

## DELL TECHNOLOGIES PARTNERS WITH MTU ON THE READY STEADY WORK CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



### BACKGROUND

In 2017, the Careers Service and Disability Support Service (DSS) developed 'Ready Steady Work' a careers programme to support students registered with the DSS. Ready Steady Work addresses the needs and challenges experienced by MTU students with learning differences, health conditions and disabilities, and is designed to prepare participants for future work. The programme provides an opportunity to build confidence and skills in applying for jobs and performing at work placement or graduate interviews.

### COLLABORATION

In 2020, DELL Technologies came on board as official partners, enabling programme participants to meet a leading employer and receive constructive feedback to support their progress. The DELL collaboration is led by John Power, an MTU graduate who identifies as being neurodiverse and has first-hand experience of the challenges that may be encountered as students transition to the workplace.

Working with the Careers Service and the DSS, John and his colleagues from DELL volunteer significant time and expertise delivering talks and one-to-one sessions covering CV preparation, disclosures and interview practice. Some sessions are recorded enabling students to access them at any time, while experiential workshops facilitated by the Careers Service build communications skills.



### BENEFITS OF THE ENGAGEMENT

The partnership with DELL Technologies has succeeded in building greater awareness of the needs and barriers experienced by students with disabilities entering the workforce. Linking students with a major local and global employer that promotes neurodiversity through its True Ability programme for employees, empowers students with the understanding and belief that they can innovate in their own unique ways. The programme increases confidence in job seeking and communications and encourages students to be proactive about their skills. It equips them with essential career tools and builds capabilities that will stay with students throughout their lifelong learning journey.

Ready Steady Work is open to DSS students in years 2, 3, 4 and post-graduates and runs from September to November. Students who attend 5 sessions are awarded a digital badge from MTU and DELL Technologies. MTU Careers Service presented on Ready Steady Work at the National AHECS Careers Conference 2021, and the programme won a Higher Education Award in the Cork Celebrates Lifelong Learning Award 2021.

*"Working with someone from DELL was an amazing experience that gave me a great insight into the working world and how it is ok to be honest if you have a learning difficulty. As a graduate going into the workplace, applications and interviews were very daunting to me. The help I received when applying for my graduate roles and interviews was amazing. I would recommend this program to any student in MTU."*

**Ready Steady Work Student Testimonial**

**Contact us to connect your Enterprise with MTU. Email us at [extended.campusCork@mtu.ie](mailto:extended.campusCork@mtu.ie) to discuss a collaboration to suit your needs!**