To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to apply for the Summer Internship Programme 2018 in Byrne Wallace. I am studying Law and French in Trinity College and I am in my third year. I am currently on Erasmus at ‘Université de Strasbourg’. My experience so far of studying here has been incredible. I have had the chance to take so many different modules that were not available to me in Ireland. These modules such as ‘Comparative Law’ and ‘Major Legal Systems’ have allowed me to reflect on the law more thoroughly and critically analyse what Irish law has to offer in comparison to other legal systems. I think my studying of other legal systems, especially the French system which I have studied in quite a degree of depth, has allowed me to develop a more inquisitive approach to the law, questioning why a certain approach was taken in one country and how that particular issue might be resolved in another country. I believe this knowledge means that I can take a more active approach when examining a case or legal issue which I feel would make me an asset to your team in Byrne Wallace.

While here in Strasbourg I have become even more aware of the importance of the EU and its institutions. I have visited the Council of Europe and European Court of Human Rights and have been briefed on their functions and inner workings by the Irish Permanent Representation. When I discovered that Byrne Wallace is a member of ALFA International I was intrigued. The pioneering approach of Byrne Wallace in this regard is fantastic and the engagement with other jurisdictions in order to tackle issues is exactly what as I said above I am interested in and am looking to use in my career. Byrne Wallace’s extensive list of both Irish and International clients and the firm’s involvement in so many different legal sectors is what made Byrne Wallace such an attractive option for me.

With regard to my work ethic I worked in my local newsagent for two years before moving to France for my Erasmus. I worked as a Sales Assistant and Deli Assistant in the shop but my job in reality entailed a lot more than that. I learnt how to deal with every single type of person, from the most challenging to the most courteous. I also was regularly tasked with completing orders for the shop which required quite a degree of organisation and responsibility on my part. I often worked morning shifts which meant I had to be in work at 7 am, I therefore understand what it is like to work long days with early starts. Another skill of mine that developed while working there was my ability to work as part of a team. As well as being a good team-player I am also comfortable with working independently which I know is often necessary. My confident personality allows me to take initiative and work alone in the knowledge that I have the skills to complete the task. In university I have achieved good results in both my personal work such as essays as well as in group exercises such as a moot court task I completed last year.

In my opinion, I think that I have skills that would be of great benefit to your firm and that I would complement your already formidable team. I would really appreciate an opportunity to talk further with you. As I previously mentioned I am currently on Erasmus in France and therefore would not be available to interview in Dublin but I would be more than willing to conduct a phone interview in lieu of that. Thank you for taking the time to consider my application.

Yours faithfully,

Rachel O’Callaghan.