

"I strongly and wholeheartedly recommend Tina Park for any teaching position. As the teaching assistant for HIS311 - Canadian International Relations, Tina invested herself fully in giving her students the best experience. She provided really useful background information from her own extensive study of history in each tutorial, and intervened strategically in the discussions to bring out key themes. Tina always made ample time for her students during office hours, and provided invaluable advice about sources for the essay assignments. She also used creative teaching strategies that engaged students and boosted learning outcomes, whether that was a debate format or a timeline at the end of the course.

Outside of the classroom, I worked under Tina's direction and guidance as a research team lead and advocacy campaign member at the Canadian Centre for the Responsibility to Protect. Thanks to Tina, I learned so many useful skills through my time at CCR2P. These ranged from practical written skills such as writing event proposals and business cases, to making Power Point presentations to internal and external stakeholders and organizing complex events. Tina also helped me to develop my interest in the Responsibility to Protect that drove my research interests in my second two years of university and will be motivating my future studies. Tina has an incredible ability to assemble a strong team and showed her deep care for team members through organizing and hosting social events and creating a convivial atmosphere.

Finally, I was really impressed by how much care and attention Tina devoted to her students, myself included. I count Tina as one of my greatest mentors. She opened up so many opportunities to me, whether it was events at Massey College, interesting events in the U of T community, or introducing me to her friends and contacts. Tina was also always happy to take time and provide advice and guidance about my academic and career path, guidance that I found and continue to find very valuable. In short, I am very grateful for the two years I spent as a student in Tina's tutorial and a colleague of hers at the Canadian Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, and I recommend her unreservedly."

Sincerely,

Misha B. J.D. Candidate, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto

"I graduated in 2013 from Trinity College at the University of Toronto with a B.A. (hons.) with High Distinction, winning the Ambassador Kenneth Taylor Prize as the top graduating student in the International Relations specialist program. I am currently a Juris Doctor candidate at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, where I won the Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg Prize as the top student in my class after second year.

Tina Park was my teaching assistant for History 311 – History of Canadian Foreign Relation. In my experience of a department with many accomplished and effective teaching assistants, Tina Park stood out. She was a superior instructor. Her tutorials were extremely well-organized and her lessons were the perfect supplement to the main course material. She communicated complex material with clarity and nuance. In marking assignments, Tina was prompt and gave plentiful, detailed and extremely helpful constructive feedback. Overall, History 311 was one of the most enjoyable courses I took during my undergraduate studies, and I attribute no small measure of that fact to Tina's contributions as teaching assistant.

Outside of the classroom, I have had the privilege of interacting with Tina as a member of the Junior Fellowship at Massey College. Tina is a dedicated and important part of Massey College's interdisciplinary community of graduate and professional students. The discussion series that Tina has organized at Massey College have been well received and Tina has developed a reputation for organizing dynamic, engaging events to stimulate vibrant academic discussion. These are qualities that I anticipate Tina will carry over into her future academic work.

At a personal level, I consider Tina to be a mentor and friend. She provided me with very helpful professional and career advice during my undergraduate studies, and I have always been astounded by how generously Tina gives of her time and attention to help other develop their professional and scholarly careers."

Samuel G. J.D. Candidate, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto

"Please permit me to start by introducing myself. My name is Taylor L. and I received a Hon. B.A. with high distinction in international relations (specialist) from Trinity College, University of Toronto in June 2013. Currently, I am completing a master's degree in accounting at the London School of Economics.

It was an absolute privilege to have Tina Park as a teaching assistant in my third year for "Introduction to Canadian International Relations (HIS311)." In my entire experience at U of T, she was the best teaching assistant I ever had. It is my pleasure to explain why.

In our seminars, Tina was always well prepared to lead and moderate a thought-provoking discussion. Tina's seminar classes got everyone involved and they were particularly active compared to seminars I had in other courses. She began the discussions with interesting questions and adeptly directed the conversation to concrete points, while taking everyone's views into account.

I remember particularly fondly meeting with Tina for guidance on my research essay. In fact, Tina cared so much about making herself available to her students that she even held office hours after undergoing surgery! My paper compared the U.S., Canadian and United Nations' response to the Rwandan Genocide. Tina provided me with practical and thoughtful advice that brought me to greater depth in the subject matter that propelled my interest even further. I became so interested that I later got involved with her initiative the Canadian Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (CCR2P) as Director of Communications and Media Relations, helping to organize a conference on R2P hosted in collaboration with the Munk School of Global Affairs. This was a fantastic experience for me personally and it was truly a pleasure to work with Tina in this capacity.

