

2019 Fall TA Conference Agenda

Tuesday, Sept 3 - Friday, Sept 6

Most sessions are in Harry Hickman Building (HHB) (unless otherwise noted)

All tracks open to everyone but we have made the following suggestions:

Sessions for New TAs in the Social Sciences

Sessions for New TAs in the Arts & Humanities

Sessions for New TAs in the Sciences

Sessions for International TAs

Sessions for All TAs

Note: Attend 6 or more individual sessions throughout the whole conference and write a 3-page reflective piece and you will receive a certificate acknowledging your commitment to professional development. Just make sure you sign your name on the sheet available in each session. The certificate will be mailed to your department about 3 weeks after the conference.

TUESDAY, September 3, 2019

Descriptions of sessions listed below

8:30 am - 9:00 am	Registration - Harry Hickman Foyer <i>Coffee and pastries provided</i>		
9:00 am - 9:45 am	<p>Welcome HHB105 Dr. David Capson Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies</p> <p><u>Introduction to teaching at UVic</u> Gerry Gourlay, TA Coordinator, LTSI</p>		
9:45 am - 10:00 am	Coffee Break <i>(provided)</i>		
10:00 am - 12:30 pm	<p>SESSION A1 HHB110 <u>Social Sciences: Who you are! Where you are going as a TA</u></p> <p>Pei-Ling Wang and Jess Willows</p>	<p>SESSION A2 HHB116 <u>Arts and Humanities: Who you are! Where you are going as a TA</u></p> <p>Janice Niemann and Mehdi Hashemi</p>	<p>SESSION A3 HHB128 <u>Sciences: Who you are! Where you are going as a TA</u></p> <p>Tasha Jarisz and Sai Konda</p>
12:30 pm - 1:15 pm	Lunch Break <i>(provided)</i>		
1:15 pm - 3:45 pm	<p>SESSION B1 HHB110 <u>Secrets to Success - How to Prepare for Your TA Role and Time Management</u></p> <p>Pei-Ling Wang and Jess Willows</p>	<p>SESSION B2 HHB116 <u>Leading Tutorials and Facilitating Discussion</u></p> <p>Janice Niemann and Mehdi Hashemi</p>	<p>SESSION B3 HHB128 <u>Preparing for your First Day as a TA in the Sciences</u></p> <p>Tasha Jarisz and Sai Konda</p>
3:45 pm - 4:00 pm	Coffee Break and Cookies! <i>(provided)</i>		
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	<p>SESSION C1 HHB128 <u>Practical Strategies for Creating Inclusive Classrooms</u></p> <p>Jess Willows and Carmen Lee</p>		

CHOOSE ONE SESSION PER TIME BLOCK

WEDNESDAY, September 4, 2019

8:45 am - 9:00 am	Harry Hickman Building, Room 128 <i>Coffee provided</i>		
9:00 am - 11:00 am	SESSION D1 HHB128 <u>First Day in the Classroom - Get it Right in the Beginning</u> Pei-Ling Wang and Jess Willows	SESSION D2 LIB129 <u>Cultural Awareness, Diversity, and Inclusion in the Classroom</u> Janice Niemann and Mehdi Hashemi	SESSION D3 LIB025 <u>Effective Marking and Feedback Strategies in the Sciences</u> Tasha Jarisz and Sai Konda
11:00 am - 11:15 am	Nutrition Break		
11:15 am - 1:15 pm	SESSION E1 HHB128 <u>Mental Health Connections: Help Students Thrive</u> Tasha Jarisz and Dawn Schell		
1:15 pm - 1:45 pm	Nutrition Break		
1:45 pm - 3:45 pm	SESSION F1 HHB128 <u>Indigenous Learning Methods: Cultural Practice and Relational Protocols in Educational Settings</u> Mehdi Hashemi and Erynne Gilpin		
3:45 pm - 4:00 pm	Nutrition Break		
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm	SESSION G1 HHB128 <u>Tools for Change: TA Training for Sexualized Violence Prevention</u> Sai Konda and Leah Shumka	SESSION G2 HHB110 <u>Facilitating Accessible Learning</u> Pei-Ling Wang and Trish Minor	

