

FAQ China GA/TA:

Q: *How long is the GA/TA appointment?*

A: This appointment is for two semesters. The first semester you will be on MSU's Springfield campus prepping for the classes you will be teaching. Sometime will also be spent working in the IBP office. The second semester you will be teaching at LNU in Dalian, China. If you need three semesters to complete your degree, we suggest you review GA openings for a one-semester position after you return from China.

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

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

Q: *Will I need to pay for my flight to China and 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 to obtain 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 or during holidays. GAs are responsible for personal travel before, during, or after the time of appointment.

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

A: We typically hire three GA/TAs per semester, so you will work with two colleagues holding the same position. Student enrollment affects the number of GA/TAs hired on 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 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, US 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, the GAs 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, if someone becomes 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 US. Graduate Assistants are paid at the end of the month. Food is very inexpensive (and plentiful) in China; you can eat well for \$5.00 US per day. The current exchange rate can be viewed [here](#).

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, and Finance. 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. In the fall, classes start two weeks before the semester in Springfield, and ends at the conclusion of final exam week, which is the same as the Springfield campus. For spring, classes also start two weeks before the start of classes in Springfield (which is often in December). After two weeks of classes everyone enjoys a holiday (typically 5-6 weeks) for the Chinese New Year. Classes resume in late February or early March, and finals align with the Springfield campus dates. TAs are released from their responsibilities at the end of each semester and can leave the Saturday following final exams. Some choose to travel independently in the Asian region before returning.