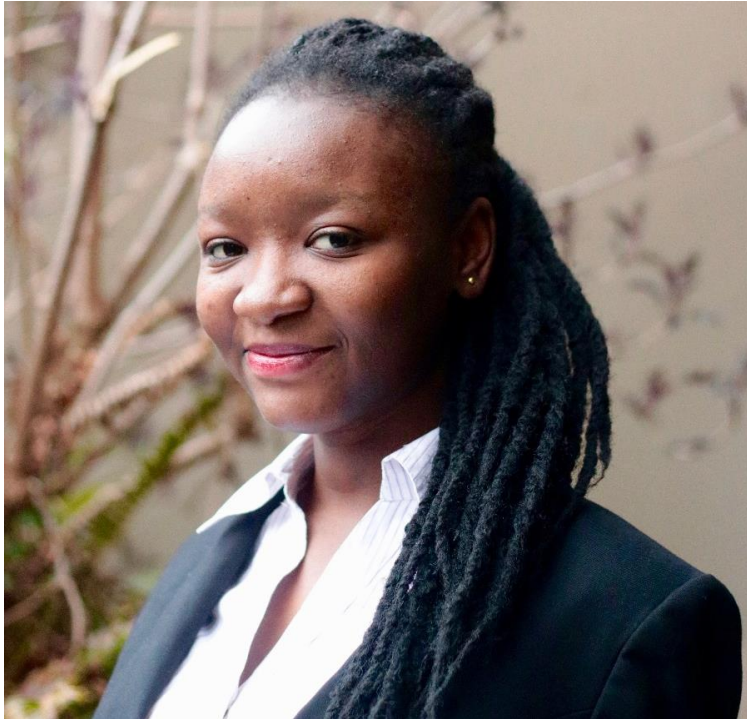




## Work Learn W21 | Sara Compaore



*Sara Compaore, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, Biology  
Chapman Learning Commons Assistant, Chapman Learning*

My Work Learn job search has not been straightforward and required a lot of applications and patience. In fact, in my first and second years at UBC, I had applied to many Work Learn positions and been unsuccessful. During that time, I think I was leaning too much on research positions, as I wanted experience related to my biology degree. I found out about my Work Learn job from my roommate, who was actually working in this position. She heard the team was hiring and knew I was looking for work, so she encouraged me to apply. I submitted my resume and the next day I had an interview! I was fortunate to get the position that quickly and have returned to this job for two more terms.

Before working in the Chapman Learning Commons (CLC), I had only ever worked in my home country for

four years as a library assistant. Outside of that, I had no work experience in Canada and little work experience in the customer service/administration side of things. Working at the CLC allowed me to gain more customer service experience, interpersonal skills, and leadership experience. As for customer service, my job gave me the opportunity to operate the CLC help desk, which is one of the busiest on campus. I learned the interpersonal skills required to interact with patrons in a professional and inviting manner. This position allowed me to be a part of an amazing team composed of my coworkers and supervisors and to be involved in project management, write resource guides and lead workshops. I also got to work on blog posts, which was a great way to practice my creative writing outside of my classes as a Biology major.

It definitely took an adjustment period to find balance in working and studying. I was used to studying all the time, having a full course load and volunteering on a weekly basis. It took many organizational skills, which will follow me beyond the CLC. It was nice to be able to learn those in a place where I was valued as a student first. That is something that Work Learn positions offer you, you have time to find that balance and that really helps you develop. For me, I tried to make sure I was not double booked, made time for my courses and extracurricular involvements while allowing myself enough time to prepare for finals and exams.

My advice to anyone considering Work Learn is to apply, apply, apply! Do not limit yourself. I think the mistake I made when I first started applying was to be fixated on a research assistant job. Be open to different things that come your way and do not get discouraged, the right position will come and the skills you will learn will always be applicable to other positions in the future.