SESSIONS OPEN TO ALL TAs

THURSDAY, September 5, 2019

8:30 am - 9:00 am	Harry Hickman Building, Room 128 <i>Coffee provided</i>			
9:00 am - 11:00 am	SESSIONS OPEN TO ALL TAS	SESSION H1 HHB128 <u>Marking and Assessment of Different Formats - Providing Effective Feedback to Help your Students Succeed</u> Pei-Ling Wang and Jess Willows	SESSION H2 CLE C214 <u>Marking and Formative Feedback</u> Janice Niemann and Mehdi Hashemi	SESSION H3 CLE C316 <u>Promoting Active Learning and Positive Classroom Culture</u> Tasha Jarisz and Sai Konda
11:00 am - 11:30 am		Nutrition Break		
11:30 am - 1:30 pm		SESSION I1 HHB128 <u>Lesson Designing - Tips and Tricks for Leading Engaging Discussions and Providing Active Learning Opportunities</u> Pei-Ling Wang and Jess Willows	SESSION I2 LIB129 <u>Time to Teach!: The Capstone Session</u> Janice Niemann and Mehdi Hashemi	SESSION I3 EOW430 <u>Answering and Asking Questions</u> Tasha Jarisz and Sai Konda
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm		Nutrition Break		
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm		SESSION J1 HHB128 <u>Welcome to the Centre for Academic Communication!</u> Janice Niemann and Nancy Ami	SESSION J2 HSD A170 <u>Being a TA in CourseSpaces</u> Rebecca Edwards and Hajime Kataoka	

FRIDAY, September 6, 2019 for International Teaching Assistants

9:00 am - 11:30 am	SESSION K1 HHB128 <u>Same, but Different! - Working Towards International and Cultural Understandings - Looking at International, Domestic, and Indigenous Students</u> Crystal Washington, Saeed Rezvani, Erynne Gilpin, and Anne Cirillo
11:30 am - 12:00 pm	Nutrition Break
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	SESSION L1 HHB128 <u>What Do You Mean? - How to Communicate Effectively?</u> Crystal Washington and Saeed Rezvani
2:00 pm - 2:15 pm	Nutrition Break
2:15 pm - 4:30 pm	SESSION M1 HHB128 <u>Professionalism as an International TA</u> Crystal Washington and Saeed Rezvani

Fall 2019 TA Conference Workshop Descriptions

TUESDAY, September 3

Conference Intended Learning Outcomes:

- By gaining more awareness of the expectations of TAs, the resources available to them and new skills/strategies, TAs will feel more confident in their role.
- For those responsible for tutorials, labs, or discussion groups, TAs will practice and takeaway strategies to assist them in setting up the conditions necessary to develop a learning-centred classroom, such as establishing a positive classroom culture, employing formative feedback, fostering cultural awareness, implementing active learning, responding to students' questions appropriately, and executing effective open-ended questions.
- For those responsible for supporting students through assessment of student work, TAs will practice and takeaway strategies for providing effective feedback, designing and incorporating a grading rubric, and efficiently managing their time when grading.

10:00AM-12:30PM

Session A1 Room HHB110

[Social Sciences: Who you are! Where you are going as a TA!](#)

Facilitators: Pei-Ling Wang and Jess Willows

Congratulations on being awarded a TA position - you are now a teacher! Are you excited? Nervous? This introductory workshop will familiarize you to the differences between learning and teaching (this also refers to TAs who are markers only), but also between what it means to be a student and what it means to be a teacher. Participants will gain experience taking on a teaching role and will have an opportunity to practice self-reflection – an integral part of being a successful teacher.

