



SCHOOL YEAR ABROAD

sya.org

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Purpose

School Year Abroad provides American high school students the opportunity to become strong, globally-educated citizens with high proficiency in language and culture, while continuing their secondary school education and preparing for top colleges and universities. Using second language as the vehicle and another culture as the extension of our classrooms, we aim to teach our students self-reliance, responsible decision-making, resourcefulness, adaptability and respect for differences.

Structure

School Year Abroad is an independent, non-profit organization which has been educating students at its own schools overseas since 1964. SYA is supported by 45 member schools. For a full list of our member schools, please visit sya.org/about/member-schools. SYA's American faculty and administration come from these excellent schools or from U.S. schools of equal caliber. The Resident Directors are responsible for day-to-day administration of our schools abroad and report to the Head of Schools and Programs. Originally founded by Phillips Academy, SYA became its own 501(c)(3) in 1975, governed by its own Board of Trustees. The SYA Board is comprised of six member school heads and 12 alumni, parents or other friends.

Enrollment and Financial Aid

Admission to SYA is competitive, based on academic record, testing, essays, teacher recommendations and an interview. A generous financial aid program assures a student body which represents America's diversity to our European counterparts. The following chart indicates the distribution of students who enrolled at SYA in 2019-2020, as well as financial aid awarded.

2019-2020			
China	27	10th Graders	18
France	33	11th Graders	123
Italy	37	12th Graders	21
Spain	65	Sending Schools	109
Total	162		
Percent of students receiving financial aid		48%	
Average grant-in-aid		\$28,500	
Total financial aid		\$2,650,000	

Program

Students live with a French, Italian or Spanish host family, sharing fully in their lives and speaking their language. Students join local teams, clubs, choirs, orchestras and volunteer groups where they meet and work with their European counterparts. Students travel independently and on school trips.

Curriculum

School Year Abroad's academic level in France, Italy and Spain is comparable to that of top U.S. independent schools. Students generally take six academic courses, including English, math and intensive training in the language of the host country. Additional courses vary by school, but typically include offerings in history, science and literature. The majority of courses are taught at the honors level. SYA offers AP courses in calculus and, on some campuses, language and culture. SYA is fully accredited by NEASC.

Grading

Students are graded on an A-F system. Many students find that the challenges of adapting to a new family, a rigorous school, and a second language result in lower-than-usual grades at the beginning of the year. Averages normally return to previous levels by the end of the first reporting period, however, and the median grade in most courses at mid-year is a "B." Teachers provide progress reports to students and families as an indicator throughout the year, and semester grades are recorded on the transcript. We do not calculate GPAs nor do we rank our students.

College Matriculation

In the past five years, SYA alumni matriculated at approximately 175 colleges and universities. Colleges which enrolled the most SYA students were:

New York University 30	Harvard University 6	American University of Paris 3
(NYU - New York)20)	Princeton University 6	Bates College 3
(NYU - Shanghai 9)	Stanford University 6	Bowdoin College 3
(NYU - Abu Dhabi 1)	Wesleyan University 6	Carlton College 3
Brown University 19	Williams College 6	Dartmouth College 3
Georgetown 19	College of William & Mary 5	Duke University 3
Middlebury College 17	Colorado College 5	Johns Hopkins University 3
University of St. Andrew's (Scotland).... 16	Northeastern University 5	Massachusetts Institute of Technology... 3
University of Chicago 14	University of Texas 5	Mount Holyoke College 3
Cornell University 12	Boston College 4	Northwestern University 3
Tulane University 12	Boston University 4	Oberlin College 3
University of California 11	Connecticut College 4	Purdue University 3
University of Southern California 11	Emory University 4	Rice University 3
Columbia University 10	Occidental College 4	Scripps University 3
Barnard College 9	Pomona College 4	Smith College 3
Yale University 9	Tufts University 4	University of Edinburgh 3
Colby College 8	University of Colorado 4	University of North Carolina 3
McGill University 8	University of Michigan 4	University of Toronto 3
University of Pennsylvania 8	Washington University in St. Louis 4	Vanderbilt University 3
George Washington University 7	Wellesley College 4	Vassar College 3
Hamilton College 6	American University 3	Whitman College 3

Standardized Testing

All SYA schools are ETS test centers, allowing students to take appropriate testing while abroad. Each school is also staffed with a College Counseling Liaison who helps juniors begin to make college application plans and seniors to complete the process begun with guidance from their home school counselors.

During the 2019-2020 Academic Year, all of SYA's campuses evacuated early due to COVID-19. As a result, many students participated in SAT, SAT Subject Tests and Advanced Placement exams in the United States at their home schools. SYA's programs were suspended for 2020-2021, and no testing data was recorded. As a result, the following data, coming from our previous report, demonstrate a snapshot of prior years' student testing statistics.

Percentage of students in SAT score ranges:			SAT Reasoning Test, October 2016 – May 2018		
Range	Reading	Math		Reading	Math
750-800	14%	13%	Mean	668	640
700-749	25%	13%	Sample	294	294
650-699	25%	24%	Advanced Placement Examinations		
600-649	19%	19%	In 2018, 176 SYA students sat for a total of 248 AP exams.		
550-599	11%	18%	- 50% scored a 5		
500-549	5%	10%	- 31% scored a 4		
Under 500	1%	3%	- 17% scored a 3		
			38 students earned AP Scholar Award recognition, and 5 of those students were awarded the AP International Diploma.		