

I am writing wishing to apply for the traineeship programme with Byrne Wallace. I am a final year BCLB Law and Business student at University College Cork. What sparked my interest in the programme was hearing about the firm from the careers services in UCC then further investigating through my own research. I believed that the firm provides an excellent education for trainees and allow them to experience a wide range of practice areas. Particularly, having the opportunity to work in areas that particularly interest you, which was very attractive to me. Having completed a summer internship in A & L Goodbody it cemented my interest in pursuing a career in corporate law.

Not only is the fact that Byrne Wallace is a top law firm in Ireland that makes it attractive to me, but also its charitable endeavours make it a company that really appeals to me to be part of. As a partner of the St John of God amongst others. These strike a chord with me as I am also heavily involved in charity work. I have previously worked as a paired reading volunteer with the SUAS educational programme. As part of this I visited a local primary school weekly and carried out paired reading with a child to help improve their literacy. This was a very fulfilling experience as you are helping improve a child's reading ability and seeing the improvement each week was very motivating. I am also a member of the Irish Cancer Society and have regularly volunteered through assisting in bucket collections and worked as a volunteer in the Irish Cancer Society shop. I contribute to this worthwhile cause by increasing revenues through serving customers and sorting through donating goods.

Having the benefit of completing both a degree in law and business is very practical as both areas complement each other and the knowledge that I possess from one enhances my ability to comprehend and understand the other. I found this particularly useful in the area of commercial law. This unique understanding of both areas would undoubtedly be significantly important to me in working with Byrne Wallace.

Working in a team is vital to the work carried out in Byrne Wallace, it is evident that I work well in a team by my participation in various hockey teams, including captaining my school's junior team. I am a competitive and committed individual and I feel that the hard work I put into training is very rewarding and would be an asset to me when working at Byrne Wallace. My excellent work ethic is also proven having completed Grade 8, the optimum grade to achieve in the Royal Irish Academy in Piano, which is one of my proudest achievements to date and the dedication I required for this is a value which I strongly believe is in line with the work ethos at Byrne Wallace. I now find this an excellent way to unwind and relax after studying or just an enjoyable activity when with friends. I am an active committee member of my local GAA club, Durlas Og, and set up and monitor the social media accounts. As well as being elected the academic representative on the student council for my course.

Being able to obtain excellent grades while working part time and financially securing my education proves that I am a flexible individual, and I have the ability to multitask. A work life balance is vital in today's world and I have proven to be able to obtain this by both continuing to further my studies and also participate in extracurricular activities such as being a member of the UCC FLAC society. As a member of the society I have had the opportunity to attend various mock clinics which provided me with a valuable knowledge into a number of areas which students may encounter issues with. While also attending actual clinics with students, this was a rewarding experience to see an actual solicitor giving their time to advice a student who may otherwise be unable to receive legal advice.

I believe that travelling is one of the best ways to improve international relations between companies and have made a number of cultural trips. Through globalisation firms have become a very international field and it is imperative for this. I think it is very important for people at all levels to have a knowledge of the culture of these areas which can undoubtedly only be learnt through travelling to these places and experiencing the culture first hand.

I hope to have the opportunity to interview with you for the traineeship programme. I thank you for taking the time to review my application and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours Sincerely,

Rachelle Bowden