In sum, I am happy to comment on her teaching and leadership abilities and I know that she will do great things with her PhD."

Thank you,

Taylor L. M.Sc., London School of Economics, U.K.

"Over the past two years, I have had the pleasure of working with Tina Park in a number of capacities. During that time, I have come to know her as an exceptional educator, service-minded leader, and passionate advocate for innovative ideas.

As her student in "Introduction to Canadian International Relations" (HIS 311), I undoubtedly benefitted from Tina's focused approach to teaching. I was constantly challenged to think critically, speak confidently, and write eloquently – skills that Tina possesses in abundance. By setting high standards, Tina has a unique ability to bring out the best in her students and supports them every step of the way. From essay-writing tips, to advice on post-graduate plans, she fosters an open-door policy that connects students to resources and opportunities that enrich their university experience. In doing so, Tina successfully blends the professionalism of her teaching role with the generous spirit of a mentor.

Beyond the classroom, I have also worked with Tina through the University of Toronto's Women in House program and the Canadian Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (CCR2P). As both a leader and a colleague, Tina communicates her views with clarity and fosters a collegial environment. I have the upmost respect for her ability to harness the collective skills of a group and transform an idea into tangible programming. Most importantly, Tina leads by example, providing students with a holistic model of success and encouraging them to forge their own paths.

Needless to say, my interactions with Tina have always highlighted the strength of her character and the depth of her commitment to the university community. I am grateful that she was a part of my undergraduate experience, and I wish her continued success."

Sincerely,

Alexandria M. J.D. Candidate, University of Toronto Faculty of Law

"My name is Jae Hyun P. and I am currently working towards a postgraduate degree. I met Tina during the 2012/2013 Academic year. Tina was my TA for the HIS311(Introduction to Canadian International Relations) course at the University of Toronto. Then I had the opportunity to work with her with the Canadian Centre for the Responsibility to Protect and (CCR2P) and the Canada-Korea 50th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations Conference.

Tina is a wonderful mentor and a friend. Before I met Tina, I was a typical under-performing student that (objectively writing) tried to work hard but could not do things the right way. From what I can remember, I first met Tina during her office hours and I asked her how I could do better in the course that she was teaching. I was going through a stressful phase at that moment in time because I was struggling and often failing to meet my expectations despite doing everything that I could. Ever since then, Tina provided me with all the help to study better and write clearly, as well as writing critically. All of those are things that I was clearly unable to do for the first 3 or so years of university life before Tina's guidance. She made sure to communicate the level of expectations that she had on the work that we produced, and she was always available for guidance to make sure that we would meet those expectations.

As a mentor and a friend she always motivated everyone to reach for higher goals. For one, she would always invite me to various events and opportunities to work on various projects such as the Can-Kor 50th Anniversary. Through those opportunities I was able to observe and interact with friends that were doing lots of good work, and because of that I was always motivated to catch up to the friends that worked harder than I did. From someone who was struggling to motivate himself to finish his undergraduate degree, Tina carved out a person who is now finishing his postgraduate degree and contemplating on studying for an even higher degree in the near future, with a clear motivation and skill sets to conduct independent research.

In short, Tina was a life shifting mentor to me! I don't want to sound like a television commercial for a tacky product but I have no other way of describing Tina's impact. I really, really would not be where I am now without meeting Tina."

- Jae Hyun P.

"I met Tina Park as a fourth-year undergraduate student at the University of Toronto, where she was a TA for my History of Canadian International Relations course. Before I got to know her personally, I was immediately impressed by the way in which she managed our seminar group. She set very clear expectations for the group in terms of our engagement, and was very transparent in communicating how our presentations and other deliverables would be graded. Tina set high expectations, but the expectations were clear and she was always fair in evaluating student efforts. As a result, students had every incentive to meet those expectations. It was abundantly clear that she cared very much about the course material and about the learning experience her students had.

Relative to every other TA I have had as an undergraduate and graduate student, what sets Tina apart is her dedication to the material. I have sat in too many tutorial groups that simply review readings and make light conversation about them for the duration of the session. In Tina's tutorials, the fact that we did the readings was taken for granted, and the point of our time together was to critically assess the issues at hand. As such, it was a much more valuable learning experience.

I also got to know Tina through her leadership of the Women in House program that she founded at the University of Toronto. Once again, her leadership in this demonstrates an honest commitment to the student experience that few instructors have.

