**ByrneWallace Trainee Solicitor Programme**

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a master’s student in UCD, I am seeking a position as a trainee solicitor in ByrneWallace. I graduated from Trinity College in 2016 with a II.I degree in European Studies where I studied Russian, French, History, Political Science and Sociology. I spent my third year studying in the Gorky Literary Institute in Moscow. I am currently in the second year of the two-year Masters in Common Law programme in UCD. I received a first class honours in my first year, being one of only two students to attain this grade.

As ByrneWallace is one of the most prominent law firms in Ireland, I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to train as a solicitor in such an exciting and fast-paced environment.

I have always had a strong interest in law, stemming from my involvement in Amnesty International in both school and university. I became involved with campaigns such as the international campaign to end the death penalty and the Marriage Equality campaign. I also have a keen interest in commercial affairs, which was strengthened during the time I spent studying in Moscow. While I was living in Russia, sanctions were imposed on the country by the United States and the EU. I was fascinated by the effects of the sanctions. This experience demonstrated to me that I wanted to work in an environment which deals with the complexities posed by the constantly changing commercial landscape. ByrneWallace, with its range of national and international clients such as Lidl, Allianz and Irish Life, would be an ideal place to work because it has such an exciting environment.

I attended the Trainee Solicitor Open Evening at ByrneWallace on the 17th October and greatly enjoyed the opportunity to speak with many of the employees at ByrneWallace. Trainee Bianca McLaughlin spoke with me about the friendly and interactive work environment in ByrneWallace. It was explained to me that this gives trainees the opportunity to work with partners, associates and solicitors, and gain a thorough understanding of the work at all levels in a large commercial law firm. In addition, Loughlin Deegan spoke with me about the diverse range of practise areas in ByrneWallace, which furthered my interest in the firm.

Through my studies, work experience and volunteering activities I have developed a range of skills necessary for a solicitor in a commercial law firm. My work experience in commercial law firms Matheson and Beauchamps has allowed me to develop the skills necessary to perform effectively in an office-environment and the ability to present professionally. I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to gain experience in two very different areas of commercial law: corporate and employment. These internships copper fastened my enthusiasm to pursue a career as a solicitor.

I have developed organisation and time management skills through my time living in Russia where I balanced study, working multiple jobs as a self-employed English teacher and volunteering. Studying the complex grammatical structures of the Russian language allowed me to develop an acute attention to detail.

Studying languages and working as an English teacher in Moscow has taught me the ability to be articulate, logical and clear in communicating with others. My duties as a representative for postgraduate law students in the UCD Students’ Union and leader of the Fresh Amnesty Voices group as part of the Trinity College Amnesty International Society have enhanced my leadership skills. I also enjoy working as part of a team, as demonstrated by my involvement with the Rathfarnham Concert Band, where I play the trumpet, and by my involvement with the [Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot](https://vismoot.pace.edu/), an international mooting competition which attracts more than 300 law schools from around the world.

I thank you for the opportunity to apply and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Fenton