



**Let's get
Accessible !**

What is 'Accessibility'?

- ▶ *'quality of being easy to obtain or use.'*
- ▶ Making your society inclusive to everyone and promoting an equal, welcoming and fun UCC Societies!
- ▶ My Role: To help in providing equal access to societies and events
- ▶ Another Disclaimer: Everything I've included in this presentation has been learned through research or experience- that's not to say I've included everything so if there's anything I miss or anything you think should be included, let me know!

Finance

Event Venue

Pronouns

Events

Promotion

**Environment
and Language**

Sections of Accessibility

Welcoming
Atmosphere

Hidden
Disabilities

**Awards and
Newsletter**

Finance

Event Venue

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Accessibility**

SPARK NEW INTE

How to make your Event more Accessible !

Location

- ▶ Wheelchair and mobility device accessible - event venue, transport to and from, and nearby amenities
- ▶ Adequate space and lighting in venue
- ▶ If food is being provided, ask about Dietary Requirements!
- ▶ Have quiet zones for larger/ busier events

Promotion/Visuals

- ▶ Printed information
 - ▶ minimum 16 font
 - ▶ High contrast and avoid using colour to differentiate points
- ▶ Any powerpoints/ screenings
 - ▶ As high contrast as possible
 - ▶ Use closed captioning and audio descriptions
 - ▶ Use Easy-to-Read Fonts

Finance

- ▶ Keep costs of events as low as possible
- ▶ If your society organise competitive/ non-competitive trips etc. → Try keep student contribution to a minimum
- ▶ Committee gear
- ▶ Provide free food at events as much as you can
- ▶ Make events that would normally cost money for students free

Sections of Accessibility

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Environment and Language

Pronouns


- ▶ Encourage the use of pronouns;
 - ▶ In email signatures
 - ▶ When greeting new people
 - ▶ In Icebreakers
- ▶ Avoid gendered speech;
 - ▶ 'Dear Sir/Madam', → 'A chairde'
 - ▶ he/she → they
 - ▶ 'Ladies and Gentlemen' → 'Hey folks'

Welcoming Atmosphere

- ▶ Avoid cliques
 - ▶ make an effort to spread your committee out during events
- ▶ Introduce a 'welcoming committee'
 - ▶ Have a group that specifically interact with newer members and make them feel welcome (Fresher's Week)
- ▶ Just be nice!

Hidden Disabilities

- ▶ Avoid using ableist language
- ▶ Pay attention to people around you- Be mindful of interactions with people
- ▶ Be respectful of people's privacy
- ▶ Be a friend first



Sections of Accessibility



**Awards and
Newsletter**

Those Fun Governance Bits

Accessibility Awareness Award

- ▶ New Domestic Award
- ▶ Awarded to the society that demonstrates conscious efforts towards making their society more inclusive

List of Accessible Events

- ▶ Fill out a short accessibility assessment
- ▶ Your event will be included in a list of accessible events that will be published

Resources

1. <https://splashthat.com/blog/accessible-event-planning>
2. <https://www.eventmanagerblog.com/accessible-event>
3. <https://support.office.com/en-us/article/make-your-powerpoint-presentations-accessible-to-people-with-disabilities-6f7772b2-2f33-4bd2-8ca7-dae3b2b3ef25?ui=en-US&rs=en-US&ad=US>
4. <http://iseebeyond.ie/what-is-hidden-disability/>
5. <https://everydayfeminism.com/2014/09/ally-people-invisible-disabilities/>