



Project Area:	Identify which area of the SSI Healthy Campus Resources the example relates to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participation 2. Health 3. Student Leaders 4. Inclusion
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Project Title:

Try Wheelchair Basketball

Aims of the Project:

We had four objectives:

- Offer opportunities for students to experience wheelchair basketball
- Provide more disability friendly sport experiences for our students
- Provide opportunities for students to grow as leaders and develop coaching skills in a safe, supported environment
- If enough interest is shown to send a team to compete in the British University Championships (BUCS)

Delivery of the Project:

The sessions started in October on Wednesday afternoons for one hour. They ran them directly after a recreational basketball session with the idea of encouraging some of these social players to the session.

One of our members, Luke, is a wheelchair user and accomplished wheelchair basketball player. Luke ran the session with help from our basketball scholarship student athletes. Luke was on a placement year, working with Disability Sport Northern Ireland (DSNI). DSNI provided a sports inclusion officer for the first few weeks as a mentor and support. This officer dropped in on an ongoing basis to continue support throughout the year.

The set up took place about 30 mins prior to the session commencing; this involved getting the chairs out, checking tyre pressure, belts etc.

The sessions were a mix of fun games and some technical drills that were sport specific.

Outcome of the Project:

We had a total of 18 students that tried the sport with an average of 8 attending the weekly sessions. Most students who participated were not involved in any other organised sport.

Luke developed his leadership and coaching skills and has become an accomplished coach.

We ran sessions for visiting students from Holland and China to showcase sport and inclusion at Ulster University.

We entered a team into the BUCS and finished 7th.

Cost of Implementation/Running:

The biggest cost is the wheelchairs; we had seven (£4,750) that were donated to the university and towards the end of the season we received three more to make ten in total. These extra chairs were not being used on another campus. UUSU Sport covered the hall hire as part of their social and inclusive sport sessions. There was no cost for coaching or DSNI support and the BUCS team were supported by a combination of UUSU Sport and player contributions.

Monitoring & Evaluation

We recorded the number of participants on a weekly basis. An informal “how are you finding the session?” was taken after each session with all participants. The success at BUCS is another key measure. The development officer supported Luke and the scholar athletes with mentoring sessions and advice on how to deal with situations experienced. This allowed the development officer to monitor the quality of the sessions.