

Teaching Commons News For Graduate Students

Welcome to the Teaching Commons

The Teaching Commons brings together like-minded individuals who are interested in exploring and sharing teaching and learning innovation across York University. The Teaching Commons team is based in the Technology Enhanced Learning Building, TEL 1050, and maintains a virtual presence via our website <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/> and Moodle courses. More than a presence, we are a network of colleagues, collaborations and projects, working across and within Faculties and Support Services. As graduate students you are all members of the Teaching Commons! We offer a number of free courses, workshops and events to introduce and support graduate student teaching. We will highlight a few opportunities here, including **TACT** which still has spaces available in the Fall course. For a complete list of what we offer, see our website specifically for graduate students: <http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/graduate-students/>



TA and ITA Orientations

We offer 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:

- Tuesday September 1st [9:30am to 12:30pm](#) or [1pm to 4pm](#) in TEL 1014
- Wednesday September 2nd [9:30am to 12:30pm](#) or [1pm to 4pm](#) in TEL 1014
- Thursday September 3rd [9:30am to 12:30pm](#) in TEL 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. Please register by clicking on the time below:

- Friday September 11th [12pm to 3pm](#) in TEL 1014

Teaching Assistant Certificate in Teaching (TACT)

This [SEDA](#) accredited course is for Teaching Assistants to learn more about teaching in postsecondary education. It comprises 5 three hour face to face sessions plus an additional online component (4 online modules).

The course aims to build on your current experience in an iterative way by bringing in new knowledge and skills to enable you to develop your own teaching style; thus making your TA experience easier and more enjoyable. The accreditation you receive helps further develop your CV, which will be used for your future aspirations. Over the duration of the course you will develop your teaching dossier, which will then be your final assessment for the course. It can be later refined and used to obtain future employment in teaching.

There are limited spaces available in the Fall TACT course, so if you have at least one term of teaching experience and are available for the following dates, please [register for the Fall TACT course](#).

All Sessions will run 10am to 1pm in TEL 1014

Thursday September 10, 2015

Thursday October 1, 2015

Thursday October 22, 2015

Thursday November 12, 2015

Thursday December 10, 2015

Workshops and the 'Record of Completion' Certificate

If you are new to teaching at York and do not yet qualify for the TACT course, or are interested in a more flexible teaching certificate program, or are just looking for additional support, we offer a variety of workshops that can count toward our ['Record of Completion' Certificate](#). The Junior Certificate is for new TAs and requires attendance to at least 5 workshops. The Senior Certificate is for experienced TAs and the requirements include attending at least 4 workshops and the [STAY Symposium](#).

Marking and Grading Workshop for Graduate Students

Friday September 4, 2015, 10am – 4pm in TEL 1014

[Register for Marking and Grading Workshop for Graduate Students](#)

Designing your Tutorial

Tuesday September 8, 2015, 2:30pm – 4:30pm in TEL 1014

[Register for Designing your Tutorial](#)

Teaching with Technology and in an Online Environment

Thursday September 24, 2015, 12-1pm in TEL 1014

[Register for Teaching with Technology and in an Online Environment](#)

Teaching Students with Disabilities: Tips for Teaching Assistants

Monday September 28, 2015, 12pm – 1pm in TEL 1014

[Register for Teaching Students with Disabilities: Tips for Teaching Assistants](#)

TACTFUL TEACHING

What do participants say about the TACT course?

“So I started off not really knowing what to expect but I’m happy with how useful this program has been in helping me develop better skills as a TA.”

“Well organized, coherent, relevant, key concepts/messages, excellent modelling of effective teaching.”

“The teaching dossier is an invaluable assignment.”

Did you know?

TA and ITA Orientation can each count toward the Junior ['Record of Completion' Certificate](#)

Learning Technology Services offers a variety of workshops on using and teaching with Moodle. [See a complete list of their workshops](#)