

Should I be a Graduate Assistant?



GRADUATE ASSISTANT (GA)

Work done for someone else; not for completion of your degree.

Not your research project.

Research, administrative, and/or clerical work.

Assigned tasks and hours.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT (RA)

Work done for your own research project or degree requirements.

Research, administrative, and/or clerical work.

Why does it matter?

GRADUATE ASSISTANT

GAs are part of CUPE 3903 (Unit 3). As a CUPE 3903 member you have access to:

- A robust health benefits plan (dependents also covered); prescription drug, vision, and dental coverage, along with physiotherapy, massage, psychotherapy and more. And an Extended Health Benefits fund to cover additional health expenses.
- A professional development fund, a fund to help cover unexpected hardships, a sexual assault survivor support fund, a trans fund, a childcare fund and discounts at on campus childcare centres.
- Tuition cost rebates (Graduate Financial Assistance), access to special graduate bursaries, guaranteed summer funding and funds to cover UHIP payments.
- Union representation to help protect your rights and help you gain access to leaves and other benefits.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

- RAs pay to be part of the York University Graduate Student Association (YUGSA) health plan.
- If you are not a member of CUPE 3903 you cannot access union funds or other benefits.

If you think you should be a GA we can help!

Contact your steward or check out:

3903.cupe.ca/GAorNot