

# AHEAD MEMBERSHIP

## AHEAD's Mission and Work

AHEAD is an independent non-profit organisation working to create inclusive learning environments in education and employment for students with disabilities.

Our work with the further and higher education sector includes information provision, the hosting of student events, advocacy work, production of resources for the sector, hosting of events for staff, research and training. [Watch this video to find out more about the work we do.](#)

## Membership Benefits

The support of our members is invaluable in allowing us to effectively carry out our mission. In addition to supporting our work, AHEAD members receive the following benefits:

- ◆ Prioritised Access to AHEAD's Training Webinars
- ◆ AHEAD Start Course on Supporting Students with Disabilities – Over 40% off - runs once or twice yearly
- ◆ AHEAD's Annual Conference on Supporting Students with Disabilities and Universal Design Approaches – Over 30% off
- ◆ AHEAD's face to face or online tailored training sessions – 50% off
- ◆ Advice on rolling out AHEAD's UDL course – the Digital Badge for Universal Design in Teaching and Learning - and prioritised free access to our national roll outs
- ◆ Access to AHEAD's information line for advice on appropriate support for students with disabilities
- ◆ Networking opportunities for staff and access to communities of practice
- ◆ AHEAD Member's digital banner for your website, signifying your support

## Membership Benefits in Detail

AHEAD members receive the following benefits:

### Supporting Our Work

AHEAD is an independent non-profit organisation working to create inclusive learning environments in education and employment for students with disabilities. By becoming a member you help to support our work including information provision, running of student events, advocacy work, production of resources for the sector, research and training.

Additionally we raise issues and concerns brought to us by our members and the disabled student population at government levels through our representation on the National Access Plan Steering Group, the Advisory Group for the Fund for Students with Disabilities, the IUA Access Steering Group and other policy forums. [Watch this video to find out more about the work we do.](#)

### Prioritised Access to AHEAD's Training Webinars

Our regular training webinars allow staff to get access to great examples of innovation and excellence in UDL and disability support right from their office desks. The webinars cover a range of topics and levels of knowledge and react to current trends in the sector.

### AHEAD Start Course on Supporting Students with Disabilities – Over 40% Off

AHEAD Start, is AHEAD's blended learning training course running once or twice yearly on supporting students with disabilities in further and higher education and is recognised as the industry standard for introductory training in this field. This interactive blended learning course (1 day face to face + 20 hours online) will provide professional staff, such as teachers, careers advisors or dedicated support staff with a systematic approach to supporting students with disabilities, including practical templates to carry out Needs Assessments. Sample member fees 2019/20 - €300 instead of €550. [Find out more about AHEAD Start here.](#)

### Annual International Conference – Over 30% Off

Every March, over 200 professionals from around the globe gather in Dublin to share best practice in disability support and Universal Design for Learning approaches in further and higher education. This conference is Europe's largest in the field. AHEAD Membership gives an unlimited number of your staff up over 30% off the conference fees.

### Face to Face Training – 50% Off

AHEAD provides tailored training in the areas of inclusive teaching and learning, disability awareness/support and inclusive workplace practices to meet the needs of the sector. Training is designed in consultation with members and provided on location, and sessions are open to all members of staff in an institution. AHEAD members receive 50% off face to face training fees.

| <b>Tailored Training Costs***</b>                       | <b>AHEAD Member Rate</b> | <b>Non Member Rate</b> |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Short Online Training Session (1-2 hours)</b>        | <b>€300</b>              | <b>€750</b>            |
| <b>Longer Online Session (3 hours - pre/post lunch)</b> | <b>€500</b>              | <b>€1200</b>           |
| <b>Half Day Training Session (2-3 hours)</b>            | <b>€500</b>              | <b>€1000</b>           |
| <b>Full Day Training Session (4-6 hours)</b>            | <b>€800</b>              | <b>€1600</b>           |

\*\*\*All training costs are exclusive of required travel (public transport or mileage @ 50c a km) and accommodation costs for our trainers

[Find out more about AHEAD Training here.](#)

### **Advice on Rolling Out UDL Digital Badge and Access to AHEAD Run Roll Outs**

As part of the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning's open access digital badge initiative, AHEAD and UCD Access & Lifelong Learning have teamed up to create the digital badge for Universal Design in Teaching & Learning.

In short, we've designed instructions and learning materials for a short introductory professional development course on universal design for learning and in partnership with the Forum, we are making these materials freely available to institutions interested in rolling it out locally by volunteer course facilitators. Facilitators in member institutions can avail of online mentoring on how to roll out the course from the course designers.

Additionally, AHEAD runs yearly iterations of the badge which members get free, prioritised access to.

[Find out more about the Digital Badge here.](#)

### **Information & Support**

AHEAD provides information and support through our information line which is available Monday – Friday, 9.30am – 5pm. A member of staff is always available during these times to assist with any queries you have about supporting your students with disabilities. Our website is also a valuable information tool that receives a high volume of traffic. [Visit the website here.](#)

### **Publications and Research**

AHEAD has created a library of publications and resources for those working in the area of inclusive education and employment. These publications are available at a heavily reduced rate for members (soft copies free of charge). AHEAD regularly collaborates with members on the production of new publications to meet their needs and the conducting of new research. [Visit our publications library here.](#)

## Quality Assurance

Membership of AHEAD demonstrates your organizations commitment to equity of access in education, a key component of QQI Quality Assurance Procedures and HEA Performance Framework.

## Get Ahead Student Forum

Students and graduates with disabilities benefit from the GET AHEAD Graduate Forum which provides a space for them to come together outside of the world of academic study. In addition to organizing events specifically tailored for students, GET AHEAD also runs a number of two day career skills workshops in locations across Ireland. These events are very successful and aim to build the confidence of students and graduates with disabilities before they enter the workforce. [Find out more about Get AHEAD.](#)

## Digital Banner for Your Website

AHEAD Members receive a digital banner which highlights the support of your institution for AHEAD. When placed on your website, this demonstrates your institutions commitment to equality and an inclusive college environment. **Sample:**



## Membership Costs

| Institution/Organisation Type                                   | Cost of Annual Membership |
|---|---------------------------|
| Higher Education Institution – More than 2000 students enrolled | €1,300                    |
| Higher Education Institution – Less than 2000 students enrolled | €800                      |
| Education and Training Board (covering staff in all colleges)   | €1,000                    |
| Private Business (Education focused)                            | €800                      |
| Private College/Individual Further Education College            | €500                      |

## How Do I Join?

Simply [contact ahead@ahead.ie](mailto:contactahead@ahead.ie) or call +353 1 7164396 to get a quotation.