Session A2 Room HHB116

[Arts and Humanities: Who you are! Where you are going as a TA!](#)

Facilitators: Janice Niemann and Mehdi Hashemi

Congratulations on being awarded a TA position - you are now a teacher! Are you excited? Nervous? This introductory workshop will familiarize you to the differences between learning and teaching (this also refers to TAs who are markers only), but also between what it means to be a student and what it means to be a teacher. Participants will gain experience taking on a teaching role and will have an opportunity to practice self-reflection – an integral part of being a successful teacher.

Session A3 Room HHB128

[Sciences: Who you are! Where you are going as a TA!](#)

Facilitators: Tasha Jarisz and Sai Konda

Congratulations on being awarded a TA position - you are now a teacher! Are you excited? Nervous? This introductory workshop will familiarize you to the differences between learning and teaching (this also refers to TAs who are markers only), but also between what it means to be a student and what it means to be a teacher. Participants will gain experience taking on a teaching role and will have an opportunity to practice self-reflection – an integral part of being a successful teacher.

1:15PM-3:45PM

Session B1 Room HHB110

Secrets to Success – How to Prepare for Your TA Role and Time Management

Facilitators: Pei-Ling Wang and Jess Willows

This workshop will review the responsibilities and professional expectations of the TA role and outline resources available to support your students and yourself as a TA. We will discuss the expectations to a TA and explore some strategies to assist with time management as you juggle your TA role with your graduate program and address the important foundations of community building, cultural awareness, and gathering feedback for reflection to help you succeed as a TA and a graduate student!

Session B2 Room HHB116

Leading Tutorials and Facilitating Discussion

Facilitators: Janice Niemann and Mehdi Hashemi

This workshop gives TAs strategies for creating learning-centred classrooms and running active classroom discussions, with a focus on kindness and meeting your students where they're at. It will also cover a variety of classroom management techniques. TAs will have the opportunity to practice the strategies discussed in this session.

Session B3 Room HHB128

Preparing for your First Day as a TA in the Sciences

Facilitators: Tasha Jarisz and Sai Konda

This workshop will introduce the essential strategies you need to successfully approach your first day in front of students. Some of the topics to be discussed include: icebreakers, getting to know your students, the ethics of your role, public speaking, imposter syndrome and much more! Participants will also have a chance to practice speaking in front of peers and then receive immediate written feedback from the facilitators and the audience.

4:00PM-5:30PM

Session C1 Room HHB128

Practical Strategies for Creating Inclusive Classrooms

Facilitators: Jess Willows and Carmen Lee

The BC Initiative for Inclusive Post-Secondary Education, under the organization STEPS forward, provides inclusion support for students with developmental disabilities to enroll, pursue studies and engage in extracurricular activities at their local college or university. This organization has been working in collaboration with the University of Victoria to foster equitable access to mainstream academics and campus life since 2005. Join us in this session to explore aspects of inclusion post-secondary education practices that can be applied in all classrooms so you as a TA can contribute to a more inclusive learning environment for all students. We will share some tools and strategies to cultivate inclusive classrooms. Participants will leave with the understanding of how a sense of belonging and engagement in valued experiences hold instructional power and are essential to inclusive classrooms.

WEDNESDAY, September 4

9:00AM-11:00AM

Session D1 Room HHB128

First Day in the Classroom – Get it Right in the Beginning

Facilitator: Pei-Ling Wang and Jess Willows

This workshop will start you off on the right foot for the first class of your tutorial or lab! We will talk about some methods to reduce anxiety and increase confidence, as well as imposter syndrome, and discuss general student expectations. There will be concrete strategies and tips for designing the first class and how to make a good first impression. You will take away a solid plan to use right away in your first class!

Session D2 Room LIB129

Cultural Awareness, Diversity, and Inclusion in the Classroom

Facilitator: Janice Niemann and Mehdi Hashemi

This workshop explores strategies to ensure that all students feel safe and all students are encouraged to participate in classroom activities and course content, with a focus on addressing oppression within academic settings. We will address cultural awareness, accessibility, teaching difficult topics, and welcoming diverse student identities in relation to issues such as colonialism, sexism, racism, ableism, misogyny, classism, and other forms of discrimination.

