This is Nigel speaking on behalf of a group of students who are analysing the usability and design of the DCU INTRA portal.

We created a student focus group. There were 10 students present in the group and we discussed with them what the issues if any, that there were on the site.

The questions were as follows

* Did you find the site to be accessible?
* Did you make mistakes within the portal?
* How did you find the presentation of information on the site?
* Was there any missing information that could be relevant on the site?
* Was there a good contrast of colour for the availability of jobs?

Following from these questions we gained some valuable feedback. We compiled this into one list and the problems we were presented with were expected.

* The return button was placed too close to the apply button which caused some students to accidentally apply for jobs that they did not want.
* The colour format was very poor in that black, blue and magenta were used to display the availability of jobs. These colours are not distinct which is very poor for the visibility of the interface.
* The site was described as barebones with little use of design and it was therefore judged as unappealing in its raw HTML format
* The description for each job is laid out in one paragraph. This is problematic as it is hard to find out key details within the information section
* Following from this, there are no addresses or contact details for companies, so students must use the web to further peruse the details of a company and its location
* In some instances, it was frustrating that students could not edit their CV.

All In all, we received some quality feedback from the focus group which will permit us to develop a stronger interface with in depth analysis from the user end where the usability and association of the user interface are analysed and improved upon.

The student focus group was essential in helping us to understand what the main problems were. Each student provided us with a plethora of information.

Now we can use this information from the focus group to examine what we must do to improve the site.

Based on the feedback from the focus group, we could consider the following:

* The display of information should be made presentable. We will tidy up the paragraph long section of information into multiple paragraphs which contain the company details, what skills they are looking for and what the role of the job is.
* The colour scheme will be made to portray the information with clear distinction.
* The return and apply buttons will be changed and obtaining access to the site will be much easier to do.
* There will be an option to allow CV editing and job applications simultaneously.

These are the changes we will put into action based on our analysis from the user focus group.