

Title of motion: Ensuring Equal Access to Education for Students with Physical Disabilities at TUD Campuses.

Student council notes:

That it has been observed that the Bolton Street building at Technological University of Dublin (TUD) currently lacks sufficient accessibility for students/staff with physical disabilities, particularly due to the limited availability and frequent breakdown of the existing elevator, and the decommissioning of other elevators in the building.

Whereas, accessibility is crucial for providing an inclusive and equitable educational environment for all students, irrespective of their physical abilities.

Student council also notes:

Be it resolved that the TUD Council acknowledges the pressing issue of inadequate accessibility at the Bolton Street building and recognizes the importance of equal access to education for all students.

Irish Legislation in Support: This motion aligns with the Irish legislation aimed at promoting equal access to education for individuals with physical disabilities, including but not limited to:

- Disability Act 2005
- Equal Status Acts 2000-2018
- Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs (EPSEN) Act 2004

Members are encouraged to discuss potential funding sources, collaboration with relevant stakeholders, and any additional measures that could enhance accessibility across TUD campuses.

- The Disability Act of 2005 in Ireland aims to promote equal opportunities for people with disabilities. It outlines measures to enhance access to services, facilities, and employment opportunities. The act includes provisions for assessment of needs, individual plans, and reasonable accommodations to ensure inclusivity and participation of individuals with disabilities in various aspects of society.
- The Equal Status Acts of 2000 to 2018 in Ireland prohibit discrimination in various areas, including education, employment, and access to goods and services. These acts aim to ensure equal treatment for everyone, regardless of characteristics such as gender, marital status, family status, age, disability, race, sexual orientation, religion, or membership of the Traveller community. The legislation promotes equality and protects individuals from discriminatory practices in different aspects of public life.

- The Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs (EPSEN) Act of 2004 in Ireland focuses on the rights and educational provision for individuals with special educational needs (SEN). Key aspects of the act include the identification of students with SEN, the creation of Individual Education Plans (IEPs) tailored to their needs, and the promotion of inclusive education. The EPSEN Act aims to ensure that individuals with special educational needs receive appropriate support and opportunities for learning, addressing their unique requirements within the educational system.

Student Council therefore Mandates:

The City Campus VP and Welfare and Equality officer would work with the disabilities officer alongside campus and estates and any relevant staff to prioritise the improvement of accessibility at Bolton Street Campus building, ensuring that students with physical disabilities have unimpeded access to all areas of the campus. The officers mentioned should urge the renovation and/or replacement of facilities in the Bolton Street building, including the repair and maintenance of existing elevators and the installation of additional elevators as needed.

Student Council further Mandates:

For a comprehensive review of accessibility features across all TUD campuses to identify and address any shortcomings, with the goal of creating a universally accessible environment for all students by end of academic year 2023/2024

Proposed by:

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Seconded by:

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