Have Your Tuition Covered AND Make Money While Teaching!

Information for students admitted to graduate programs in FSPH

Serving as a teaching assistant (TA) while you are pursuing a graduate degree is a wonderful way to develop your professional skills, earn money, and have your tuition covered! A wide range of teaching assistant positions are available each quarter in the Life Sciences at UCLA to qualified students in graduate programs in the Fielding School of Public Health (FSPH).

Who is eligible to TA in Life Sciences?

- You must have an undergraduate (BA or BS) or graduate degree in Biology or Life Sciences and a grade of B+ or better in the course for which you want to TA. Individuals with degrees in molecular or cellular biology are in particular high demand.

How much do TA positions pay?

- Pay for a 50% teaching assistant position (which is the standard appointment for grad students teaching in the Life Sciences undergraduate courses) started at $6684 per quarter in AY 2016-17.
- TA’s with appointments at 25% or above also have tuition (not including non-resident tuition) and some of their fees (not including professional fees) covered the quarter(s) that they are teaching. In AY 2016-17, the amount of tuition covered each quarter was $5312.

What is involved?

- A typical 50% TA position (e.g., in the Life Sciences Core) involves attending lectures (~3 hours/week), teaching 2-3 lab or discussion sessions (~3-6 hours/week), attending weekly TA meetings, preparation, and grading. The total time commitment is ~20 hours per week (~220 hours per quarter). If you count tuition benefits, that comes out to > $50/hour!

How do I sign up?

- Applications for all quarters of the upcoming academic year are due each July. Contact the Student Affairs Officer in your department (http://ph.ucla.edu/current-students/student-affairs-office) or the FSPH Director of Career Services (Kristy Sherrer, ksherrer@ph.ucla.edu) for information about how to apply. You can also request to be “prescreened” to determine if you are a good candidate for a TA position in Life Sciences, even before you arrive at UCLA.

Want to teach something other than Life Sciences?

- Many other departments on campus (including all of the departments in FSPH, Environmental Science, Chemistry, Society and Genetics) also offer TA positions and have hired FSPH students in the past. The requirements, expectations, and deadlines for these positions vary. Please contact the Student Affairs Officer in your department (http://ph.ucla.edu/current-students/student-affairs-office) or the FSPH Director of Career Services (Kristy Sherrer, ksherrer@ph.ucla.edu) for more information.