

GATAcademy

Event Program

Online event: September 1-2, 2026

In-person workshop and a campus-wide networking event: September 9, 2026



GATA Network
CENTRE FOR TEACHING & LEARNING
uwindsor.ca/ctl



University
of Windsor

Table of Contents

GATAcademy Schedule-at-a-Glance	3
GATAcademy Session Program.....	4
GA/TA and Graduate Student Development Opportunities at the CTL!	8

GATAcademy is brought to you by the Centre for Teaching and Learning and the GATA Network in cooperation with the Faculty of Graduate Studies

Free snacks and beverages at the GATA Networking Event generously provided by UWSA and GSS.

Schedule-at-a-Glance

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

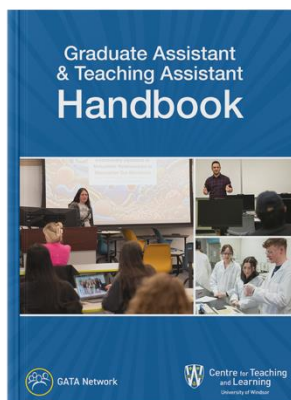
10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	GA/TA 101: Getting to Know Your Role and Responsibilities
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Teaching your Students to Write Better
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Connecting with Students: Building Rapport and Communicating Effectively

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	The GA/TA Advantage: Use Your Role to Develop Skills and Boost Your Career
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	The Lab Master: Tips and Tricks for Running Engaging and Effective Labs and Tutorials
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Brighten Up Your Teaching: Tips and Tricks for GAs/TAs in Brightspace

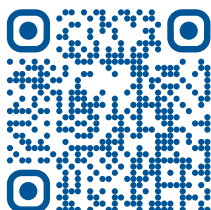
Wednesday, September 9, 2026

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Grading Greatness: A GA/TA's Guide to Assessment and Feedback
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	GATA Networking Event



To help you prepare for your role as a GA/TA, we have put together an introductory handbook.

View it by scanning the QR below or at ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/uwindsorgata



Session Program*

You will receive automated reminder emails for each workshop you register to. In addition, you will receive an email the morning of the workshops you registered to with a Microsoft Teams link. **Register at uwindsor.ca/ctl/events.**

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

GA/TA 101: Getting to Know Your Role and Responsibilities

Schedule: Tuesday, September 01, 2026, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Location: Online

Instructors: [Makayla Quinn](#), [Dora Strelkova](#)

In this 1-hour workshop participants will be introduced to the roles and responsibilities of Graduate Assistants (GAs) and Teaching Assistants (TAs). This session will explore general requirements, examples of work activities, and helpful resources (including the Collective Agreement and the GA/TA Handbook). Whether you're new to the GA/TA role at the University of Windsor or have experience, this workshop offers a unique opportunity to plan for the upcoming term, reinforce your teaching skills, and prepare to support both faculty and students.

Teaching your Students to Write Better

Schedule: Tuesday, September 01, 2026, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Location: Online

Instructors: [Ronnie Haidar](#), Valbona Yakoub

Writing is one of the most important skills that any person can learn. It is a skill that empowers us to express ourselves, connect with one another, and make a positive impact on the world. Graduate assistants (GAs) and teaching assistants (TAs) have an important role to play in helping students become better writers. This role can be exciting but also daunting. This workshop will provide GAs and TAs with a diverse set of effective strategies and innovative techniques for enhancing their students' writing skills, that will not only benefit the students but also elevate your overall teaching experience. Throughout this session, you will participate in collaborative activities and explore various methods. This collaborative nature of the workshop will inspire and empower you to create a supportive learning experience for your students. By the end of the workshop, you will have gained valuable insights and practical tools to enhance your students' writing abilities with confidence, creativity, and a deeper understanding of the writing process.

**Instructor biographies available on the CTL registration system: uwindsor.ca/ctl/events*

Tuesday, September 1, 2026 (cont'd)

Connecting with Students: Building Rapport and Communicating Effectively

Schedule: Tuesday, September 01, 2026, 01:00 PM – 02:00 PM

Location: Online

Instructors: [Isabelle Hinch](#), [Luis Villanueva](#)

In this workshop, participants will be introduced to ways of connecting with their students and building rapport. This session will be a dialogue about fostering a positive learning environment, communicating with students, and conflict resolution.

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

The GA/TA Advantage: Use Your Role to Develop Skills and Boost Your Career

Schedule: Wednesday, September 02, 2026, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Location: Online

Instructors: [Stephanie Dupley](#)

Your GA/TAship is a valuable opportunity that provides you with skills and experiences that can help you with your career. In this session, learn about how you can identify and develop these skills and experiences and how you can effectively communicate and market them to potential employers.

The Lab Master: Tips and Tricks for Running Engaging and Effective Labs and Tutorials

Schedule: Wednesday, September 02, 2026, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Location: Online

Instructors: [Samra Khan](#)

Shouldn't our labs and tutorials be as engaging as possible? After all, labs and tutorials allow for the practical demonstration and discussion of theoretical concepts we learn in classes! Despite our wishes, sometimes students may not be as involved or intrigued by the lab or tutorial as we would like. In this workshop we will discuss some easy-to-apply techniques and processes for teaching engaging labs and tutorials. Whether you are a new GA/TA beginning your teaching, or an experienced GA/TA interested in further developing your skills, this workshop will offer strategies for developing rapport and connecting with students; and delivering the labs and tutorials with confidence and fun.

