

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 instruction, during lab or tutoring

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

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 graduate students by providing a basic understanding of the science and logistics of running different types of Biology labs. Students gain experience in biology lab techniques, pedagogy and overall classroom organization. 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 skills of management, organization, teaching and communication are all useful for those who plan to pursue teaching or academic research careers, and are translatable to other types of jobs. Faculty-student interactions during the TA experience can lead to strong letters of recommendation or longer-term mentoring relationships. Peer interactions can 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 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.