

Role of laboratory-based teaching assistantships on the career development of chemical engineering graduate students

Teaching assistantships (TA's) are an integral aspect of graduate research in chemical engineering. Through TA's, graduate students can offset the cost of education through subsidized tuition, fees, and stipends. TA's also provide career training and development as graduate students enter academia or pursue an industry career.

TA's can be of two forms: classroom course teaching opportunities and laboratory course teaching opportunities. Laboratory teaching opportunities are pertinent for graduate students since these avail students with engineering scenarios and troubleshooting tips. Laboratory assistantships also hone instrumentation abilities, supervisory skills, safety awareness, and innovation. Graduate students should be encouraged to adopt a healthy mix of laboratory teaching assistantships and classroom-based teaching assistantships.

Author:

Solomon Isu obtained his bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from the Federal University of Technology Owerri, Nigeria, and his MS degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Arkansas. Solomon is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering at the University of Arkansas.