

My name is Mary-Kate and I have recently completed my final year as a Law and German student at Trinity College Dublin. I am keenly interested in applying for the legal internship at Byrne Wallace LLP. My legal academic interests include the intersection between company law and environmental law, alternative investments, private equity and comparative international law. I have a particular interest in EU law, with a focus on the dichotomy between national sovereignty and human rights protection in the European sphere. Such was this interest that became the basis for my dissertation on human rights protection relating to political participation rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina. I have extensive experience with Microsoft Office and Canva due to my extracurricular activities and this would stand in great stead to me if offered the opportunity to intern at this prestigious law firm.

I believe that my academic and extracurricular experiences quantify the fact that I would be a model candidate for this opportunity. I would use the opportunity of being an intern to the best of my ability, by acquiring a pertinent and relevant understanding of how corporate law operates in Ireland so that I may use this to my benefit in my future career.

As I speak Irish, English, French and German and beginner's Italian, this would stand in great stead to me in forging both personal and professional connections with other like-minded individuals within the company. As I completed my Erasmus year abroad studying Law and German in Bavaria, I consequently have great experience studying and living in a different jurisdiction which has greatly improved my people skills and communication skills. My Irish language skills have led to me being twice awarded a place on the Scéim Cónaithe, a prestigious Irish language living accommodation arrangement wherein residents receive a grant towards tuition fees. I was awarded a place in this program due to my fluency in the Irish language, through a rigorous application process which consisted of a personal statement and a competitive interview process wherein three members of Oifig na Gaeilge/The Irish Language Office in Trinity College Dublin assessed my language skills and personal achievements.

I furthermore believe that education and wisdom go hand in hand. Undoubtedly, I have benefitted from the education I have received from my various professors in the Law School of Trinity College Dublin and the knowledge imparted to me. The great philosopher, Confucius, stated, 'Teachers open the door ... but you enter by yourself.' This, to me, is the essence of learning the law and putting it into practice to the very best of your ability. Similarly to what Confucius stated, that 'learning without thought is labour lost: thought without learning is perilous,' I wish to learn to fully immerse myself in corporate and commercial law and to think deeply about its impact, past and present by applying it to current challenges faced by companies who are involved in the alternative investment area and private equity who must work in tandem with the law and legal systems. I wish to implement the different ways of approaching various challenges that I have encountered beforehand in the workplace. My philosophy when it comes to the law can be encapsulated by Lord Mansfield's seminal words - 'Fiat justitia, ruat coelum -

let justice be done though the heavens fall.' This, to me, encapsulates that justice and development must be pursued even if it proves to antagonise those who would wish for an antiquated legal system to remain.

I am extremely confident that I would excel in this role, given the opportunity. I have demonstrated excellent leadership skills in my extracurricular activities, particularly as Secretary of the Germanic Society here in Trinity and in my role as an Outreach Mentor for the Trinity Law Society. Furthermore, I believe that I possess the requisite competencies for this role based on my leadership and organisational skills, my language competencies and my sharp eye for excellent research skills. I am a hardworking and eager-to-learn individual who enjoys responding effectively to new situations and implementing my skills in a fast-paced environment. Furthermore, I believe that my adaptability skills are of excellent quality, a characteristic that is needed for this type of environment.

If referees or references are duly required, I would be more than happy to provide them. Thank you for reading this and I hope this has given an insightful view into my experience and how it has shaped me into a well-rounded potential intern for ByrneWallace LLP.