

Richelle Go Ocao
13B Billabong Place
Botany Downs
Auckland 2010

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Simmonds Stewart

Level 4
4 Vulcan Lane
Auckland 1010

Dear Simmonds Stewart recruitment team,

I am writing to apply for a graduate position at your Auckland office in 2020. I have recently completed an LLB/BCom conjoint degree at the University of Auckland where I majored in Information Systems and Economics. I was drawn to this opportunity because of Simmonds Stewart's focus on the technology sector and your reputation as a pre-eminent legal firm for start-ups. I liked how your firm has embraced innovation and has taken a different, practical approach to legal services, most notably by offering free open-source legal resources. A graduate position at your firm appealed to me because I would be able to gain valuable hands-on experience working alongside talented individuals who are passionate about providing clients with what they need to grow their businesses globally. It would also be an exciting opportunity to be on the front line of techlaw as new technologies continue to be developed and for which new applications are being found.

I believe I would be an asset to Simmonds Stewart because of my abilities in technology, my strong communication skills, and the passion I bring to my work.

As an information systems student and tutor, I have become increasingly aware of the reality of how technology is redefining our world. For several semesters I was involved with coaching students through and marking an assignment where students proposed a way to use information systems to make the world a better place and provide a supporting business proposal. I enjoyed working with students that were thinking as fictional start-ups, listening to their innovative ideas and offering my expertise to help them meet the assignment's requirements. Currently, I am researching governance models for public blockchain platforms and DAOs (Decentralised Autonomous Organisations) which have the potential to have a transformative impact on corporate structures.

I have developed strong communication skills through working as a teaching assistant at the University of Auckland and in my success in university mooting and negotiation competitions. I can deliver complex ideas in a clear and concise method that suits my audience. This would assist me in providing the high quality and tailored legal advice that clients have come to expect from Simmonds Stewart. In my teaching, I interact with students with different backgrounds, learning styles and needs. I have learnt how to listen to their concerns, discern how to respond and do so accurately, clearly and in a way that is sensitive to their circumstances. Participation in university mooting and negotiation competitions has shown me how these skills are equally valuable in a legal environment.

Finally, I believe the passion I bring to my work will make me a valuable addition to Simmonds Stewart. In my studies and my work as a teaching assistant, I brought both competence and empathy to my work. This approach is something that I believe I share with your firm, as your industry-leading expertise and strong relationships with your clients are consistently reflected in their testimonials. I would be delighted to work in a firm that is not only committed to innovation and excellence but is passionate about seeing their clients succeed on a global scale.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to hearing from you. A deeper analysis of my skills and experience can be found in my CV but if you would like to contact me for any reason, please feel free to give me a call on 021 029 18084.

Yours sincerely,

Richelle Go Ocao