Establish or Renew Your Membership with 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. As graduate students, you will be learning, engaging in research, and embarking on a central element of scholarly life – the passing on of knowledge. As a TA, you will play a vital role in the experience of undergraduate students. As a member of the York community you are a member of the Teaching Commons and have access to everything we have to offer for free. Together we can help each other to find new and effective ways to learn, interact with and share knowledge, develop skills and be successful. There are a variety of ways to connect with one another. We offer workshops, accredited courses, TA drop-in hours, as well other events. The Teaching Commons team is based in the Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Building, DB 1050, and maintains a virtual presence via our website http://teachingcommons.yorku.ca/. If you would like to be added to our listserv please email teaching@yorku.ca.

Teaching Assistant Orientations

We offer orientation sessions for Teaching Assistants (TAs) who are new to teaching at York, with a special session for International Graduate Students who will be a TA for the first time at York. Please pass this information on to any of your colleagues that may benefit from an orientation session.

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 August 31st 9:30am to 12:30pm in DB 1014
- Tuesday September 4th 9am to 12pm or 2pm to 5pm in DB 1014
- Wednesday September 5th 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. This session will provide 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.

- Thursday September 13th 9:30am to 12:30pm in DB 1014
- Friday September 14th 1pm to 4pm in DB 1014
Teaching Assistant Certificate in Teaching (TACT) Course

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 with at least one semester of teaching experience. During the course you will 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 10-minute lesson cycle with peer feedback and the development of your teaching dossier. Visit our website for more information!

Senior Teaching Assistant (STA) Program: Exploring Educational Development

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 (STAY) Symposium. Visit our website for more information!