International Teaching Assistant Program (ITAP)

Cornell GPSA
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](https://teaching.cornell.edu/graduate-students/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.”

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
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
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
Interested?

Please reach out to me at nd398@cornell.edu