

Resolution 027

A Resolution to Increase Financial Accessibility for Study Abroad Programs

Sponsored by: Senator Schlee

**Co-Sponsored by: Senator Ahearn, Senator Besendorfer, Senator Birth,
Senator Brown, Senator Buckley, Senator Lucardi, Senator Marsden, and
Senator Sijgers.**

Whereas,

The Catholic University Office of Study Abroad offers educational and internship opportunities in various countries around the world such as Italy, The United Kingdom, Spain, and Ireland.

Whereas,

These programs are available throughout the entire calendar year.

Whereas,

In the past, many students have opted to take advantage of these opportunities in the summer, thereby relieving the potential issues which may arise from trying to complete their other course requirements in time for graduation.

Whereas,

The Office of Student Financial Assistance at Catholic University currently does not factor summer courses or summer study abroad programs in their initial disbursement of financial aid at the onset of the fall semester.

Whereas,

Currently, interested students must request that their financial aid be disbursed across fall, spring, and summer semesters prior to the start of the first semester of the year, if they wish to use their financial aid in the summer; otherwise it is automatically dispersed evenly between Fall and Spring semester.

Whereas,

Students frequently exhaust the maximum available financial aid for the academic year before the summer semester, thereby preventing many students from being able to financially support these international endeavours.

Whereas,

There are very few existing University-sponsored scholarships for summer study abroad programs and limited financial aid opportunities for students in these programs.

Be it enacted that,

The Student Government Association Senate, acting in its official capacity as the representative of the undergraduate student body of The Catholic University of America, hereby requests:

1. The Office of Financial Aid better communicate and clarify the disbursement policies for financial aid toward summer study abroad programs.
2. The University actively pursues the creation of more scholarship opportunities for study abroad programs, especially summer study abroad.

Agreed to by a vote of _____ yeas to _____ nays on this date: _____ with _____ abstaining and _____ not present.

Gerald Sharpe
President of the Student Government Association

Gemma del Carmen
Vice President of the Student Government Association

