

International Teaching Assistants: Institutional Support at Top Research Universities

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Today's presentation

- The purpose of this project
- Scope of project
- Process and summary
- Activity
- Question and Answer



Purpose??



Purpose: UTK Context

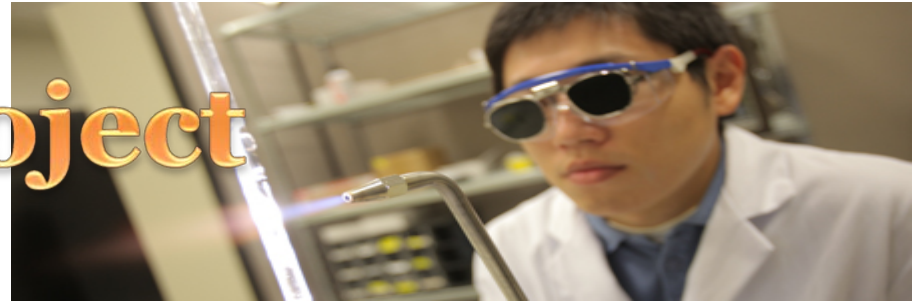
- Number of ITAs?
- 75-160 students/semester take SPEAK
- Historical support
 - ELI courses
 - Hearing/Speech Center consultations



Purpose: Research ?s

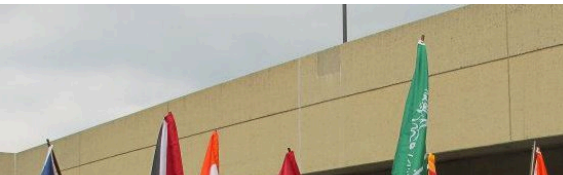
1. How are ITAs assessed (screened)?
 - At admission?
 - At matriculation?
 - Prior to teaching?
2. What assessment measures are used?
3. What support mechanisms are available?
4. What needs do those support mechanisms address?
5. What other resources are available to ITAs?

Scope of project



- Identifying institutions
- Program sponsors
- Entrance requirements and other testing requirements
- Courses/training offered
- Cultural/social support opportunities

Process and Results

- Our ongoing collaborative process
 - Preliminary findings
 - Significant similarities
 - Striking contrasts
 - Best practices
- 



Preliminary Insights

- Striking variation in organizational structures
- Lack of standardization in oral proficiency testing
- UT trailing peers in ITA training and support—an opportunity!
- Best Practices?

On UTK's campus

- Development of “ITA Seminar I”
- Summer intensive course
- Objectives
- Outcomes
- Small-group
Emphasis





Self assessment/inventory
Bridging the “gap”

