

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Graduate Student Academic Appointments

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The titles **GSI, Reader, Tutor, and Acting Instructor-Graduate Student** positions are covered by a collective bargaining agreement between the University and the United Automobile Workers (UAW). Under the language of the contract, students hired in these titles are referred to as Academic Student Employees (ASEs); you will find this acronym used in the contract and in campus communications. The current UAW Academic Student Unit contract is available on the Web http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/employees/policies_employee_labor_relations/collective_bargaining_units/academicstudentemployees_bx/agreement.html). GSRs are not covered by the agreement.

1. WHAT IS A GSI, GSR, READER, OR TUTOR POSITION?

- **GSI (Graduate Student Instructor):** *A GSI serves as an apprentice under the active supervision of the faculty member who is the Instructor of Record for the course. As a GSI, a student is expected to teach a discussion section for the course. A GSI is synonymous with Teaching Assistant (TA) at many other universities.*
- **AI-GS (Acting Instructor-Graduate Student):** *AI-GS appointees render services as the Instructor of Record for a particular upper division course although they are still under faculty supervision. The AI-GS has independent responsibility for developing the course syllabus (which must be reviewed and approved in advance by a member of the Academic Senate), reading assignments, assignment of grades, including response to grade appeals, and other duties as assigned by the hiring department.*
- **GSR (Graduate Student Researcher):** *A GSR performs research broadly related to their degree programs in an academic department or research unit under the direction of a faculty member or authorized Principal Investigator. GSRs may not be assigned teaching, administrative, or general assistance duties. This is not intended to exclude research-related duties such as quantitative analysis, bibliographic searches or summaries, text editing, lab projects, computer programming, and a reasonable amount of lab maintenance and cleaning. A GSR is equivalent to Research Assistant (RA) at many other universities.*
- **Reader:** *A Reader renders diverse services as a course assistant, which will normally include the grading of student papers and examinations. Duties might also include attendance at lectures, office hours, consultation with the instructor, and other course-related duties. Readers may not perform teaching duties.*
- **Tutor:** *A Tutor renders individual or group instructional activities in support of regular academic programs. Under supervision, a Tutor's duties may include individual tutoring sessions, group tutoring sessions, workshop presentations, and other duties as assigned. Tutors do not perform teaching duties assigned to the GSI series.*

Overall, a GSI or AI-GS teaches, a GSR researches, a reader grades, and a tutor provides tutoring.

2. HOW DOES A STUDENT OBTAIN AN ACADEMIC STUDENT APPOINTMENT AT THE GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY (GSPP)?

In October and March of each academic year, GSPP students can apply for available academic student appointments for GSPP courses being offered the following semester. GSPP professors select students based on their mastery of course material and their ability to explain concepts to other graduate students. GSPP's Ph.D. and second year M.P.P. students are offered the majority of these positions.

3. CAN GSPP STUDENTS OBTAIN ACADEMIC STUDENT APPOINTMENTS IN OTHER UC BERKELEY DEPARTMENTS, CENTERS, OR INSTITUTES?

GSPP students can obtain GSI/GSR/Reader or Tutor positions in other Departments, Centers, or Institutes. Campus departments, centers, and institutes that offer such positions include (but are not limited to):

Department / Institute / Center	Website
Department of Economics	http://emlab.berkeley.edu/econ/
Department of Statistics	http://www.stat.berkeley.edu/
Department of Political Science	http://www.polisci.berkeley.edu/
UC Berkeley Labor Center	http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu
Transportation Sustainability Research Center	http://www.its.berkeley.edu/sustainabilitycenter/
Fisher Center for Real Estate & Urban Economics	http://citm.haas.berkeley.edu/citm-home.htm
Institute of Transportation Studies	http://www.its.berkeley.edu/
School of Education	http://gse.berkeley.edu/Admin/viewqsrlistings.html
Boalt School of Law	http://www.law.berkeley.edu/centers/ewi/index.html
California Center for Innovative Transportation	http://www.calccit.org/

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4. WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR GSI, GSR, READER, OR TUTOR POSITIONS?

