

School Directors

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SYA Profile for Colleges 2026

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 50 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 School 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 9,300 alumni.

Admissions & Financial Aid

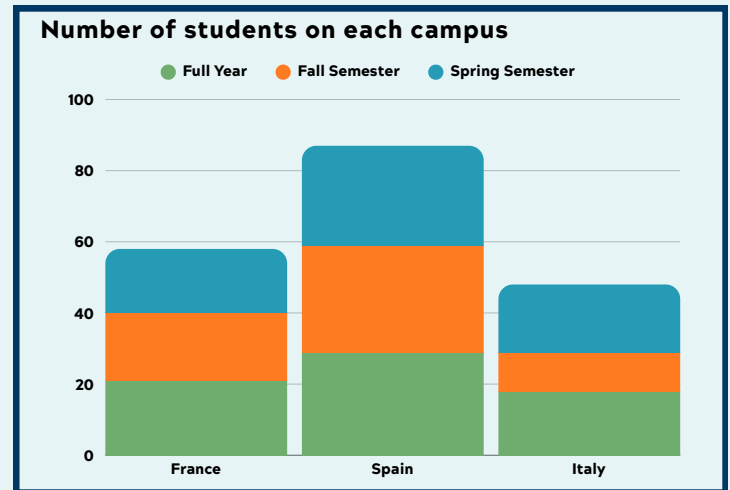
Admission to SYA is competitive, based on academic record, testing, essays, teacher recommendations and an interview. A generous financial aid program assures a diverse student body. The following data is for financial aid awarded 2026-2027.

47% of students receive financial aid

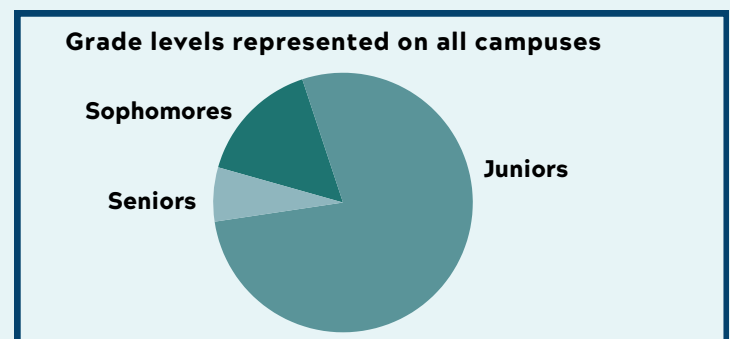
\$34,000 average financial aid grant

\$2,700,000 total financial aid awarded

2026-2027 Student Information



- SYA students hail from **25 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 global 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 2022, 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

- 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 Chicago
- University of Southern California
- University of St. Andrew's (Scotland)
- Wesleyan University
- Yale University

8+ students

- American University
- Barnard College
- Boston College
- Colorado College
- Columbia University
- Duke University
- Hamilton College
- McGill University
- Northwestern University
- Stanford University
- University of California - UCLA
- University of California - other campuses
- University of Michigan
- Vanderbilt University
- Washington University St. Louis

6+ students

- Boston University
- Claremont McKenna College
- Fordham University
- Harvard University
- NYU - Shanghai
- Princeton University
- Purdue University
- Syracuse University
- Trinity College (Dublin)
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Virginia
- University of Wisconsin

4+ students

- Amherst College
- Bates College
- Bocconi University
- Colby College
- Colgate University
- College of William & Mary
- Dartmouth College
- Davidson College
- Macalester College
- Santa Clara University
- Scripps College
- Smith College
- Southern Methodist University
- Spelman College
- University of North Carolina
- University of Texas
- University of Washington
- Wake Forest University
- Wellesley College
- 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 2026, the vast majority of students at SYA took the corresponding AP Language and Culture exam, ranging from 60% in Italy where students arrive as Italian language beginners, to 90% in Spain. In each campus, at least two thirds of these students scored a 4 or a 5.

SYA by the Numbers

- 86% of faculty have advanced degrees
- 22 faculty members across three campuses
- 12 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.