



English Faculty Position Description

“SYA guides students through a challenging curriculum focused on developing skills for successful engagement in an increasingly interdependent world. Central to the SYA experience is the adventure of understanding different languages, cultures and peoples.”

SYA is seeking experienced educators who enjoy working in an environment structured around a competitive, collaborative and progressive American school curriculum and are familiar with the needs of students in a college preparatory program. Candidates must be able to adapt to the needs of students living and studying abroad and enjoy working with, and relate well to, teenagers.

Full-time teaching at SYA is a role that combines instruction, providing students guidance and frequent collaboration with faculty and staff from SYA (both locally and at other campuses) and at times other schools. Teachers are expected to use SYA’s mission statement as a guide to teach courses focusing on improving student skills in SYA’s four main areas of curricular focus: language acquisition, creative and critical thinking, intercultural competence and independence and interdependence.

English instruction at SYA is a collaborative process involving working closely with a determined curriculum, a department head and colleagues from all SYA campuses. The SYA English curriculum provides a home base for student intellectual and intercultural growth abroad and is specifically designed to complement the immersion experience presented by the host country. This does not typically mean teaching works in translation from the host country or works written about the host country per se, but rather working with a series of works exploring the idea of intercultural awareness supported by regular guided reflection on students’ own experience abroad. Deeply committed teachers will help guide students through their individual experience with an emphasis on crafting effective critical essays, developing their personal voice in writing, achieving intercultural competence and learning how to effectively communicate their ideas to others.

Ideal Candidates:

- Possess a high degree of cultural competence and demonstrated experience working with diverse populations
- Demonstrate fluency with academic technology that advances learning for students and a willingness to integrate technology into classroom experiences
- Enjoy collaborating with colleagues within and across subject areas, and all aspects of school life
- Invest in the community and participate in the lives of our students outside of the classroom
- Convey patience and empathy with adolescents
- Have excellent communication skills

- Are self-reflective, able to work independently, and committed to professional learning and growth
- Are flexible and adaptable to new cultures and ways of teaching
- Are familiar with project based learning and possess a desire to implement best teaching practices

Duties and expectations at an SYA school

General:

- Set clearly articulated standards for student academic performance.
- Set reasonable and defensible standards for student behavior.
- Enforce school rules justly, fairly, and consistently.
- Demonstrate high levels of enthusiasm for teaching/learning.
- Demonstrate genuine commitment to school, purposes, leadership and peers.
- Portray a positive image of the school, its faculty, and its programs when working with students at all times.
- Work with other faculty in a way that demonstrates respect, openness, and an ability to focus on the school's mission at all times.
- Maintain proper boundaries with students and engage students in a way that is encouraging, positive, and respects the educative process.
- Use the Slack communication tool to communicate with students, faculty and the SYA administration.
- Maintain and regularly check an SYA.org email.
- Serve on the school's discipline committee.
- Proctoring of standardised testing.
- Fulfill other duties as assigned by the Resident Director.

Teaching:

- Teach four or five sections of a course or courses.
- Provide outside-of-class help to students on a regular and predictable basis.
- Provide consistent adherence to school rules and community norms while in class at all times.
- Provide additional support for Sophomores
- Create predictable assessments and offer reliable preparation for assessments.
- Provide fair, reliable, understandable and clear grading structures.
- Provide a course syllabus that meets expectations provided by the SYA academic office.
- Write teacher comments four times per year.
- Provide letters of recommendation in English for students who request them and who were in good standing.
- Use the Canvas Learning Management System to provide access to the course syllabus, post all work for the course, and to grade all student work.

Advising:

- Serve as academic advisor for a number of advisees determined by the Resident Director.
- Deliver the advisory curriculum using guidelines outlined by the Resident Director.
- Take attendance at all advisory meetings and events.
- Write advisor comments in English comments 3-4 times per year.

Travel:

- Possible participation in chaperoning of student travel as directed by the Resident Director.

Collaboration:

- Contribute to planning and shared interdisciplinary projects with other faculty.
- Participate in school committees as requested by the Resident Director.
- Actively participate in curriculum development with faculty colleagues - both local and at other SYA campuses.
- Attend faculty meetings and school events as requested by the Resident Director.

Professional Development:

- Engage in professional development as organized by SYA around topics of teaching methodology, assessment, lesson and unit planning, interdisciplinary projects and other topics regarding professional teaching abroad.
- Meet with the Resident Director regarding formal and informal class observations and provide a lesson plan in advance for any formal class observations.
- Participate in frequent virtual English Department meetings and an online English Department Slack channel