To the graduate recruitment manager,

My name is Patrick Ferguson, and I am applying for a traineeship with Byrne Wallace as I believe I possess skills and qualities that make me a perfect candidate for the role.

From early on in my undergraduate degree, I made the decision to apply for traineeship roles as soon as was possible. However, after being awarded a high 2:1 in my corporate law degree, I realised that I lacked commercial awareness, particularly surrounding transactions actually advised on within commercial law firms. I recognised this as a key flaw for someone seeking a career in commercial law. Therefore, I elected to take a year out before commencing my legal career, to complete a master’s degree in Law and Finance in TCD before completing my FE-1s to become a qualified solicitor in Ireland.

I have since completed this master’s programme, and I was awarded a 1:1 with distinction, after being awarded a 1:1 in the majority of my modules, along with in my dissertation. Therefore, when deciding which firm, I should apply to for a traineeship role, Byrne Wallace was the firm that stood out to me greatly, given their leading position both in the corporate and financial sector, but also in other niche areas in which many firms fail to thrive in that I believe could be of interest to me in future, such as regulatory (which I enjoy in my current role), fintech (which I enjoyed in my master’s programme), and competition law. Similarly, I value sustainability, having carried out my master’s dissertation on the lack of regulation over climate reporting within the EU. Some of the transactions Byrne Wallace have advised on recently alone within the energy/environmental sectors have further influenced my decision to apply.

I have acquired transferable skills through work experience. I am a newly appointed junior (unqualified) associate in Loyens and Loeff, Luxembourg, where I work first-hand on reviewing transaction documents for financings and capital markets transactions, occasionally negotiating points, drafting corporate authorisations, drafting legal opinions, and aiding clients through researching issues that arise with the CSSF (Luxembourg national competent authority for the banking sector). I was previously a shift leader in a four-star hotel, which not only involves showing initiative, but also my ability to work as a member of any team. Similarly, I was the class representative for 54 students during the final year of my undergraduate degree. This involved acting as a voice for my cohort regarding any issues that needed resolving by the NUI Galway law school staff. I gained some legal work experience before commencing my employment with Loyens and Loeff while in GLAN-Law as a legal intern. This organisation examines breaches of Human Rights across the world, and while I am not interested in specialising in HR law, I gained valuable skills while in this position, such as performing practical legal research, drafting memos, and the importance of adhering to deadlines.

While I have shown that I have acquired the relevant skills for a traineeship through the form of work-experiences above, I have also developed characteristics that I believe make me an excellent candidate for a traineeship with Byrne Wallace, while in university. For example, innovation, creativity, and the ability to perform under pressure are absolutely paramount to aspiring corporate solicitors, as creative solutions are required for clients on a day-to-day basis. One example of a time I exhibited this was when a partner and I took part in NUI Galway’s moot court competition and were commended by the judge for our legal submissions and oral advocacy.

I have also developed the ability to multitask and prioritise while in university. For example, in the final year of my undergraduate degree: I worked part-time, I was the class representative, I was an intern with the aforementioned NGO, and I still managed to obtain a 72% average.

Overall, I believe I am a well-rounded candidate for a traineeship with Byrne Wallace commencing in 2023 or 2024, should I be fortunate enough to be selected for one, as I will have completed my FE1s by October 2022, having sat one in March 2021 alongside my masters, and sitting one during this month, and intending on sitting the remainder in the 2022 sittings.

Yours truly,

**Patrick Ferguson.**