



Tri-Campus TA Day 2017

August 30, 2017

Bahen Centre (BA), 40 St. George Street

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Time	Activity	Room
8:30am – 9:00am	Registration & Refreshments	BA 1 st floor atrium
9:00am – 9:15am	Welcome & Announcements	BA 1160
9:15am – 10:00am	What I Wished TAs Knew About Our Students	BA 1160
10:00am – 11:00am	Teaching Tips from TATP Teaching Excellence Award Recipients	BA 1160
11:00am – 11:15am	Coffee Break	BA 1 st floor atrium
11:15am – 12:30pm	Concurrent Sessions 1	Various rooms
12:30pm – 1:15pm	Lunch	BA 1 st floor atrium
1:15pm – 2:30pm	Concurrent Sessions 2	Various rooms
2:30pm – 2:45pm	Coffee Break	BA 1 st floor Atrium
2:45pm – 4:00pm	Concurrent Sessions 3	Various rooms
4:00pm – 4:30pm	CUPE 3902: Getting to Know Your Union	BA 1160
4:30pm – 5:00pm	Closing Remarks & Prize Draws	BA 1160

Visit the TATP website at www.tatp.utoronto.ca to learn more about our:

- Teaching Toolkit
 - Teaching Certificate Programs
 - Workshops
 - Individual Consultations
- And much more...



FULL PROGRAM

9:00am – 9:15am	Welcome & Announcements	BA 1160
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9:15am – 10:00am	What I Wished TAs Knew About Our Students	BA 1160
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Adam Kuhn, Director, Student and Campus Community Development, Division of Student Life

This session will introduce TAs to teaching at the University of Toronto through the students that they will be working with and what is important to them. Director of Student and Campus Community Development, Adam Kuhn, will share his experience from working in various institutions across Canada and will invite you to participate through sharing your knowledge and experience as students and future teachers.

10:00am – 11:00am	Teaching Tips from TATP Teaching Excellence Award Recipients	BA 1160
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Moderator: Fady Shanouda, Social Sciences & TA Award Coordinator, TATP

Award Recipients: Maïka Sondarjee, Department of Political Science

Karma Nanglu, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Kris Kim, Department of Chemistry

David Chan, Department of Psychology

Award-winning TAs and graduate student Course Instructors will share their best strategies for working successfully as a TA or a Course Instructor. This interactive panel will include a directed question-and-answer period drawing on real questions and concerns from TA Day participants.

11:00am – 11:15am	Coffee Break	BA 1st floor atrium
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11:15am – 12:30pm	Concurrent Sessions 1	Various rooms (see below)
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CS1.1 Preparing for Your First Tutorial in the Sciences & Engineering (BA 1180)

Kris Kim, TATP Sciences Coordinator

Shawn Xiong, TATP Sciences Trainer

This session will provide new TAs with helpful and practical tips for the first day of class. We will address common fears and concerns and provide participants with the necessary tools to make the first day of class a breeze.

CS1.2 Preparing for Your First Tutorial in the Humanities & Social Sciences (BA 1170)

Sandy Carpenter, TATP Humanities Coordinator

Fady Shanouda, TATP Social Sciences Coordinator

This session will provide new TAs with helpful and practical tips for the first day of class. We will address common fears and concerns and provide participants with the necessary tools to make the first day of class a breeze.



CS1.3 Teaching Writing in the Disciplines to Multilingual Students (BA 1200)

Alex Motut, Coordinator, Writing Instruction for TAs (WIT), Faculty of Arts & Science

Are you sometimes frustrated by the quality of student writing and looking for ways to help your students, particularly those for whom English is an additional language, improve their writing? This session will provide you with practical strategies for teaching writing in your discipline to multilingual learners. You will learn principles and strategies for the following:

- Helping all students, but especially multilingual learners, understand the expectations and conventions of writing in your discipline;
 - Giving useful feedback on writing without exceeding your allotted marking time; and
 - Incorporating writing activities into tutorials or labs that increase student understanding of course content and help students develop their English language skills.
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CS1.4 Your Teaching Persona as an International TA: Transitions and Opportunities (BA 1210)

Yaseen Ali, International Transition Advisor, Centre for International Experience

Tingting Zhu, TATP Sciences Trainer

International Teaching Assistants (ITAs) contribute to the U of T community as both educators and learners, adding unique perspectives that are informed by a wealth of life experiences and discipline-specific expertise. At the same time, they will encounter classrooms with students of different cultural backgrounds themselves, who hold varying expectations of how learning is demonstrated (and furthermore how they relate to authority figures). Multilingual TAs in particular might anticipate challenges around communicating and expressing ideas with confidence. How can ITAs foster a classroom culture that invites their students to co-create and manage these expectations? In transitioning to a new educational institution, what is transferable in terms of ITAs' existing strengths and teaching practices? Using intercultural communication frameworks, this session will invite participants to reflect on their interpersonal skills and how they can effectively support their students to engage and thrive in this dynamic space.

