Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to apply for the 2019 ByrneWallace Summer Internship. I am a final year Bachelor of Corporate Law (International) student in NUIG. I am currently in the final year of my degree and completed my 3rd year of studies on Erasmus in Budapest, Hungary at ELTE University.

I achieved a 61.75% average in first year, while working early mornings before college, but was disappointed as I felt that it did not accurately display my academic ability. I viewed this as a learning opportunity, which further motivated me to excel academically in my following years of study. I improved this significantly to 68.3%, a high 2.1, in 2nd year, which I felt was also hampered by working night shifts every Friday and Saturday between 11pm and 7am to fund my studies. Despite my high results, I believed that I was still fully capable of improving my grades further to achieve a 1.1.

I was accepted to the Erasmus program while in my 2nd year at NUIG. I chose to attend ELTE University at Budapest due to the modules offered which allowed me to gain knowledge in areas which would not have been possible elsewhere. I studied a wide range of modules, focusing on financial based law modules. A number of modules were presentation/essay-based assessments which have allowed me to further strengthen my public speaking and enhance my writing and research skills. I achieved the equivalent of a 1.1 in all modules except one. I also worked in an Irish bar in the heart of Budapest during Erasmus, which developed my ability to communicate with people from different cultures and backgrounds, while requiring me to maintain a work/studies balance.

Following this I moved to Prague, Czech Republic, to work in a bar for the summer months which allowed me to experience another foreign culture. I moved here alone, which was a new challenge, but I remained optimistic as it was an exciting opportunity which I could not resist. This was an interesting experience which resulted in me developing myself further and acquire life-long friendships. This experience allowed me to further build my teamwork skills and required me to take on a level of responsibility and display leadership as I trained new employees and assisted in the organising of team building activities. I worked 16 hour shifts at times, which further developed my ability to maintain focus and high work ethic through long working hours.

In the first semester of final year I achieved an average of 69.5% in my examinations. While I was very happy with this result that complimented my academic record further, and my degree average is now over 69%, I am aiming to achieve a 1.1. overall. Legal placement was not an option as part of my degree but I recognised that such experience would allow further personal development and greatly benefit my future career prospects. Therefore I took the initiative to seek practical legal experience and was offered an intern position every Monday at Kemple/Gormley Solicitors, a small firm in my local town which has previously been a finalist in the 2018 Irish Law Awards. I am enjoying the practical exposure to a legal environment working under pressure as part of a team and this experience has further solidified my interest in pursuing a career in law.

I decided to apply to the summer internship at ByrneWallace as it is one of the top firm law firms in the country and one which help me to learn and grow to realize my potential. ByrneWallace is a firm which would offer a diverse experience, working with exciting clients, while challenging me to succeed. I was further motivated to apply to ByrneWallace due to the emphasis which they place on corporate social responsibility and giving back to the community, which is something I would enjoy contributing to. I would embrace the opportunity to experience a summer internship at ByrneWallace, with the hope of returning to the firm for a traineeship and forging a career in the firm.

Best Regards

Elliott Murray