

Leila Duman

AY 2017-18 All-S.T.A.R. Fellow

College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences

Department of Chemistry

3rd year Graduate Student, TA



My service as a Teaching Assistant and a Research Assistant at UMD has been integral to my growth as a graduate student, teacher, and scientist. As a TA, I have sought out and implemented different pedagogical techniques ranging from active learning to lecturing to open discourse. In addition to curating review material for small discussion sections and supervising labs, as a GAANN fellow, I prepared and presented my own lesson plans for lectures to introduce new material to classes of 200+ students. These experiences have made me a more versatile educator and skilled communicator, able to fluently engage with others while enhancing my own mastery of the material. This fluency complements the technical and analytical skills I have also gained in my capacity as an RA. In pursuing my laboratory research, I have moved beyond the fundamentals of chemistry to achieve significant, novel breakthroughs in my

subject. I have published my research in a high impact, peer-reviewed journal and have subsequently presented my findings at national conferences and collaborated with world-class researchers, placing me at the forefront of innovation in my field. These experiences have given me the confidence to become involved in administrative and social aspects of the Chemistry Department, in which I now hold leadership positions of GSG Representative and GSO Vice-President. Through my Graduate Assistantships, I am able to contribute meaningfully to the education of others and progress steadily in my research, thus advancing towards my ultimate goal of both communicating and expanding the study of chemistry.