

## Graduate Teacher Certificate

The Graduate School awards the Graduate Teacher Certificate to graduate students, postdocs, and faculty who complete all requirements. Requirements include two semesters of teaching, 20 Graduate Teacher Program workshops, 20 hours of departmental teacher training activities, two videotape consultations, faculty observation and evaluation of teaching, completion of a teaching portfolio, an exit survey, and final assessment by the Director. Videotape consultations for certification must be based on recitation sections, laboratory sections, or courses taught for a full semester on the Boulder campus. Public speaking engagements, talks in colloquia, or single lectures may not be used. Both videotape consultations may occur in the same or different semesters.

International Graduate Students must demonstrate their English intelligibility in order to be certified. They must also attend the International Graduate Teacher Cultural Intensive (IGTS workshops may serve as a substitute).

Once all requirements are completed and the faculty have recommended the student, certification is granted and certification is noted on graduate students' official transcripts. Certificants receive a certificate signed by the Vice Chancellor for Research & Dean of the Graduate School and the Director of the Graduate Teacher Program.

## Graduate Student Commentary

"I like the workshops for international teachers better because I can relate to whatever they talk about. They focus more on the issues we typically encounter, and it is helpful for me to know how we should deal with it."

"I'm always thankful for your kindness and great help you gave me. I have participated in the class for pronunciation workshop for free. The teacher is patient and great. Thank you for introducing those good chances to improve my English ability."

"I really benefited a lot from one of the speech classes. The instructor is nice and professional in teaching pronunciation. I will highly recommend her to other students."

Graduate School

## The Graduate Teacher Program

## International Graduate Teacher Services

2007-08



International Graduate Teacher Services  
Graduate Teacher Program  
201 ATLAS, 362 UCB  
Telephone: (303) 492-4902

**Colorado**  
University of Colorado at Boulder

## Whom We Serve

The Graduate Teacher Program's (GTP) International Graduate Teacher Services (IGTS) was set up in Fall 2004 to better meet the needs of International TAs and GPTIs at the University of Colorado in Boulder. In Fall 2006, there were 647 international graduate students enrolled at CU-Boulder: 203 of them were in-coming students, 80 of them, who have teaching responsibilities have participated in activities.

## Two Workshop Series

IGTS organizes workshops aimed at helping international graduate teachers (IGTs), both TAs and GPTIs, understand the challenges they may face in the American classroom. The content of the workshops is based on an IGT needs assessment. Two activities are currently available: the International Graduate Teacher Cultural Intensive and the IGT Workshop Series. The IGT Cultural Intensive takes place a week before the fall semester begins and prepares IGTs for the American classroom. Topics include the expected role of IGTs in the classroom and office hours, the American high school system, English language resources on campus, and cultural expectations.

The Fall and Spring semester IGT Workshop Series includes five to six workshops each semester that focus on teaching methodologies, classroom management, and linguistic, affective, and socio-cultural issues.

Both international and domestic graduate teachers are welcome in the workshops. Updated workshop schedules are available online on the GTP webpage. Of course, international graduate students should also attend other workshops offered by the Graduate Teacher Program throughout the year.

## Individual Consultation

When IGTs encounter difficulties teaching and need help, they can either send an email to ([gtpITA@colorado.edu](mailto:gtpITA@colorado.edu)) or go to the GTP office (201 ATLAS) in person. The GTP staff can provide personal assistance and can refer students to appropriate campus resources.

IGTs may also have a videotape consultation on a class they are teaching. One of the IGT's classes is videotaped and then a consultation time is set. During the consultation the IGT develops a plan for improving her/his teaching. Consultations are confidential and non-evaluative.

## Language Resources

There are several resources in Boulder for IGTs who would like to improve their English. The International English Center (IEC) offers two writing courses and one speech course (303-492-5547). Both the Center for Talk Mastery in Boulder ([www.talkmastery.com](http://www.talkmastery.com)) and the Clearly Speaking Program in the Speech Language and Hearing Sciences Department (303-492-5375) on campus offer pronunciation and accent reduction courses. The ESL/Multilingual Program in the Student Academic Services Center (303-492-1405) offers a weekly pronunciation workshop that focuses on the phonetics of English vowels and consonants. The Boulder Public Library (303-441-4941) also has a free conversation group. Lastly, there is the Women's Coffee Hour in Family Housing (<http://boulder.uwc.org/livingintheusa.html>).

## IGTS Manual

To help IGTs think about and address classroom teaching issues, an *IGTS Manual* is available for download on the GTP webpage. The *IGTS Manual* contains basic information that is crucial for

IGTs who are new to American classrooms. Please see [http://www.colorado.edu/gtp/training/forms/ITAManual\\_Final\\_Fall\\_2006.pdf](http://www.colorado.edu/gtp/training/forms/ITAManual_Final_Fall_2006.pdf).

## Information Sharing

For IGTs who prefer an alternative communication channel, there is an IGT blog and a biweekly brown bag lunch gathering. The IGT blog, is an informal online forum for discussing issues related to teaching and for sharing solutions to teaching problems to connect to the blog, (<http://itaboulder.blogspot.com/>).

The brown bag lunch gatherings provide a social venue for IGTs to meet and share their experiences with other IGTs, while receiving assistance from the GTP staff.

## IGTs Beyond Boulder

We liaison with the International Teaching Assistant section at the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). If you are interested in International TA programs at different universities, the website (<http://ita-is.org/links.html>) provides more information.

IGTS are encouraged to work on their personal and professional development throughout their studies at CU-Boulder. Participation counts toward the Graduate Teacher Certificate, the Professional Development Certificate for Preparing Future Faculty, and the Professional Development Certificate for Business Government and Industry. See the GTP website for requirements.