**Boston University CAS/GRS**

**International Teaching Fellows Orientation**

**Pre- Assignment**

There is a great deal for us to cover and for you to do during the Orientation program. Therefore, we ask that, along with getting your visa, planning your trip and packing, you also start preparing in advance for your new role as international graduate student and Teaching Fellow. Kindly complete this assignment ***before*** Orientation; the earlier you begin thinking about the questions raised, the more readily you will adapt to your exciting new role and responsibilities.

**A. After reading** the attached selection from Lipson (2008), *Succeeding as an International Student in the United States and Canada*, please reflect on the following questions. Be prepared to discuss during Orientation.

1. Of the three biggest academic challenges discussed in the first section, which do you feel best prepared for? Which might be most challenging for you? How could you plan to meet that challenge most effectively?

2. What past experiences have you had that could help you meet the academic expectation of not only learning from the experts in your field but also “pushing forward with your own distinctive research”?

3. Do any of the 5 recommendations for how to succeed as a Teaching Fellow (TF; also know as a Teaching Assistant, or TA) surprise you? Do you have further questions or comments about any of them?

4. For any instructor in the US and Canada -- from TAs to professors -- what is the essence of maintaining a professional relationship with students? How does this

compare to relationships between instructors and students in your country, or in

your experience?

**B. Before watching** the video, *Teaching in America*, online at:

<http://bokcenter.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k1985&pageid=icb.page415030&pageContentId=icb.pagecontent870478&view=watch.do&viewParam_entry=19653#a_icb_pagecontent870478>

think about what expectations, images, or stereotypes you may have of American undergraduate students: What do you think they may be like? Why?

**C. After watching** the video, compare your expectations to the video interviewees’ descriptions of American students. What characterizations and piece of advice most stood out for you?

**D. Finally,** prepare a 2-3 minutes self- introduction, which will be your first oral presentation at Orientation (and a rehearsal for meeting your students!).