



BRENSCHOOL
UC SANTA BARBARA

TA Workshop

Spring 2026

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Agenda

- TA Benefits
 - Eligibility
 - How to Apply for TAships
 - Bren
 - Other departments
 - Resources
 - Question & Answer
- 



Benefits of being a TA

- Quarterly Partial Fee Remission (Academic Tuition + Health Insurance + Salary) in 2025-2026 (50% time/20hrs a week):

Academic Tuition: \$5,273

Health Insurance: \$2,866

Quarterly Salary (50% time): \$11,787 (Increment 1)

TOTAL for 1 Q: \$19,265

- These numbers will be updated for Fall.
- TA positions do NOT pay NRST or professional fees
- Transferable skills
 - Presenting, networking, best way to learn is to teach



TA Eligibility

You must be:

- Currently registered and enrolled in at least 8 units
 - If registered in over 20 units you will be contacted by staff
- In good academic standing
 - >3.0 GPA
 - Fewer than 12 units of unfinished coursework
 - Not on academic probation
 - Be within normative time and/or time to degree standards
 - Certified as having language proficiency in spoken English if their native language is not English.
 - Non-native English speakers **MUST** take TA exam
- Exceptions: Total campus employment 51-75% Bren approval needed, 76-100% Graduate Division Dean approval required



How to get a Bren TA position

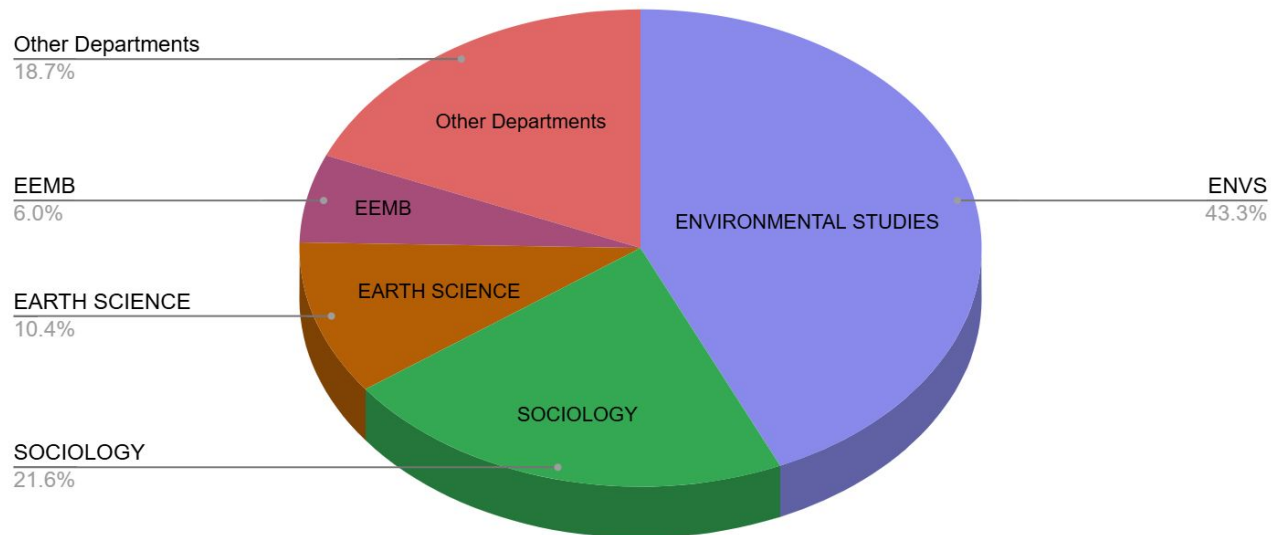
- Check the Bren [Funding & Employment website](#)
 - Only PhDs can TA for Bren courses
 - PhD students - talk with Faculty Advisor about funding plan during annual review
 - We typically hire PhDs for about 40 1Q positions for the year
 - Positions are 25-50% time (10-20 hours per week)
 - Not all TAs include discussion/lab sections
 - You must submit a TA application (opened in March - **due April 12**)
 - [Bren TA Application Process](#)
 - If no Bren students are qualified, we look to other depts.



Where to get a non-Bren TA position

2025-2026: Bren students filled over 100 TA appointments at 25-50% time in non-Bren departments. We anticipate the number will be lower in 2026-2027 due to reduced funding availability.

