Hi All,

This email is intended to any student who may be interested (or required) to TA in the CS department -- please read carefully, as our policies have changed (see 2).

Faculty: if you have incoming PhD students who may not yet be on the phd-student list, please forward to them. I believe all the new MS students have been added already.

1) TA MICE applications for Fall 2011 are now open, and students are encouraged to apply.
Go to the Students-->TA menu and pick "Application".

Students can apply or change their application at any time, and instructors may log in and rank the applicants for their class at any time (and in fact, a couple of instructors already asked me to assign a specific student as a TA, which I will do in the next few days).   But to facilitate the process, we're setting July 25 as the deadline after which the first round of assignments will begin. Assignments will continue into the semester, as enrollments fluctuate, but we will try to finalize as much as possible in the early stages.

2) There have been several recent changes to the TA policies:

--- Due to changes in the dean's office rules, there is no more "MSTA fellowship" -- MS students can only TA for monetary compensation, while tuition will not be covered (and the whole process of sending recommendations, etc, is not necessary anymore.)

--- The rate for TAing has been raised to $2500 a semester per unit for all students, whether undergrad, MS, or PhD.

--- PhD students who need to TA to fulfill their requirement should TA 4000 or 6000 level classes with at least a full unit of TA (no such restrictions apply to PhD students who are TAing towards compensation). As before, any PhD student who wants to TA should obtain their advisor's approval.

3) To sum up the current process:

-- There is only one type of TAing for undergrad and MS students -- towards compensation of $2500 a semester per unit. There are two types of TAing for PhD students: towards compensation as above, or towards completing their requirement of 2 units (after which the student will be completely funded by the department for one semester, as coordinated with the advisor).

-- Applications for all students are done through mice (as before). The selection is done by me based on enrollment, instructor preferences, and department needs.
You will be notified if/when you are assigned for a class.
On the TA webpage www.cs.columbia.edu/ta/ we will maintain information including advertising classes that are missing qualified TA applicants.

If you have any questions, please email me (taczar@cs.columbia.edu) or Swap, the TA coordinator (tacoord@cs.columbia.edu)

Thanks,
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