

Dear whom it may concern,

My name is Stephanie Wilkinson, I am a mature student and I am currently in my Second year in the Law and Society course in Dublin City University. I participated a great deal in the society aspect in the university, I was Semi-Finalist in the Aoife King Memorial Moot Court in May 2019 when I was a first year student, this was also my Second attempt of mooting.

As a re-cap into my history, I completed a FETAC Level 5 in Security Studies with Criminology. I completed this course in 2018. It was a year long course. I got very involved in the social aspect of college life there too and I was voted by my peers as Class Representative in my group and also became part of the Board of Management of the college.

We also discussed future plans that would improve the college, E.g. New courses introduced or enhanced to encourage interest of prospective students to apply for them. E.g. Beauty therapy, but with Sports massage and we will then try and see if we could facilitate that possibility.

I also completed a Computer Literacy and Technology course and also a Design and Graphics course in Kilkenny Employment for Youth, this was a three-year course where I learned to be computer savvy and also introduced me to the retail world where I developed great communication skills and a great deal of confidence with negotiating with people.

I went on work experience in a moderate law firm in Kilkenny city called Poe, Kiely, Hogan, Lanigan solicitors. I got to spend a month there shadowing a solicitor who worked in the Criminal law sector with many years of experience. I learned a great deal on the office work aspect as a solicitor there and really enjoyed working in an office environment.

I participated in the Arthur Cox Accelerate programme too, this was a day spent in the office. We got to meet the partners and watch presentations on study tips and tricks. I was then asked if I wanted to participate in a Mentor/Mentee campaign. I now have a Arthur Cox trainee solicitor assigned to me for twelve months who helps me with any problems or queries in relation to studies.

I also participated in the Eversheds Sutherland Law start day and it was a day spent meeting partners, associates and trainee solicitors. I got to learn what a day in the office is like for a trainee solicitor, FE-1 preparation and tips, etc. The day was very informative and insightful.

To present, I then participated in a similar trainee and mentor programme with DCU, which is connected to The Engagement Award, where students participate in workshops to enhance skills and also encourages engagement in university life for a bronze, silver or gold award at the end of the year. I was assigned a mentor from An Garda Síochána for a period for nine months and who was also previous student from DCU and we meet every month where he teaches me about the role as a garda and what the duties are and the assignments that do be assigned to them.

Future plan is to do Intra year after I complete my second year in a law firm or The Policing Authority. Since I don't have any exams during Intra year. my plan is to complete two FE-1 examinations and those two will be EU law and Constitution as they were my least favourite modules so I will focus on them first, then after final year I will focus on the rest of the examinations.

I hope you enjoyed reading about me and I hope to hear from you soon.

Le Meas,

Stephanie.