



Resolution to Increase Off-campus Housing Resource Accessibility for International Students
23-24-02

Whereas: A core Jesuit value of USF is calling for the importance of standing for diversity “*Whatever your creed, culture, color, country, identity, and orientation, you are welcome at USF*”;¹ and

Whereas: In the academic year of 2022-2023, USF enrolled 1310 international students, out of which 629 were undergraduate students.² With a total enrollment of 9212 students in the same year, the international students population thus accounts for 14.2% of the whole student body;³ and

Whereas: Incoming undergraduate first-year students at USF in Spring 2024 have guaranteed on-campus housing for three semesters;⁴ and

Whereas: Incoming undergraduate transfer students in Spring 2024 are only guaranteed with one semester of on-campus housing; and

Whereas: Off-campus housing requires a lot of information for background checks, such as credit reports, proof of income from employment, social security number, etc., which international students often lack; and

Whereas: Laurel Xu, an undergraduate international student states...

“I started looking for off-campus housing in April since I will not be in the US during the summer. I toured at least 10 apartments and contacted more than 20 agents. Our conversations were quite smooth until they learned that I am an international student without a credit report whatsoever that ‘proves’ to them my financial ability, despite my paying for USF tuition.”

- Laurel Xu, an undergraduate international student

¹

<https://www.usfca.edu/who-we-are/agents-change/standing-diversity#:~:text=Whatever%20your%20creed%2C%20culture%2C%20color,and%20more%20than%20100%20countries.>

²

[https://myusf.usfca.edu/sites/default/files/users/apndombasi/2022-2023%20Annual%20Report%20\(3\)-compressed-compressed.pdf.pdf](https://myusf.usfca.edu/sites/default/files/users/apndombasi/2022-2023%20Annual%20Report%20(3)-compressed-compressed.pdf.pdf)

³ <https://myusf.usfca.edu/cipe/usf-facts>

⁴

<https://myusf.usfca.edu/housing/first-year-students#:~:text=Incoming%2C%20first%2Dyear%2C%20full,guaranteed%20for%20those%20two%20semesters>



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Whereas: International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) provides a vendor letter, which is one of the few off-campus housing resources solely for international students, that aims to prove the creditworthiness and financial ability of international students to prospective landlords; and

Whereas: An anonymous official states...

“The vendor letter helps as an addition to proofs of financial ability, which can sometimes make a difference in landlords’ decisions.”

- *Anonymous, an expert property manager who has worked in the business in San Francisco for more than 15 years*

Whereas: In a student-conducted survey about international students’ awareness of the vendor letter, 86% of international students who are currently living off-campus are not aware of the letter. On the other hand, 100% of those who live on-campus but have been looking for off-campus housing are not aware of the letter. Though with a limited base, the quantitative results along with qualitative research methods, such as talking to international students in regards to the matter, quite precisely present the issue of the lack of awareness; and

Whereas: Joy Liu, a student at the University of San Francisco states...

“I once emailed ISSS about not having a cosigner to help us prove our financial ability to the landlord. It did not inform me of the vendor letter resource it has. Rather, it simply directed me to the off-campus housing office;”

- *Joy Liu, an undergraduate international student*

Therefore, be it resolved by the Associated Students of the University of San Francisco Senate in its role as the sole representative body of all the undergraduate students of the University of San Francisco, the following be enacted:

Resolved: The International Student Association (ISA) shall organize an off-campus housing workshop with ASUSF geared towards international students’ off-campus housing searches and applications, including presentation about the resources provided by USF; furthermore, be it

Resolved: ISSS, ISA, and the Off-Campus Living (OCL) office are to publicize and *emphasize* the vendor letter at least once in each semester, Fall and Spring, through their informational means, such as newsletter and international-students-related events like the international students orientation. In particular, the vendor letter shall be publicized in November and April – one month before the end of each semester, when most students start looking for off-campus housing; furthermore, be it



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Resolved: The OCL office is to organize a specific international students' off-campus housing event each semester to inform participants of the resources they can use. This event shall be assisted by the marketing and advertising function of the ASUSF Senate; furthermore, be it

Resolved: ISSS shall mention the vendor letter resource while training its employees, so that when international students ask for help with off-campus housing, ISSS can provide the vendor letter in addition to directing students to the OCL office.

Submitted by:

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Presented to Advocacy On:

November 28th, 2023

Presented To Senate On:

November 29th, 2023

Passed Senate:

Presidents Signature