Graduate Teaching Assistantship

The Graduate Teaching Assistantship is highly competitive and should be considered, along with coursework, a full-time position. It provides a stipend and a tuition waiver of up to ten graduate credits per semester during the academic year (Fall and Winter semesters). It is intended to support a student’s progress towards the completion of a degree in a timely fashion.

For the master’s degree, students supported by a Graduate Teaching Assistantship should complete their coursework by the end their fourth semester of support.

Initially MA students who receive a GTAship will be given one year of support. The GTAship can be renewed for another year if teaching and progress towards degree are acceptable. Students who request a third year of GTA support must provide written justification for continuation, and students who intend to continue in the Ph.D. program will be given priority for support for the third year.

Students who consider doing an MA and a Ph.D. should keep in mind that they can only be awarded a GTAship for up to five years, continuation of which depends on progress toward degree as well as teaching performance and maintaining a 3.0 GPA. GTAships will be awarded in such a way as to give priority to students making proper progress toward degree completion.

What is progress toward degree completion? In order to complete coursework within the four-semester timeframe, students must take two to three courses per semester, depending on their Plan:

- Students in **Plan A** must take at least 24 credits of graduate coursework plus 8 thesis credits. Students are advised to take 5-6 courses (15-18 credits) during their first year of funding and 2-3 courses (6-9 credits) along with 8 thesis credits during their second year of funding.

- Students in **Plan B** must take at least 29 credits of graduate coursework plus 3-4 essay credits. Students are advised to take 5-6 graduate courses (15-18 credits) during their first year of funding and 4-5 graduate courses (12-15 credits) along with 3-4 essay credits during their second year of funding.

- Students in **Plan C** must take at least 32 credits of graduate coursework. Students are advised to take 5-6 graduate courses per academic year.

**THE 5000-LEVEL LANGUAGE PRACTICUM DOES NOT COUNT TOWARD GRADUATE CREDITS REQUIRED FOR THE DEGREE OR FOR GTA ELIGIBILITY.**

**ALL GTAs MUST TAKE AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM OF TWO GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES OR 6 GRADUATE CREDITS PER SEMESTER, OTHERWISE THEY WILL LOSE THEIR GTAship.** This is a requirement stipulated by the Graduate School, which reads: “Graduate student appointees must be in good academic standing, i.e. have a minimum 3.0 honor point average or its equivalent. The graduate assistant must be enrolled for a minimum number of six graduate credits each per fall and winter semester appointments.”