In my time as an undergraduate and now graduate student, it has been rare for me to meet and work with instructors that are as passionate about teaching as they are about their own research and other responsibilities. By no exaggeration, I saw the same dedication, enthusiasm, and work ethic from Tina as a TA and in her leadership of the CCR2P and Women in House. She was then and still is a strong role model for me."

Sincerely,

Leah N. M.A. Candidate, International Policy studies, Stanford University

"Tina is one of the most passionate, caring, and motivated people I have met during my time at the University of Toronto. Through my experience with CCR2P and the Women in House program, I have seen firsthand how dedicated Tina is to every project she is involved with. My first - and remaining - impression of Tina is how interested and passionate she is about the causes she is involved in. Over the years that I have known her, Tina inspires me to work harder, follow my passions, and above all to value dedication and focus in the task at hand."

– **Camilla S.**, Hon. B.A. University of Toronto (Class of 2015)

"I have encountered Tina as my own TA in HIS311. Tina's tutorial required me to host a presentation and present the related themes to the fellow classmates. However, the beauty of the presentation came from the discussion questions, which forced me to present quality questions for the tutorial to be active. Moreover, she focused on going over the definitions that were mentioned in the lecture, preparing students for the final exam.

Her office hours were always open, and I found it as a breakthrough moment whenever I was stuck in the process of composing a paper. Her sophisticated knowledge and the suggestion for the sources were never wrong. Her influence was not restricted in classroom, but was beyond academic environment. I have also learned from Tina that learning does not only come from taking courses, but the knowledge can be acquired from participating in conferences. As a person who had no knowledge on R2P, attending the discussion between Axworthy and Albright in 2014 directed me to write a paper on Rwanda Genocide and its relations to the birth of R2P in POL321.

Furthermore, I would like to thank Tina for hosting Korea-related conferences at Munk School. The initiative surely helped students to acquire information on the relevant subject, but the influence I would like to highlight is the shift of consensus amongst Korean students at U of T. Conference of overviewing CAN-KOR relations in 2013 was the first conference that actually attracted sizeable number of Korean students. Tina's efforts made reluctant Korean students to engage in the conference, participate in what school has to offer, and motivate the students in interacting with the UofT community. Furthermore, her recent work in organizing the CAN-KOR strategic conference with the emphasis given on Canada-Korea FTA was held at an excellent timing. Many students studying IR and Economics needed a conference that dealt with the topic, as many Korean-born students are hoping to make a contribution to the bilateral economic partnership in their own future careers. The conference provided an important forum for discussion, given the lack of focus on the CKFTA in the courses offered by UofT.

Her presence highly motivated me throughout the school year in various aspects. I performed significantly better academically, I began to seek for other involvement at UofT community, and wanted to commit to the well-being of fellow Korean students whenever opportunity come. She was an example and a hope for all Korean students at U of T."

Sincerely,

YOUNGWUK K.

President, University of Toronto Korean Students Association (2013-2014)

"During my time at the University of Toronto, Tina Park stood out as one of the top teaching assistants. She led my tutorial group for History of Canadian International Relations and it was clear that she was extremely passionate and knowledgeable about the subject. She was always organized and ready to answer questions, going above and beyond to ensure we had a strong grasp of the lecture material and its broader significance.

Despite her other commitments Tina was always approachable and made herself available for feedback before and after every assignment. I did not have a strong history background and was uncertain about my ability to meet the requirements for the final essay. Tina scheduled multiple appointments with me before the deadline and together we went through several drafts. My work was always returned full of helpful comments and suggestions. Thanks to her I was able to put together a much more polished paper and did extremely well in this class.

Tina's teaching style helps guide students to do their own critical thinking and develop strong writing skills. I have no doubt that the course would have been far less enjoyable and instructive if she had not been my TA." - **Albina T.** M.D. Candidate, St. Louis University

"Ms. Park has been immensely helpful to me in my first year at Trinity College. A Trinity One alumnus, she helped me to both brainstorm and edit some of my major assignments for the course. Assuredly, this made a difference in my grades. Even more valuable to me, however, was the fact that her door was always open. As a first-year student, I found it helpful and comforting to know that there was someone with whom I could discuss Trinity One and college life, in general. Not only have I been fortunate enough to know Ms. Park as an academic tutor, but I have come to know her as an employer, as well. As a new intern for the Canadian Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (CCR2P), I have found Ms. Park very supportive and understanding. As in her tutorials, Ms. Park is always available and willing to help in any way she can." -**Kelsey W.** B.A. Candidate, University of Toronto