Top Outside Hiring Departments By Year (2025-2026)





Where to get a non-Bren TA position

Other Departments have included:

- Classics
- Communications
- Computer Science
- Earth Science
- Ecology, Evolution, Marine Biology (EEMB)
- Economics
- Engineering
- English
- Environmental Studies
- Feminist Studies
- Geography
- Global Studies
- History of Art & Architecture
- Latin American & Iberian Studies
- Molecular, Cellular, Developmental, Biology (MCDB)
- Music
- Physics
- Psychology & Brain Sciences
- Probability & Statistical Sciences
- Sociology



How to get a non-Bren TA position

- Outside Departments
 - Watch your email for announcements from Bren staff
 - Look for information on department websites
 - UCSB Departments: [Academic Departments & Programs | UC Santa Barbara](#)
 - Each department has its own process, reach out to their staff graduate advisor for details. Do not send application materials unless requested.
 - List of departments and contact info (ASE Open Positions): [Graduate Student Academic Appointments](#)
 - Environmental Studies has their own application, posted on their "Open Positions" webpage: <https://es.ucsb.edu/index.php/jobs>
 - Applications open in Spring, tentatively close late May; typically makes offers by July 1st.
 - Reader appointments: Hourly, usually less than 20%, grading assignments
 - Be respectful of staff time. Avoid repeated emails to ask about openings.



How to get a non-Bren TA position

- Bren website
 - [Current Student Resources > Funding and Employment - scroll down to On-Campus Employment Opportunities](#) (slides and additional resources linked here)
- Subscribe to the [UCSB Graduate Division's GradTeach Forum located on Google Groups](#)
- Reminder:
 - Academic Student Employment, like all employment, is not guaranteed and students have to pursue it like any other employment.
 - Hiring Departments must submit an Eligibility Verification form for approval by Bren for all TA/Reader/GSR positions BEFORE they can officially hire you. Have departments submit Eligibility Verification forms to eligibility@bren.ucsb.edu.



Training

Mandatory:

- TA Orientation before school starts in September: [New TAs | Office of Teaching & Learning](#)
- Sexual Harassment Prevention Training – via Campus Clarity

Helpful:

- Laboratory Safety Training (required for all UCSB laboratory workers) - [Fundamentals of Laboratory Safety](#)
 - Live training you can do if hired
- Teaching Assistant Certificate Programs: [TA Certificate Programs | Office of Teaching & Learning](#)
- TA Workshops: [TA Training and Workshops | Office of Teaching & Learning](#)



TAships and Non-native English speakers

- TA Language Evaluation
 - If home language is other than English and offered TA position for the first time. Call goes out in July for early September test dates.
 - Short presentation on academic topic, presented to two UCSB faculty (one from EMS and one from dept. you will TA)
 - Potential Outcomes
 - Certified to Teach
 - Conditionally Certified
 - EMS Oral skills course required
 - Not Certified
 - Complete EMS oral skills course and must be re-assessed
 - Advisable to do early; good to have it completed ahead of time
- Information on English for Multilingual Students Page: [TA FAQs | English for Multilingual Students Program](#)



Tips

- If submitting applications:
 - Graduate Advisor: Leticia Porter, Assistant Dean
 - Eligibility verifications: eligibility@bren.ucsb.edu
- Apply early – most departments want to hire their TAs for the next academic year during the prior Spring quarter
- Branch out – apply in departments beyond your major, environmental science
- Monitor your email – we send last-minute postings
- Use your Networking skills!
- Be professional.



Accepting a Position

- READ YOUR CONTRACT: Know what you are signing up for
 - 50% time position = 20 hours a week
 - Are there required trainings in advance of the start of the course?
 - Does it fit your schedule? Are you expected to go to lecture? Do you need to enroll in a TA Practicum course? It is NOT acceptable to miss Bren classes because you have a TA commitment.
 - Are there exams you need to proctor?
 - Hiring department will provide you space for office hours
 - Tell your hiring department if you have other campus employment
- Follow-through, act professional
 - Accepting an offer requires you signing a contract and commit to the job. Respect that this expectation goes both ways. If you have multiple offers, you need to choose one, sign a contract, and decline other positions.
 - *Bailing on TAships is unacceptable and impacts ALL Bren students and our reputation.*
- Contact eligibility@bren.ucsb.edu if you obtain any on-campus position



Additional Resources

- Graduate Division:
<http://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/financial/employment/academic-appointments>
- TA Certificate Programs:
<https://id.ucsb.edu/teaching/teaching-resources/ta-programs/overview>
- Certificate in College and University Teaching (CCUT):
<https://id.ucsb.edu/teaching/teaching-resources/ta-programs/ccut>
- Union Information (UAW 4811): <https://www.uaw4811.org/>
- CAPS: <http://caps.sa.ucsb.edu/>
- Disabled Students Program: <https://dsp.sa.ucsb.edu/>

Questions?