Brighten Up Your Teaching: Tips and Tricks for GAs/TAs in Brightspace

Schedule: Wednesday, September 02, 2026, 01:00 PM – 02:00 PM

Location: Online

Instructors: [Timothy Au-Yeung](#), [Anna Galka](#)

This session will provide an overview of key Brightspace tools and topics for GAs and TAs in the online environment. Our focus will be on communicating with students (announcements, discussion board), and grading the different types of assessments found on Brightspace (assignments, quizzes, and discussion boards) in addition to using the Grades tool and related features. This session is best viewed on a screen larger than a mobile device with the ability to log into Brightspace and try what the facilitator is demonstrating.



Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Grading Greatness: A GA/TA's Guide to Assessment and Feedback

Schedule: Wednesday, September 09, 2026, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Location: CEI 2102

Instructors: Tanzil Kataria, [Aleksandra Redko](#)

In this interactive workshop, we will walk through the grading process: from the moment the instructor assigns the assessment to when students receive feedback, and everything in between. By the end of this workshop, attendees will learn about and be able to: recognize effective feedback, anticipate assessment types and the materials they needed to grade, recognize their role to maintain academic integrity, apply strategies to support their work, effectively grade as a part of a team, share feedback with students, and complete a grading task from start to finish.

GATA Networking Event

Schedule: Wednesday, September 09, 2026, 11:00 AM – 01:00 PM

Location: CEI 2101

Join us at the GATA Networking Event (in CEI room 2101) where there will be an assortment of booths representing various services on campus! Come socialize with fellow GA/TAs and learn about how you and your fellow students are supported on campus. The event runs from 11:00am until 1:00 pm.

Free snacks and beverages will be generously provided by UWSA and GSS

Schedule-at-a-Glance

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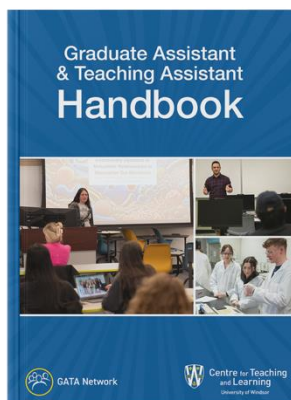
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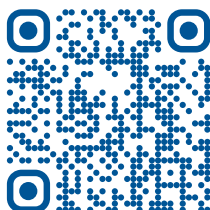
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GA/TA and Graduate Student Development Opportunities at the CTL!

The GATA Network

GATA Network: The GATA Network Development Team work with GAs and TAs across campus, introducing them to mentors and resources they will need to improve their pedagogical knowledge and skills. Find us on [X](#) (@GATANetwork) and on [Facebook](#) (fb.me/GATANetwork).

Local GA/TA Communities: The GATA Network assists small groups with on-site discussions or workshops. Just let us know which skills your group is interested in developing. Contact us at gata@uwindsor.ca.

Teach & Learn: The [Teach & Learn Blog](#) features faculty spotlights, pedagogy insights, and Indigenous-centered education. Content highlights include innovative teaching practices, curriculum redesign, and strategies to enhance student engagement and well-being.

Brightspace: For detailed instructions and information regarding Brightspace, visit uwindsor.ca/ctl/brightspace.

CTL Support

Observations and Consultations: GAs and TAs who want feedback on their teaching [may request a classroom/laboratory/tutorial observation](#), followed by confidential written and verbal advice about both strengths and recommended changes. We are also available throughout the year to meet with you to discuss teaching and learning issues, methodologies, philosophies... if it's about teaching and learning, we're happy to chat!

Teaching Dossier Academy: A week-long summer event involving workshops and mentoring to help you create a teaching dossier that presents you at your best. The CTL is also happy to provide advice, mentoring, and support to help you create teaching dossiers throughout the year.

Teaching and Learning Workshops: Keep an eye on the [CTL website](#) for details about workshops available to all UWindsor community members – including GAs and TAs.

Graduate Diploma in University Teaching: Unique to Windsor, the newly launched [Graduate Diploma in University Teaching](#) is an in-depth program that integrates theory with practice to foster excellent teaching, and is open to graduate students from across all disciplines.

CTL Courses

Learning-Centred Teaching in Higher Education:

This six-week course will define and interrogate the scholarship of teaching and learning, and its value to teaching, learning, and higher education. Participants will use research findings and pedagogical publications to inform their own teaching and learning practice, engaging with a wide range of empirically proven approaches to improve instruction systematically.

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning:

This six-week course will define and interrogate the scholarship of teaching and learning, and its value to teaching, learning, and higher education. Participants will explore different types of SoTL projects and research methods, determining approaches that might help them identify and answer questions and areas of interest.

Lecturing: This six-week course introduces participants to basic skills and techniques of communicating successfully to students, in particular, explaining complex ideas, grabbing and holding attention, phrasing, communicating nonverbally, and generating emotional response.

Course Design: This six-week course introduces participants to the principles and practice of effective course design, including developing effective outcomes, devising methods and strategies to help students master the most difficult concepts and theories, and aligning assessments. Participants will have the opportunity to design (or redesign!) a course of their choosing, receiving feedback at each step.

Leading Effective Discussions: This six-week course introduces participants to the basic skills involved in promoting, leading, and sustaining educationally-effective discussions. The course involves discussion-based active learning lessons and participant-led microteaching sessions.

Visit uwindsor.ca/ctl/courses for more information.



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