



Resolution in support of admission of undocumented and PRUCOL including DACA, TPS, and Asylum Pending students at the Graduate Center and across CUNY

Adopted by the Doctoral and Graduate Students' Council (DGSC) on March 24th, 2023

WHEREAS, according to New York City Law, undocumented immigrants are eligible to most services available to New York City Residents, including public education; and

WHEREAS, the historic mission of the University is to “provide a public first-rate education to all students, regardless of means or background”¹; and

WHEREAS, the City University of New York (“CUNY”, “the University”) admits undocumented students and praises itself as a national leader in advocating for these students according to a CUNY Memorandum from January 18, 2018²; and

WHEREAS, college access is understood as a source of mobility and improvement of the conditions of the community at large; and

WHEREAS, the Graduate Center (GC), CUNY’s primary doctoral-granting institution, denies admission to undocumented and PRUCOL (Permanently Residing Under Color of Law) including DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), TPS (Temporary Protected Status), and Asylum Pending students because of a policy that states all doctoral students are fully funded; and

WHEREAS, undocumented students are ineligible to legally accept federal aid, but are eligible to accept state, college, and private aid³; and

WHEREAS, this policy leads to discriminatory admissions practices; and

WHEREAS, much of the GC’s funding is not considered federal funding; and

¹ <https://www.cuny.edu/about/>

² <https://www.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/about/administration/offices/ovsa/policies/ScholarshipsPayments-Private-Funds-to-Students-without-Documented-Sta...pdf>

³ <https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/financial-aid-and-undocumented-students.pdf>

WHEREAS, there have been cases of doctoral programs wanting to admit undocumented students, but being denied the ability to do so; and

WHEREAS, undocumented immigrants can have ITIN (Individual Tax Identification Number), making them subject to income taxes⁴; and

WHEREAS, New York State and City advocate for undocumented immigrants not to be treated differently or be paid less in working positions and are eligible to be employed in New York State; and

WHEREAS, across the University, undocumented student leaders have performed services for the University but have been withheld stipends for their service due to their undocumented status;

THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that we demand that CUNY, as the public university of the City of New York, and a public university of the State of New York, comply with the local laws; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we demand The GC change policies that prevent the admission of undocumented and PRUCOL including DACA, TPS, and Asylum Pending students at the GC; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the University make admissions and funding policies transparent and publicly available regarding undocumented and PRUCOL including DACA, TPS, and Asylum Pending students at the GC and across CUNY; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the GC establish a system to admit undocumented students with any applicable financial aid coming from state, college, or private sources, and actively fundraise to secure private sources; and be it further

RESOLVED, that CUNY establish a system in which undocumented student leaders be eligible to receive funding for their service to the University; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that CUNY pay reparations to undocumented students who served in positions of leadership in the past but were refused their stipends.

⁴ <https://www.nyc.gov/site/dca/consumers/file-your-taxes-itin.page>