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Manager of the Summer Intern Programme,
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DEAR MANAGER OF THE SUMMER INTERN PROGRAMME,

My name is Aoife Griffin, and I am a final year student doing a Bachelor of Civil Law at the University of Galway.

I have always been fascinated by many different aspects of law and as a result was also interested in learning the difference between civil and common legal systems. This inspired my decision to undergo Erasmus placement to Germany, where I planned to develop German as my second language. I was thrust into an unfamiliar environment and still managed to exceed the expectations I had set myself, developing new skills and gaining new friends along the way. I tried as much as possible to incorporate yoga and mindfulness into my routine as I found it helped me to ground myself through the struggle of living outside of my comfort zone and is now a practice I have maintained in my daily life. As a result of my time in Germany, I also enjoy listening to podcasts on German news and politics.

From childhood, I cultivated an interest in law through watching series such as “Murder, She Wrote” early on a Saturday morning. This developed into an interest in debate in both English and German during my time at secondary school and subsequently blossomed into the desire to represent those who required a voice louder than their own. My early interest in law and representation guided my choice of study at university level.

I feel that my interest has translated academically as I was awarded scholarships for my results in both my first and second year of university where I achieved first honours and came within the top 10 of my class. I fulfilled my passion to help when I began volunteering as a leader with the university’s CÉIM Programme which is a Peer Learning system aimed to make the transition into the first year of college more comfortable and accessible. I volunteered in my second year of college after seeing the benefit of it as a first-year student and was then asked to return when I came back to university in my final year which I was grateful for. As part of a team, I helped to create and run weekly, hour long educational sessions for first years to

introduce them to academic skills such as citing, exam preparation and case summaries. Our main goal is to facilitate the learning of young students, and each week my team and I would meet to make sure that we achieved this goal by delegating tasks and ensuring time ran smoothly during the sessions. We strive to make sure each student leaves with a better understanding of the topic than before they came in. Using comprehensible language, we make sure to relate our own experiences to the topic to show that their struggles are not isolated occurrences. This experience offered me the opportunity to gain a better understanding of legal skills while developing connections and teamwork skills.

Being a student of Civil Law, my motivation to learn about commercial law is driven by my own desires rather than the requirements of my college course. There are many reasons for my desire to work with Byrne Wallace, and from my own research I have come to feel that Byrne Wallace would be supportive of my future endeavours in broadening my knowledge in the corporate field. Byrne Wallace has an extensive amount of practice areas in corporate law that I would appreciate being able to experience first-hand and utilise fully. With a firm that strives to create a work environment that promotes self-growth, development, and creative thinking I would be assured the opportunity to learn and meet my true potential. From my experience in Germany, I feel that my willingness to move out of my comfort zone and take a leap of faith into an entirely new culture, language and environment has only served to increase my propensity to adapt in new and challenging situations. I believe that joining part of the team at Byrne Wallace would be an equivalent experience, and one that I am now prepared for.

Thank you for taking the time to review my application for the Summer Internship Programme at Byrne Wallace LLP. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Aoife Griffin