12:30pm – 1:15pm

Lunch

**BA 1st floor
atrium**

1:15pm – 2:30pm

Concurrent Sessions 2

**Various rooms
(see below)**

CS2.1 Discussion Based Tutorials in the Humanities and Social Sciences (BA 1180)

Cristina D'Amico, TATP Humanities Trainer

Joe Curnow, TATP Social Sciences Trainer

This training session will focus on how to support students in the process of developing writing skills. Over the course of the session, we will discuss various approaches to engaging your students through writing, both through in-class writing activities and assigned writing outside the classroom. TAs in this workshop will review key principles of effective grading that serve to support the development of writing skills in students. Participants will also have the opportunity to practice a variety of short writing exercises that can be incorporated into their tutorials, and will leave with a range of tools and strategies to support undergraduate writing.

** This session can count as Discussion Based Tutorial Training*



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CS2.2 Critical Reading and Reflection in the Humanities and Social Sciences  (BA 1200)

Laurie Drake, TATP Humanities Trainer

Majd Zouda, TATP Social Sciences Trainer

In this training session, we will discuss strategies to encourage students to engage in both critical reading and reflection. We will address the challenge of unprepared students through examining underlying barriers to successful reading in the undergraduate classroom. TAs in this session will explore concrete strategies for supporting reading both inside and outside the classroom, and discuss methods for integrating reading strategies that promote deep learning and comprehension throughout tutorials.

** This session can count as Skills Based: Critical Reading and Reflection Tutorial Training*

CS2.3 Encouraging Active Learning in “Cook Book”-Style Labs and Practicals  (BA 1170)

Kris Kim, TATP Sciences Coordinator

Kangbin Zhou, TATP Sciences Trainer

As a first contract TA in the Sciences & Engineering disciplines, you will oftentimes encounter labs and practicals of varying class sizes, where you are provided overwhelming volume of content to cover in a limited period of time. As a TA in these types of environment, implementing active learning techniques can be difficult. In this workshop, we will discuss the benefits of active learning in the context of Science & Engineering, and provide some examples of adaptable activities for engaging students.

** This session can count as Labs and Practicals Tutorial Training*

CS2.4 Spark a Discussion to Enhance Learning: Using Educational Technology in the Classroom (BA 1210)

Mariana Jardim, Faculty Liaison, Teaching, Learning and Technology, CTSI

Diane Michaud, Faculty Liaison, Teaching, Learning and Technology, CTSI

This session will provide approaches for structuring online Discussion Board activities to increase student engagement and foster peer-to-peer learning. How can you get students to participate? How can you help them feel connected to the course, to you and to each other? Teaching Assistants who attend this session will leave with a good grasp of how to design online activities from a student engagement perspective.

2:30pm – 2:45pm Coffee Break

BA 1st floor atrium

2:45pm – 4:00pm Concurrent Sessions 3

**Various rooms
(see below)**

CS3.1 An Introduction to Grading in the Sciences & Engineering (BA 1170)

Tingting Zhu, TATP Sciences Trainer

Sara Mazrouei, TATP Sciences Trainer

Grading is a tool for giving feedback on students' work and is necessary for continued learning, but it can be time-consuming and stressful if you don't plan ahead. It is crucial to know how to grade consistently, efficiently, and effectively, as well as how to provide meaningful feedback on students' work. In this workshop, you will learn about the responsibilities of a grader, effective grading strategies and how to handle grading disputes in sciences and engineering.



CS3.2 An Introduction to Grading in the Humanities & Social Sciences (BA 1180)

Joel Rodgers, TATP Humanities Trainer
Kristen Bos, TATP Social Sciences Trainer

Grading is a tool for giving feedback on students' work, and is necessary for continued learning, but it can be time-consuming and stressful if you don't plan ahead. It is crucial to know how to grade consistently, efficiently, and effectively, as well as how to provide meaningful feedback on students' work. In this workshop, you will learn about the responsibilities of a grader, effective grading strategies and how to handle grading disputes in humanities and social sciences.

