Admission to Bachelor in Music Education TR009

The purpose of the admission process is to identify applicants who are proficient musicians, interested in becoming secondary school music teachers and who, in the opinion of the selection panel, are suited to the course and likely to succeed. Application should be made through the Central Applications Office (C.A.O.) by 1st February of the year of proposed entry. Music Education is a Restricted Application Course so application for the course cannot be made after this date. Applicants are assessed on the basis of an entrance test, a formal audition and interview and academic competition (CAO points system).

1. Entrance Test

The entrance test for all music courses in TCD takes place on the same day. All applicants take the same first three elements listed below. In addition, applicants to Music Education are asked to write an essay. The entrance test has four parts as follows:

- Aural Test
- General Knowledge
- Rudiments

For the 2011 Music Entrance Paper, please see http://www.tcd.ie/Music/undergraduate/music/

On the basis of their results in the entrance test, applicants are short-listed for audition and interview.

2. The audition/interview takes place during late April/May. It involves an instrumental/vocal performance, a sight reading test and an interview [total time- 15 minutes approx]. The audition is designed to facilitate a holistic appraisal of the applicant’s instrumental or vocal standard. This is scored on; technical accomplishment, musical communication, musicality and fluency. The purpose of the interview is to facilitate a holistic appraisal of the applicant’s communication skills and commitment to music teaching. [Discussion is around reasons for choosing a career in music teaching, awareness of the role of the music teacher, insight into the secondary school music syllabus, current issues in relation to education.]

Within eighteen months of registration, B Mus Ed students undertake school placements where they are expected to simultaneously teach and manage secondary school classes.

The aim of the audition/interview is to identify and select applicants who, in the opinion of the panel:

- Have the required level of music proficiency for entrance to this third level music course, which is heavily weighted towards performance, and
- Have excellent communication skills which will be needed to engage pupils and manage classes.

3. Successful students will in May, be issued with conditional offers of places on the Bachelor in Music Education course. Final offers will be made by the CAO office in August.