



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
Senate Resolution 54.21

1 (Stating the sentiments of the Student Senate regarding the requirement for engineering students  
2 to study abroad.)  
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4 WHEREAS, the Texas Tech University, Edward E. Whitacre, Jr. College of Engineering has  
5 required all students since 2013 who enter the college to have an international experience, and  
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7 WHEREAS, the College of Engineering have stated that the required international experience is  
8 in place to prepare engineering students for the ever-changing global landscape by providing  
9 students with a quality international engineering experiences that also prepares students to work  
10 in a global environment, and  
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12 WHEREAS, the study abroad requirement is costly, which negatively impacts students  
13 disproportionately based on their families economic standing, introduces students to unnecessary  
14 risk, and competes for limited time students could other wise use with internships, and  
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16 WHEREAS, the study abroad experience cost ranges between \$7,000 and \$15,000 for a three to  
17 six-week experiences, with students now required to meet the six-week requirement, and  
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19 WHEREAS, according to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), the Texas Tech  
20 student population reports that 44% the student population must borrow federal loans, 24% are  
21 using Pell grants, 25% are using federal grants, and 22% are using state/local grants, and  
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23 WHEREAS, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, Texas Tech University  
24 undergraduate students received federal financial aid averaging at \$6,868 per student for the  
25 2016-2017 year, with \$4,210 of the of the financial aid coming from Pell grants, and  
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27 WHEREAS, according to the US Department of Education, a student's eligibility for Pell grants  
28 is determined upon their family's income status, where a total household income must be at or  
29 below, \$50,000, and  
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31 WHEREAS, the study abroad requirement continues to negatively impact students who are not  
32 financially capable of incurring an unnecessary expense at a price that averages nearly one third  
33 of their family's annual income, a price that could potentially discourage potential students from  
34 attending altogether, and  
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36 WHEREAS, engineering students at Texas Tech University attend due to the ABET  
37 accreditation and the low cost of attendance. The required abroad experience is not a requirement

38 for the ABET accreditation; the most important accreditation for licensure and employment, and  
39 the abroad experience is not favored over intern experience with hiring engineering companies,  
40 and

41  
42 WHEREAS, the Texas Tech University, College of Engineering should remove the requirement  
43 for engineering students to study abroad and focus resources to getting students into full time  
44 jobs, CO-OPS, and internships, and

45  
46 WHEREAS, until the abroad experience improves to be inclusive of all students, regardless of  
47 their financial background, the student senators representing the College of Engineering are  
48 encouraged to express their concern against the abroad requirements.

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50 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Student Senate of Texas Tech University encourages  
51 The Edward E. Whitacre Jr. College of Engineering and Texas Tech University to remove the  
52 requirement of study abroad students in engineering.

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54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the Journal and that copies be  
55 sent to that this resolution be spread upon the Journal and that copies be sent to **Dr. Annette**  
56 **Hernandez Uddameri**, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies of the College of  
57 Engineering; **Lieutenant Colonel George E Spoth, USAF, Retired**, Executive Associate Dean  
58 - International Programs; **Ms.Mckenzi Morris**, Editor of *The Daily Toreador* and the students of  
59 Texas Tech University.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
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CC: Journal

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Amber Acklie  
President, Student Senate