Session D3 Room LIB025

Effective Marking and Feedback Strategies in the Sciences

Facilitators: Tasha Jarisz and Sai Konda

This workshop focuses on how to provide effective and constructive feedback to students on assignments and in the classroom. Participants will evaluate examples of effective and ineffective feedback, and discuss the importance of creating and using marking rubrics while grading student work. This workshop will also cover how to use classroom assessment techniques (CATs) to get immediate feedback from students in your lab/tutorial.

11:15AM-1:15PM

Session E1 Room HHB128

Mental Health Connections: Help Students Thrive

Facilitator: Tasha Jarisz and Dawn Schell

As a TA you often get the first glimpse of a student who is struggling, and you may be the first person they turn to for help. Responding to students in distress can be confusing and overwhelming at times. In this highly interactive session, you will hear from TAs who have experience supporting students in distress. You will learn how to effectively identify, respond to, and refer a student with mental health concerns to appropriate campus resources.

1:45PM-3:45PM

Session F1 Room HHB128

Indigenous Learning Methods: Cultural Practice and Relational Protocols in Educational Settings

Facilitators: Mehdi Hashemi and Erynne Gilpin

This workshop provides an understanding of Indigenous learning methods within higher education. It interrogates and critiques colonial assumptions about indigenous communities within the academic setting. It also provides an opportunity for critical self-reflection on Indigenous Lands, and equips the participants with tools and resources for continual learning support and developments on issues related to Indigenous learning.

4:00PM-5:30PM

Session G1 Room HHB128

Tools for Change: TA Training for Sexualized Violence Prevention

Facilitators: Sai Konda and Leah Shumka

During this session we will consider the specific role Teaching Assistants play in sexualized violence prevention and response at UVic. This will include understanding how UVic defines sexualized violence and consent, learning how to receive a disclosure and where to get support, and learning what are the policy options for those impacted by sexualized violence. Further, participants will be provided practical tips and advice for how to prevent sexualized violence with space created to discuss the TA context.

Session G2 Room HHB110

Facilitating Accessible Learning

Facilitators: Pei-Ling Wang and Trish Minor

Today's student population is diverse! Did you know over 1200 students are registered with UVic's Centre for Accessible Learning? The vast majority of registered students have conditions that are not visibly apparent. As a TA, how can you best support a diverse group of learners? This workshop will explore the meaning of an accessible learning environment, why it is important, and how you can help foster it.

THURSDAY, September 5

9:00AM-11:00AM

Session H1 Room HHB128

[Marking and Assessment of Different Formats – Providing Effective Feedback to Help your Students Succeed](#)

Facilitators: Pei-Ling Wang and Jess Willows

This workshop will focus on marking a wide range of assignments, including lab experiments/assignments, short answers and essays. How do you know what the correct answer is? What is a rubric and how can it make the marking process easier? How do you know what the professor expects? What does an A paper look like as opposed to a B? How can I provide effective feedback for students? We will answer all these questions and more, as well as offering lots of hands on practice!

Session H2 Room CLE C214

[Marking and Formative Feedback](#)

Facilitator: Janice Niemann and Mehdi Hashemi

This workshop explores strategies for TAs to give effective feedback to students and discusses the importance of formative feedback (as opposed to summative feedback). It includes a practical marking exercise in which TAs can practice some of the strategies discussed on a sample written assignment.

Session H3 Room CLE C316

[Promoting Active Learning and Positive Classroom Culture](#)

Facilitators: Tasha Jarisz and Sai Konda

This workshop will introduce what active learning is, how to set a positive classroom culture, and provide examples of how a more learning-centered classroom can be achieved. Participants will have a chance to practice some of the active learning techniques within the session.

