

Plus One – Creating an inclusive space

Title

Creating an inclusive space

Brief description

Announcing on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and in class that during the module you will aim to keep inclusive space, and asking for everyone's cooperation as a mark of respect and courtesy to each other, sets up a clear message that the module is underscored by the inclusive values of the teacher and Maynooth University as an institution. It is important to create and hold space in classrooms that supports and values student variability and diversity. This includes the full spectrum of students: their characteristics, culture, language, gender, physical capacity, sensory requirements, and academic supports such as time to process. This inclusive space can be co-constructed with students, empowering students to voice and highlight barriers or facilitators to their learning.

Examples of creating and inclusive space include:

- Having an inclusive statement on your VLE
- Starting your lessons with an invitation to respectfully use the space in a manner that facilitates each student to learn best. This can include statements on 'one voice', physical comfort, voicing distractions (heat, windows, lights etc.)
- Embedding comfort breaks, particularly in 2-hour sessions
- Choice of engagement (quiet reflection, pair or group work) where possible. It is acknowledged at times one approach is a requirement.

Mapping to UDL Principles



Engagement

- Distractions to students' learning are reduced
- Develops a respectful awareness of self and others



Representation

- Acknowledges and represents the diversity of the students present



Action and Expression

- Enhances capacity for learning and achieving outcomes

Three ways this Plus One helps students

Students can

1. feel seen, valued and respected
2. have better access to the class as barriers to learning are reduced
3. develop inclusive values.

Key considerations for enactment

Risk

Low - it is important to recognise that some barriers will be outside of our control. For example, technology not working, the blind not working, noise coming in from outside.

Time

A few minutes – creating the VLE text and making the announcement

Technology

VLE

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of several horizontal, wavy lines in a light orange color.

Further information

See [CAST UDL Guidelines](#) and [Maynooth University Plus One resources](#).

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