

1. Abilene Christian University

S.R. 101.24

2. 101<sup>st</sup> Congress

3. Spring Session 2025

4. Langley Smith

5.

6. **A RESOLUTION TO PETITION ACU ADMINISTRATION TO REDUCE THE COST**

7. **OF STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS TO MAKE THEM MORE ACCESSIBLE TO**

8. **STUDENTS**

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10. WHEREAS, Abilene Christian University (ACU) emphasizes global engagement as a key

11. pillar of its educational mission, promoting cultural competency and spiritual growth

12. through international experiences;

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14. WHEREAS, ACU Study Abroad ranked #18 in the nation according to the [U.S. News & World Report 2025 “Programs to Look for”](#);

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16. WHEREAS, study abroad programs enhance students’ academic and career trajectories by

17. providing exposure to diverse cultures, international business practices, and global

18. perspectives, which are increasingly essential in today’s interconnected world;

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20. WHEREAS, ACU’s current study abroad pricing is disproportionately higher than its peer

21. institutions, with an international fee of \$8,250, compared to an average of \$2,534.38 at

22. other universities, including Pepperdine, Liberty, Harding, and Belmont;

23.

24. WHEREAS, the total cost for an ACU student to study abroad can exceed \$36,000 per

25. semester, an amount that many students cannot afford, creating a substantial financial

26. barrier that directly contradicts the university's mission of accessibility and affordability;

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28. WHEREAS, ACU's study abroad program has an overhead charge of 100%, whereas other

29. institutions such as Calvin University operate with a 22% overhead, suggesting that ACU's

30. program is unnecessarily expensive and places an undue burden on students;

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32. WHEREAS, institutions with significantly lower international fees have demonstrated that

33. high-quality study abroad programs can be financially sustainable without excessively

34. burdening students;

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36. WHEREAS, requiring students to pay such high costs forces many to take on additional

37. student debt or forgo study abroad altogether, disproportionately affecting lower-income

38. students and limiting the diversity of participants;

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40. WHEREAS, ACU has a responsibility to ensure that financial limitations do not become a

41. deciding factor in whether a student can access transformative educational experiences

42. Abroad;

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44. WHEREAS, students who are unable to afford study abroad programs miss out on

45. career-enhancing opportunities such as international internships, networking, and exposure

46. to global industries, placing them at a disadvantage in an increasingly globalized job

47. Market;

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49. WHEREAS, study abroad participation has been proven to improve student retention,

50. engagement, and post-graduate success, further supporting the argument that these

51. experiences should be accessible to all students, not just those with the financial means;

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53. WHEREAS, Christian education should foster inclusivity and opportunity for all students,

54. rather than creating financial barriers that limit participation in global learning

55. Experiences;

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57. WHEREAS, ACU can take proactive steps to reduce costs by reallocating budget priorities,

58. streamlining administrative expenses, securing additional funding sources, and exploring

59. external partnerships to subsidize international program fees;

**60. RESOLVED, that the 102nd Student Government Association Senate formally requests the**

**61. ACU administration to:**

- **Reduce the international fee to align with industry norms and make study abroad participation more financially feasible for students;**
- **Explore alternative funding sources, such as corporate partnerships, donor sponsorships, or government grants, to help subsidize program costs for students in need;**
- **Reevaluate the necessity of the 100% overhead charge and seek cost-efficient solutions that maintain program quality while reducing financial strain on students;**
- **Commit to making study abroad an equitable opportunity for all students, regardless of financial background, by implementing sustainable cost-reduction strategies that allow more students to participate without undue financial hardship.**