CS3.3 Beginning and Engaging in Conversations for Learning (BA 1200)

Marie Vander Kloet, Assistant Director, CTSI/TATP
Tanya Lewis, Director, Academic Success & Accessibility Services
Heather McGhee-Peggs, Manager, Conflict Resolution Centre (CRC) for Graduate Students

Working as a teaching assistant can mean beginning and engaging in conversations about learning – some of these conversations can be surprising, complex and may feel difficult. In this session, teaching assistants work collaboratively to review case studies and to identify how to start, facilitate and close conversations about learning with students and teaching colleagues. Come join us and find the words to participate in important teaching conversations. .

CS3.4 Supporting Your Students, Supporting Yourself: Resources, Programs & Services at U of T (BA 1210)

Kathy Vi Mac, Program Coordinator, Sexual & Gender Diversity Office
Jonathan Vandor, Learning Strategist, Academic Success Centre
Heather Buchansky, Student Engagement Librarian, U of T Libraries
Nadia Kanani, Students for Barrier-Free Access

"Where can I get help with that?" As a frontline teacher, students will often come to you with questions about getting help with their academic work as well as for a broad range of difficulties that they might encounter. As a TA, you are in the ideal position to assist your students' learning by referring them to available resources and services. But it is also important for you to recognize your own needs as a TA and as a graduate student, and to know where you can turn for support for your own difficulties. Becoming aware of the breadth of resources available at the university can be a benefit to both you and to your students. In this interactive session, you will hear from people who represent a variety of different supports and resources at the university. You will explore strategies that you can use to support your students' learning, and discuss a variety of ways to normalize help-seeking behaviour, which can have a tremendous impact on student academic and personal success. You will also discuss ways that you can support your own health and well-being, and the resources available to help you do that.

4:00pm – 4:30pm CUPE 3902: Getting to Know Your Union BA 1160

Megan Harris, Vice-Chair, Unit 1 CUPE 3902

Hear from the Vice-Chair, Unit 1 about how CUPE 3902 supports TAs at the University of Toronto. Highlights of the Collective Agreement will be discussed. Common concerns regarding workload issues and TA-Course Supervisor relations will be addressed. Bring your questions!

4:30pm – 5:00pm Closing Remarks & Prize Draws BA 1160

Marie Vander Kloet, Assistant Director, TATP/CTSI

Three teaching books will be given away in the draw. You must be present to receive a prize.

1. *Student Engagement Techniques* by Elizabeth F. Barkley
2. *Teaching What You Don't Know* by Therese Huston
3. *Teaching to Transgress* by bell hooks



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Tri-Campus TA Day PEOPLE SEARCH “FIND SOMEONE WHO...”

PROMPT	RESPONSE & NAME
1. Was comfortable meeting with their course instructor during office hours when they were an undergraduate student – provide an example of when this happened	
2. Accessed a writing centre or math learning centre for support at some point during their undergraduate degree program – explain what help they received	
3. Has a strategy to offer undergraduate students who commute more than 2 hours per day	
4. Has a strategy to offer undergraduate students who work more than 20 hours per week	
5. Can name one learning support resource at the University of Toronto	
6. Can identify a good place to eat near their campus	
7. Can identify one University of Toronto resource for international students	
8. Has a strategy for effective time management	
9. Has a strategy for effectively managing stress	
10. Has a favourite quote about education or teaching	



