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**To WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

I am interested in applying to join the Summer Internship Programme in Byrne Wallace. I am a penultimate year law student in Maynooth University, and I am currently on work placement in Matheson. I believe that the skills and experiences I have gained at this position makes me an ideal candidate for the Summer Internship Programme.

When I began my first year in the university, I was in the BCL Law and Arts program, completing 30 credits of law, along with 15 credits of International Development and 15 credits of Critical Skills. However, after my first year, it became abundantly clear that my passions lay with law.

After transferring to the LLB program, I began to work harder than ever in order to excel in my degree, and to make the most out of my course. As well as working harder, I also took up more extra-curricular activities; both law based and not. Competing in the Bréagchúirt Uí Dhálaigh moot court competition in November was a fantastic experience. I found the competition helped me develop essential skills, such as working in a group, researching law, as well as the public speaking aspect. As well as taking up mooting, I also began volunteering with 121 Digital in the university. In association with Age Action, 121 Digital partners a volunteer with an elderly member of the community, to help them learn how to use their phones, laptops, and tablets, as well as developing their overall technological skills.

I chose to spend my third year on work placement, and spent six months working as a student intern in Matheson. In Matheson I worked in the Finance and Capital Markets Department, more specifically with teams in Banking and in Structured Finance. During this internship I worked on several large transactions and projects with various Partners in the Finance and Capital Markets Department, as well as attending lectures and workshops with Trainees, in order to gain more experience and knowledge of the area.

My work placement with Matheson has been a fantastic experience. I have gained a lot of knowledge around the laws in area of financial law, as well as a greater understanding of the type of work undertaken by corporate law firms. The work has inspired me to learn even more and to further develop my skills, and I would be greatly interested in learning more from a competitive firm such as Byrne Wallace.

More experience working in a corporate firm would be incredibly beneficial because the hands-on experience of working in a competitive corporate firm simply cannot be taught from a textbook, and I would be grateful for the opportunity to learn more about departments outside of finance law.

Sincerely,

Niamh Ní Shearcaigh.