

### Introduction

Incorporating Universal Design for Learning (UDL) into Validation of Prior Learning (VPL) at KCETB has provided more diverse opportunities for applicants to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and competencies associated with an award's Learning Outcomes. UDL was particularly useful as a tool for applicants who were removed from formal education for many years. This case study demonstrates how an experienced salesman with minimal formal education received a level 6 award with the help of a UDL assessment.

### Details

Patrick was part of a cohort of nine salespeople that participated in the recognition and validation of their knowledge, skills and competencies. They all worked towards a QQI level 6 Award in Consultative Selling. A mixed group, some had recent formal education. Patrick had not participated in formal education in c. 40 years. However, as part of a sales team, Patrick excelled. Being presented with assessments that involved research, reflection, and analysis was daunting for Patrick. However, the assessor incorporated UDL into the assessment and Patrick was able to do an audio recording (90 mins) to present his evidence. Patrick received his Level 6 in Consultative selling with Distinction.

### Conclusions

- 'Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a set of principles for curriculum development that give all individuals equal opportunities to learn'<sup>1</sup>
- There is enormous potential for UDL in VPL assessments
- 'Multiple Means of Representation' resulted in a hugely positive outcome for Patrick

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ahead.ie/udl> (accessed 11th Apr 24)

### Things to Consider

- Importance of demonstrating that the Learning Outcome is fully understood in presented evidence
- The value of a dedicated assessor who adjusts to VPL and then facilitates UDL
- This case study is an example of a learner-centred process in action