



Overview of disability support in Ireland

Ireland

Case study overview

Disability support nationally is provided by governmental and non-governmental bodies, policies and initiatives. A number of **specific governmental bodies** and activities (**policies and initiatives**) relating to disability support in higher education are identified below:

Specific governmental bodies

- **Higher Education Authority (HEA)**. The statutory planning and policy development body for higher education and research in Ireland.
- **National Disability Authority (NDA)**. This is the independent state body providing expert advice on disability policy and practice, and promoting Universal Design in Ireland.
- **The Equality Authority**. The Equality Authority is an independent body set up under the Employment Equality Act 1998.
- **EURIreland**. EURIreland is part of the HEA with the aim to provide a first-class information service for all interested in these and other European/International education activities.

Governmental: Policies and initiatives

- **National Disability Strategy**. The National Disability Strategy is a whole-of-Government approach to advancing the social inclusion of people with disabilities.
- HEA, "**National Plan for Equity of Access to Higher Education 2008-2013**". The plan is intended as a significant contribution to the national objective of achieving greater equality of access to and participation in higher education.



- **National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030.**
- HEA, **Fund for students with disabilities.** The Fund for Students provides funding to students with a disability attending courses in third level institutions.
- Higher education institutions. **Institutional level disability policies.**
- Higher education institutions. **Disability Support Services** set-up in higher education institutions to support students with disabilities.
- Higher education institutions. **Complaints procedures and processes** set-up in higher education institutions to investigate complaints in relation to institutional adherence

References

- [1] National Disability Authority, Ireland [Online]. Available: <http://www.nda.ie/>
- [2] EURIreland, The Higher Education Authority (HEA) [Online]. Available: <http://www.eurireland.ie/>
- [3] The Fund for Students with Disabilities [Online]. Available: <http://www.hea.ie/en/policy/national-access-office/access-funding>
- [4] National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030 [Online]. Available: http://www.hea.ie/sites/default/files/national_strategy_for_higher_education_2030.pdf

Document information

Case study number: 16
Version number: 1
Date: June 2015