A policy of the Graduate Program Committee for assigning Teaching Assistantships (TA) in the Department of Geoscience

The objectives of the policy are:

I. To ensure a high quality educational experience for the students enrolled in any course of the GLGY and GOPH programs
   - To achieve this, only students who are academically competent in a course’s topic will be asked to TA a course

II. To ensure the departmental commitments (as indicated in the student’s Letter of Acceptance) are respected
   - To achieve this, all Thesis-based MSc and PhD students with a current commitment will be assigned TAships before any other students with an expired commitment or students without a commitment

III. To assign additional TAships (if available) in a way that is fair and transparent
   - Priorities will be given only to students with academic competency in a course topic, in the following order of priorities:
     1. Thesis-based MSc and PhD students who were admitted off-cycle (e.g. late admission, January admission, etc.) with a formal request for a TAship from their supervisor.
     2. Thesis-based students in the second (M.Sc.) or third (Ph.D.) year of their program who received an NSERC Scholarship earlier (and hence were either not committed to a TA initially or only to a Half TA)
     3. Thesis-based MSc and PhD students whose commitment from the Department of Geoscience has recently expired (i.e. one term or two terms ago)
     4. Thesis-based MSc and PhD students with a current commitment for Half TA from the Department of Geoscience but who would like to be considered for Full TA. In such cases the student’s supervisor(s) might be consulted to approve the increased work load for the student.
     5. Thesis-based MSc and PhD students whose commitment from the Department of Geoscience has long expired (e.g. more than two terms ago). TAships will be assigned based on past TA performance and course competency.
     6. Thesis-based MSc and PhD students without a commitment from the Department of Geoscience
     7. Course-based MSc students specifically requested by an Instructor
     8. Undergraduate students specifically requested by an Instructor

Other guiding principles:
- The stated preferences for specific students by Instructors to TA their course are only considered suggestions and are not binding
- The stated preferences to TA specific courses by Students are only considered suggestions and are not binding
- The Graduate Program Director (or Delegate) reserves the right to consult with the student’s Supervisor(s) prior to assigning that student a TAship
- Students with a mediocre past performance as a TA may not be asked to TA again
- Extenuating circumstances for individual students may be considered on a ‘case-by-case’ basis