

# SYA CORE COMPETENCIES

## COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

### Language Immersion

Student demonstrates dedication to language immersion through successful participation in activities such as language pledges, target language use in the school building and the local community and responsible use of technology in the target language for academic and leisure purposes.

### Language Growth

Student consistently demonstrates significant individual growth in language level appropriate for a comprehensive yearlong study abroad program, regardless of ability at program start.

### Advanced Language Proficiency

Student achieves a level of target language mastery determined to be appropriate for all student participants.

### Colloquial Speech and Pronunciation

Student demonstrates the ability to speak using local colloquial speech, shows an understanding of social context and is able to comfortably switch among registers. Student's pronunciation does not interfere with the ability to communicate effectively.

## INDEPENDENCE

### Time Management

Student can effectively and consistently organize and execute responsibilities and commitments while managing distraction in a variety of environments.

### Physical Independence

Student can skillfully navigate unknown places and situations using local resources such as visual and auditory clues, knowledge of cultural norms and information from strangers. Student can use high- and low-tech tools to efficiently travel from one place to another with missing or unreliable information.

## COLLABORATION & PARTICIPATION

### Cooperative Work

Student displays the ability to collaborate effectively with others through organization, cooperation and a shared sense of duty to produce complex and quality projects.

### Community Participation

Student displays the ability to use local resources to further their studies and enhance their overall experience.

### Host Family Integration

Student regularly and thoughtfully engages with their host family through sharing meals, planning and participating in activities and making an effort to be an active member of the family.

## INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE

### Perspective Taking

Student displays knowledge of local perspectives on common issues and demonstrates the ability to frame a complex argument using a local cultural lens.

### Cultural Literacy and Norms

Student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of and the ability to emulate and participate in the cultural norms of the host country.

### Cultural Self-Recognition

Student can use the environment abroad to clearly identify their own cultural norms.

## CREATVITY & CRITICAL THINKING

### Research Skills

Student demonstrates the ability to recognize and utilize high-quality sources, both primary and secondary.

### Critical Reflection

Student demonstrates the metacognitive ability to critically reflect on their experience abroad and their approach to educational challenges.

### Creative Production and Adaptation

Student uses the environment abroad to produce new and unique ideas and solutions to challenges.

## HABITS OF MIND

### Focused Observation

Student demonstrates the ability to engage in deep observation of ideas and their environment.

### Open-Mindedness

Student demonstrates the ability to withhold judgement and foster an environment that supports the free exchange of ideas.

### Responsible Risk-Taking

Student demonstrates the ability to take educational and social risks by engaging in new activities, ideas and social opportunities.

## CITIZENSHIP & LEADERSHIP

### Responsible Decision-Making

Student uses the environment abroad to make choices demonstrating a dedication to learning, kindness and personal safety.

### Embodies Community Norms

Student consistently adheres to the community norms created by SYA students and faculty.

