Helen McCrystal

                             Cornacassa, Monaghan, Republic of Ireland

                087 0940553               helenmccrystal@icloud.com

**University College Dublin**

*(2021-2025)*

Course: Business and Law

Current Grade: 2.1 (Current GPA: 3.5)

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**Coláiste Oiriall Monaghan**

*(2015 - 2021)*

* Irish Leaving Certificate: 613 CAO points.

Irish: H1, Maths: H2, Biology: H1, Home Economics: H1, Accounting: H1, French: H1, English: H3

* Irish Junior Certificate : 6 As 3 Bs (English - Merit), All Higher Level

**School Achievements:**

* Student of the Year nominations in first, third and sixth year.
* Selected, following interviews, as Manager of the schools bank in the AIB Build a Bank Challenge.
* Selected as Senior Prefect in Secondary School.
* Basketballer of the year in third year and winning captain of school North-East basketball league.

**Other Achievements:**

* All-Ireland Champion in Comhrá Gaeilge at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann.*(2013)*
* Grade 8 Fiddle completed. *(2017)*
* County Champion in the Fiddle and Fiddle Slow Air.
* Gaisce and Pope John Paul awards attained following charity work. *(2019)*
* Selected to be part of the North-East Regional Basketball Team.
* Taken part in Céilí and Trio competitions in Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann.
* Cuntóir in Coláiste Sheosaimh Cúrsa A in Connemara. *(2019)*
* Distinction in the TEG (Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge) examination. *(2020)*
* Selected as one of two First Year Student Advisors in UCD Business and Law. *(2021/22)*
* Selected as a Peer Mentor for incoming first years in UCD. *(2022)*
* Received an entrance scholarship from UCD for my leaving certificate results. *(2021)*
* Received a scholarship from UCD in second year to live in the Irish House on campus where we organised events to promote Irish culture across campus. *(2022/23)*
* Last semester my group project for the module ‘Tax in Society’ was selected as one of the top three in the class and was submitted to the Irish Tax Institute’s Annual Fantasy Budget Competition. *(Autumn 2023)*

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EMPLOYMENT

**McConnon’s Londis Monaghan** – Part-Time Employee *(2018 - Present)*

I have been working at McConnon’s Londis in Monaghan for the last number of years and I am still employed at the store. My duties include interacting with customers to ensure optimal customer service. I am also trusted to open up the shop at the weekend, and I often close up the shop at night, depending on the shift times. These tasks have given me a much larger responsibility which I have been enjoying and they have also instilled in me confidence and strong work ethic.I also assist in generating marketing ideas for the shop including social media posts to help increase business which greatly developed my commercial awareness skills. Working with the public has taught me endless lessons and this job has played a crucial part in developing many vital skills such as teamwork, communication, responsibility, leadership, and time management which are all important for a career in corporate law.

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WORK EXPERIENCE

**Deloitte** (Summer Internship 2023)

I spent twelve weeks last summer as a Tax & Legal Intern with Deloitte in their Dublin offices. I sat on the immigration team within GES (Global Employer Services) in the Tax department. This experience developed my group work and collaboration skills as I worked in an integrated team environment. I had various roles including uploading and cross-checking employment permits and residency permits which required great attention to detail. I developed the skill of reporting to senior management and I gained an insight into what information was specifically relevant to them. I got the opportunity to work on a wide range of client projects with different managers and consultants on the team and I also got to sit in on private client meetings and take notes. My favourite part were the weekly team meetings led by the immigration partner, at these meetings each team member would give an update on what they're working on, any issues they face, and an update on any new regulations that will impact their clients. These meetings gave me a real and unique insight into Irish immigration. I also developed my commercial awareness skills during my time at Deloitte as I enjoyed keeping on top of the ever-changing regulations in the industry. This experience enhanced my time management skills as we had deadlines and targets to meet for each project. Furthermore, I developed my critical thinking, problem solving, and adaptability skills when we ran into different issues as we would discuss them with each other to find solutions. These skills will serve me well in my corporate law career.

**Wilkie and Flanagan Solicitors** (Summer Internship 2022)

Upon completion of my first year at UCD I received a summer position in a busy, mid-sized law firm in County Monaghan. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the firm and it gave me an incredible insight into the workings of a country general law practice. I had various roles such as completing the filing, scanning, and answering the phones. As I was fulfilling my filing and scanning duties I gained an invaluable insight into the various documents that build cases and client files, information I could not have gathered in a lecture hall. Answering the phone and relaying the messages onto the solicitors developed my communication and interpersonal skills. I got to accompany one of the partners to the courts in Monaghan on a weekly basis and I got the opportunity to spend a few days at the Four Courts in Dublin. These experiences

were crucial as I got to appreciate how a courtroom works first hand and this second to none exposure left me certain that a career in law is something I want to pursue. I collaborated with the partners, associates, and secretarial staff throughout my time at the firm and I got to see how the partners adapted to the various challenges they faced when balancing different cases at once.

**Dermot McCrystal & Co.Chartered Accountants** *(2019)*

I have also completed work experience in an Accounting Practice in County Monaghan during Transition Year and for several days the following summer. This experience afforded me the opportunity to learn how professional practices operate as I carried out necessary office tasks such as the filing and using their software to input information. I also answered the phones and took messages for the employees which I logged through the CRM package to communicate effectively with other members of the team. This experience showed me that working in an office is definitely for me and I enjoyed the business aspect of the work. This experience is easily transferable to the legal environment.

**C.S. Kelly & Co. Solicitors***(2018 & 2019)*

I completed two weeks of work experience at this firm, one in transition year and I was then invited back to spend another week at the firm to gain further experience in fifth year. This was my first experience at a law firm and it was quite a defining moment for me career wise. I was afforded the opportunity to look through files, attend client meetings, and I also got to go down to the local courthouse. I gained experience in each department within the firm including litigation, family law, medical negligence, and personal injury.

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**Corporate Law Experience:**

I was afforded the opportunity to take part in the Law First Programme at McCann FitzGerald in January 2023. I also took part in Arthur Cox’s two-day Accelerate programme in May 2023.

In mid-January 2024 I travelled to London with twenty law students from UCD as part of the ‘UCD Corporate & Commercial Law Study Trip’. I got the opportunity to visit some of the

the world’s largest law firms such as Kirkland and Ellis, Clifford Chance, Linklaters, Jones Day, Hogan Lovells and DLA Piper. I also got the chance to visit the Royal Courts of Justice. I took part in various negotiation competitions and Corporate Law workshops on the trip with various trainees in the different firms.

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HOBBIES & INTERESTS

I played lots of basketball and Gaelic football growing up and I recently ran my first half marathon in Dublin in November 2023. I plan on running more races in 2024. I enjoy playing golf and hiking in my spare time. I also have a keen interest in Irish traditional music and culture.

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