



Academic Advising Project

TESLAA: TEchnology supported Student Learning and development through Appreciative Advising

Project Lead: Dr Denise McGrath

Email: denise.mcgrath@ucd.ie

AIM

The aim of this project is to design and deploy a student-centred digital tool to support academic advising based on the Appreciative Advising (AA)¹ model. TESLAA targets the academic needs of decision-making and goal-setting based on students' interests and talents and supporting students to become independent learners.

OBJECTIVES

- Understand the needs of CHAS students and programme directors in supporting student self-inquiry, decision-making and goal-setting.
- Co-design a mobile application to support independent self-inquiry and goal-setting through positive, open-ended self-questioning based on the AA approach.
- Develop, pilot and iterate a beta mobile application based on the learnings from the needs analysis, co-design and user feedback.
- Understand the mechanisms by which students' academic development goals and programme director interactions can be informed and supported by a mobile application.
- Engage with stakeholders to create a sustainability plan that enables the scaling up of TESLAA across the university.

STRATEGY

Our approach is informed by the UCD Student Experience Map, and findings from the "FLOURISH" project - ("Fitness for Life in Our Universities: Realising Informatics for Students to Thrive"), led by the applicants. The following needs were identified:

- Students' learning experiences are varied but the need for tools to support self-regulation is universal, especially for time, task and self-management
- Self-inquiry skills are needed to support students' reflection as they try to make sense of their experiences, set goals and monitor their progress
- Students are overwhelmed by the amount of information they receive
- Burden at programme and registry level needs to be reduced by engendering more personal responsibility amongst students

¹Appreciative Advising (AA) is the intentional collaborative practice of asking positive, open-ended questions that helps students optimise their educational experiences and achieve their dreams, goals, and potentials