

Reem Ka'ati,  
6 Temple Court,  
Hogan Place,  
Dublin 2.

Ms Crona McLoughlin,  
HR Manager,  
ByrneWallace,  
88 Harcourt Street,  
Dublin 2.

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Dear Ms McLoughlin,

I would like to apply for a place on the 2015 ByrneWallace Trainee Solicitor Programme.

Born in Damascus, Syria, but raised in Jordan, I studied law at the University of Jordan and received first class honours in my undergraduate degree in 2009. In 2011, I won a full scholarship to the College of Europe, Bruges, where the subject of my Master's thesis was "Parent Company Liability in Case of Subsidiary Insolvency". I trained with the international law firm, Eversheds, in Amman and was hired into the corporate department in 2013 upon qualification. My work was primarily through English, although Arabic is my native tongue. I am also proficient in French; my LLM was through both English and French and subsequently I lived in Brussels for a year.

I came to live in Ireland in 2014 with my Irish husband. While settling into life in Dublin, I did freelance translation and project work through Eversheds Amman with Yahoo Dublin. I also worked as a Project Assistant in McCann FitzGerald on Project Poseidon, which gave me valuable exposure to life in an Irish corporate law firm and ensured that I continued to practice my legal skills.

Now that I have moved permanently to Ireland, I am determined to pursue my career in corporate law. Having qualified in one of the best-regarded law firms in Jordan, I wish to continue in the same vein and am applying to the top-tier law firms in Ireland to train as an Irish solicitor. However, I would like to train with ByrneWallace in particular. I am attracted by the firm's strong employment and public sector practices and the fact that it has a marked presence and excellent reputation internationally through its many foreign clients. Furthermore, having worked with ByrneWallace's real estate team during project Poseidon, I was impressed with the professionalism and cooperation that team showed.

I believe that I could make an immediate contribution to ByrneWallace as a trainee, having significant experience in legal drafting and research. I have strong analytical skills and experience in researching and interpreting large volumes of complex information, often to tight deadlines. I am a strong team player – I was a member of moot court teams in university – and have demonstrable leadership qualities – I was elected as a student representative in the College of Europe. I have a warm, friendly and outgoing personality, and am suited to working in a busy and sociable office environment.

As a Jordanian-qualified lawyer and fluent Arabic speaker, I offer a unique profile as a potential trainee. The Irish Government has identified Islamic finance as a growth area in its [Strategy for Ireland's International Financial Services Sector 2015-2020](#); an estimated 20% of the Islamic funds market outside the Gulf is located in Ireland. Trade in services between the United Arab Emirates and Ireland alone in 2013 reached €788 million, with €711 million of this in favour of Ireland. There are therefore significant opportunities for a law firm like ByrneWallace in working with Arabic companies and in developing Sharia-compliant businesses in Ireland. I could make a real contribution in this area, having studied Sharia law for my primary degree and practised in a jurisdiction with a strong Sharia influence.

I very much hope that you will give me the opportunity to discuss my application at interview.

Yours sincerely,

Reem Ka'ati