



**Resolution to Increase Enrollment
by Establishing CUNY Internal Scholarship Funds and Further Training Staff
at CUNY Career Services Offices for CUNY International and Undocumented Students**

Adopted by *the University Student Senate (USS) of the City University of New York (CUNY)* on March 26th, 2023
Co-sponsored by *Lehman College Student Government Association, Queens College Student Association, the City College of New York Undergraduate Student Government, CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy Graduate Student Government Association, Medgar Evers College Student Government Association, Brooklyn College Undergraduate Student Government, the Doctoral and Graduate Students' Council at CUNY Graduate Center, Undergraduate Student Government at Baruch College, Hunter College Undergraduate Student Government, LaGuardia Community College Student Government Association*

To the attention of:

- CUNY Board of Trustees*
- CUNY Board of Trustees Finance and Administration Committee*
- CUNY Board of Trustees Enrollment Subcommittee*
- CUNY Chancellor, Félix V. Matos Rodríguez*
- CUNY University Provost, Wendy F. Hensel*
- CUNY Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Denise B. Maybank*
- CUNY University Associate Provost for Careers and Industry Partnerships, Lauren Andersen*
- CUNY University Director for International Student and Scholar Services, Ruth Kamona*
- CUNY University Director for Undocumented and Immigrant Student Programs, Cynthia Carvajal*

WHEREAS, The City University of New York (hereinafter “CUNY”) is home to approximately 6,000 international students from over 100 countries in F-1 and J-1 immigration status¹ who always pay out-of-state tuition no matter how long they reside in the New York State², and

¹ <https://www.cuny.edu/academics/academic-programs/international-education/isss/>

² <https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/university-tuition-fee-manual/iv-residency/>

WHEREAS, an estimated 5,000 CUNY undocumented students can face severe obstacles in accessing basic resources such as financial aid, in-state tuition, scholarships, governmental resources and other forms of public assistance³, and

WHEREAS, neither international students nor undocumented students fall into the category of US citizens and permanent residents, and

WHEREAS, most grants, scholarships, and loans from public and private sources are restricted to US citizens and permanent residents⁴, and

WHEREAS, international students must present financial evidence to show that they or a sponsor has sufficient funds to cover tuition and living expenses during the period of intended study using family bank statements or scholarship letters⁵, and

WHEREAS, any international students' family bank statement could change on account of financial emergencies such as Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022⁶ and Turkey–Syria earthquake in 2023⁷, and

WHEREAS, CUNY does not have any internal scholarships earmarked for *all* international students in F-1 and J-1 immigration status⁸, and

WHEREAS, CUNY does not have any internal scholarships geared specifically for *all* undocumented students, and

WHEREAS, CUNY Career Launch⁹ 2023 allowed CUNY international students with social security number (hereinafter “SSN”) to apply but excluded graduate students, undocumented students, and international students without SSN at the time of application, and

WHEREAS, CUNY Career Launch 2023 required CUNY international students to have a SSN to apply, but international students can only apply for a SSN using either on-campus or off-campus job offer letter at Social Security Administration, and

WHEREAS, staff at CUNY *Career Services Offices* might not have adequate knowledge about career challenges for international and undocumented students due to their immigration status, for example, CUNY Career Launch 2023 asked international students to fill out SSN in the application form, and

WHEREAS, staff at CUNY *Career Services Offices* must comprehend the unique career hurdles that international and undocumented students face as a result of their immigration status to effectively support them, and

WHEREAS, *International Students Offices* at CUNY Central and local CUNY campuses¹⁰ might apprehend career barriers of international students owing to F-1 and J-1 immigration status, and

WHEREAS, *Undocumented and Immigrant Student Programs* at CUNY Central and *Immigrant Success Liaisons* at local CUNY campuses¹¹ might understand career obstacles of undocumented students as a consequence of immigration status, and

WHEREAS, CUNY enrollment dropped roughly 30% since 2018¹², and

³ <https://www1.cuny.edu/mu/forum/2022/05/09/cuny-expands-supports-for-immigrant-students/>

⁴ <https://www.cuny.edu/financial-aid/student-eligibility/international-students/>

