RE: NUIG SCHOOL OF LAW CLINICAL PLACEMENT PROGRAMME

Dear All:

I am writing to see if you would be willing – either again or for the first time – to take on a final year NUIG law student for a part-time placement scheduled to commence in mid to late January. Many thanks to those of you who have already confirmed that you are taking a student(s) on.

Demand for the clinical placement programme is unprecedented this year and, as it now stands, I regrettably will not be able to offer a placement to all students seeking one.

Under the clinical placement programme, students must complete a minimum of 80 and no more than 100 hours over the course of the second semester (mid to late January to early February). I encourage students to be flexible in how they complete the required hours in the hopes that they will have the optimal learning experience and provide the maximum support to the firm they are placed with. In short, how they fulfil the commitment is down to whatever is agreed between them and their placement supervisors.

Remuneration is not required, and indeed is strongly discouraged, because their “payment” is in the form of the academic credit they receive for completing the placement. Moreover, owing to the pandemic, students are engaging in placements that are office-based, remote or a hybrid of both. Again, flexibility is the hallmark.

Solicitors who facilitate students regularly comment that it has proven to be an extremely rewarding experience and the students who have taken part often say that it is a standout aspect of their legal education in that it brings together the theory they have learned in the lecture theatre and the “real world” of law practice.

If you are interested in taking a student on in January, please contact me as soon as possible at (larry.donnelly@nuigalway.ie) or on 087 7425965.

All the best for Christmas and in 2022,

Larry Donnelly