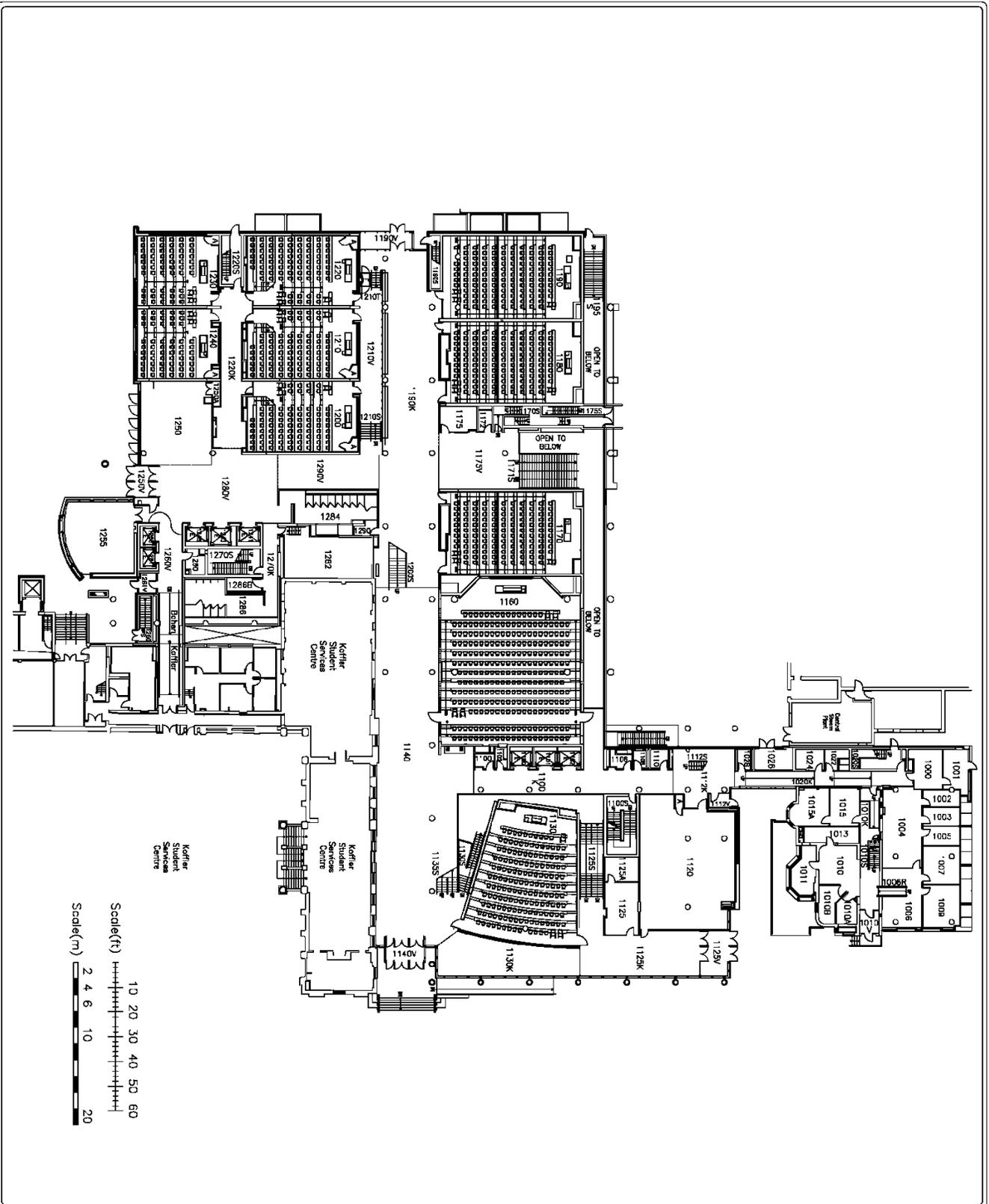


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PEOPLE SEARCH – DIRECTIONS

1. You will receive a recording sheet with a series of prompts.
2. Circulate through the room. (Turn around in your seats, get up and move around if need be!) Pair up and introduce yourself to a partner.
3. Ask your partner if they can assist you with any of the prompts. Record their name and response on your recording sheet. Reciprocate.
4. Keep meeting new partners until you have answers to all of your prompts.
5. Be prepared to share the information you have gathered.





	 University of Toronto	Campus & Facilities Planning	 Bohlen Centre for Information Technology	1st Floor	Revisions 11/02 12/05 12/06	03/04	DWG. # 6 of 14
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TA Day 2017 – Feedback Form

Your answers to the following questions will help us maintain and enhance the quality of TA Day. We very much appreciate your comments and will make an effort to incorporate your suggestions into future TA Day programming.

1. Overall, the sessions at this event have provided me with strategies that I plan to use as a TA

Strongly disagree=1					Strongly agree=5
1	2	3	4	5	

2. The event was well-organized

Strongly disagree=1					Strongly agree=5
1	2	3	4	5	

3. Which portion of the day did you find *most* beneficial? Why?

4. Was there any part of the day you did *not* find beneficial? Why?

5. What topics would you like to see addressed at future TA Days?

6. Additional comments or recommendations for changes:

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire.

