

**A resolution of the Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) supporting the strengthening and development of support structures for international students at Duke University**

**Author:**

GPSG Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

**Whereas**, international students experience difficulties on a regular basis transitioning and acclimatizing to a new culture, and, oftentimes, to a new language.

**Whereas**, the International Friends Program and other such programs which encourage cultural exchange exist within the IHouse, but are lacking in domestic student participation.

**Recognizing**, international students have formal classes to adapt to the new language, but none to adapt to a new culture.

**Recognizing**, cultural exchange between international and domestic students is a key factor in building an inclusive and equitable community.

**Recognizing**, all students enrolled in the graduate school undergo a 4+ hour RCR training to understand responsible and ethical research conduct.

**Recognizing**, the majority of international students in the US, and at Duke, are at the graduate level, and, in The Graduate School alone, 45.5% of students are international students.<sup>i</sup>

**Now, therefore be it resolved by the GPSG that the graduate and professional student body of Duke University:**

**Calls** for the strengthening and development of support structures for international students.

**Calls** for the hiring of more staff for the IHouse.

**Calls** for the creation of a senior level administrative position to support international students.

**Calls** for graduate student representation on all IHouse hiring committees.

**Calls** for the inclusion of IHouse programming during general graduate student orientation and departmental orientations.

**Calls** for discussion of IHouse programs and the importance of cultural exchange during RCR training.

**Calls** for the expansion of IHouse's International Friends Program, using the undergraduate one-on-one mentoring program, Blue Devil Buddies, as an example of how to connect domestic and international students.

**Calls** for a joint student and administrative conference committee to analyze how best to advertise IHouse programs, including the International Friends Program, to the entire graduate and professional student population.

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<https://facts.duke.edu/>; <https://gradschool.duke.edu/about/statistics/all-departments-phd-and-masters-admissions-and-enrollment-statistics> ; <https://today.duke.edu/2017/11/duke%E2%80%99s-international-student-population-continues-grow-and-diversify>; <https://www.collegefactual.com/colleges/duke-university/student-life/international/>