

## WORK LEARN STUDENT STORY | WINTER 2020



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"PASS (Peer Assisted Study Session) Leader"

I am currently a third-year student in the Faculty of Forestry pursuing my BSc. in the Forest Resources Management program. In Forestry, we are pretty lucky, as student services have created a "Forestry Digest" that gets emailed out to subscribers every Monday. I discovered my Work Learn opportunity here under the digest's job listings when I was in my first year, I highly recommend reaching out to your advisors for opportunities or checking out careers online frequently.

My specific position, a PASS (Peer Assisted Study Session) Leader, allows me to organize, facilitate, and help guide students through traditionally difficult first-year courses. I work up to 10 hours a week with two live-run hourly sessions weekly for students. The courses that I run sessions for are an introductory soil science course and calculus with applications to forestry. Prior to being a PASS Leader, in summers I've worked as an ocean literacy-based camp instructor, and also as

a park programmer at pools in my hometown. Despite not having direct experience in the 'teaching' field, I've always been interested in helping inspire others and organize activities.

I've managed to find alignment between my Work Learn position and my degree. The courses I lead sessions for consist of recurring topics and concepts that appear throughout my undergrad. Never before would I have fully realized the full importance and relevance of soil in all aspects of forest operations and management decisions.

Through balancing my Work Learn position with my academic responsibilities, I've improved my own study practices and simultaneously have enhanced my time management skills. This Work Learn position has given me the opportunity to grow both my professional and interpersonal skills while igniting my passion for the subject matter and education.

Upon graduation, I have always planned to achieve my RPF and RPBio professional designations, and I still do, but I now want to ensure my career also involves community engagement at a high level when the time comes. Education and leadership are both two-way streets, and I want to incorporate that concept in whatever career I end up pursuing in the future.

My time as a PASS leader has sincerely been the highlight of my undergrad experience thus far. My biggest advice for success in the position is to be positive and be yourself - as cliché as that might sound. Do your best, hold yourself accountable and be kind! The goal I have in mind whenever I prepare and approach my PASS sessions is to create a safe and welcoming place for students to come and feel more confident and expand their social network and have people to collaborate and study with outside of my sessions.