11:30AM-1:30PM

Session I1 Room HHB128

[Lesson Designing – Tips and Tricks for Leading Engaging Discussions and Providing Active Learning Opportunities](#)

Facilitators: Pei-Ling Wang and Jess Willows

This hands-on workshop will focus on the use of a variety of discussion formats and classroom management techniques, providing practice using methods such as think-pair and share, jigsaw, and fishbowl. We will also cover other active learning strategies that can be used with a diversity of topics, such as brainstorming methods, icebreakers to encourage a sense of community and classroom assessment techniques (CATs) that can help you determine student comprehension.

Session I2 Room LIB129

[Time to Teach!: The Capstone Session](#)

Facilitators: Janice Niemann and Mehdi Hashemi

This workshop gives TAs the opportunity to implement what they have learned over the course of the TA conference. TAs will choose one or two new strategies that they want to try or experiment with, and then they will practice these new methods in mini teaching sessions and via case studies. In this session, TAs will receive feedback on their teaching.

Session I3 Room EOW430

[Answering and Asking Questions](#)

Facilitators: Tasha Jarisz and Sai Konda

“What if I do not know the answer? What will my students think if I don’t have the answer? My students will know more than me.” If these are some of the thoughts running through your head, then this is the workshop for you! Participants will engage in activities related to answering student questions (even those you do not know the answer to!) and ways to ask thought-provoking questions of your students. You will also have the opportunity to put what you have learned during the conference into practice during microteaching Q&A sessions in small groups.

2:00PM-4:00PM

Session J1 Room HHB128

[Welcome to the Centre for Academic Communication!](#)

Facilitators: Janice Niemann and Nancy Ami

This session explores the many ways that the Centre for Academic Communication (CAC) can be a useful resource for undergraduate and graduate students. It will cover what exactly the CAC does, including role-playing through a sample CAC appointment with undergraduate student for TAs to watch, and will give TAs the opportunity to meet some of the CAC staff and identify exactly how the CAC can be useful for graduate students in all fields and at all stages of their degrees.

Session J2 Room HSD A170

[Being a TA in CourseSpaces](#)

Facilitators: Rebecca Edwards and Hajime Kataoka

Find out how to take advantage of CourseSpaces in your work as a TA. CourseSpaces is the learning management system used in most undergraduate courses at UVic. In this session, you will see top tips and tricks for marking and giving feedback, communicating with students, promoting student engagement, and more!

FRIDAY, September 6
International Teaching Assistant Conference Day

By the end of the ITA conference day, ITAs will identify and practice cultural differences, effective communication strategies, and professionalism in a Canadian classroom context.

9:00AM-11:30AM

Session K1 Room HHB 128

Same, but Different! - Working Towards International and Cultural Understandings – Looking at International, Domestic, and Indigenous Students

Facilitators: Crystal Washington, Saeed Rezvani, Erynne Gilpin, and Anne Cirillo

How are we the same? How are we different? How do these impact student learning, academic integrity, academic expectations? In this workshop, we will work together to understand the similarities and differences between cultures, cultural expectations and how this affects the students in your classroom as well as your professional growth and development as a TA. You will gain experience through group and pair activities, real life scenarios and role plays and reflection.

12:00PM-2:00PM

Session L1 Room HHB 128

What Do You Mean? – How to Communicate Effectively?

Facilitators: Crystal Washington and Saeed Rezvani

People communicate in different ways, with specific variations across cultures. What will you do when you are unable to understand your students' questions? How will you address situations when students are unable to understand you? This workshop will provide strategies TAs can use to address these situations; how to ask for clarification, and effective ways to communicate with students using body language (eye contact, body language, reading between the lines), verbal and written communication through the small group activities, pair work, reflection and feedback.

2:15PM-4:30PM

Session M1 Room HHB 128

Professionalism as an International TA

Facilitators: Crystal Washington and Saeed Rezvani

This workshop will explore topics around maintaining professionalism while respecting different cultural backgrounds in the classroom. We will discuss topics such as professional dress code, conflicts of interests, maintaining confidentiality, establishing boundaries between yourself and students, respecting office hours, social media profiles and interactions through a cultural lens.