SYA Profile for Colleges 2022

SYA’s Mission

School Year Abroad (SYA) students become strong, globally-educated citizens with a high proficiency in language and culture. SYA students continue their secondary school education abroad and prepare for top colleges and universities. Using second language as the vehicle and another culture as the extension of our classrooms, SYA teaches students self-reliance, responsible decision-making, resourcefulness, adaptability and respect for differences.

SYA’s Structure

School Year Abroad is an independent, non-profit organization which has been educating students at its own schools overseas since 1964. SYA offers full academic year programs and a limited number of semester spots. SYA is supported by 44 member schools. For a full list of our member schools, please visit sya.org/about/member-schools. SYA’s English and math faculty, along with administration come from these excellent schools or from U.S. schools of equal caliber. The remaining faculty are experienced local educators. The Resident Directors are responsible for day-to-day administration of our schools abroad and report to the SYA President. Originally founded by Phillips Academy, SYA became its own 501(c)(3) in 1975, governed by a Board of Trustees.

Admissions & 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 diverse student body. The following data is for awarded 2022-2023 financial aid.

40% of students receive financial aid
$40,700 average grant-in-aid
$2,500,000 total financial aid awarded

2022-2023 Student Information

- SYA students hail from 29 different states
- 48% of SYA students are People of Color

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 social studies, science and literature. The majority of courses are taught in the target language and at the honors level. SYA also offers AP Calculus (AB and BC).
College Matriculation

In the past five operating years, SYA alumni matriculated at approximately 175 colleges and universities, including some overseas. The following list is not exhaustive, but includes the colleges which enrolled the most SYA students:

13-24 students
- New York University
- Brown University
- University of California
- University of Southern California
- University of St. Andrew’s
- Georgetown University
- Northeastern University

10-12 students
- George Washington University
- University of Chicago
- Tulane University
- NYU - Shanghai
- Tufts University
- Cornell University
- Colorado College

7-9 students
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Princeton University
- Emory University
- College of William & Mary
- Boston University
- University of Pennsylvania

5-6 students
- Middlebury College
- Harvard University
- Bowdoin College
- Barnard College
- Claremont McKenna College
- University of North Carolina
- Columbia University
- Macalester College
- Wake Forest University
- University of Michigan
- Rice University

4 students
- University of Texas
- Scripps College
- University of Miami
- University of Georgia
- Colby College
- Loyola Marymount University
- Colgate University
- Boston College

3 students
- Davidson College
- Duke University
- Fordham University
- Dartmouth College
- Bates College
- University of British Columbia
- Amherst College
- Reed College
- Howard University
- Williams College

2 students
- University of Washington
- College of Charleston (SC)
- Wesleyan University
- Occidental College
- Carleton College
- Sarah Lawrence College
- Parsons School of Design
- University of Virginia
- American University of Paris

1 student
- University of Michigan
- Rice University

COVID 19 Impact

During the 2019-2020 Academic Year, all of SYA’s campuses evacuated early due to COVID-19. SYA students completed their studies with SYA remotely. SYA’s programs were suspended for the 2020-2021 Academic Year. In the fall of 2021, SYA’s France, Italy and Spain campuses opened for full programming. SYA faculty, staff and students are on campus for the 2022-2023 Academic year.

Grading

Students are graded on an A-F (+/-) system. Teachers provide progress reports to students and families as an indicator throughout the year. We do not calculate GPAs nor do we rank our students.

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 within their host country to foster curriculum connections, cultural enrichment and personal discovery.

Standardized Testing & College Preparation

All SYA schools are ETS test centers, allowing students to take appropriate tests while abroad. We do not report SAT scores as students often use their sending school’s CEEB when taking the exam. Each school is staffed with a College Counseling Liaison who helps juniors begin to make college application plans and seniors to complete the process already begun with guidance from their sending school counselors. In 2022, almost half of our students took the AP Language and Culture exam, with 85% scoring a 4 or 5.

SYA by the Numbers

90% of faculty have advanced degrees
32 faculty members on three campuses
15 average class size

Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges