

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you in relation to my application for the Traineeship Programme at ByrneWallace.

I am a final year Business and Law student at UCD and I have a strong desire to enter a career in law. From a young age I have had an interest in the law and my knowledge in this area has expanded hugely throughout my university education. I am now ready to take the next step in my career goals and would love to join one of Ireland's most progressive law firms.

I am a hard-working, ambitious individual with experience in a professional services firm, volunteer work, retail and the hospitality sector. I feel this has made me into a dependable and diverse employee. Although I do not have direct legal work experience, the law has played a part in every job I have had. While working in the tax department of PwC I saw the extent to which law impacted the real world. It was integral to every piece of work I did and was the most thing that interested me. I also work in a pharmacy, a heavily regulated industry. Here, I became aware of the many legal restrictions involved with dispensing medicines, while also becoming aware of my rights as an employee and consumer rights. In each place I have worked I have realised the huge impact that law has on its everyday workings.

I have chosen to apply to ByrneWallace because as one of Ireland's top commercial law firms I feel there is much I can learn from some of the industry's most talented lawyers. The opportunity to start my career in law here is one I do not want to miss and I think my skill-set from both my university education and my experience in part-time work makes me a suitable applicant. Being from both a business and law background I believe ByrneWallace is the perfect option which will be both challenging and rewarding. In addition to becoming a lawyer it affords the opportunity to be a business leader simultaneously.

As Ireland's Law Firm of the Year 2016 there is much for me to learn from the people at ByrneWallace and also that I can give. I am a strong advocate for CSR having volunteered with my local Special Olympics bowling club, volunteering with disabled children in Lourdes and completing the Pope John Paull II Papal Cross award. The commitment ByrneWallace has made in this area is both admirable and exciting. With a keen interest in basketball and GAA, I am a good team player and realise the importance of working as a team. Having completed the Croagh Patrick 7 Day Challenge and Grade VIII on silver flute, I feel I have shown persistence and ambition. I have strong communication skills which were enhanced in competitions such as the James Joyce Maidens, Soroptimists Ireland Public Speaking competition and the Cecil Lavery Mooting competition. From being a recipient of the Rotary Youth Leadership Award, being elected Senior Prefect by staff and peers in secondary school to being a Peer Mentor to incoming first years in UCD I believe I have shown the leadership necessary to be successful in the commercial law area.

I would truly relish the experience to start my career in law at your firm, to learn from the best and to be a part of a team that clients can truly trust to deliver an exceptional service. I believe I would be an asset to your team.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Sophie O'Donnell