⁵ <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/financial-ability>

⁶ <https://www.nytimes.com/news-event/ukraine-russia>

⁷ <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/07/learning/lesson-plans/lesson-plan-the-devastating-earthquake-in-turkey-and-syria.html>

⁸ <https://www.cuny.edu/academics/academic-programs/international-education/iss/#financial>

⁹ <https://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/ocip/students/careerlaunch/>

¹⁰ <https://www.cuny.edu/academics/academic-programs/international-education/iss/#advisors>

¹¹ <https://www.cuny.edu/current-students/student-affairs/cuny-immigrant-student-success/>

¹² <https://www1.cuny.edu/sites/cunyufs/2022/12/12/enrollment-at-cuny/>

WHEREAS, University Student Senate¹³ (hereinafter “USS”) is the official representative organization of all 500,000 students of the 25 CUNY campuses including international and undocumented students at CUNY Central;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the USS of the CUNY

1. *demands that CUNY establish 2 types of internal scholarships designated for international and undocumented students to boost recruitment, retention, and enrollment of CUNY students:*
 - a. *merit-based scholarships* for international and undocumented students with either (i) outstanding GPA or research experience or (ii) leadership positions in any CUNY student government
 - b. *need-based scholarships* for international and undocumented students with financial emergencies
2. *demands that CUNY obey the below rules for CUNY internal scholarships for international and undocumented students:*
 - a. do *not* increase tuition or fees for *all* students including international and undocumented students
 - b. allocate (i) one percent (1%) of each international student’s current tuition per semester or (ii) equal amount of private fund to start a CUNY internal scholarship fund for international students
 - c. allocate (i) one percent (1%) of each undocumented student’s current tuition per semester or (ii) equal amount of private fund to start a CUNY internal scholarship fund for undocumented students
 - d. authorize *International Students Offices* at CUNY Central and local CUNY campuses to jointly (i) supervise or (ii) provide clear criteria that would govern the award or disbursement of the CUNY internal scholarship fund for international students
 - e. authorize *Undocumented and Immigrant Student Programs* at CUNY Central and *Immigrant Success Liaisons* at local CUNY campuses to jointly (i) supervise or (ii) provide clear criteria that would govern the award or disbursement of the CUNY internal scholarship fund for undocumented students
 - f. restrict the CUNY internal scholarship fund for international students to be *only* paid to CUNY international students
 - g. restrict the CUNY internal scholarship fund for undocumented students to be *only* paid to CUNY undocumented students
 - h. forbid CUNY internal scholarship funds made exclusively for international and undocumented students from being required to pay any CUNY administration expenses
3. *further demands that CUNY take the below actions to train staff at CUNY Career Services Offices to better support career of international and undocumented students:*
 - a. modify the application procedures including the application form of CUNY Career Launch after consulting *International Students Offices, Undocumented and Immigrant Student Programs, and Immigrant Success Liaisons* at CUNY Central and local CUNY campuses
 - b. mandate training for all staff at CUNY *Career Services Offices* to learn domain knowledge from *International Students Offices* and *Undocumented and Immigrant Student Programs* at CUNY Central
 - c. provide tailored service at CUNY *Career Services Offices* for international students and undocumented students after fully grasping their career blockages caused by immigration status

¹³ <https://www.usscuny.org/>

Addendum

Proposed Strategic Plans for USS Resolution for International and Undocumented Students

1. The USS Plenary adopted the resolution at the USS Plenary Meeting on Sunday, March 26th, 2023.
2. Ask for co-sponsorship from each local student government between March 26th, 2023 to Sunday, April 16th, 2023
3. Jonathan Colon requested the resolution to be included into the agenda of the Board of Trustee Finance and Administration Committee on Tuesday, April 18th, 2023.
4. USS Chairperson might send the resolution to CUNY Chancellor *after the New York State finalizes its budget*.

Please follow the below three (3) steps for co-sponsorship:

1. bring the aforementioned USS resolution for international and undocumented students to your local student government
2. ask for vote on co-sponsorship of the USS resolution at your local student government plenary meeting
3. after your local student government votes to co-sponsor the USS resolution, ask the contact person in your local student government to fill out [the Google Form](#) to confirm co-sponsorship ASAP