

# Building TA Training Programs through Indigenous Engagement and Equity & Inclusion Frames

In your context and/or discipline, why is it important to support TA training?

⇄ TAs themselves come from various different backgrounds and some may be more aware and knowledgeable on Indigenous history in Canada, while others may not know as much, or anything at all. So it is important to provide these educational tools so that all TAs have an understanding.

⇄ **Teaching is the common languages**  
With grad students from different countries and conducting research in a wide range of disciplines, teaching and learning becomes our common language.

⇄ Class room skills, especially mediating group discussions on topics of race, class etc are not necessarily obvious or easy and support is definitely needed

⇄ Some students feel more comfortable approaching TAs than instructors or professors for help - equipping TAs with appropriate tools is important so that they can be a support for students.

⇄ TA

⇄ TA's work with various different students who come from numerous different backgrounds. With that being said, it is important to provide support for them in order to provide a better foundation for them so that they can also better support their students (i.e. be able to understand how to approach different situations, being understanding and empathetic and recognizing everyone's different background)

⇄ **TAs, play a critical role in creating classroom or labroom culture, and often are involved in the development of the curriculum**

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⇒ **TAs are a vital part of the classroom and need/deserve support to allow them to thrive**

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⇒ **TAs are the backbone of our undergraduate education**

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⇒ TAs may work closely with students and can be the first point of contact

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⇒ Being a TA is part of your educational experience and becoming a well rounded educator, things you learn starting out really impact all future students in your career

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⇒ **TAs are the most impactful on students and role model**

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⇒ **TAs are our future instructors :)**

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⇒ **Teaching assistants contribute to the overall enterprise of teaching and learning at the university.**

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⇒ **Student-TA relationship**

Students can feel more comfortable around TAs than around professors, and may relate to them more easily. Therefore, students may mimic TA behavior, and if TAs are trained in EDI, students can learn how to approach issues of EDI.

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⇒ **International TA**

Many TAs are international students and they do not know about the Indigenous history in Canada.

Also, most Master students don't stay too long (2 to 3 yrs vs 4 yr for undergrad), ie higher turn over rate and more training and reminders needed.

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⇒ **To prevent or make TA's aware of their own bias during marking/interacting with students**

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⇒ **TA's are in a very unique position because their "spheres" intersect: they are students themselves, but are in a position of supporting other students' learning, supporting faculty through leading tutorials/labs, and possibly responsible for evaluating/assessing student performance. There is a need for them to be supported as a community and to understand where they fit as far as role/boundaries.**

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⇒ **TAs are the direct and possibly most effective link to course content**

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⇒ Teaching assistants can have a significant impact on shaping and responding to the classroom climate.

