I am a final year student at University College Cork and I’m writing to apply for a summer internship placement at Byrne Wallace Solicitors. I learned about this opportunity through the UCC Law Society. Through researching your firm online, I learned of the wide range of thoroughly engaging practice areas there. The opportunity to engage in such a diverse range of practice areas is one I would relish and I feel confident that I could contribute greatly to the work of your firm while developing the skills needed for a career in corporate law. I believe that the skills in communication I have developed during my time studying law and critical engagement with a wide variety of subject areas throughout my degree will add to my experience.

In my second year at UCC I was elected to the position of Recording Secretary of the UCC Law Society. Not only did it improve my administrative skills and ability to work within a group, but it also greatly improved my communication skills. Having to capture and maintain the attention of a crowd was something I was trained to do in my position as peer support leader but I soon learnt that there is a large difference between a group of 20 and a room of 200. Throughout my time on the committee I learned how to read a room and how important it was to constantly strive toward inclusivity both in small scale and large scale communications. Working as part of a team was something I thoroughly enjoyed. The committee that year was extremely successful, ending the second semester with a surplus budget after having inherited a substantial debt. This together with my participation in the trampolining club were instrumental in my social engagement in UCC providing a broad range of people to interact with socially.

During my second year I also worked part time as a waitress. I was employed in two separate restaurants. I learned a great deal through the complete divergence of management styles adopted by my employers. Where the management style involved open communication and respect I found it a much happier and more effective workplace. I was totally supported by my superiors who gave me the training and safe working conditions to truly thrive. The success of the establishment was something I wished for personally and I felt a sense of duty and pride to give the best service I could. As a small local café, Idaho required of all its staff members a high standard of customer service and friendliness both to customers and to each other.

I spent my third year in university studying at the University of Copenhagen. It was a highly beneficial experience to learn subjects such as The Law of Armed Conflict and Law and Literature at Masters level. It enabled me to engage further with the content of my subjects due to learning through seminars and being assessed by oral examination. As a result, I was better equipped to personally engage with the subject matter I am currently studying in UCC and my ability to articulate my legal knowledge and opinion orally as opposed to simply through writing. The inclusive and engaging culture there was instrumental in developing my already strong interest in gender equality. The attitude there towards misogyny and sexism was one of zero tolerance. This meant everyone was better able to openly discuss social and political issues and gave me a much more open frame of mind in relation to subjects like gender quotas and paternal leave. I truly feel I made the best of my time there and it was a fantastic opportunity that I made the best of and learned from.

I have enclosed my CV detailing my academic and extra-curricular experience. I hope to have the opportunity to interview for a position on your summer internship programme. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Claire O’Reilly