

**A Resolution to Support International Graduate and Professional Student Systems of Support at George Mason University**

**R. #4**

5<sup>th</sup> GAPSA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2<sup>nd</sup> Session

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A Resolution to Support International Graduate and Professional Student Systems of Support at George Mason University

**IN THE GAPSA GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

**Approved: April 14, 2023**

Sponsored by: Executive Vice President, Hsien-tien Shen  
Co-Sponsored by: Vice President of Mason Square, Emily Crawford

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**Resolution #4**

*Be it resolved by the GAPSA General Assembly of George Mason University –*

*Whereas*, George Mason University values diversity, equity, and inclusion as part of its mission to provide an exceptional education to all students as exhibited by the creation of the Mason ARIE Taskforce<sup>1</sup>, and

*Whereas*, 2,455 international graduate and professional students enrolled in the university in Fall 2022 (an increase of 48.2 percent over Fall 2021), comprising 20.3 percent of the university graduate and professional student body, and

*Whereas*, international graduate and professional students face unique challenges related to their status as international students, language barriers, cultural differences, and adapting to a new academic and social environment, and

*Whereas*, international master's, doctoral, and professional students have specific and varied experiences related to their identities and reasons for studying at George Mason University, which require specialized attention for their unique situations, and

*Whereas*, providing adequate support systems for international graduate and professional students is crucial for their academic success, future career achievements, mental health, and overall well-being, and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://diversity.gmu.edu/arie>

*Whereas*, many other universities of George Mason University's prestige and caliber have implemented successful programs and initiatives to support international graduate and professional students, such as language classes, mentorship programs, cultural events, and counseling services, and

*Whereas*, George Mason University currently offers some resources for international graduate and professional students through the Office of International Programs and Services (OIPS)<sup>2</sup>, but the existing support is insufficient with room for improvement and expansion,

*Therefore, be it resolved*, that the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA)<sup>3</sup> expresses its support for the development and implementation of expanded and enhanced international graduate and professional student systems of support at George Mason University.

*Therefore, be it further resolved*, that GAPSA insists that the university administration prioritize the needs of international graduate and professional students and work collaboratively with student organizations, the Dean's offices for Mason's 10 Colleges and Schools, Graduate Student Life, OIPS, the Graduate Division, and other relevant university staff to identify areas of improvement and implement effective solutions.

*Therefore, be it further resolved*, that GAPSA urges the university to allocate necessary resources and funding to support international graduate and professional student systems of support, including but not limited to career exploration and networking, funding for scholarships and grants, language classes, mentorship programs, cultural events, and counseling services.

*Therefore, be it further resolved*, that GAPSA directs the university to collect feedback from international graduate and professional students regularly and use it to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the support systems.

*Therefore, be it finally resolved*, that GAPSA will not stop advocating for the needs and rights of international graduate and professional students at George Mason University and work towards a more inclusive, equitable, and supportive community.

Passed the General Assembly: 33-0-0

Attest:

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President: Ayondela McDole

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Executive Vice President: Hsien-tien Shen

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<sup>2</sup> <https://oips.gmu.edu/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://gapsa.gmu.edu/>