



Matthew Turnbull

I am a graduate of the Up the Hill Project. I finished in 2017. I thought the program was fantastic, because I could fulfil my dream to come to university. Fiona Rillotta contacted me and offered me a job at Flinders University. I got the job because I was a past participant in the program. The job was to work on research about people in the Up the Hill Project going online because of COVID-19.

What did I do?

- Worked on campus and online
- Did a presentation with Fiona to talk about the work
- Gave feedback for interview questions
- Did data analysis on a whiteboard. Looked at answers to see what people thought.
- Did a paper about how coronavirus changed the Up the Hill Project in Semester 1. This included writing the answers from the interviews, looking at different research, and talking about what we have learnt from the paper.
- Made booklets using online programs

For more information:
<https://www.flinders.edu.au/engage/community/clinics/up-the-hill-project>

Contact the Up the Hill Project
Coordinator

upthehill@flinders.edu.au
(08) 8201 3382



UP THE HILL PROJECT

INFORMATION ABOUT ONLINE MENTORING



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**This booklet was made by:
Matthew Turnbull
Charlotte Gobec
Fiona Rillotta**

Up the Hill Project

Flinders University has a program called the Up the Hill Project (UTHP). This program helps people with intellectual disability to experience university.

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Coronavirus

In 2020, Flinders University made the decision to stop in-person classes and contact because of COVID-19. People could still keep in contact and participate in university, but they had to do it online.

The Up the Hill Project had to make some important decisions. They had to move quite quickly to online mentoring. Online mentoring is doing learning online from home, using video programs and technology. This means talking to mentors online too.



Research

We talked to two Up the Hill Program participants to see what they thought about online learning and mentoring.



Good Challenges



- Participants thought the mentors could help and give advice.



- One person learnt how to use new computer programs like Zoom.



- Participants could still learn new things about a topic they like.



- They could take breaks and go back and watch videos.



- They could have support when they needed someone to talk to.



Bad Challenges

- Technology can have challenges – if people do not know how to use technology or there are issues like bad internet.



- Because the Up the Hill Project was not face-to-face, people did not have the same type of contact with people in their classes. It was a bit different and they did not do the same things they did on university campus.

- Online can have its challenges in trying to solve problems



What does this mean?

Things were different when the Up the Hill Project was online.

Technology can have its challenges but it can help people learn new skills.

It was good that people in the Up the Hill Project were still able to participate during the uncertain times. But it has taught us some lessons.