To whom it concerns,

My name is Timothy Neenan, and I am a fourth year Law student in Trinity College Dublin. I am applying for a place on your Summer Internship Programme in order to experience the practice of commercial law in one of Ireland’s leading firms. It is my ultimate ambition to continue with Byrne Wallace and secure a training contract at the end of the internship. This, I believe, is because Byrne Wallace is the firm best suited to help me become a first-rate lawyer. I will set out below why Byrne Wallace should select me.

A great lawyer needs to be bright, ambitious and able to consistently succeed under pressure. These are characteristics that I believe I possess.

Throughout my time at secondary school, I consistently performed to a high level in both the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate, receiving 520 points, while also studying at DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama. I attained grade 8 in piano and music theory, and advanced level 1 in clarinet during this time. I am a Feis Ceoil silver medal winner for piano and was awarded two scholarships by DIT. My rigorous musical training has instilled in me disciplines such as perseverance and attention to detail, which have also significantly contributed to my academic and personal success.

During my second year at Trinity, I successfully competed for a place in The University of Hong Kong (HKU) to spend my Junior Sophister year. HKU is currently ranked as having the 18th best law school in the world and as the 2nd highest ranking university in Asia. My ambition to study at the best university available to me drove me to choose HKU over the other European and US exchange universities. I also relished the challenge of immersing myself in an intriguing and very different culture on the other side of the world, without the crutch of being able to return home at will. I made every effort to take advantage of HKU’s extensive business and financial law modules choosing Global Business Law, International Economic and Regulation of Financial Markets, taught by two of the leading practitioners and authors of these fields. I also undertook modules in Alternative Dispute Resolution and Negotiation Theory and participated in a number of in class negotiations and mediations. Dispute resolution is something that Byrne Wallace specialises in and requires a skill set that I believe I have and want to develop further. At HKU I was pitted against highly competitive local students and the brightest minds of Asia, as well as other exchange students from the most prestigious UK, US and Australian universities. With the standard being higher than anything I had experienced before I was forced to work harder and in a more efficient fashion. However I relished this challenge and revelled in the fast paced environment. I consequently finished at least in the upper third of all my classes and improved on my second year results.

While achieving this I also set up and ran a travel page for exchange students, organising and travelling on a number of trips to countries in Southeast Asia. While this tested my time management and organisational skills, I believe I was extremely successful in immersing myself in Asian culture, while making lifelong friends from a range of different backgrounds, and performing at a higher academic level.

Since returning to Dublin I have resumed my employment with Weir & Sons jewellers as part of their sales and customer service team, primarily selling premium jewellery and watches. Weirs is a family firm with a long established and loyal customer base where reputation, service and discretion are valued assets. As a member of the sales team, I therefore represent the company and I am the first point of contact for all customers whether in person or by telephone.

From casual sales enquiries to specific technical queries, it is my primary responsibility to provide accurate, informed and knowledgeable technical information to all customers.

Having previously worked in the store, I was given the expanded role and responsibility of training the Christmas staff. This was done simultaneously with sales during one of our busiest periods.

Working at Weir and Sons has reinforced in me the core values of integrity and corporate loyalty. Prior to and during the busy Christmas period I worked an average of 30 hours a week, which I had to balance with my college commitments and completion of three essays. I chose to write on FinTech in one of these essays, an area which piqued my interests whilst I was studying under Douglas Arner. With my essays completed and my hours in work reduced, I am now focused on finishing my time in Trinity with a strong performance in the summer exams and securing an internship for the summer with Byrne Wallace.

From what I have read, the structure of the internship and traineeship programs appears excellent, with plenty of interaction between all levels, from interns to partners, which is conducive to more comprehensive internships and traineeships. I am determined to learn from the best, to receive the most thorough training that the legal world has to offer. Only through pushing myself to my limits can I realise my potential. I want to work in an environment where excellence is not only encouraged but expected. I want to train in a globally respected firm, where my bright mind and ambition are rewarded, and where I can grow for years to come. While I still have a way to go in terms of my training, through my academic results and my year exchange I believe I have demonstrated an ability to succeed in any set of circumstances. My appetite to learn is insatiable and under the watchful eye of Byrne Wallace I am bound to flourish and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration,

Yours sincerely,

Timothy Neenan