

Tips for UCD Students - D/deaf or hard of hearing

Managing third level effectively with any disability involves the use of a number of available services and tools. It is also very important that each individual student **takes responsibility for their own academic career at UCD.**

The aim of the UCD Access & Lifelong Learning (ALL) is to allow all students receiving Disability Support to **become independent learners** so they can develop the skills expected of successful graduates to bring into the workplace. The following guidelines are designed to help you to reach that goal.

Communication

- UCD encourages any students who are D/deaf or hard of hearing to **communicate with UCD ALL** in order to receive the necessary supports to manage your student role.
- You will be required to provide appropriate [Evidence of Disability](#) and **attend a Needs Assessment**, where the appropriate classroom and exam accommodations will be discussed.
- After completing the Needs Assessment, you will be provided with a **Certificate of Disability Support** which outlines the supports you are availing of in UCD. You are encouraged to **send this Certificate to your Module Coordinators/lecturers/tutors** to inform them about necessary classroom supports and to request exam accommodation for in-semester exams, in-class tests or locally arranged exams.
- You have the option to put **'Hearing Difficulty Awareness'** on your certificate as a way of disclosing to module coordinators/lecturers if you would find this helpful.

Exam Accommodations

- The **exam supports available for end-of-semester exams** will be discussed within the Needs Assessment (you may still use exam supports for **in-semester exams but must request them from Module Coordinators directly**).
- These supports are based on **national guidelines**. Hence, certain supports may not be appropriate for everyone who is D/deaf or hard of hearing. Examples of exam supports include:

10 minutes extra
time per hour

Alternative exam
venue

Written
instructions

Assistive Technology

- Assistive Technology is **software and/or devices that can help students manage their day-to-day tasks** in UCD. Assistive Technology is usually discussed at the Needs Assessment.

Example Assistive Technology:

Technology	Description
Recording Devices	<p>LiveScribe Smartpen – pen with built-in recorder. Synchronizes notes with audio recording, you can click on any part of the notes to play back the audio recording from class.</p> <p>Audio Notetaker – computer software which allows you to take notes and record audio in the same place. You can colour code material and upload PowerPoint slides.</p>
Live Captioning	This accommodation is facilitated by ALL. This captioning service is online, so you need a good internet connection for this to work effectively. The captioner will type the content of the lecture in real-time and you will be able to follow the lecture on your own computer screen.
Listening Devices	Radio Aid – ALL can provide students with a radio aid and training in how to use it. These consist of a receiver and a microphone and come in different shapes depending on what is best suited to your learning environments. One example is a clip on microphone which you may wish to ask your lecturer to wear or place on the lecturn, and a receiver you can have beside you on the desk or around your neck.
Download Notes in an Alternative Format	You may wish to study your notes using an alternative format (e.g. PDF, audio file, HTML etc). You can download files from BrightSpace in an alternative format using BrightSpace Ally . You can also convert files into an alternative format using SensusAccess .

‘ALL Student Supports’ Brightspace Module

- UCD ALL hosts a range of resources on the Brightspace module called ‘**ALL Student Supports**’. This module is available to all UCD Students. Resources include **interactive academic skills & wellbeing workshops** as well as **resources for managing online learning**.
- UCD ALL hosts **live free Academic Skills & Wellbeing workshops** each trimester to help students learn the necessary skills to succeed in UCD. More information can be found on our [website](#).
- Examples of workshop topics include note-taking, stress management, avoiding procrastination, time management, digital skills, group work, mind mapping, writing & researching and self-care.

Campus Accommodation for students with Physical or Sensory Disabilities

- UCD Residences make a limited number of accessible rooms available for students who have a physical and/or sensory disability who require the adapted features of the room or who would find it difficult to commute to college.
- Students requiring an accessible room should apply for a room through [UCD Residences](#).

Irish Sign Language Interpreter

- Some students who are D/deaf or hard of hearing may require an Irish sign language (ISL) interpreter to accompany them to lectures and/or tutorials. During lectures the interpreter will sit at the top of the class and the student will be seated in the front row. Some students may also wish to use an ISL interpreter as an exam accommodation.

Note-taker

- Some students may wish to use a note-taker during lectures and/or tutorials. This can be discussed at your Needs Assessment.

Support Services available to all UCD Students

Service	Purpose
Writing Centre	Free 1:1 support and workshops for academic writing.
Maths Support Centre	Free 1:1 and small group support in Level 0, 1, and 2 Maths modules in any programme.
Student Counselling Service	Free and confidential service staffed by professionally qualified psychologists and counsellors to help students deal with personal issues affecting happiness, well-being, relationships, capacity to cope or learning.
Programme Office	Support for queries relating to your programme.
Student Adviser	Support for academic, social, personal or financial issues you may have during your course.

Useful Online Resources

- [Managing College and Life](#) video.
- [Chime](#)
- [AHEAD](#)

Please contact disability@ucd.ie at any time if you have questions!