

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am very interested in applying for the position of Summer Intern as part of the Byrne Wallace internship programme. I am a Neuroscience graduate from University College Cork and am now seeking a change in direction to the legal field. In order to facilitate this, I am currently completing the Postgraduate Diploma in Law at Dublin Institute of Technology, and intend on sitting four of the FE1 examinations at the end of this year.

I am interested in completing an internship as a way of experiencing the daily working realities of a high-profile corporate law firm. I would like to experience a sense as to what being a solicitor entails before charging into the FE1's unprepared for what follows them. I am interested in Byrne Wallace in particular due its training-focussed intern programme, and as someone coming from a scientific background and only now making the transition from labs to offices, this hands-on training particularly appeals to me. I'm also particularly interested in your firm due to its focus on commercial law. This is an area that I feel I would excel in given its dynamic and competitive nature, and I feel I would enjoy the challenge and complexity such cases bring. It would be an incredible opportunity to work with and learn from your firm's leading professionals in the area.

I am a highly driven individual with robust research and interpersonal skills. I served as a Research Assistant in the Hotchkiss Brain Institute in Calgary, Canada, for 4.5 months before returning to finish my final year of my degree. This position, in addition to my degree, enabled me to gain valuable research and communication skills as I was continuously tasked with researching new areas, problems and solutions; learning how to use new equipment, procedures and software; and adapting to novel experimental paradigms. I also gave frequent lab presentations on the current status and trajectory of each project I was assigned, giving me a good basis to enhance my ability to communicate information in a logical, clear and dynamic fashion. My role as a Customer Service Agent in Amazon UK also provided me with strong inter-personal skills. I was routinely faced with upset customers and worked to resolve their query real-time whilst listening, empathising, explaining why the issue occurred in approachable, non-technical language, and then solving the problem. The experience aided my ability to efficiently identify and solve the specific issue at hand and personalise my approach to each individual customer.

As for my interests, I am an avid reader and have been since childhood. I also have a deep interest in science, and as a teenager became particularly fascinated by the process of human evolution. The concept of how pieces and particles could link, adapt and evolve, and then ultimately lead to a sentient being who could question itself and even write this application, absolutely fascinated me. This interest evolved in itself to the idea of human consciousness and eventually led me to my undergraduate choice of Neuroscience in university. However, having experienced life in a lab first-hand, I then decided to keep my interest as a hobby rather than a career, and made my way to the legal field, another interest I held as a teenager. Despite the career shift, I still maintain a deep interest in science and like to keep up-to-date with scientific developments in my spare time through books, journal articles, and documentaries. I am also a passionate skier and have recently taken up snowboarding.

I understand that this internship programme requires a high level of commitment and resilience that I believe I am fully capable of providing. Upon completion of the programme, I expect to have a more grounded perspective on life in a solicitor's office and would possess the necessary skill-set and knowledge to serve as a future trainee in your firm.

Yours sincerely,

Béibhinn Hinds