



# iLearn



Empowering People with Sight Loss  
Through Technology Education

## THE NEED

"NCBI, Ireland's national sight loss agency, is a not for profit charitable organisation which provides support and services nationwide to people experiencing sight loss." (NCBI: Working for People with Sight Loss [no date])

iPhones and iPads are very accessible for people with sight loss. The NCBI recognized the benefits of the built-in VoiceOver technology but didn't have the necessary resources to teach it to many people. The NCBI and UL Engage teamed up to bring in some students to design and execute a program to teach more people.



## TRAINING PROCESS

- 5 weekly, hour long, one-on-one sessions
- Getting to know the participants
- Spending time ourselves learning VoiceOver and how to use different features to be able to teach it
- Showing participants how to do something, practicing with them, then assigning 'homework'.
- Answering questions about the previous week at the beginning of every session.



## PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS\*

### Ages

- 20-35 years old (3)
- 35-55 years old (2)
- 55+ years old (3)

### Experience level

- No experience (3)
- Some experience (4)
- Very experienced (1)

\*Participants who attended 2+ sessions



## STRUGGLES

- The initial learning curve of using VoiceOver & Apple products
- Learning the best way to teach very different individuals
- Finding good organizational structure
- Not having enough time or resources to accomplish as much as we would have liked
- Dealing with the bus strike prohibiting many people from attending sessions

## OUTCOMES

- Many participants overcame a fear of technology and began to see it as a helpful tool.
- People learned how to do things that made life a bit more 'normal,' such as accessing the news & public radio documentaries, texting a spouse, reading a book, and listening to music.
- Several participants learned necessary skills for being more employable, such as sending emails with attachments.
- "I kind of surprised myself. Last time I tried the iPhone, I gave up and went back to the old phones. I said, I'll give it one more try. Now the course inspired me to go on and learn more." - Feedback from participant
- This was an amazing opportunity for our time abroad in Ireland and something we will never forget.