

## Resolution 14: In Support of the University Allowing International Graduate Students to TA Remotely During the Summer 2020 Session and the Fall 2020 Semester

**Abstract:** Graduate students who are currently abroad and depend on assistantships for financial support do not know whether they will be able to return to the US in time for the start of the Summer 2020 session or the Fall 2020 semester. This resolution encourages the University to find legal ways to provide these students with, in effect, remote teaching positions during the Summer 2020 session and the Fall 2020 semester.

**Sponsored by:** Arielle Johnson, Life Sciences Voting Member; Kavya Krishnan, Diversity and International Students Committee Chair

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**Whereas,** many graduate students, encouraged by the University to do so, left campus to return to their home in another country to wait out the COVID-19 pandemic before they knew that their graduate funding would be at risk, and

**Whereas,** many of these graduate students may not be able to return to the United States in time for the fall semester due to travel restrictions or visa and immigration delays, thus potentially preventing them from accepting an in-person teaching assistantship or other in-person assistantship in Summer 2020 and/or Fall 2020, and

**Whereas,** these students are a key part of the Cornell graduate and professional community, and represent members of the next generation of innovators in science, the humanities, and other fields, and

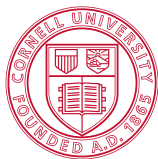
**Whereas,** continued financial support is key to maintaining these graduate students as part of the Cornell community, so that they can return to the University and continue to discover, teach, and innovate after the COVID-19 pandemic is over, and

**Whereas,** the transition to remote learning at Cornell for the remainder of the 2020 Spring semester has increased the virtual teaching capabilities of both professors and graduate instructors, and

**Whereas,** many courses at Cornell have multiple TAs, each of whom have both in-person duties and some remote duties (e.g. grading), and

**Whereas,** those courses could be reorganized with minimal effort to have TAs who focus solely on remote duties, and

**Whereas,** other courses' in-person TA duties, for example lectures, could be conducted virtually on Zoom, and



**Cornell University**  
**Graduate and Professional**  
**Student Assembly**

33 **Whereas**, the Graduate School is looking into ways to allow international graduate students to TA  
34 remotely and the GPSA applauds these efforts, and

35 **Whereas**, students on fellowships are generally not required to be in the country.

36 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the University should dedicate significant legal resources to find a  
37 way to, in effect, allocate virtual TA positions to graduate students living internationally while  
38 protecting visa status, and

39 **Be it further resolved**, if at the end of that research the University concludes that assistantships  
40 cannot be allocated to students living internationally, the University should coordinate with colleges  
41 and departments to redirect funds that would have gone to assistantships to expand university  
42 fellowship programs for affected students

43 **Be it finally resolved**, that the University and Graduate School allow all graduate students who are  
44 stranded abroad and cannot receive their typical TA, RA, GRA, or GA funding to receive a full-  
45 semester remote TA position (or a legally permissible similar position), or a fellowship position,  
46 during the Summer 2020 session and Fall 2020 semester.

47 Respectfully Submitted,

48 Arielle Johnson

49 Life Sciences Voting Member

50 Kavya Krishnan

51 Diversity and International Students Committee Chair