

51 Elkwood  
Templeogue  
Dublin 16

17 October

Dear Manager of the Trainee Programme,

I would like to apply for the Trainee Programme at Byrne Wallace. I have an excellent academic record, having achieved a First Class Honours BA Degree in Education with English Literature from the University of Cambridge, an MSc in International Politics from Trinity College Dublin and a Postgraduate Diploma in Law from DIT.

I have decided to pursue a career in law as I consider it fundamental to so many facets of society and believe it offers the potential for a varied, challenging and exciting career. I recently participated in the Summer Internship Programme at McCann FitzGerald which gave me a valuable insight into the work of a commercial law firm. I was placed in the Employment group in the Litigation Department. My responsibilities included taking attendance on client phone calls and meetings, carrying out research and preparing a knowledge pack of updates in Employment law for the weekly group meeting. I attended lectures from each department in the firm and workshops on legal writing and presentation skills. The combination of educational and practical experience deepened my understanding of the work of a commercial law firm and confirmed my choice of a career in this field.

I am particularly interested in working for Byrne Wallace as it has a strong international dimension and a diverse range of practice areas. Having been raised in Brussels and educated at the European School, I have a particular interest in European Law. My Masters thesis focused on the development of EU defence and security policy and the potential consequences for Ireland's policy of neutrality. I witnessed the impact of EU policy on national law during my placement in the Employment group in McCann FitzGerald. I note that Byrne Wallace has one of the most renowned employment law practices in Ireland and is consistently ranked top. The firm's reputation in this area and in other legal departments is why I want to work for Byrne Wallace.

I have the teamwork and leadership skills to work in this top law firm. While at Cambridge, I directed three plays. One of these was selected for performance at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2014. Managing this production allowed me to develop considerable business skills: the play was one of the biggest commercial successes for a Cambridge production at the Edinburgh festival.

Finally, as my First Class Honours degree from Cambridge attests, I have the academic ability to succeed in a top law firm. I came second in my year and was awarded the 'Shuard/Simms' prize for academic excellence. I also speak fluent French. I hope you will consider me for the Programme. I am available for interview at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,  
Louise Banable