

Graduate Teacher Certificate

The Graduate School awards the Graduate Teacher Certificate to graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, 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 on faculty observation and evaluation of teaching, completion of a teaching portfolio, an exit survey, and final assessment by the Director of the GTP. Please note that videotape consultations for certification must be based on recitation sections, laboratory sections, or courses taught by the teacher in question 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 IGTS Cultural Intensive, although if necessary, IGTS workshops during the academic year may serve as a substitute for the latter.

Once all requirements are completed and the faculty have recommended the student for certification, the certificate is awarded. Certification is noted on the graduate student's official transcript. Recipients are awarded 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 what 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 such problems."

"I'm always thankful for your kindness and great help you gave me. I have participated in the class for pronunciation for free. The teacher is patient and great. Thank you for introducing these 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."

"In Graduate Teacher Program workshops, I have the chance to improve my spoken English (especially vocabulary for the classroom.)"

Graduate School

Graduate Teacher Program

International Graduate Teacher Services

2009–10



International Graduate Teacher Services

Graduate Teacher Program

201 ATLAS, 362 UCB

Telephone: (303) 492-4902

Fax: (303) 492-4904

Email: gtpita@colorado.edu

<http://www.colorado.edu/gtp/training/internationalTAs.htm>

<http://itaboulder.blogspot.com/>

Colorado
University of Colorado at Boulder

The Graduate Teacher Program's International Graduate Teacher Services (IGTS) is designed to meet the needs of international graduate students at the University of Colorado at Boulder. In Fall 2008, there were 823 international graduate students enrolled at CU-Boulder: 210 of them were in-coming students, 113 of them, with teaching responsibilities participated in IGTS and GTP activities.

Workshops

IGTS organizes a workshop series aimed at helping International Graduate Teachers (TAs, GPTIs and RAs) understand the challenges they may face in the American classroom. The content of the workshops is based on the results of an International Graduate Teacher needs assessment. Two activities are currently available: the IGTS Cultural Intensive and the IGTS Workshop Series.

IGTS Workshops

The IGTS Cultural Intensive takes place the week before fall semester begins and prepares International Graduate Teachers for the American classroom. Topics include the expected role of International Graduate Teachers in the classroom and during office hours, the American high school system, English language resources on campus, and cultural expectations.

During Fall and Spring semesters the IGTS Workshop Series includes some workshops that focus on teaching issues and classroom management. Other workshops address language, interpersonal communication, or cross-cultural issues. Workshop participation is an effective way to improve spoken English skills, while working toward certification.

Both international and domestic graduate teachers are welcome to attend the workshops. Updated workshop schedules are available online (<http://www.colorado.edu/gtp>). International graduate students are also encouraged to attend other workshops offered by the Graduate Teacher Program throughout the year to improve their teaching performance and practice oral communication skills.

Individual Consultation

When International Graduate Teachers encounter difficulties teaching and would like assistance, they can either send an email to (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.

International Graduate Teachers may also have a confidential and non-evaluative videotape consultation on a class they are teaching. The consultation involves a videotaping of an actual class, followed by a one-on-one consultation with a consultant. During the consultation, the International Graduate Teacher develops a plan to improve both oral communication and teaching performance.

Language Resources

There are several resources in Boulder for International Graduate Teachers who would like to improve their English language skills. The International English Center (303-492-5547) offers two writing courses and one speech course. Both the Center for Talk Mastery in Boulder (www.cleartalkcommunication.com) and the Clearly Speaking Program in the Speech Language and Hearing Sciences Department on campus (303-492-5375) 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.

International Graduate Teacher Manual

To help International Graduate Teachers think about and address classroom teaching issues, an *International Graduate Teacher Manual* is available for download on the GTP webpage. The *International Graduate Teacher Manual* contains basic information that is crucial for International Graduate Teachers who are new to American classrooms. Please see http://www.colorado.edu/gtp/training/forms/ITAManual_Final_Fall_2006.pdf.

Also, the GTP staff can provide assistance with your use of the information or questions you might have about the *Manual*.

International Graduate Teachers Beyond Boulder

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

International Graduate Teachers are encouraged to work on their personal and professional development throughout their studies at CU-Boulder. Participation in IGTS activities counts toward the Graduate Teacher Certificate, the Professional Development Certificate for Preparing Future Faculty, and the Professional Development Certificate for Business, Government, Industry, and the Arts. See the GTP website (<http://www.colorado.edu/gtp>) for the full requirements for all certificates.

International Student and Scholars Services (ISSS)

The Graduate Teacher program collaborates with ISSS to provide appropriate services and programming to international students. Please contact Tina Tan, Director, for questions about visas and other legal issues at (303) 492-2979.