Graduate Student Assistantships
(Graduate Student Academic Appointments)
Being a GSI, Reader, Tutor or GSR
Questions? Contact: Jalilah LaBrie at jalilah@berkeley.edu

• WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A GSI, READER, TUTOR AND GSR POSITION?
  o Graduate Student Instructor (GSI): As a GSI, a student is expected to teach a
discussion section for the course. Duties often also include holding office hours,
grading and participation in development of quizzes. A GSI is synonymous with
Teaching Assistant (TA) at many other universities.

  o 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.

  o Tutor: A Tutor renders individual or group instructional activities in support of regular
academic programs. 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.

  o Graduate Student Researcher (GSR): A GSR performs research in an academic
department or research unit under the direction of a faculty member or authorized
Principal Investigator. This includes 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. GSRs
may not be assigned teaching, administrative, or general assistance duties. A GSR
is equivalent to Research Assistant (RA) at many other universities.

• CAN INCOMING GSPP STUDENTS HOLD AN APPOINTMENT DURING THEIR FIRST
YEAR?
  o Yes. Most UC Berkeley Academic Student Employee (ASE) appointments are per
semester (Fall and Spring only), rather than per year. Although it can be difficult for
an incoming student to obtain a position for their 1st Fall semester, it is definitely
possible if the student works hard to pursue opportunities. They are encouraged to
apply to opportunities as soon as they are released, and also reach out directly to
departments, faculty and campus research centers.

  o Incoming GSPP students are encouraged to think carefully about their workload,
other life responsibilities, and what it will take to adjust to life as a student, before
taking on an ASE appointment. Incoming students are welcome to contact Student
Services staff over the summer if they would like to discuss their situation.
• **HOW DOES A STUDENT OBTAIN AN APPOINTMENT AT THE GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY (GSPP)?**
  
  o GSI, Reader & Tutor Positions - Once an admitted student has accepted their GSPP enrollment offer, they will be added to the Student Services listserv. In approximately October and April of each academic year, GSPP Student Services will use the listserv to announce applications for GSI, Reader & Tutor positions 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. Faculty often give preference to GSPP Ph.D. and second year M.P.P. students.
  
  o GSR Positions - GSR positions with GSPP faculty are limited in number and not broadly advertised; therefore, students interested in GSR positions with GSPP faculty should contact the faculty member they are interested in doing research with, well before the beginning of the semester they are seeking an appointment for, to inquire about the availability of positions and application processes.

• **CAN GSPP STUDENTS OBTAIN APPOINTMENTS IN OTHER UC BERKELEY DEPARTMENTS, CENTERS, OR INSTITUTES?**
  
  o Yes. Many GSPP students obtain GSI/GSR/Reader or Tutor positions in other UC Berkeley Departments, Centers, or Institutes.
  
  o Once an admitted student has accepted their GSPP enrollment offer, they will be put on a listserv to be notified of positions in other departments as they open.
  
  o Students are also encouraged to reach out to departments and faculty that align with both their professional and undergraduate background.
  
  o Departments & Centers who have hired GSPP students in recent years include:
    
    - Blum Center for Development Economies
    - Economics Department
    - Gender & Women’s Studies Department
    - Statistics Department
    - Haas School of Business
    - History Department
    - International & Area Studies Department
    - Institute for Research on Labor & Employment
    - Institute of Industrial Relations
    - School of Education
    - School of Public Health
    - Undergraduate Interdisciplinary Studies
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR GSI, GSR, READER, OR TUTOR POSITIONS?
All positions are hired as % appointments of full-time. Since full-time is considered 40 hrs/week, students with 50% appointments are expected to work approximately 20 hrs/week, and 25% appointments are expected to work approximately 10 hrs/week. If a graduate student obtains a GSI, GSR, Reader, or Tutor position anywhere at UC Berkeley, they are entitled to the following benefits according to the Graduate Division:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GSI</th>
<th>Reader</th>
<th>Tutor</th>
<th>GSR (Researcher)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≤ 24% Less than or equal to 9.6 hrs/week</td>
<td>Wage, but no fee remissions</td>
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<tr>
<td>≥25% Greater than or equal to 10 hrs/week</td>
<td>Wage &amp; partial fee remission</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-44% 10 – 17.6 hrs/week</td>
<td>Wage &amp; partial fee remission</td>
<td>Wage &amp; partial fee remission</td>
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<tr>
<td>≥45% Greater than or equal to 18 hrs/week</td>
<td>Wage &amp; full fee remission</td>
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*Must be a PhD student

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FULL AND PARTIAL FEE REMISSIONS? (Please refer to the following Graduate Division website for detailed information: http://grad.berkeley.edu/financial/fee-remissions/
- “Partial Fee Remission” includes remission for: Tuition, the Student Services Fee, and the Health Insurance Fee* (NOTE: Most students with ASE positions receive Partial Fee Remission)
- “Full Fee and Nonresident Supplemental Tuition”: Please read the criteria as outlined by the Graduate Division: http://grad.berkeley.edu/financial/fee-remissions/

PLEASE NOTE: Full Fee and Nonresident Supplemental Tuition Remissions are for Graduate Student Researchers (GSR)s working at least 45% time. This type of remission is equal to a Full Fee Remission plus the amount assessed in CARS for Nonresident Supplemental Tuition. A full fee remission and nonresident supplemental tuition remission does not include any other assessments such as professional degree supplemental tuition (PDST) or the document management fee. This type of fee remission is only for non-California residents who are:
- pursuing the Ph.D. or professional doctorate (as defined by the student’s department) as the terminal degree;
- within the departmentally-established normative time period; and
● not receiving any other support that funds nonresident supplemental tuition. U.S. citizens and permanent residents classified as non-California residents are eligible only for their first year of graduate study at Berkeley.

● WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ON CURRENT FEES FOR GSPP STUDENTS?
  ○ Current fees for GSPP students are posted at:
    [http://registrar.berkeley.edu/current_students/registration_enrollment/feesched.html#pub pol](http://registrar.berkeley.edu/current_students/registration_enrollment/feesched.html#pub pol)

● WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ON WAGES FOR ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT?:
  ○ GSI/Reader/Tutor – Wage Rates:
    [http://hr.berkeley.edu/labor/contracts/BX/current-rates](http://hr.berkeley.edu/labor/contracts/BX/current-rates)
    ▪ GSI wage is listed as a full-time monthly salary. Pay will be adjusted according to the % appointment.
  ○ GSR Wage Scale:
    [http://www.ucop.edu/academic-personnel-programs/_files/1617/T22-10-1-16.pdf](http://www.ucop.edu/academic-personnel-programs/_files/1617/T22-10-1-16.pdf)

Additional UC Berkeley websites about Graduate Student Academic Appointments:

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<tr>
<td>Fee Remissions Information</td>
<td><a href="http://grad.berkeley.edu/financial/fee-remissions/">http://grad.berkeley.edu/financial/fee-remissions/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department projections of GSI/Reader/Tutor hires</td>
<td><a href="http://hrweb.berkeley.edu/labor/contracts/BX/job-opportunities/expected">http://hrweb.berkeley.edu/labor/contracts/BX/job-opportunities/expected</a></td>
</tr>
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Refer to these websites for the latest information regarding Graduate Student Appointments as updates are made throughout the year. 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://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/labor/bargaining-units/bx/index.html](http://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/labor/bargaining-units/bx/index.html)

GSRs are not covered by the agreement.

Graduate students may not hold any university employment for more than half time without permission from the Dean of the Graduate Division ([http://grad.berkeley.edu/financial/graduate-student-employment/](http://grad.berkeley.edu/financial/graduate-student-employment/))