Campus Resources for Teaching and Learning

UC Berkeley has a wealth of resources and services available to GSIs in their instructional roles. In this section of the Teaching Guide you will find libraries, museums, gardens, and other places that can enrich your students’ learning experience.

Libraries, Museums, and Demonstration Spaces
Digital Collections
Data Systems and Licensed Software
Offices Providing Assistance in Teaching and Learning

For a comprehensive list of resources related to equity, working with students with disabilities, sexual harassment, academic misconduct, and other ethical or policy questions about working as a GSI, please see the Annotated Campus Resource List from the GSI Online Ethics Course. For a briefer list of campus policies and services, please see Must-See Policies and Resources for GSIs.

Libraries, Museums, and Demonstration Spaces

Museums and Collections links to information about many of the 40+ non-book collections at UC Berkeley.

The UC Berkeley Libraries consist of the main libraries (Doe, Moffitt, Bancroft, and dozens of subject specialty libraries), a number of affiliated libraries, as well as departmental libraries. GSIs will find a wealth of information available to them in these collections, though it should be noted that these libraries are decentralized and keep different hours. It is best to check the library's website for hours and borrowing policies before your visit.

The UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, which houses a diverse, global collection of plants, can be used free of charge by UC Berkeley instructors for educational purposes. Be sure to inform the Garden staff using the College Course Use Request Form in advance of your visit.

Blake Garden in nearby Kensington supports teaching and research in UC Berkeley's Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Design. The 10.6-acre space is open to the public.

The Berkeley Natural History Museums (BNHM) website contains information, events, and data resources on the six natural history museums and affiliated field stations on the UC Berkeley campus.

Digital Collections

The Berkeley Language Center's Library of Foreign Language Clips provides instructors with a cataloged and tagged collection of clips that are available to use as part of foreign language instruction.

UC Berkeley's Media Resources Center is a library of audio and visual material. GSIs may make arrangements to borrow materials for same-day classroom use on the Berkeley campus, or for overnight previewing.

UC Berkeley's YouTube channel features an archive of video lectures from a variety of departments. (Videos of current lectures are available only to UC Berkeley students and instructors via CalCentral.)

webcast.berkeley.edu is the central repository for all audio and video recordings of university lectures up to Spring 2015. (Videos of current lectures are available only to UC Berkeley students and instructors via CalCentral.) This site is fully searchable by semester and department, and links to lectures available on iTunes and YouTube.

Data Systems and Licensed Software

CalCentral is an online portal that provides centralized access to a variety of campus services and resources such as bConnected tools, bCourses, registration and financial information, etc.
bCourses is UC Berkeley’s Learning Management System (LMS). You can learn more about using bCourses on the Educational Technology Services’ (ETS’s) Learn bCourses page.

Information Services and Technology (IST) supports many components of the campus’s information-technology infrastructure. Many issues with services provided by IST can be resolved using the online Knowledge Base, which offers answers to frequently asked questions, as well as tips and tricks.

Software downloads are available to UC Berkeley students at Software Central. Many software products, such as Microsoft, Adobe Creative Cloud, and security software are available free of charge to students.

The UC Berkeley Computer Use Policy outlines policy for appropriate use of campus computing, networking, and information resources.

bConnected gives you access to the campus’s instance of Google Apps for Education (email, calendar, documents, contacts, etc.), making it easier for you to communicate and collaborate with students and colleagues.

Offices Providing Assistance in Teaching and Learning

The GSI Teaching & Resource Center is an academic unit of the Graduate Division that provides resources and services for graduate students as they develop their professional skills in teaching in higher education. We also work closely with faculty and the departments to assist them in the mentoring and training they offer graduate students in teaching.

UC Berkeley’s Center for Teaching and Learning offers support to UC Berkeley faculty members. GSIs may find some of the CTL’s web resources to be useful in their teaching.

The UC Berkeley Library offers a number of resources that would be of use to GSIs. GSIs can, for example, place course materials on reserve, consult the subject librarian for their discipline, and arrange for in-person or online instruction about conducting research at the library through the main library website.

Educational Technology Services (ETS) provides an array of technologies supporting teaching and learning, including bCourses, classroom equipment, and training in the use of technology. A comprehensive list is published in the ETS Service & Facilities directory.

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