

Natasha Cooke

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To whom it May Concern,

My name is Natasha Cooke I am a final year student at University College Dublin studying Law with Social Justice (BCL). I am writing to apply for the traineeship programme at Byrne Wallace.

Byrne Wallace as a firm appeals to me firstly because of the firms commitment to developing top lawyers. The firms focus on the use of technology and providing superior service through client partnership is an attraction I believe that a Traineeship at Byrne Wallace would award me an incomparable traineeship to learn and develop my expertise in a complex and demanding yet enjoyable environment. I have a strong personal interest in employment law and tax, areas the firm offers expertise in. I also have a strong interest in Real Estate having spent time in the department while working at Lawson Lundell LLP during the summer. It is evident that at Byrne Wallace the traineeship focuses on professional development, this is important to me as I have witnessed through my legal experience the demands placed on lawyers. Needless to say, Byrne Wallace as a firm is desirable because of the firm's excellent reputation as one of the top law firms in Ireland and the firms' rich history and cultural background. Evident in the many awards and recognitions of the firm, more recently the firms Lexel accreditation. More importantly the firm appeals to me because of the time and trust it invests in the trainee's and their development.

As a prospective trainee I can offer a range of skills and expertise. I am currently studying law with Social Justice at Sutherland School of law UCD. I have an interest in business and law and I chose this degree programme because it offered a great basis of comparison between Law, Business and Social Justice. This is the first law course of its kind in Europe. In 2017 I will graduate as one of the first 20 people with a Law degree combined with Social Justice. I feel through the course I have developed a diverse perspective on various issues, in particular areas of Social and Corporate responsibility. I have also developed excellent analytical, teamwork and communication and articulation skills having completed minimum of four group projects or research assignments each semester.

I am confident that I would be an asset as a trainee at the firm. I have during my degree program gained extensive experience in different professional environments, where I have developed professional confidence and skills which would be transferable to the

traineeship. The past summer I travelled to Vancouver alone, mainly to travel and experience a different cultural environment, but I was also eager to explore possibilities of gaining legal experience while there. In June 2016 I was approached by one of Vancouver's top 5 law firms, Lawson Lundell LLP, who invited me to interview with the firm and subsequently I was hired. I worked as a Legal Assistant with the firm on a full time basis in multiple departments of the firm including Litigation, Real Estate, Banking and Insolvency and in the Corporate department, where I spent most of my time. The experience enhanced my commercial awareness particularly given the firm's dealings with international clients. I also gained professional confidence and enhanced my transferable skills while learning to understand complex corporate transactions. Further to my experience at Lawson Lundell, I have continued to work part-time during term at Paul O'Sullivan & Co Solicitors, a small sole practitioners focusing on Probate, Personal Injury Claims and Conveyancing. Both have proved invaluable experiences during my education and on comparison the experience at Lawson Lundell enhanced my desire to work for a large firm.

Further to the skills and abilities harvested through professional employment experience I have a wealth of skills and admirable traits which I have acquired by playing competitive field hockey for many years. I have been fortunate in the past, to represent my province at senior level and Ireland at national underage level. I was honoured, also, to have captained my province at under 18 and under 21 level, I was entrusted with a position of authority and importance at a young age and it was an invaluable experience to stand as a role-model for other players. During my time playing hockey with UCD Ladies Hockey club I have competed at European competitions and last season I was awarded club player of the year. I currently volunteer for the club as Treasurer, a role which requires diligence and a position which has enhanced my accountancy skills and organisational skills.

Following my most recent set of examinations at UCD I have maintained my second class honours grade one for the past three years. I predict I will graduate with same remaining in the top tier of students in my class.

I believe that I would be a strong candidate for the traineeship programme given my extensive professional experience, sporting commitments and achievements and consistent academics. I have enclosed a copy of my CV which contains further details of my past employment experience and my consistent academic records. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require anything further as part of my application.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my application and I look forward to the possibility of hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

Natasha Cooke.