



## Inclusive Learning Initiative

A partnership supporting higher education for people with an intellectual disability



# Inclusive Learning Initiative at Maynooth University OVERVIEW



- Background to the initiative – Saranne Magennis, Director of the Higher Education Policy Unit
- A student's experience - Mark Smith, ILI Graduate, 2014
- Your chance to ask questions



# Something about Maynooth University



- A commitment to equal access
  - Mature students
  - All social and economic groups
  - Students with disabilities and learning difficulties
- A commitment to fair and equal treatment
  - At application
  - At admission
  - While you are here



# Maynooth University - more



- A commitment to education in a full and rich sense of that word, assisting students to reach their potential:
  - The university is committed to providing an environment within which the student can learn, develop and mature.
  - Maynooth University has consistently been to the forefront in the university sector in promoting greater access to education
- A commitment to community engagement:
  - a collaborative partnership with KARE, St John of Gods, Camphill Communities and Stewarts Hospital



# No forgetting what parents want



- The best chance for our children to
  - live a good life
  - have an independent life
  - get a good education
  - have a job that is good for them
  - find happiness in their personal lives
  - fulfill their potential
- This applies equally when our young people live with greater challenges than their peers

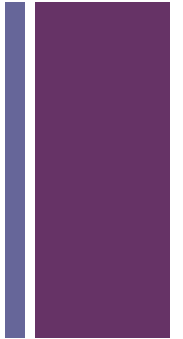
# + The Inclusive Learning Initiative



- Pilot study 2011 to 2014
- Recruiting the students
- Interviews
- Choice of modules
- To support and not to support
- Volunteers/Buddies/Learning Partners

*What do you like most about being here?  
It is mine, I am independent. This is my freedom.*

# + Three Strands of the Project



- Working with students
  - Recruit, support, educate
- Working with colleagues
  - Support, assist
- Working towards the future
  - Research
    - students
    - colleagues academic and services
    - structures

# + The technical stuff



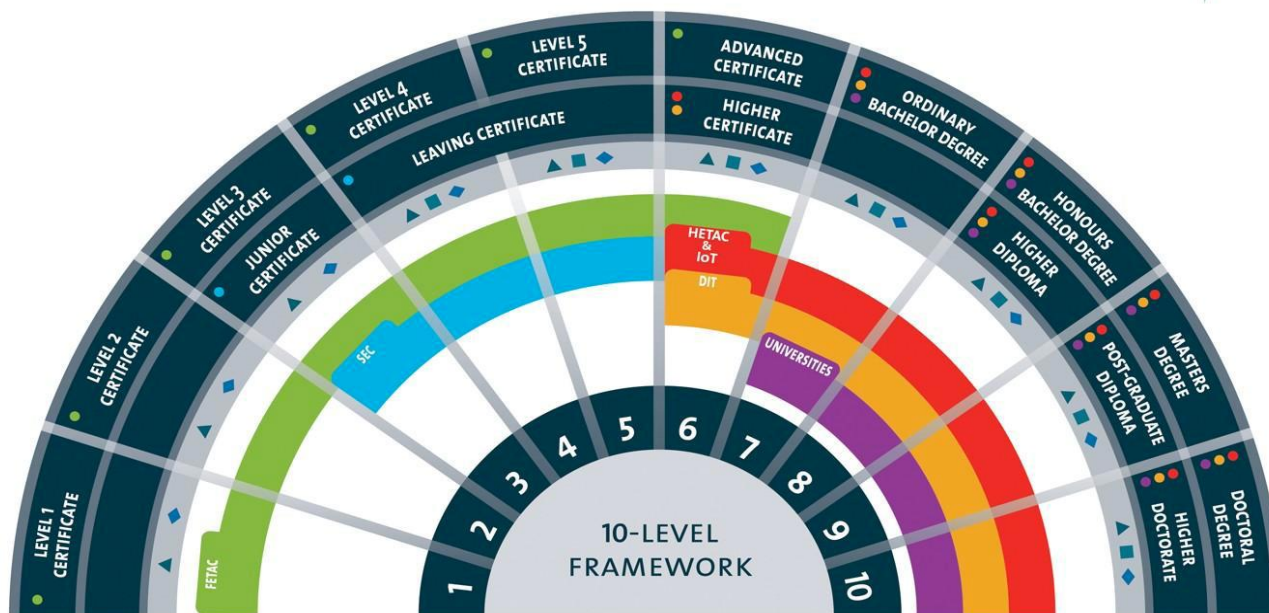
- Competitive nature of higher education
  - Points
  - Degree courses
  - Diplomas and certificates
  - Credit and levels
  - The Rainbow
  - What we can and cannot do





# NATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF QUALIFICATIONS

Údarás Náisiúnta  
Cáilíochtaí na hÉireann  
National Qualifications  
Authority of Ireland



## AWARDING BODIES

- FETAC - Further Education and Training Awards Council
- SEC - State Examinations Commission (Department of Education & Science)
- HETAC - Higher Education and Training Awards Council
- IoT - Institutes of Technology (make their own awards at specified levels under Delegated Authority from HETAC)
- DIT - Dublin Institute of Technology
- Universities

