

Teaching Commons News For Grad Students



Summer is Beckoning!

Where has the time gone? With a winter that has finally and completely vanished and a spring that is not quite here yet...summer is around the corner. What does this mean for you? Is this a time for you to reconnect with family and friends? Is this a time to shut out the world and focus on your research? Or is this a time to reflect on all that you have accomplished this year? Perhaps it is a combination of all of these possibilities. From all of us at the Teaching Commons, we hope you take some time to acknowledge and

celebrate your achievements. What you do every day matters to those whom you teach!

In this issue, we are pleased to announce that registration is open for TACT and STA. Read on for more details!

Registration is OPEN for the TACT and STA Courses!!

The **Teaching Assistant Certificate in Teaching (TACT) course** is a one-semester blended course that will be offered in both the fall and winter semesters. Please note you only need to register for ONE term. This free course consists of 5 face-to-face classes and 4 online modules to be completed in between each class. This EDC (**Educational Developers Caucus**) accredited course is for Teaching Assistants to learn more about teaching in postsecondary education, reflect on your experiences, engage in multi-disciplinary discussions about teaching, learn from one another and apply what you've learnt through a mini-lesson cycle with peer feedback and the development of your teaching dossier. For more information, including the in-class dates, please visit the TACT website: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/graduate-students/courses-workshops-and-events/courses/tact/>

[Register for the Fall 2017 Semester of TACT](#) or [Register for the Winter 2018 Semester of TACT](#).

The **Senior Teaching Assistant (STA) program** is a full year (September – May) EDC (**Educational Developers Caucus**) accredited course for TAs interested in developing teaching and learning with their peers. Successful completion of TACT is required. Within this course, participants are expected to plan and deliver two educational events, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and acceptability of the events, and facilitate a session at our annual Supporting Teaching At York Symposium (STAY). For dates and more information about STA, please visit: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/graduate-students/courses-workshops-and-events/courses/senior-teaching-assistant-program/> or [Register your interest for the STA course](#).

Should you have any further inquiries please email Natasha May at maynat@yorku.ca.

TA and ITA Orientations

In the Fall we will be offering Orientation sessions for Teaching Assistants (TAs) who are new to York, with a special session for International Graduate Students who will be a TA for the first time at York. During this 3-hour session, participants will have the opportunity to meet other new TAs and discuss any uncertainties you have about your role, and develop strategies and solutions for overcoming these uncertainties or concerns. Our goal is that you will leave the orientation prepared to begin your role as a TA with more confidence and knowledge and also know where to turn to for support throughout the year, should you need it.

We offer repeat sessions of TA Orientation in order to meet the variety of schedules that graduate students have. Please register for ONE of the following sessions, by selecting the time of your choosing below:

- Friday September 1st [9:30am to 12:30pm](#) in DB 1014
- Tuesday September 5th [9:30am to 12:30pm](#) or [1pm to 4pm](#) in DB 1014
- Wednesday September 6th [9:30am to 12:30pm](#) or [1pm to 4pm](#) in DB 1014

If you are an International Graduate Student, you may be interested in our International Teaching Assistant (ITA) Orientation. In addition to discussing the above topics and providing resources and guidance to prepare ITAs for the Canadian classroom experience at York, these sessions will allow ITAs the opportunity to share, discuss and explore how your nationality and cultural distinctiveness can become an asset to the York learning community in your new role as an ITA.

- Friday September 15th [1pm to 4pm](#) in DB 1014
- Another date for this workshop will be announced soon!

A Great Day at STAY

The STAY Symposium on Friday May 5, 2017 was inspiring and from all of us at the Teaching Commons, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that made the day so special.

We are grateful to Theresa Beesley, a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Queens and someone who has engaged with us through TACT, the STA Course, and as a TCT, for her engaging and dynamic opening address.

Thank you to the Senior Teaching Assistants for all of their hard work all year and in particular in preparation for the STAY Symposium and facilitating some superb sessions!

At the Teaching Commons we wish to recognize the Teaching Commons Tutors, and thank each of them for their hard work all year. We could not provide the support and programs we do for graduate students without you. Furthermore, without graduate students participating in the events and programs we offer, we couldn't run them. So THANK YOU to everyone that has engaged with us this year!

