

Teaching assistant as a learning instructor



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Aalto-yliopisto
Aalto-universitetet
Aalto University

Day 1

Samu Tikkanen, Miia Forstén

Welcome to the course!

Your course facilitators:



- **Miia Forstén**
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- **Samu Tikkanen**
- Pedagogical specialist, ELEC
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Timetable

13:00 – 14:00

Getting to know each other

Course practicalities

Break

14:00-15:00

What makes a good teaching assistant?

Housekeeping



- Please, feel free to ask questions in chat at any time



- If possible, please keep your cameras open in small group discussions. This is up to you, of course!



- We are here together, learning from each other. Kindness and respect are the ways of working.

Hello!

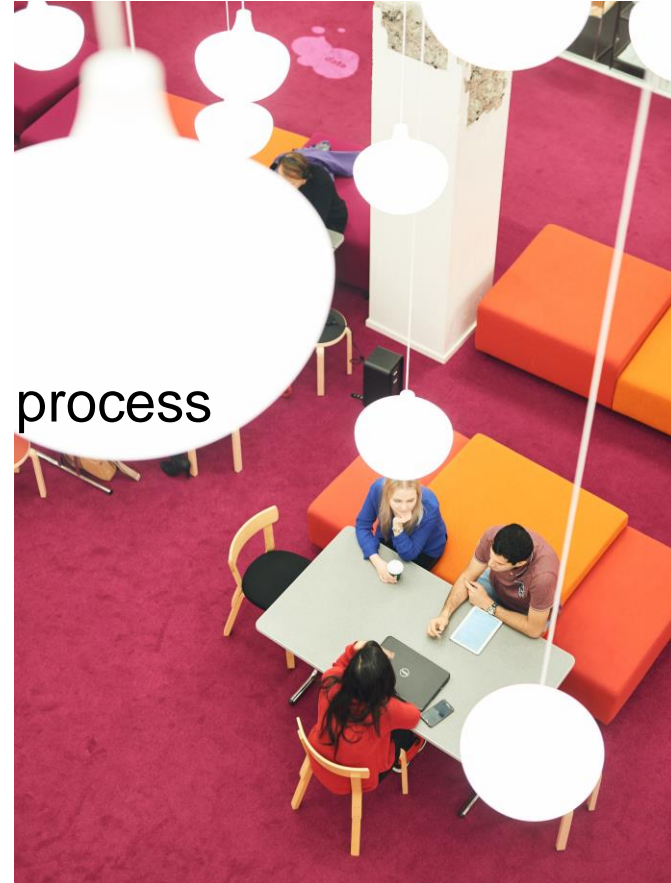


1. Introduce yourself.
2. Where you are located at the moment (with the precision you feel comfortable with)?
3. One word about the tasks of a teaching assistant (e.g. what comes first into your mind? What is especially essential? etc.)
 - Please explain why you chose this word.

Learning outcomes for this course

After the course you will be able to

- observe the learning environment from the learning perspective
- Identify aspects to support students' learning process
- recognise ways to support students' study motivation
- identify your role as a learning instructor



TEACHING ASSISTANT AS A LEARNING INSTRUCTOR

Autumn 2021

Pre-assignment

DAY 1

Introduction and getting to know each other
Thursday 16.9. at 13.00-15.00

Assignments

Code of conduct
Orientation for the Day 2

DAY 2

Interaction and feedback
Wednesday 22.9. at 9:00-12:00

Assignments

Reading assignment
& group reflection
Orientation for the Day 3

DAY 3

Approaches to learning, levels of thinking about teaching
Thursday 14.10. at 13.00-16.00

Assignments

Planning your observation
Reading assignment
& group reflection
Orientation for the Day 4

DAY 4

Different kinds of students
Tuesday 2.11. at 9:00-12:00

Assignments

Digital teaching tools
assignment
Orientation for the Day 5

DAY 5

Students' study wellbeing: issues related to learning and motivation
Friday 11.11. at 13.00-16.:00

Teaching observation 1
(video)
DL 14.10.

Teaching observation 2
(a teaching session)
DL 9.11.

Sessions are organized in Zoom
Materials, assignments and links are in MyCourses

How to complete the course

- Pre-assignment
- Participating in the teaching sessions
- Doing the coursework
 - reading assignments (two)
 - teaching observations (two) and giving written feedback
 - reflective write-up of half to one page (two, group work)
 - complete the e-course on the code of conduct (link at MyCourses)

Participant's workload

A. Teaching sessions	14 h
B. Learning assignments (all together)	17 h
<i>a) Reading assignment x 2</i>	<i>4 h</i>
<i>b) Teaching observation x 2</i>	<i>4 h</i>
<i>c) Reflective write-up x 2</i>	<i>4 h</i>
<i>d) Individual assignments</i>	<i>5 h</i>
C. Working in peer groups (2 meetings)	10 h
D. Reflection & working independently	13 h
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Total	54 h
(2 credits)	

(one credit is equivalent to a workload of 27 h)

What you are especially hoping to learn

- about **interacting with students**
- communication**
- how to
 - **engage** and **activate** students
 - **motivate** and **inspire** students to learn
 - be **inclusive** and how to take everyone into consideration

- assessment**
- build **effective lectures**
- explaining** the subject in a clear and supportive way
- online teaching **methods and tools**
- to
 - learn from each other
 - prepare self-learning activities and teaching material for student

Short break!



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What makes a good course assistant?

What are the elements and capabilities that make "a good course assistant"?

Step 1 (5 min individually):

- Write down each element or capability (at least three) to a piece of paper/your laptop file/or similar



Design and present a "prototype" of a good teaching assistant

Step 2 (~20 min with your group):

- Share your thoughts with your group
- Create your prototype of a good teaching assistant in FLINGA
- Choose someone to say a few words about your prototype

Step 3 (together):

- Present and describe the teaching assistant that has the attributes and capabilities you have discovered
- Prepare to present your group work (max 5 min/group)



For the next time

1. Code of Conduct

- **Staff and students of Aalto must be familiar with the Code of conduct**
 - Detailed material is available as an e-course in MyCourses
 - E-course is at <https://mycourses.aalto.fi/course/view.php?id=19437>

2. Orientation for the Day 2: Questions for a seasoned teaching assistant / teacher? DL 21.9.

- What would you like to ask from a seasoned teaching assistant, or from a teacher of a course with teaching assistants?
- Post at least one question in discussion forum in MyCourses.

Your feedback on this session



1. I am enthusiastic about...
2. I am puzzled/pondering/thinking of..
3. I expect, I need...

In Presemo:

<http://presemo.aalto.fi/courseassistant>

Feedback time:

<http://presemu.aalto.fi/courseassistant>



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Thank you!