29th September 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Ciara Johnstone and I am a 22-year-old final year social science in University College Dublin. I expect to graduate with a 2:1 grade.

I found this opportunity on Grad Ireland and I am very interested in the position required. I am highly motivated and hard working. I would love a career in law as a solicitor because while completing law modules in University, I found them very thought provoking, interesting and engaging.

I am also interested in a career in law because it is intellectually challenging, financially rewarding and very fulfilling. For me, personal fulfilment is of the utmost importance. I have also a particular interest in human rights and law seeks to address about these rights and where possible, social justice. I have also had a particular in psychology (I have completed three psychology modules in college). I believe psychology ties in with law as law is also about human behaviour. Therefore, that is another reason why a career in law interests me.

I am a hardworking and committed student and my previous exam results reflect this. I have completed modules such as Punishment and Social Control, Global Developments and Inequality in Irish Society. I intend to graduate with a 2:1 grade. I also hold a QQI Level 5 award in Community Health Services from which I received 7 distinctions. This includes distinctions in the modules: Legal Practice and Procedures and Criminal Law.

Due to my past work experience and studies I have the skills and potential for the Byrne Wallace trainee solicitor programme. These skills include teamwork, communication skills (written and verbal), the ability to work under pressure, problem solving and understanding people. I gained these skills from my work experience as a Cinema Operative in the Wexford Omniplex and as a Covid Cleaner and Health Care Assistant in TLC Citywest.

From my time working in the cinema, I gained the ability to work under pressure as the cinema was often busy and I had to serve customers at a fast pace. From this job I also developed excellent communication skills from interacting with customers. This job also involved a lot of teamwork as Iand other staff members had to work together to ensure that the cinema was up to its highest

standard. Secondly, from my time working in the nursing home: TLC Citywest I gained more of an understanding of people (especially the most vulnerable). I worked in the nursing home at TLC Citywest during the Covid-19 crisis in the nursing home. This job frequently involved working under pressure as I had to ensure the correct use of PPE was in place at all times, I needed to have a lot of rooms sanitized and cleaned in a certain amount of time while also ensuring all residents needs were being met. I also had to deal with challenging behaviours with some of the residents. I have gained excellent written communication skills from my studies at University College Dublin and Ballsbridge College of Further Education. These two courses have thought me how to write academically, effectively and clearly, how to include structure to written pieces, how to reference appropriately and how to use correct language.

To conclude, I am interested in this graduate program due to the skills and potential I have acquired from my work experience and studies. I am also interested in this program due to my interests in the legal system, psychology and human rights. I hope that you will consider me for the position required.

Yours faithfully,

Ciara Johnstone.