THE SYA ADVANTAGE

SYA students find their voices overseas. This self-assurance helps them identify the colleges and universities that will best advance their future goals. In presenting themselves to colleges, SYA students have the advantage of a distinctive story to tell. An SYA capstone project or personal discovery often becomes the focus of a college essay. Among college admissions officers, SYA students are widely known to demonstrate maturity, independence, creativity and critical thinking skills.

“STUDYING ABROAD IN HIGH SCHOOL IS A LITTLE UNCOMMON, SO THE STORIES I WROTE ABOUT MADE ME STAND OUT IN MY APPLICATIONS. EXPERIENCE IS OFTEN MORE VALUABLE THAN AP CLASSES. COLLEGES ARE LOOKING FOR STUDENTS WHO WILL SUCCEED IN UNFAMILIAR AND ACADEMICALLY CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENTS. SYA ALUMNI CHECK ALL OF THE BOXES.”

– KIMYE M., BRYN MAWR COLLEGE CLASS OF 2023, SYA ITALY 2018

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE FROM ABROAD

Students stay engaged in the college process in a variety of ways while they are abroad. During their year at SYA, students have the ability to:

- Take standardized tests (PSATs, SATs, SAT Subject Tests, and AP tests).
- Complete and submit college applications.
- Take online and in-person SAT prep courses.
- Utilize Naviance, a web-based college counseling program.
- Meet regularly with the SYA College Counseling Liaison to discuss post-graduation goals and expectations for college applications.
- SYA seniors work with the SYA college liaison to draft their college essays.
- Continue their relationship with their college counselor from their sending school to ensure that they will be on track with their peers.
SYA alumni have enrolled in undergraduate programs at the following schools from 2013–2018:

**Ten or more SYA alumni:**
- Brown University
- Cornell University
- George Washington
- Georgetown University
- Middlebury College
- New York University
- Tulane University
- University of California
- University of Chicago
- U. of Pennsylvania
- U. of Southern California
- University of St. Andrew’s
- Wesleyan University
- Yale University

**Five or more SYA alumni:**
- American University
- Barnard College
- Colby College
- William & Mary
- Colorado College
- Columbia University
- Dartmouth College
- Hamilton College
- Harvard University
- McGill University
- Northeastern University
- Oberlin College
- Princeton University
- Scripps College
- Skidmore College
- Smith College
- Stanford University
- University of Texas
- Wellesley College
- Williams College

"WE’RE REALLY EXCITED WHEN WE SEE STUDY ABROAD ON AN APPLICATION. IT IMMEDIATELY GIVES US A SENSE THAT THE STUDENT IS AWARE OF A LARGER WORLD AND A LARGER WORLD PERSPECTIVE."

— LOGAN POWELL, DEAN OF ADMISSIONS, BROWN UNIVERSITY

"HE CAME BACK MUCH STRONGER AND MUCH MORE CAPABLE OF GOING THROUGH THE COLLEGE PROCESS BECAUSE HE HAD GREATER DEFINITION OF HIS INTERESTS AND HIS SKILLS."

— PARENT OF PETER S., PRINCETON UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 2021, SYA ITALY 2016

Listen to what college deans have to say about the advantage of studying abroad in high school. Watch the video and learn more at sya.org/college.