"I was a student in Tina's HIS311 (Canadian Foreign Policy) section. Between Tina and the instructor, Professor Robert Bothwell, the course turned out to be one of the most intensive and rewarding classes that I took in undergrad. Tina was the perfect TA for the class, and having incredible knowledge of the subject combined with an acute sensitivity to our needs made her able to lead a section that perfectly filled in the gaps from the lectures. I have never been in a tutorial - let alone a *history* tutorial - where people were so willing and eager to participate, and this really speaks to the disciplined and engaging setting Tina created.

Thankfully, I have been able to get to know Tina outside of HIS311 as well. We are both recipients of the Robert Catherwood Scholarship, and she was invaluable to helping me apply for, and participate in, the March of Remembrance and Hope last summer - a truly life-changing trip. Knowing how busy Tina is, I'm always amazed by how much she still puts people first, and I know that I am only one of many students who are grateful of the time Tina takes to give back and support others."

Sincerely,

SAM L. JD/MBA Candidate, University of Toronto

“I have always had great interactions with Tina. I first met her while working at the Canadian Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (CCR2P), and I had a great experience working with her. I also had the pleasure of having her as my Teaching Assistant for HIS311- Canadian International Relations. Tina was an amazing TA and she really helped me improve not only my writing style in history essays, but also improve my knowledge in the course overall. I also worked with her in the Women in House 2015 programme, and she made the trip to Ottawa a wonderful experience. Tina has always been amazingly organised and she makes any environment welcoming. I thoroughly enjoy both working with her and learning from her.”

-Elizabeth T-B, President of the European Students Union, University of Toronto

"I have met many role models during my time at University of Toronto. Tina Park is certainly one of them. I first met Tina when she was a Teaching Assistant for HIS311. She was insightful and passionate about the subject, while providing ample support for her students. From recommending sources and readings to better grasp key concepts of the course to providing one-on-one sessions to discuss topics at length, she truly added to the course and the experience.

From our interaction, Tina then recruited me to be part of the Canada-Korea at 50 seminar. Marking the 50 years of Canadian-Korean diplomatic relations, Tina worked to bridge the gap between students/general public and academics to communicate the significance of the event as well as to suggest a way forward. Tina's sheer will and vast knowledge of Korean-Canadian relations was one of the main factors in making the event a great success. It engaged students into what could be a dull issue all the while providing fresh insight and views to established academics and respected community leaders.

Tina has been a great role model. I admire her work ethic and dedication to her research on Korea-Canada relations."

-Christine L. Member's Assistant, Office of Tony Clement

“As far as I know, Tina has been one of the most helpful and enthusiastic teaching assistants at the University of Toronto. I had her as my HIS311 TA under Professor Bothwell in my third year, and my essay writing skill as well as analytic skills improved tremendously through Tina's supervision and teaching. Not only she is a wonderful teacher but she is also very approachable and caring in terms of communicating with her students. She held extra office hours and study sessions before exams and essay due dates, which helped many of us. I greatly appreciate her existence at the U of T, and she will be remembered as one of my greatest teachers in life.”

- **Catherine L.**, M.A. candidate, Xinghua University, China

April 4, 2011

Dear Lori,

"I am enrolled in the HIS103 course that ran from September to 2010 to April 2011. I would like to take this opportunity to nominate Tina Park, my TA for this class, as an ideal candidate for this award. I am a visually impaired student and Tina has consistently gone out of her way to assist me and accommodate my needs throughout the year. Although this might seem as a normal or responsible action, the dedication taken by Tina is, indeed, unprecedented.

During the tutorials, Tina was passionate and inspiring. She brought life into the reading material and successfully made the course very interesting. Yet, Tina's role did not end in the classroom. Week after week she encouraged all students to attend her office hours. She was keen to share and educate her indispensable knowledge in both history and essay writing tips. I believe that Tina's passion did not only motivate students to succeed in the class but also equipped us with the skills and knowledge for the future.

I am without a doubt convinced that Tina is a deserving candidate for this award. This nomination is the bare minimum any of us, as students, can do to appreciate her assistance throughout the year. I am not sure if I am able to further express my respect and appreciation to Tina in words. I hope that she earn this prize.

Thank you in advance for seeking to reward such deserving and influencing individuals in the University."

Best regards,

Abdalla B.