Dear Sir/Madam

My name is Laura Hughes and I am 22 years old. I am a DCU Law and French graduate currently gaining legal experience and I will be sitting my first FE1s in 2018. In this cover letter, I would like to demonstrate to you what has inspired me to apply to your firm and why I believe I am the perfect fit for Byrne Wallace.

I aspire to work in a law firm with a world renown reputation not only for sheer professional excellence but also for providing legal advice of the highest quality. To work alongside experienced and exceptionally talented layers, advising top clients on complex often high profile transactions. I want to work in the ever-changing and intellectually stimulating environment that is corporate law. The process of combining legal knowledge and commercial awareness to deliver innovative, practical and tailor-made commercial solutions for clients fascinates me. I want to work in a firm that invests in its people and has a genuine ethos of learning and development, with unrivalled opportunities for professional growth and development. A dynamic environment constantly testing my limits and constantly forcing me to aim higher. I believe Byrne Wallace can offer me all of this and more. I know that this firm, is the best possible foundation for my future career in law.

Equally as important for me are the firm’s values. Such as the strong reputation of collaboration and collegiality within the firm. Working with different groups of people as part of a team who respect and value each other's abilities, is where I thrive. I also admire the emphasis the firm places on the partnership, not only between colleagues, but also with clients. I understand the importance of client relationships having worked in in Ladbrokes where our entire business relied on building and maintaining loyal client relationships. I understand how important it is to adapt to each client on an individual basis. Furthermore, I am a firm believer in the importance of charity work and I am therefore extremely impressed by the culture of charitable giving and volunteerism in Byrne Wallace. I admire the commitment and enthusiasm the firm shows towards the CSR initiatives. I am particularly taken by the partnerships with St John of God and The Special Olympics, as this is an area I am strongly involved with myself.

Finally, the obvious emphasis placed on equality in this firm is market leading and it is something I want to be a part of. Through my involvement with the Women’s Leadership Initiative in my current employment I recently had the opportunity to meet Pamela Newenham, co-founder of Girlcrew. We discussed the not only moral obligations, but the economic benefits of gender diversity in the workplace and I would be honoured to work in a firm such as Byrne Wallace that not only embraces these concepts but actively acts upon them. For example, with the Byrne Wallace 50:50 female to male ratio which is exceptional and far above the national average and the pioneering emphasis placed on Paternity leave within the firm, which I personally believe is crucial to any advances in this area.

As much as I believe I will benefit from your firm, I am also certain that I would be of value to Byrne Wallace. Firstly, I take great pride in my work, I am a firm believer in the importance of paying close attention to even the smallest of details and my organizational skills are exceptional. Secondly, I have an analytical mind and I am capable of strategizing and adapting to the particular job in front of me. Thirdly, I understand the importance of anticipating the needs of not only my team members, but also my clients. I believe in the importance of being proactive and using my own initiative, whether that be to foresee possible complications that may need to be addressed or to actively seek out the next job that needs to be done.

Additionally, I understand the vital importance of efficient communication. I have excellent language and linguistic skills having studied linguistics, grammar, development of language, study of human behavior and study of body language. My grammar skills are exemplary, which is essential in law and something not many people my age can bring to the table. I am a very confident public speaker, which was acknowledged in my previous internship where I was awarded ‘Best Speaker’. I am fluent in Irish, and I have C2 level French by European standards. According to the most recent census figures, in Ireland French is spoken by 56,430 people nationwide. In addition, of the 1.76 million people who can speak Irish, 73,803 speak the language daily outside of the education system. Therefore, it goes without saying that my language competencies would beyond doubt be an asset to your firm.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasise how determined I am to relentlessly pursue my chosen career path. I financed my way through final year, without compromising my integrity to my studies, by working night shifts in a bar. This demonstrates how determined, reliable and resilient I am. I guarantee you I will rise to any challenge you may throw at me. I am well accustomed to working in fast paced and high pressure environments. In fact, I find a challenging environment is where I thrive as I find it makes the rewards all the more satisfying. I can handle a heavy work load and I will not buckle under pressure. Quite the opposite, I view these situations as an opportunity to learn and an opportunity to push myself further to reach my full potential. I have an extremely strong work ethic. I am enthusiastic, passionate and persistent. I am eager to learn and I cannot wait to see what my future in the legal field holds.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about me and I hope to hear from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Hughes