## AWARDS IN THE FRAMEWORK

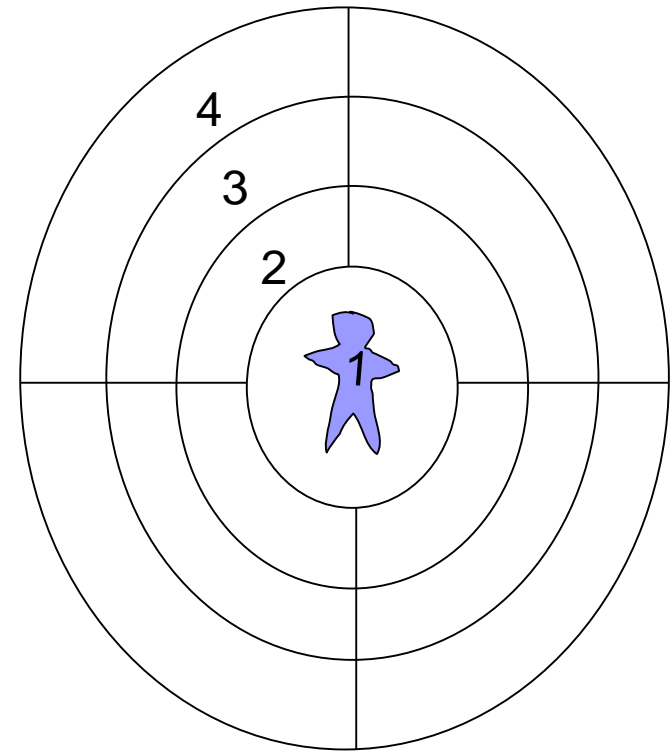
There are four types of award in the National Framework of Qualifications:

- Major Awards: are the principal class of awards made at a level
- ▲ Minor Awards: are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award
- Supplemental Awards: are for learning that is additional to a Major Award
- ◆ Special Purpose Awards: are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement

# + The Inclusive Learning Initiative (ILI): How does it function?

1. The Student
2. The Facilitator
3. Maynooth University ILI Team
4. A Collaborative Support Network in/outside the university

■ Individualised Model of Support.



**Student front and centre**



# Student Directed Learning



What does Person Centred Mean ?

- Student making informed decisions about their college life.
- Student identifying their goals to achieve.
- Student indentifying their course of study.
- Focus on strengths and abilities of the student in all aspects of learning.



The Person At The Centre of Something,  
Is The Most Important Person !



My University P.C.P.

Student Name:

PCP = Person Centred  
Plan



# What does Fully Inclusive look and sound like?



- The person wanting to be in the environment.
- The person interacting, integrating and contributing to the environment without changing who they are as a person.
- The person being treated with dignity and respect. The person treating others with dignity and respect.
- The person utilizing their skills, abilities strengths and contributing to society.
- Social valorisation
- Social Inclusion.



# Implementing fully inclusive model



- A fully inclusive model incorporates:
  - Academic challenges
  - Social integration
  - Independence at the core
  - Employment as a goal
  - Our students changing Maynooth University
  - Our students challenging and helping others
- Why full inclusion?
  - Learning
  - Rights
  - Costs
- The next part of our presentation is designed to share with you the everyday reality of the initiative from the perspective of the student.



MARK SMITH  
ANTHROPOLOGY  
AT NUI  
MAYNOOTH











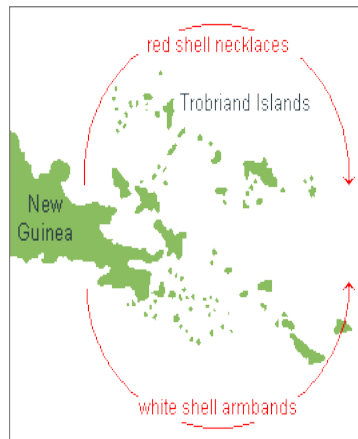
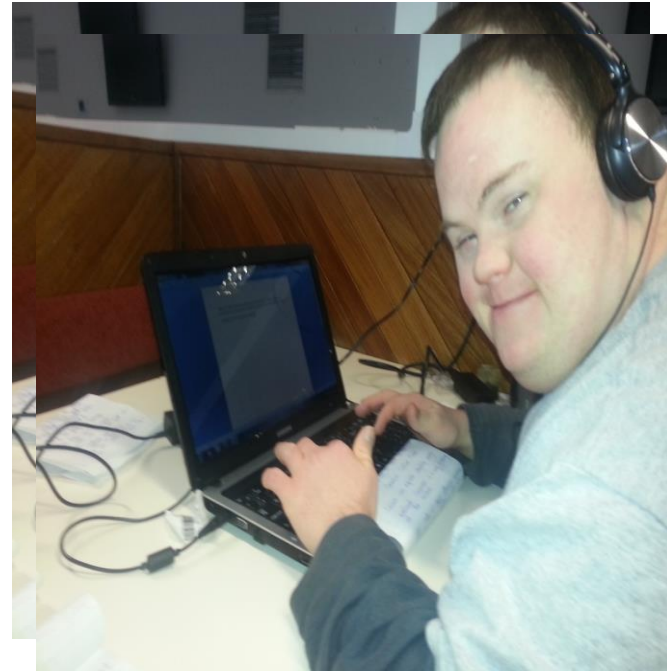


# My Studies: Anthropology





# How I learn!





# My Supports







# My way to show my learning

Project Study in the Field



Presentation to Department/Group





# Year 3 NUI Maynooth





# Me at Work with Siobhan







# My Studies





# My Learning







# Graduation 2014





# Ability Awareness Week



























## OVER TO YOU:

- We will now be happy to answer any questions you may have