



# EVA TATLOCK

ALVAREZ GLOBAL SCHOLAR

SENIOR AT SYA FRANCE

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## TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR INTERESTS

I was born and raised in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam, but moved to Seattle, Washington three years ago. My current high school is Evergreen High School, and I also attended a nearby community college for dual credit. I absolutely love going to school, not just for the learning aspect, but for the amazing people I have met and interacted with. Most of my extracurricular activities and free time is spent in my community, whether it be assisting at a food bank, volunteering at the hospital, or tutoring foreign students. When I am not busy with these activities, I enjoy baking and making new recipes.

## WHAT MADE YOU APPLY TO SYA?

Meeting exchange students and hearing about their experience with studying abroad in America initiated my interest in studying abroad myself. I noted their growth, development of new values, adaptation into a different culture, and impressive language improvement. I was awed with these positive changes. I remember staring out a window, mind dancing around the possibility of studying abroad, what it would be like, or if it were even possible for someone like me.

## WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR YOUR SYA EXPERIENCE?

I am hoping that with my SYA experience, I will feel accomplished and proud of my own development as an individual. No longer will I need to completely rely on my family but can confidently be on my own.

## WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO?

I am most looking forward to living with a host family and being independent. As much as I love my family, I feel that I rely on them too much and having this temporary separation will push me to become more self-reliant. The host family experience will be amazing! They will be my home away from home. I will get to develop respect and understanding for their culture and way of life and will build bonds that will last even after the program ends. In addition, conversing with my host family will drive me to speak in the target language, and even offers a chance for me to also teach them new things too!

## WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT AS YOU PREPARE TO EMBARK ON YOUR SYA YEAR?

With the rapidly approaching school year, I find myself constantly thinking about how I will interact with my host family. The language barrier is daunting to me, as I feel my self-efficacy is low when it comes to the French language. I worry most about not being able to express myself properly although I know that they will be patient and understanding as I slowly climb out of my shell to interact better with them.

## WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO THE DONORS WHO MADE THIS EXPERIENCE POSSIBLE?

To those who made this experience possible, what else can I do other than wrap you in a crushing hug? Thank you cannot even begin to express my gratitude and appreciation. Without your help, I would still be staring out that same window, wondering what it would be like to study abroad. I will give nothing but my best, and that's a promise! Thank you Alvarez family!