

What things are you most looking forward to about being a TA?

- Getting paid a salary
- Getting a tuition waiver
- Having an office on campus
- It is an important addition to my CV
- A chance to work directly with faculty in my field
- A chance to teach – to help students learn more about my field
- A chance to learn more deeply about my field (to teach something, you have to learn it well)
- A chance to connect research & teaching
- A chance to improve English abilities
- A chance to learn from students
- Collegiality with other TAs
- A chance to learn from other TAs
- A stepping stone in my career
- Some freedom for developing curriculum and materials

What things about being a TA do you feel a bit of anxiety about?

- Dealing with a different academic **culture**
 - Ways of teaching and learning may be different
 - Ways and expectations regarding grading may be different
 - Saying the wrong thing re: sensitive topics
- **Language** concerns:
 - Miscommunication
 - Pronunciation – can students understand me?
 - Grading/correcting students' work
 - What if students try to manipulate me because I'm not a native speaker of English?
- **Teaching** concerns:
 - Nervous to be up in front of an audience
 - First time to teach – can I do it well?
 - ITAs may be perceived as “less” than instructors or professors
 - Who do I ask for help?
 - How do I create syllabi & materials? (Where do I find materials, old syllabi, etc.?)
 - Learning the course I'm teaching
 - Having to teach 2 very different courses
 - Familiarity with new technologies
 - Dealing with students' questions
 - Dealing with problem situations
 - How do I know if students like the class, and are learning what they should?
 - Responsibility for students' grades
 - Time issues – will I have enough time to teach and take care of my own studies?