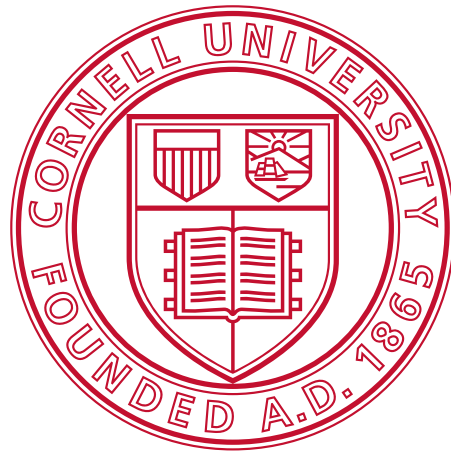


Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

International Teaching Assistant Program (ITAP)

Cornell GPSA

Nikola Danev | October 12th, 2020



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What is ITAP?

What is the International Teaching Assistant Program?

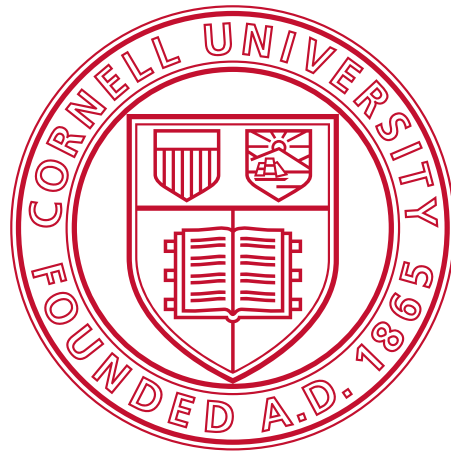
The International Teaching Assistant Program (ITAP) supports international graduate students on the path to success in their work as teaching assistants at Cornell.

ITAP includes three components:

- language assessments to determine whether students are prepared to serve as teaching assistants
- a summer program for new students needing assistance before beginning work as teaching assistants in the Fall semester
- ALS 5780, which offers opportunities to improve language proficiency in an experiential class environment



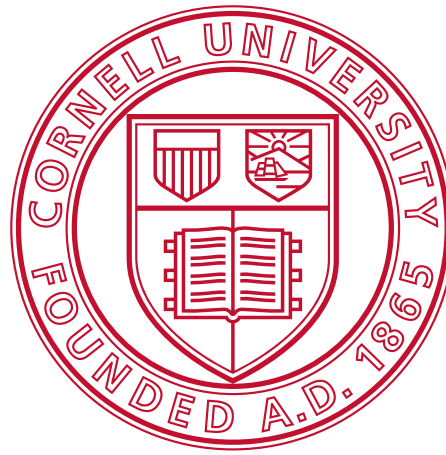
From: <https://teaching.cornell.edu/graduate-students/ITAP>



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What is ITAP?

- All international* students are required to take an English proficiency test if they plan on TAing
 - A lot of programs require TAing to graduate
 - Puerto Rican (USA) students have been taking the ITAP
- The ITAP ILA is an oral test where the student is expected to teach the examiner something from their field
- This is typically before the program begins, i.e. summer
- If you fail, you must take an additional class.
- You must take the class until you pass. Most students need to take it more than once.
- Segregates TAs from so-called "ITAs"



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What is ITAP?

- 83.5% of students come from one geographic region
- ~54% need to take the course. “The majority” of them need to take the course 1.72 times.
- You must score in the 95th percentile on the TOEFL to be exempt from this test
- It doesn't matter if you did your undergrad in the USA

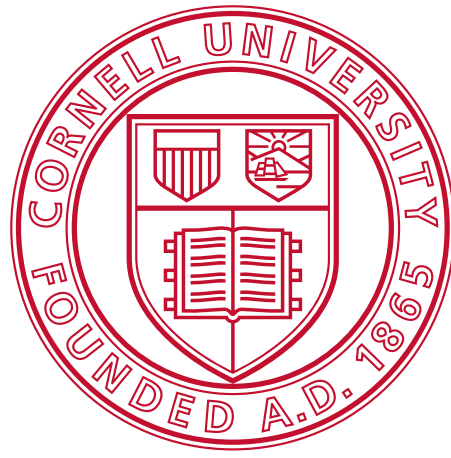
76% of students speak Cantonese or Mandarin as their first language, the 2nd most common first language is Korean at **7.5%**



53.74% OF STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE THE COURSE BEFORE THEY CAN TA.

The majority of these students can begin TAing after taking the course **1.72** times.

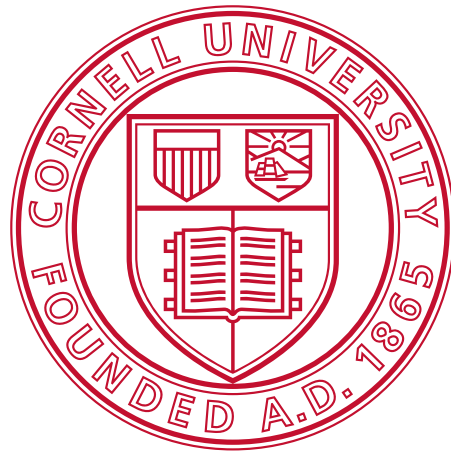
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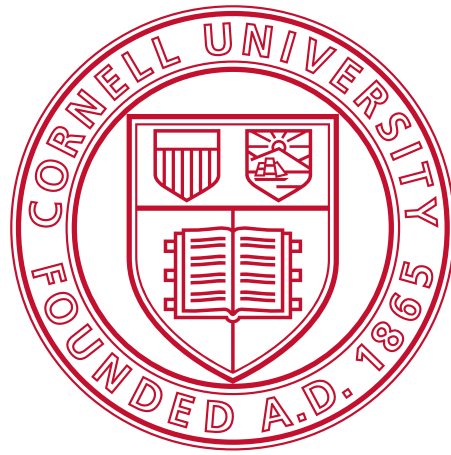
- Graduate and Professional Community initiative
- § International Students
 - Objective 2
 - Restructure ITAP:
 - Waive requirement
 - Appeal process
- Domestic students do not need TA training - all international students are assumed to need it unless they test out
- Not focused on academic field
- Lots of pressure prior to start of program; results come with delay - stress



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Proposal

- Send out survey to all Graduate and Professional Students about ITAP
- Collect personal experiences from students and testimonies
- Schedule hearing with head of ITAP
- Summarize findings
- Send resolution to President



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Interested?

Please reach out to me at nd398@cornell.edu