



August 2019

Dear Supporters of the Halsey Scholarship,

My name is Janae-Rose and I am elated to be this year's Halsey Scholar! I am a rising sophomore and my home school is Charlotte Country Day School in Charlotte, North Carolina. I've lived in Charlotte all my life and can't wait to expand my life experiences in Spain.

My mom is an immigrant from Jamaica, who exposed me to varying cultures and lifestyles from an early age. This worldview was further developed during my elementary education at a Greek immersion school. During middle and high school, I participated in local and international Model United Nations conferences and cultural exchanges. Choosing to apply to SYA was a natural progression based on my passion for global learning. I think SYA is perfect for me because it is a long-term program which would allow me the time needed to familiarize myself with Spanish culture. Importantly, SYA seemed like a very reputable organization with academics as strong as my home school. School Year Abroad could offer me a genuine taste of Spanish culture, while supporting me as an American student.

A little bit about my interests: In addition to participating in Charlotte's global community, I am a volunteer tutor at the Boys and Girls Club, during the school year. I love to help people and intend to also volunteer in Spain. Additionally, I'm an avid reader. I've recently begun to read in Spanish also! This summer I worked with an anthropology professor to conduct a study and write an undergraduate-level research paper. I have danced and golfed with my school for three years. I also like to sew.

As I write this letter, I am taking a break from packing for the next nine months abroad. Packing gives me a chance to contemplate my fast-approaching journey and what I want to gain from it. The SYA alumni with whom I've spoken unanimously said that their School Year Abroad experience was life-changing. I am confident that by the end of my stay, I will agree! One thing is certain: during my time with SYA, I will say "yes" to many new things. I will learn how to feel at home in any culture by developing how I adapt to foreign circumstances. I'm also anticipating that there will be many challenges. I see them as enriching my overall experience and making it more genuine. For that reason, I am happy about those future challenges. I have a lot of feelings about going to Zaragoza soon: joy, nervousness, curiosity, and excitement.

Another important emotion I feel is gratitude. I am thankful to School Year Abroad for not only accepting me but honoring me as a Halsey Scholar; to the wonderful donors who gave me and other qualified students access to this amazing program that we otherwise could not attend; to previous students who paved the way in the early years of SYA. Lastly, I am grateful for my family and teachers that molded me to be able to attain this wonderful opportunity. I am overflowing with enthusiasm for my upcoming year abroad. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Janae-Rose