Eligibility and Application Requirements

SYA will enroll a limited number of highly-qualified students as sophomores to all four SYA schools (China, France, Italy and Spain). The applicant best suited to join SYA as a sophomore is one who demonstrates a deep interest in both the study of language and understanding cultural differences. A strong sophomore candidate is comfortable living away from home, flexible, open-minded and resilient – in other words, ready to meet (and overcome) the inevitable challenges of studying abroad.

Students who wish to apply to SYA for their sophomore year must meet these requirements:

- Applicants for SYA Spain or SYA France must be enrolled in Spanish or French language level 2 or above. There is no language requirement for students applying to SYA China or SYA Italy.
- Applicants must be prepared to take Algebra 2 or Pre-Calculus.
- Applicants must be 15 years of age by the day of departure.

In addition to completing the standard components of the SYA application, applicants applying for their sophomore year must also submit the following:

- An additional recommendation from a person of influence in the applicant’s life who can speak to the student’s social and emotional development such as a Dean, coach or mentor.
- Student interview with SYA staff via phone or video chat.
- Parent interview with SYA staff via phone or video chat.