

**Application to the Byrne Wallace Trainee Solicitor Programme**

Mr. Cian Ó Lionáird,  
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Ms. Cróna McLoughlin,  
HR Manager,  
Byrne Wallace,  
87-88 Harcourt Street,  
Dublin 2  
Ireland.

Dear Ms. McLoughlin,

My name is Cian Ó Lionáird and I am a final year Bachelor of Civil Law (Clinical) Student at University College Cork. I am applying for a position with the Byrne Wallace Trainee Solicitor Programme..

I have completed three years of my undergraduate degree programme to date, two of which were academic. My third year was spent on work placement with Ronan Daly Jermyn Solicitors and Michael Powell Solicitors, both in Cork. In my first two years of legal study, I developed a keen interest in the analytical and problem solving elements of legal matters. I was fortunate enough to gain practical experience of these skills whilst on work placement. The exposure to challenging, detail orientated work on placement was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for me and left me certain that I wanted to pursue a career as a solicitor. I am eager to get my career off to the best possible start with a high standard of training in a large firm and it is for this reason that I am applying to Byrne Wallace.

Outside of academics, my main interests are in sport and writing. I play Gaelic football and hurling with my local club, Dr. Crokes' GAA, Killarney and travel home every weekend for training and matches. Outside of this, I am a keen follower of all sports. Tied in with this is my interest in sports journalism. I have contributed match reports to my local Killarney Advertiser, as well as features in the University College Cork Motley magazine. I am passionate about writing and literature in general, and really feel that it complements my academic work nicely.

I combine my academics and hobbies with a part time job in The Malton Hotel in Killarney, where I have worked as Guest Services Assistant since I was sixteen years old. I have worked every summer since 2011 in this role, combining it with weekend work during the academic year. I also spent a number of weeks in each of the last two summers working as a paralegal with Kiely Solicitors in Cork, and currently spend a couple of hours every few weeks with Kiely's when they require assistance.

I feel that having this variation of commitments in my life serves me well, as it allows me to maintain structure in my life, provides me with opportunities to excel in many areas and keeps me focused. It is this kind of focus I intend on bringing into my future career as a solicitor.

I graduate in 2016 and hope to commence a training contract in 2018. My main areas of interest at this point are in tax, insolvency and employment law and it is my hope that I get to gain experience in these areas during my legal training, with a view to practising in these areas in the future. Having said this, I am always open to new areas of interest. I believe that receiving the highest standard of legal training, with a firm such as Byrne Wallace, would provide me with the best opportunity to achieve my goals in this regard.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to review my application and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours faithfully,

Cian Ó Lionáird

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