

A person with dark hair tied back, wearing a grey t-shirt and blue jeans, stands with their back to the camera, holding a phone up to take a picture. They are looking at a historic town built on a hillside, featuring red-tiled roofs and stone buildings. In the background, there are mountains under a clear sky. Olive tree branches are visible in the foreground and top right.

2019-2020

Journey outside your world.

CHINA / FRANCE / ITALY / SPAIN



Unleash your potential through study abroad.

Students who study abroad gain critical skills that colleges and employers expect in today's world. We're talking real-world experiences—like overcoming unexpected obstacles with creativity and resolve. Or collaborating with diverse groups of people. Skills like these are invaluable—no matter where life takes you.

Through study abroad, you'll master another language and live *inside* a new culture. You'll begin to make intellectual and personal discoveries you couldn't imagine back home. It's an experience that requires everything you've got, and it gives back 100-fold. You'll return home with the ability to think more critically, communicate more clearly and run your life more independently. You'll see the world as a richer, more complex place in which to work, live and explore.

Are you ready to learn beyond borders? You can, with SYA.



16 Reasons to Choose SYA

1 School to the power of 10.

The SYA learning experience is integrated and multidimensional. What you learn in one class leads directly into another, as you uncover the connections between language and history, or environmental science and politics. Meanwhile, the world around you amplifies learning, from the food you eat, to the traditions of your host family, to the places you'll travel. It's intense—in a good way. *Learn more at www.sya.org/curriculum.*



2 Send your language skills into hyper-drive.

Through extended cultural and linguistic immersion, SYA will greatly improve your proficiency. As one modern language department chair recently told us: "All of our language teachers love having returning SYA students in class. Their command of the language is impressive, and their deep love for the culture is infectious. Most of our Mandarin students will skip at least two language levels upon their return from SYA."



"SYA FORCES YOU TO GROW;
AS A PERSON, AS AN INDIVIDUAL,
AS A MEMBER OF A COMMUNITY."

— TEDDY B., GEORGETOWN DAY SCHOOL, D.C. (SPAIN)



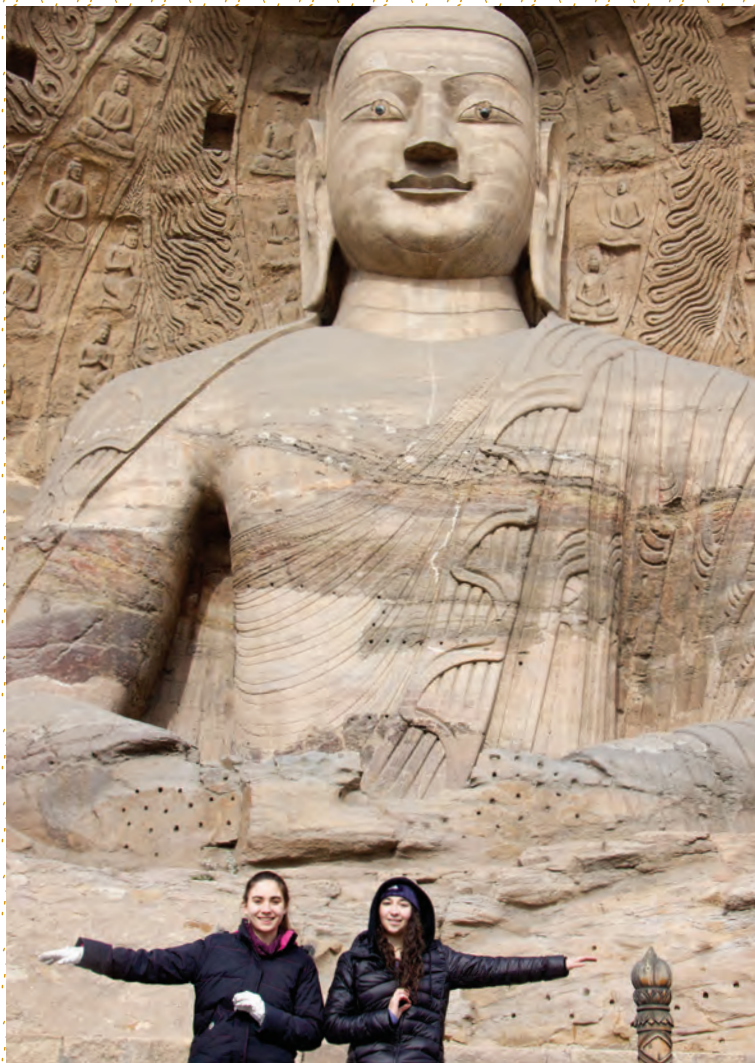
3 Taiji. Cuisine. Musica. Fútbol!

