thank You For Listening!

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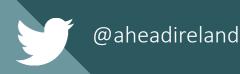




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