



## SCHOOL YEAR ABROAD

SYA.ORG | 978.725.6828

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## SYA Profile for Colleges 2025

### SYA's Approach

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 a 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 and semester programs. SYA is supported by 49 member schools. For a full list of our member schools, please click [here](#). 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, is governed by a board of trustees and has a community of over 9,200 alumni.

### Admissions & Financial Aid

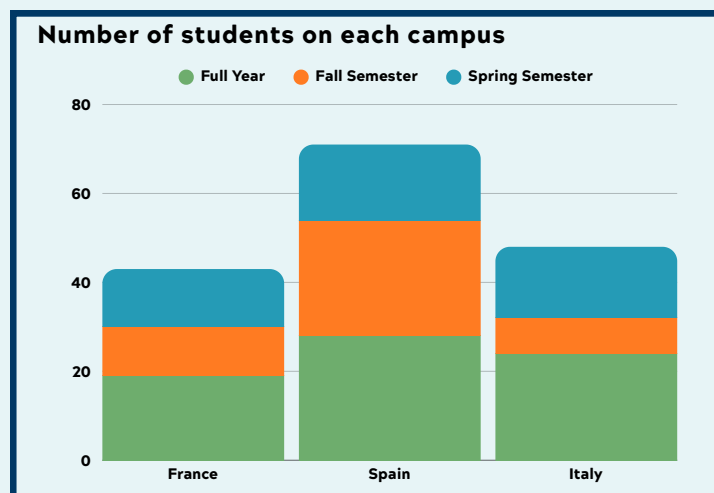
Admission to SYA is competitive, based on academic record, testing, essays, teacher recommendations and an interview. A generous financial aid program assures a diverse student body. The following data is for financial aid awarded 2025-2026.

**48%** of students receive financial aid

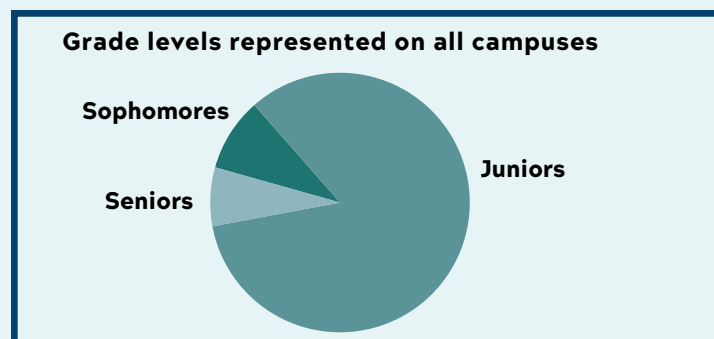
**\$30,000** average financial aid grant

**\$2,800,000** total financial aid awarded

### 2025-2026 Student Information



- SYA students hail from **26 different states**



### Curriculum

School Year Abroad's academic level 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 art history. SYA's place-based curriculum includes weekly field study and an end-of-program capstone project. 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

Since 2020, SYA alumni matriculated at more than 200 colleges and universities, including some overseas. The following list is not exhaustive, but includes the colleges which enrolled the most SYA students:

### 12+ students

- Barnard College
- Brown University
- Cornell University
- Emory University
- George Washington University
- Georgetown University
- Middlebury College
- New York University
- Northeastern University
- Tufts University
- Tulane University
- University of California - Berkeley
- University of California - UCLA
- University of Chicago
- University of Southern California
- University of St. Andrew's (Scotland)
- Yale University

### 8+ students

- American University
- Boston College
- Colorado College
- Columbia University
- Hamilton College
- McGill University
- Northwestern University
- NYU - Shanghai
- Princeton University
- Stanford University
- University of Michigan
- University of Washington
- Vanderbilt University
- Washington University St. Louis
- Wesleyan University

### 6+ students

- American University of Paris
- Boston University
- Claremont McKenna College
- Duke University
- Fordham University
- Harvard University
- Macalester College
- Scripps College
- Syracuse University
- Trinity College (Dublin)
- University of Virginia
- University of Wisconsin
- Wake Forest University

### 4+ students

- Amherst College
- Bowdoin College
- Colby College
- Colgate University
- College of William & Mary
- Dartmouth College
- Davidson College
- Howard University
- John Cabot University (Rome)
- Johns Hopkins University
- Purdue University
- Santa Clara University
- University of North Carolina
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Texas
- Williams College

## Standardized Testing & College Preparation

All SYA schools are College Board test centers, offering PSAT, SAT and AP exams. Each school is staffed with a College Counseling Liaison who helps juniors begin college application planning and seniors complete the process already begun with their sending school counselors. In 2025, about two thirds of our students in France and Spain took the corresponding AP Language and Culture exam, with more than 75% scoring a 4 or 5. SYA Italy welcomes mostly Italian language beginners; 40% of its 2025 class took the AP Italian Language and Culture exam, with 75% receiving a score of 4 or 5.

## SYA by the Numbers

87% of faculty have advanced degrees

24 faculty members across three campuses

14 average class size



Accredited by the New  
England Association of  
Schools and Colleges

## 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 athletic teams, clubs, choirs, orchestras and volunteer groups where they meet and interact with European teenagers. Students travel independently and on school trips within their host country to foster curriculum connections, cultural enrichment and personal discovery.