If a student obtains a GSI, GSR, Reader, or Tutor position, they are entitled to the following benefits based on the following criteria, which are determined by the UC Berkeley Graduate Division as follows:

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA & BENEFITS GSI/GSR/Reader/Tutor Positions			
Eligibility Criteria	Title & Code	Explanation of Benefits	
1. Appointment is less than or equal to 24% time (9.6 hours per week); and 2. Enrolled in at least 12 units; <i>and</i> 3. Registered by the end of the 3rd week of classes <i>and</i> 4. Appointment eligibility requirements are met.	GSR 3266 GSI I 2311 GSI II-IV 1507 AI-GS 2551 Reader* 2851 Tutor* 2861	Salary	Fee Remission
		Yes	No fee remission
1. Appointment is greater than or equal to 25% time (10 hours per week) for the semester; • GSR positions: Greater than or equal to 25-44% (10 – 17.6 hours per week for the semester); <i>and</i> 2. Enrolled in at least 12 units; <i>and</i> 3. Registered by the end of the 3rd week of classes; <i>and</i> 4. Appointment eligibility requirements are met.	GSR 3276 GSI I 2310 GSI II - IV 1506 AI-GS 2550 Reader* 2850 Tutor* 2860	Salary	Fee Remission
		Yes	Partial fee remission <i>Includes:</i> University Registration Fee Educational Fee Health Insurance Fee*
1. Appointment is greater than or equal to 45% time (18 hours per week) for the semester; and 2. Enrolled in at least 12 units; <i>and</i> 3. Registered by the end of the 3rd week of classes; <i>and</i> 4. Appointment eligibility requirements are met.	GSR 3282	Salary	Fee Remission
		Yes	Full fee remission <i>Includes:</i> University Registration Fee Educational Fee Health Insurance Fee * Berkeley Campus Fee Class Pass (AC Transit) Fee
1. Appointment is greater than or equal to 45% time (18 hours per week) for the semester; and 2. Enrolled in at least 12 units; <i>and</i> 3. Registered by the end of the 3rd week of classes; <i>and</i> 4. Appointment eligibility requirements are met; <i>and</i> 5. Pursuing the Ph.D. or professional doctorate (as defined by the student's department), as the terminal degree; <i>and</i> 6. Is within the departmentally-established normative time period; <i>and</i> 7. Does not receive any other support that funds nonresident tuition.	GSR 3284	Salary	Fee Remission
		Yes	Full fee remission And nonresident tuition remission <i>Includes:</i> University Registration Fee Educational Fee Health Insurance Fee * Berkeley Campus Fee Class Pass (AC Transit) Fee Nonresident Tuition Fee

*** NOTES:** In accordance with Article 11 of the UC-UAW contract and the February 2002 Labor Relations memo on late Academic Student Employee (ASE) appointments (GSIs, AI-GSs, Readers, and Tutors), any ASE appointment, combination of ASE appointments, or combination of ASE appointment(s) and GSR appointment(s) that equal 170 hours can generate a partial fee remission, irrespective of appointment dates and percentages, and including combinations of eligible title codes. Eligible GSR appointments can combine to create a partial, full, or full with nonresident tuition fee remission. U.S. citizens and permanent residents are eligible for nonresident tuition remission only during the first year of graduate study. Readers and Tutors are not required to be registered and enrolled. If they are registered, then they must enroll in at least 12 units, unless already advanced to doctoral candidacy. Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) premiums are automatically remitted as part of the fee remission program for graduate students (eligible undergraduate GSI appointees receive Educational and Registration fees only) unless the student has a waiver of health insurance coverage on record at the University Health Services. If a student has a SHIP waiver, there is no remission for health insurance. Only graduate students are eligible for GSR, AI-GS, Reader and Tutor remissions.

Students should visit the following websites for more details about Graduate Student Academic Appointments:

GSI/GSR/Reader/Tutor Information	http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/policies/pdf/apptknow.pdf
GSI/Reader/Tutor – Wage Rates	http://hrweb.berkeley.edu/pay/uawwg.htm
GSR Salary Scale	http://hrweb.berkeley.edu/pay/uawwg.htm
Fee Remission Information	http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/policies/pdf/fee_remission_bulletin.pdf
Fee Remission Eligibility	http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/policies/pdf/fee_remission_eligibility.pdf
Departments that hire GSIs/Readers/Tutors	http://hrweb.berkeley.edu/labor/asejobs.htm

Refer to these websites for the latest information regarding Graduate Student Appointments as updates are made throughout the year. All information presented in this document is based on policies and guidelines set forth by the UC Berkeley Graduate Division.