

Botany Department Graduate Student Teaching Assistants

Graduate students play an important role in the teaching of undergraduate students in the Biology Program at UBC. Not only do TAs participate in delivering quality undergraduate Biology education they also gain valuable professional development. The following is an overview of TA application procedure and policies for TA assignment and determined by TA Union (CUPE 2278) regulations and Departmental policy.

Biology Program Courses Requiring TAs through the Botany Department

Course	Term	Course Title
BIOL 111	1	Introduction to Modern Biology
BIOL 121	1 & 2	Genetics, Evolution and Ecology
BIOL 140	1 & 2	Laboratory Investigations in Life Science
BIOL 200	1	Cell Biology I: Structural Basis
BIOL 201	2	Cell Biology II: Introduction to Biochemistry
BIOL 209	1	Non-Vascular Plants
BIOL 210	2	Vascular Plants
BIOL 304	1 & 2	Fundamentals of Ecology
BIOL 230	1 & 2	Fundamentals of Ecology
BIOL 234	1 & 2	Fundamentals of Genetics
BIOL 260	2	Fundamentals of Physiology
BIOL 304 (Biol 230)	1 & 2	Fundamentals of Ecology
BIOL 306	2	Advanced Ecology
BIOL 320	2	Survey of Algae
BIOL 321	2	Structure and Evolution of the Bryophyta
BIOL 323	1	Structure and Reproduction of Fungi
BIOL 324	1	Introduction to Seed Plant Taxonomy
BIOL 334	1 & 2	Basic Genetics
BIOL 335	2	Molecular Genetics
BIOL 337	2	Introductory Genetics Laboratory
BIOL 340 (listed as 360)	1 & 2	Introductory Cell Biology Laboratory
BIOL 341 (listed as 360)	1 & 2	Introductory Molecular Biology Laboratory
BIOL 343	1	Plants & Peoples
BIOL 344	2	Human Heredity and Evolution
BIOL 351	1	Plant Physiology I
BIOL 352	2	Plant Physiology II: Plant Development
BIOL 415	2	Evolutionary Processes in Plants

The [number of TAs assigned](#) to each course for the coming academic year can be found in this link.

Duties and Hours

Successful candidates will be assigned to teach classes, mark papers and/or conduct tutorials and laboratories. A full TA position involves an average of twelve (12) hours per week for the Winter Session (September 1 to April 30), for a total of 384 hours. A one-half position involves an average of twelve (12) hours per week for one term (September-December or January-April), for a total of 192 hours.

Descriptions of the [TA duties](#) for specific courses are linked here. Each course will have a schedule of teaching and TA preparation meeting days and times. For large multi-sectioned courses there may be flexibility in TA scheduling, other smaller courses have set schedules. Make sure your own course or research schedules do not conflict with the courses you indicate your preference in the application. For more information on the duties and course scheduling contact the course coordinator or the instructor in charge.

Qualifications

A Graduate Teaching Assistant I (GTA I) is a graduate student who holds a masters degree and/or is registered in a doctoral degree program at the University of B.C., or is student who holds a masters or doctoral degree in the posted discipline.

A Graduate Teaching Assistant II (GTA II) is a graduate student who holds a bachelors degree and/or is registered at the University of B.C. or is a student who holds a bachelors degree in the posted discipline.

Botany Department policy (effective October 2008) requires that all incoming international graduate students with no experience in teaching at a English speaking institution take the International TA Training Program (ITA) before being considered for a TA position in the Biology Program.

Salary effective September 2009

Yearly salary for the full- time GTA I classification is \$11342 (\$29.54 per hour).

Yearly salary for the full-time GTA II classification is \$10914 (\$28.42 per hour).

Salaries for half-time positions are calculated on a pro rata basis.

Application Procedures and Deadline

Graduate students need to apply for each academic year. Those who are currently TAing in this academic year must reapply for the next year.

Ensure that your graduate advisor or research supervisor is aware of your application to TA and there are no conflicts with your research program.

Complete the linked [application form](#) clearly indicating which courses and in which terms (i.e. September 2011, Term 1 **and/or** January, 2012, Term 2) you will be able to teach. If this is your first TA application for the Botany Department, we also require a brief resume of the biology courses you have taken and previous teaching experience.

Submit your application directly to **Kathy Nomme** via email nomme@zoology.ubc.ca or drop off your application to BioSc room 2510.

Deadline for the application is: **Monday, May 9, 2011.**

Priorities in TA Assignment

Graduate students will be assigned on the basis of the following criteria, as stipulated by the TA union and Botany Department policy.

1. Preferred Status. Botany graduate students that currently or previously held a TA position with the Botany Department are entitled to a maximum of 4 years (8 consecutive 1-term positions) for a PhD student and 2 years (4 consecutive 1-term positions) for a Masters student. Masters students that transfer into a PhD program will be allotted 8 1-term positions in total, while students that complete a Masters program and then begin a PhD will be allotted 4 + 8 consecutive 1-term positions (Sect. 13.03 (b) (i) and (ii)).
2. On-going Botany graduate students who have had scholarships but not completed their degree or their years of entitlement (PhD 4 years, MSc 2 years)
3. Incoming Botany graduate student.
4. Botany Graduate students who have finished their allocations but not their degree and require support.
5. Botany Graduate students that have scholarships but want the teaching experience.
6. Graduate students from other Departments (E.g., Zoology, Medical Genetics, Pharmacy, Forestry)

Note: Incoming graduate students are not guaranteed a TA position in their first year.

International students are required to complete the ITA before they will be considered for a TA position (see Qualifications above).

TA Orientation

It is highly recommended that graduate students that are new TAs in the Biology Program participate in the fall TA Orientation session held early September. This one day workshop introduces graduate students to the academic culture of UBC, appropriate teaching strategies, class room management skills as well as addressing other issues in teaching undergraduate students in the Biology Program. Subsequent workshops offered in the fall and winter terms are recommended for further professional development.