

# **Quick tips** for making the most of your PGR and GTA experience

Advice on best practice from experienced members of the SALC postgraduate community

## **TOPIC: Undergraduate teaching**

Be prepared in case your students don't bring (or prepare) homework – always have a plan B!

Don't be afraid to admit that you don't know something; just promise to find out for the next lesson

Although it can be tempting to give as much feedback on assessments as possible, it's better to focus on BIG areas for improvement - otherwise students may feel overwhelmed

Enjoy it, don't stress and be patient. You will encounter the weirdest excuses and real events. Don't feel like you're solely responsible for what you do. The Course Unit Director and a broad range of University services are there to help.

Be flexible about what you include in seminars - find the right balance between the syllabus and the students' needs. Consult students about what they want from seminars.

Start seminars with an open ended warm-up activity (e.g. brainstorming cultural stereotypes of the French revolution). It gets students talking and is an informal way to introduce a complex topics

Be the master of your own teaching space! Don't let friendship groups always stay together – split them up sometimes. Some classroom layouts are unhelpful, try arranging students in circles or in a 'horseshoe' shape for discussions

Talk to existing GTAs about their experiences!

