



# OPEN LETTER - INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION "HIREATH"

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## Quinnipiac Residential Life & Administration,

We at The International Students Association, as an active organization, possess the utmost responsibility of ensuring the prosperity and fulfillment of all students on Quinnipiac's campus regardless of the intersectionality of their personal identities with a specialized focus of international backgrounds. We find unity, inclusion, adaptation, diversity, learning, and aid, as integral parts of our organization's fundamental values which we solemnly vow to ensure for both the members of our organization but too, for the greater student body. In a quite literal sense, this very letter is a part of our everlasting commitment to the international student body.

We commend the university's efforts, now and over the course of the past year, to prioritize the public health of our community by transitioning to hybrid instruction and pursuing on campus living. In this time of transitioning out of instability, we urge the university to affirm its commitment to the international student population from potential job loss, economic hardship and undue burden. We are thankful for essential university staff — among them subcontracted employees, janitors, food service workers and public security officers — who have kept us safe and healthy during our time at QU, working relentlessly even over breaks to ensure our residential halls are kept in tact and that all is generally well maintained.

In a recent statement regarding Thanksgiving break housing, Residential Life imposed a new fee stating, -

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“All University residence areas (including graduate and off campus housing) close for the Thanksgiving break on Friday, November 19, 2021 at 6 pm and reopen on Sunday, November 28, 2021 at 10 am. Students requesting to stay past 6 pm on Friday, November 19 or to return to campus earlier than 10 am on November 28 must submit a Thanksgiving Break Housing Request. **Please note there is a \$50 fee per day for break housing. This includes all late departure and early arrival requests.**”

We at ISA recognize that there may be genuine reasons for additional costs, economically and socially speaking, but the brutal fact is simply this; where fees can be sporadically announced as an outright contingency of housing (which is already guaranteed to the common student) lays fundamental gaps in promise. We must be conscious of the fact that many international students have found themselves in financial or accommodational distress, with no part-time work, and no access to any form of government financial assistance. As leaders of our fine university, a public servant owes their position to the public. In accordance, we, as Quinnipiac, owe the very profit made as an institution to the very people it is derived of.

We at ISA come forth in the name of doing the right thing, and in the name of all, international students in their attainment of reliable housing which, from prior recognition or understanding, was already guaranteed without cost. We come with a call for action, precisely;

- For all fees associated with housing over the thanksgiving break affecting international students to be waived entirely.
- Transparency as to why a \$50 fee per day for break housing was originally imposed.
- For future decisions (*such as those with financial implications on housing*) which could impact international students be continually addressed with DCGE and other at large organizations on campus who represent our international community prior to public release.
- For a representative cabinet of student leaders and faculty to be organized by Residential Life to survey student experience *specifically* consistent of various student leaders in Multicultural Organizations and international students of our campus.

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- For a formal partnership between the International Student Association and Residential Life to be developed in an effort to ensure the prosperity of all international students on campus.

We are lucky to be able to welcome the international student community time and time again to our institution. This imposed daily fee actively sabotages housing security and general attitude towards the university. International students are integral contributors to our classrooms, our labs, our teams, our clubs, our residence halls, our offices, and our lives. They should be made to feel as such, not only by their peers, but by our institution at large. We at ISA hope that in reception of this letter, we can work together collectively to prevent future policies which may negatively affect our international community. As we conclude our thoughts, we remain humbly as always-

*Obediently Yours,*

**International Student Association**