

Resolution 37: Calling For Cornell University to Implement Need-Blind Admissions for All International Students

Abstract: This resolution calls for Cornell to implement need-blind admissions for all international students

Sponsored by: Mutty Un '26, Pedro Da Silveira '25, Noon Son '25, Karen Petrosyan '26, Musa Shah '26, Hamid Rezaee '26, Arsalan Ansari '26, Jefferson Kang'acha '24,

Reviewed by: The International Students Affairs Committee (9-0-0)

Type of Action: Recommendation

Originally Presented:

Current Status: *Business of the Day*

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

Whereas, Cornell University's motto is "any person any study"

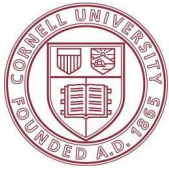
Whereas, Cornell University has a responsibility to uphold its motto of "any person any study" and ensure that financial need does not prevent qualified international students from being admitted to the university;

Whereas, Cornell University's transitioned to being a need-aware school in 2017 towards international student applicants;

Whereas, need-aware policies not only discourage low-income international students from applying but also create a financial burden for those who are admitted, as they are often required to pay a large portion of their tuition upfront;

Whereas, the current need-aware policy at Cornell University perpetuates systemic inequalities and reinforces the notion that only wealthy individuals can access quality higher education;

Whereas, a need-blind admissions policy for international students would align with Cornell University's commitment to creating a diverse and inclusive community and would provide greater access to education for students from all backgrounds;



Cornell University Student Assembly

22 **Whereas**, a need-blind policy would also improve Cornell's global reputation and
23 competitiveness in attracting top international students;

24

25 **Whereas**, the use of need-aware admissions policies sends a negative message to the
26 international community and undermines the values of equity, fairness, and diversity that Cornell
27 University stands for.

28

29 **Whereas**, Ivy League institutions such as Harvard University, Princeton University, Yale
30 University, Dartmouth College, and Brown University (by 2025) and other R-1 institutions such
31 as MIT and Stanford are need-blind toward international student applicants;

32

33 **Whereas**, Cornell University's latest endowment figure was reported at \$9.8 billion, compared
34 to Dartmouth College's \$8.1 billion and Brown University's \$6.5 billion.

35

36 **Whereas**, Cornell University's Office of Global Learning uses rhetoric that takes pride in the
37 large number of international students' and nationalities represented;

38

39 **Whereas**, in the latest statistics report by the Office of Global Learning, 10 out of 116 foreign
40 countries represent 78.6% of the Cornell international student population;

41

42 **Whereas**, in the latest statistics report by the Office of Global Learning, only 53.7% of African
43 nations are represented, as opposed to 93.2% of European nations being represented.

44

45 **Whereas**, Cornell University's undergraduate international student population is only 10.9%
46 compared to 48.0% and 31.8% of graduate and professional students respectively;

47

48 **Whereas**, International students support extracurricular engagement within the 7 area studies
49 program in Cornell University's Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies;

50

51 **Whereas**, Cornell University is able to offer need-blind admissions to United World College
52 Scholars;

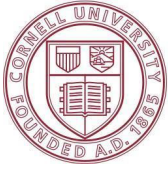
53

54 **Be it therefore resolved**, the Cornell Student Assembly urges the administration to reconsider
55 its stance on need-blind admissions of international students,

56

57 **Be it further resolved**, the Cornell Student Assembly calls upon the administration to disclose
58 statistics surrounding financial aid recipients in its annual report,

59



Cornell University Student Assembly

60 **Be it further resolved**, the Cornell Student Assembly suggests the administration reevaluate the
61 definition of “diversity” to be inclusive of the economic diversity of international students on top
62 of nationality.

63

64 **Be it finally resolved**, Cornell University international admissions should incorporate efforts to
65 foster intentional diversity in its admission selections.

66

Respectfully submitted,

Mutty Un ‘26

International Students Affairs Committee Vice-Chair, Student Assembly

Pedro Da Silveira ‘25

Representative of the College of Engineering, Student Assembly

Vice-President of Internal Operations, Student Assembly

Stellar Son ‘25

International Students At Large Liaison, Student Assembly

International Students Affairs Committee Chair, Student Assembly

Karen Petrosyan ‘26

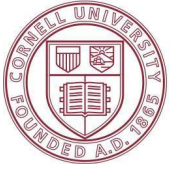
International Students Affairs Committee, Student Assembly

Musa Shah ‘26

International Students Affairs Committee, Student Assembly

Hamid Rezaee ‘26

International Students Affairs Committee, Student Assembly



Cornell University
Student Assembly

Arsalan Ansari '26

International Students Affairs Committee, Student Assembly

Jefferson Kang'acha '24

International Students Affairs Committee, Student Assembly