



**Scalabrini**  
Centre of Cape Town

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The Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town's vision is to foster the cultural, social and economic integration of migrants, refugees and South Africans into local society. Perceiving migration as an opportunity, the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town is committed to alleviating poverty and promoting development in the Western Cape while fostering integration between migrants, refugees and South Africans. In providing the assistance, emphasis is put on advocating respect for human rights and use a holistic approach that considers all basic needs.

Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town is the largest organisation aimed at helping migrants and refugees in South Africa, and as such, it provides services for around 4000 people a year. Team of 56 employees, as well as numerous volunteers and interns offer services through eight main areas: Paralegal Desk, Welfare, Women's Platform, Child and Youth Care Center, Employment Access, English School, Unite Youth, and UpLearn.

During my three months' time Cape Town, South Africa, I assisted in Employment Access office of Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town. During the internship, my work consisted of daily interactions and work with and for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants with the aim to promote socio-economic integration in South Africa. Among other things, I got a chance to increase employers' awareness of and use of the Job Placement Service, which facilitates the recruitment and placement of job ready beneficiaries upon request from employers, and to develop curriculum and thus enhance the chance of employment for our clients.

Being able to work with professionals from the field of law, forced migration, social work, women's rights, and moreover, being immersed into a completely different culture and system was an incredible experience for me. Although my work was primarily in

The centre is registered with the South African Department of Social Development as a non-profit organisation (021-079 NPO), as a youth and child care centre (C6887) and as a Public Benefit Organisation with the South African Revenue Services (930012808) and governed by a Trust (IT2746/2006).

Auditors: CAP

Employment Access office, I got a chance to observe how such a huge organisation works as a whole. At the same time, every office seemed like its own smaller ecosystem that still managed to function perfectly with the organisation as a whole.

Notwithstanding that my main job was to enhance employability of refugees, migrants, and South Africa in Western Cape and beyond, I have gained knowledge on the migration and refugee system as a whole in South Africa, understood the services and opportunities that the migrants and South African nationals can receive from the government, and have learned a great deal of information about the legal process of asylum seeking in South Africa, with all the benefits and regulations that come with it.

The biggest advantage that arised from this internship, however, was not theoretical knowledge I had to soak in, regardless of the large amount of it, it was the knowledge I gained through the interaction with the clients in Scalabrini Centre, as well as through interaction with colleagues and professionals employed in the organisation. Through this experience, I was given the opportunity to shape myself as a professional and choose a path I wish to follow in my interaction with clients, colleagues, as well as my motivation, diligence, and thirst for knowledge.

Describing what I was doing throughout my internship on a daily basis proves to be a harder task than it seems, as the job was dynamic and sometimes unpredictable. My daily routine depended on the clients' walk-ins in the office, as well as about the amount of assistance they requested online. Put simply, I was interacting with refugees and migrants daily, helping them build curriculums, cover letters, searching for job posts, matching potential candidates with future employers, interacting with other colleagues while trying to come to solution on how to best assist particular clients and so on. I was always trying to find new ideas on how to be more helpful to our clients and how to make our services more available to them, as well as how to connect them across various offices.

Time I had in Cape Town has been tremendously important for the professional I am becoming and has helped me shape my view and path on the career I plan to pursue, and as such, will always remain an important part of my life.