

TEACHING ASSISTANT – BIOLOGY

Duties and responsibilities:

Teaching assistants (TA's) in Biology provide indispensable support for instructional laboratories. Primary responsibilities include:

- preparing materials, reagents and equipment needed to conduct lab exercises
- turning over materials when labs are completed
- assistance with classroom or lab instruction, or tutoring

These duties are performed weekly throughout both fall and spring semesters, in support of introductory level labs (BIOL 100, 108, 111, 112 and 213) and upper division classes, such as Genetics (BIOL 221), Cellular & Molecular Biology (BIOL 320), Physiology (BIOL 335) and courses when need arises. Teaching Assistants work under the supervision of the Biology Laboratory Coordinator or specific tenured/tenure-track faculty members.

Qualifications:

Appropriate qualifications include:

- BS or BA in Biology or similar field
- familiarity with undergraduate biology labs
- knowledge of chemical principles and math competency
- good decision making skills and self-motivation
- ability to work as part of a team

Contribution to professional development:

Teaching Assistantships benefit students by providing a basic understanding of the both the science and logistics of running different types of Biology labs. The students gain experience in biology lab techniques, pedagogy, logistics and overall classroom organization, all useful skills for those who plan to pursue teaching or academic research, and also translatable to other types of jobs. The TA's work as part of a team that enables the department to offer meaningful, experiential learning as a key component of critical Biology courses. As part of this teamwork, TA's communicate and interact with other students and faculty members. The faculty-student interactions can lead to strong letters of recommendation or longer-term mentoring relationships. The peer interactions provide a sense of community that offers support and development, leading to a greater chance of success in the program.

Application Process:

Please submit an application form, a resume, and a one-page personal statement that includes: your reasons for seeking an assistantship, specific qualifications and your long term career goals. Send the information via email to Dr. Deborah Britt, Director of Biology Graduate Programs, Rhode Island College (dbritt@ric.edu). Qualified candidates will be invited to interview. Priority will be given to students enrolled in the Biology M.A. Program, but other applicants are invited and encouraged to apply.