

## **China Teaching Assistant Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: How long is the TA assignment?**

**A:** This position is a two-semester commitment to serve as a Teaching Assistant for on-site and remote faculty in our LNU-MSU College of International Business.

**Q: Will I have to pay for housing while in China?**

**A:** No, housing is covered for the semester in China. Apartments are provided and typically no more than two students (of the same gender) will be assigned to each apartment.

**Q: Will I need to pay for my flight to China any other necessary travel documents?**

**A:** MSU pays for all flights directly to and from Dalian, visa documents, a health consult, and a comprehensive medical policy for travelers (which contains emergency medical and political evacuation). The cost of obtaining a passport is the responsibility of the student.

**Q: Can I travel when I'm in China?**

**A:** Yes. China has many beautiful places to explore on weekends and during holidays. Some TAs choose to travel independently before returning home. TAs are responsible for personal travel before, during or after the time of appointment.

**Q: How many other TAs will I be traveling and working with in China?**

**A:** We typically hire two TAs per semester, so you will work with one other colleague holding the same position. Student enrollment affects the number of TAs hired in any given semester, so we might hire more or less.

**Q: Will I be able to take courses while I am in China?**

**A:** Yes, but we ask you to take only two *online* classes to ensure you will be able to manage your TA duties and enjoy your semester in China. Speak to your advisor and professors to make sure the resources you need for the class are available. Online resources such as Respondus lockdown browser, U.S. government websites and WSJ might be blocked or unavailable in China. Classes which require high amounts of collaboration with other students may also be difficult due to the 13-hour time difference.

**Q: What happens if travel is not approved due to health or safety concerns?**

**A:** The University travel policy is dictated by U.S. Department of State and CDC travel warnings. If the warnings do not recommend travel, TAs will be asked to support classes from Springfield.

**Q: Is Dalian a safe city?**

**A:** We have never encountered any problems, as Dalian is a very safe and friendly city to live in. Hospitals are readily available should someone become ill, and the local staff will assist with translation, if needed. On the few occasions someone had a pressing need to return to the U.S., the University helped the students make travel arrangements.

**Q: How long have you been sending TAs to China?**

**A:** We have been sending TAs to China since 2004. Most found this to be a very valuable experience personally and professionally.

**Q: Will I be paid in USD?**

**A:** Yes, via direct deposit in the U.S. Graduate assistants are paid at the end of the month.

**Q: What classes will I be teaching?**

**A:** COB offers a variety of classes each semester. Some COB core classes are taught each semester, in addition to classes from several departments such as Marketing, Management, Accounting, Finance and Economics. Students selected for this position should have taken the COB core classes at a minimum. The remaining classes offered each semester will influence the students selected to serve as a TA.

**Q: Does the academic calendar in China match the Springfield campus dates?**

**A:** No. The Fall semester typically starts two weeks before the semester in Springfield, and ends at the conclusion of final exam week (same as the Springfield campus). The Spring semester also starts two weeks before the semester in Springfield. After two weeks of classes, everyone enjoys a holiday (typically 5-6 weeks) for the Chinese New Year. Classes resume in late February/early March and end at the conclusion of final exam week (same as the Springfield campus). TAs are released from their responsibilities at the end of each semester and may leave the Saturday following final exams.