HOW TO FIND A TA POSITION

- Timing plays an important factor in finding a TA position.
- The best time to begin looking for a TA position is 3 to 4 weeks before the quarter begins.
- A student would look for a TA position in a department where he or she would feel qualified to serve as a TA in that Department.
- Biomedical Engineering students succeed in finding TA positions in the following: All Departments in the School of Engineering (HSSEAS), Chemistry, Physics, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Physical Sciences, Math, Psychology, Molecular, Cellular, & Development Biology, and Life Sciences.
- Many Departments hire TAs on-the-spot! Bring your resume/curriculum vitae and a written statement of how you feel you qualify for the TA position.
- A TA position is not limited in sciences. A student who is fluent in foreign languages, or, is a double major or has 2 Bachelor degrees, for example, can apply for a TA position in a UCLA Department that offers foreign languages, or a major area other than in the sciences.
- Many departments on the UCLA campus send emails to the Graduate Advisors advertising TA positions. When this happens, these are immediately forwarded to new and continuing students. For the Fall quarter, these email advertisements start coming in, in mid August and are forwarded as they are sent to us.
- Most TA positions on the UCLA campus are only advertised in the Department. Therefore, the best way to inquire about TA positions is to go to the Department where you feel you have the qualifications to serve as a TA and inquire about openings. Again, bring your resume/curriculum vitae and a written statement of how you feel you qualify for the TA position.
- For BME, the majority of our TA positions are offered in the Bioengineering major since our undergraduate students are in this major and not in Biomedical Engineering. However, we do have a few TA positions in Biomedical Engineering for our graduate courses that are cross listed with undergraduate courses. To advertise our TA positions, we send out an email to all new and continuing students and we post them on the BME website and on the bulletin board near the 4th floor elevators of ENGR V. It is common practice for faculty to solicit a TA position to a student who has taken their course and has achieved well in that course.
- More and more, departments who hire TA’s require that students either have taken a 495 Teaching Assistant Training Seminar course, or, require that they take this course concurrently with the course the student is serving as a TA for that quarter. BME will be offering the 495 course beginning Fall 2008 and we highly encourage students to take this course if they plan to serve as a TA either in the immediate or distant future.
- For a list of ASE Appointment Opportunities, go to: http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gss/ase/opportunities.pdf
HOW TO FIND A GSR POSITION

Students wishing to engage in research as part of their education need to secure a position in a lab in the area where they are interested in doing research. Securing a GSR position can come about in many ways:

- Some applicants contact Principle Investigators (PI) during the application period who become interested in the applicant and report to the Admissions Office to review the file and admit the applicant to the program and to the PI’s lab.
- Some PIs are not contacted by any applicants but report to the Admissions Office to review files of applicants who have indicated them as a Preferred Advisor in the application for by reviewing all the files in their area of interest.
- Many GSR positions are secured after the admissions offer is made. These GSR positions come to fruition in the fashion which is currently happening at this moment, i.e., admitted applicants continue to contact PIs after they have been admitted to secure a lab position. In many instances, this approach to securing a lab position continues even after the prospective student has registered and enrolled in the first quarter in residence and thereafter.
- A list of IDP Faculty can be found on the BME IDP Website at: http://www.bme.ucla.edu/facultyresearch/index.html

- Some PI’s prefer to solicit GSR positions to students who have taken their course and have achieved well.
- A student may enter a lab unfunded because the PI’s research grant has exhausted and that student could secure funding in the future. This way, the student can get started on the research required for writing the thesis or dissertation.