TEN ADMISSION QUESTIONS

In advance of the one-day conference on undergraduate admissions in the Trinity Long Room Hub on 18 May 2012, here are ten questions which may help facilitate a discussion on the day. They are based on the idea of a hypothetical ‘Ten Places on a Course’, and how they might be filled, assuming that all the other places are filled using existing methods (Leaving Certificate results, reserved places for non-traditional students etc.). They are not ranked in any order, and do not represent any particular view or preference, they are merely intended to encourage thinking in the area.

1. **Interviews.** Would you be in favour of using some kind of interview format to admit students? Would this be a fair system? Would the resource implications allow it?

2. **Subject Weightings.** Would you be in favour of reweighting subjects to reflect what is needed for some courses? For example, perhaps for admission to Science then Mathematics and one Science subject would count as double in the points calculations.

3. **Aptitude Tests.** Would you be in favour of using some form of aptitude test which would be used alongside Leaving Certificate results?

4. **Portfolios.** Would you be in favour of asking students to submit a portfolio of their work in a particular area, which would be assessed by a panel alongside their academic work?
5. **School Performance.** Would you be in favour of looking at students’ ranking in their schools, so that students who performed best in their schools would be eligible for selection for one of the hypothetical ten places?

6. **College Assessment.** Would you be in favour of asking students to attend an examination in College, which would then be used alongside other results to select students?

7. **References.** Would you be in favour of requesting references from students – either from their school, or organisations they were involved with such as St. Vincent de Paul?

8. **Personal Statements/Use of Contextual Data.** Would you be in favour of having applicants submit a 1,000 word personal statement, and/or request additional information (about social or economic background, any personal factors which may be relevant) and assessing applications in the light of this information?

9. **Lottery.** Would you be in favour of setting minimum entry points for each course, and then choosing the hypothetical ten places randomly amongst those who meet these minimum requirements?

10. **Other.** Do you think there is a better, alternative admissions system which might be used to admit the hypothetical ten students?