

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was fortunate enough to do my transition year work experience in ByrneWallace for a week in 2012, an experience which was instrumental in my decision to pursue law. Now in my final year of Business and Law in UCD, the opportunities that lie before me excite me. While many different professions have interested me, it is with confidence that I now say I want to be a solicitor. The law is a challenging and rewarding profession and it will afford me many opportunities to have a meaningful career. I have worked in a variety of settings throughout my college years developing transferrable skills, acquiring life knowledge and travelling and I am confident that this decision is the right one for me.

In 2012, ByrneWallace presented as a fast-paced yet friendly environment. I worked alongside a trainee who had just returned from Blackhall Place, watching the interactions between her and a more senior solicitor. Despite her busy and important workload, she was happy to explain her work to me and allowed me to help and learn. I was shown the workings of the firm from different perspectives, working with Catherine Dowling, now Senior Associate in the corporate department, and Lynsey Lynam, then in HR. To experience the day-to-day interactions across the various levels of the organisation from senior employees of the firm to trainees was very enlightening. It left memories of a positive and personable workspace.

Attending the ByrneWallace information evening on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October, I returned for the first time as a prospective trainee with a different mind-set. Throughout the evening, my memories of the firm were validated, and this evidenced that the culture and values of the firm that I had noticed have continued and strengthened. Speaking to trainees at various stages of the programme, it was clear that the work they do is needed, respected and valued.

ByrneWallace represents many things that are important to me in choosing which firm I want to train and ultimately grow my career with.

- ByrneWallace describes itself as having a 'big firm approach but with a small firm feel'. As Michael Walsh touched on at the Information Evening, this means that in ByrneWallace you 'play the ball, not the man'. In choosing a firm that I would see myself with long-term, this is incredibly important to me. It is critical that there is a sense of unity in the firm, an awareness that the firm is one team, all working together to uphold excellent standards and deliver an exemplary level of customer service. The fact that ByrneWallace has recently changed to an open plan office environment only further reinforces this sense of common purpose in the workplace and the importance placed on it.
- The relatively small intake means that as a trainee, I will be utilised and pushed to the best of my ability, while giving back through my hard work, dedication and drive. Being part of such a tight-knit group means that I will be needed and expected to contribute to teams, and supervised having been given work that is valued and necessary.
- As the economy recovers and strengthens, I want to work at a firm that continues to grow. ByrneWallace has sustainably grown by 50% in the last four years, and this shows that the firm is forward thinking and always trying to be better. I want to work in a company that works to grow and strengthen. This is the kind of message that filters through an organisation from senior partners to trainees.
- On perhaps a more superficial note, but one which is very important to me, is the matter of choosing a firm with a good work-life balance, and a respect for the wellbeing of its employees. Having listened to your trainees speak, I am confident that there is a healthy work-life balance in your trainee programme, and an emphasis placed on building relationships across ByrneWallace. The ByrneWallace workplace choir is of particular interest to me, having led the UCD Musical Society's Performance Choir last year!

While I believe that ByrneWallace is right for me, I also believe that I am right for ByrneWallace. I am a highly motivated, quick thinking and personable person. I feel I would fit in well with the ethos I observed both briefly in Transition Year and at the Information Evening and am drawn to the fast paced, productive setting coupled with a friendly and supportive environment.

Through my work experience, voluntary work and hobbies I have developed many transferrable skills and attributes.

- Leadership: I am currently the Treasurer/Vice Auditor of the UCD Musical Society, where as part of the executive committee, I lead and manage the successful society on behalf of 1,000 members. In successfully putting on three full-scale shows in the year, I regularly deal with large organisations, stakeholders and suppliers with full accountability for budget control. Last year in the society, I held the role of Vocal Director, leading a performance choir of over 55 students every week.
- Team Work: In addition to leadership, I enjoy working as a team member to achieve a goal. In Camp Echo Lake, my 4 person team put on successful weekly productions against short deadlines with many late nights. In my current position as Treasurer/Vice Auditor of the UCD Musical Society, I co-ordinate the running of the Musical Society with 19 fellow committee members. I will also be graduating from the Quinn school of Business in UCD, which places a large emphasis on teamwork throughout the undergraduate programme.
- Multicultural experience: I have worked efficiently and positively with people of many cultures and backgrounds in both Canada and the USA. Working in An Post in Dublin I had daily interactions with a large variety of customers in a professional and discreet manner.
- Drive and Ambition: I am motivated and always want a challenge. This year I canvassed for and secured the role of Treasurer/Vice Auditor of the UCD Musical Society in order to better the society for our 1,000 members.

These attributes are applicable in a successful professional workplace, where I will be dealing with clients, fellow trainees, and more senior members in the firm. I am confident in my self-awareness and professionalism.

Most importantly, I feel that I am the right fit for ByrneWallace because I am a hard worker and would throw myself fully into the opportunity to work in such a forward thinking and award-winning law firm. I am highly motivated and energetic and am ready for the challenge of starting my legal career. I have considered many firms and feel strongly that ByrneWallace is one I can see myself having a long-term career in.

I am very excited about the prospects of working in ByrneWallace and hope that you will allow me to share more about how I would be a great fit in your organisation.

Yours Sincerely,

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