SYA gives you time and space to explore something you've always wanted to try. Our co-curricular coordinators can help connect you with others who share your current interests or a group where you can pursue something entirely new. *Learn more at www.sya.org/cocurriculars.*

A photograph of a family of four posing in a field of tall, golden-brown grass at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. A young girl with long brown hair, wearing a light blue shirt, is leaning over the shoulders of a younger girl with short dark hair, who is wearing a yellow floral patterned shirt. The younger girl is leaning her head on the shoulder of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark patterned top. The woman is leaning her head on the shoulder of a man with short dark hair, wearing a dark jacket. The man is holding a small plant in his hands. The background shows a line of trees and a house under a clear sky.

4 Your host family.

We can't say enough about the importance of host families—they've been a pillar of the SYA experience for over 50 years. With your host family, you'll deepen your grasp of the language, learn the customs, visit local neighborhoods and try new food. You'll live as if you were a member of the family, rather than a visitor. Each SYA campus has a dedicated coordinator who supervises host families. *Find out more at www.sya.org/hostfamily.*



5 Learn from the world, not just a book.

On any given day, your SYA classroom could be a 16th-century temple, a train station, or the streets of your new home city. We'll get you out into the world, learning as much as possible—not only from a textbook, but by exploring and researching in the field. Come spring, you'll be ready to tackle your own capstone project, which could take you almost anywhere. A student interested in Italian fashion decided to make his own leather shoes by hand. He partnered with a local cobbler who taught him the traditional shoe-making process. Another student investigated China's tea industry and created a documentary with her findings. At SYA, field work is defined by the scope of your own imagination.



6 There's no time like high school.

Why wait until college to study abroad? The earlier you start, the stronger your language proficiency. In addition, all the knowledge and perspective you gain through SYA will help inform your college process and subsequent studies. *Carpe diem!*



7 BECAUSE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, NO SUBWAY MAP WILL EVER INTIMIDATE YOU AGAIN.

"IF HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS, THEN I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT I HAVE TWO HOMES NOW."

— KATHERINE J.
PROVIDENCE DAY SCHOOL, NC (FRANCE)



8 Stay on pace with school back home.

SYA is more than a program or a trip—it's a premier independent school, fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Our faculty teams include American teachers in English and math, plus local teachers who specialize in language and cultural immersion for U.S. students. All this expertise means you can jump with confidence into your adventure abroad.



9 Voice and choice in your education.

SYA is what you make of it. Throughout the year, you will be able to choose from a menu of experiences based on your interests or necessary graduation requirements at your sending school. As time goes on, you will have the opportunity to design your own experiences with the help of an advisor, and by the end of the year, students will deep-dive into a chosen topic for the culminating capstone project.



10 Because the Trevi fountain at night looks like a clip from a movie.

11 Grit.

Leaving home is a courageous act. Immersing yourself in the unknown takes work. There are days when SYA will push you to your limits—and you'll push back, with the support of teachers, friends and your own core determination. Out of this process comes strength, a strength that stays with you.





12 Not your everyday trip.

At SYA, you'll go way beyond tourist travel. You'll delve deeply into ruins, landscapes, markets and outposts with native teachers. You'll reflect on those experiences and ponder big ideas. Travel happens with your whole school or in small, teacher-led groups; for a single day or for weeks at a time. In addition, students in good standing can earn the privilege of traveling independently. *Learn more at www.sya.org/travel.*

“EVERY SINGLE DAY HAS BEEN A SMALL VICTORY AND EVERY TINY ACCOMPLISHMENT HAS ADDED TO MY CONFIDENCE AND MY LOVE OF THIS BEAUTIFUL PLACE.”

— BLAIR C., PACKER COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE, NY (CHINA)



13 Unforgettable friendships.

We can't predict exactly where you'll find your kindred spirits, but if your heart is open, you'll find many through SYA. Maybe it will be your host brother or sister, someone you meet at the Model UN, a teammate on the basketball team and your fellow SYA-ers, for sure. You'll head home changed by some of the most amazing people you'll ever meet.



15 One-on-one guidance and support.

Living abroad is challenging, but you'll never face these obstacles alone. Students work one-on-one with advisors to address their individual academic goals. In addition, advisory groups meet weekly to discuss and support one another through challenges and successes.



14 Stand out to colleges.

You already know the facts: zillions of college applications, and you need to stand out among them. Your SYA story can help. SYA offers unbeatable ways to boost your creative thinking and pursue truly distinctive, independent research. You'll discover new ideas and talents. We have a college counseling liaison at each of our campuses, and all SYA campuses are test centers for the PSAT, SAT and AP exams. *Learn more at www.sya.org/college.*



16 Develop skills for life.

When all is said and done, SYA provides the ultimate journey outside your comfort zone. In a dramatically different place, you'll gain an extraordinary level of confidence, independence, critical thinking skills and intercultural competence. These skills will take you anywhere you want to go. The next move is yours. Are you READY?

School Year Abroad:

Four Campuses, One Shared Vision

School Year Abroad operates four campuses united by a single mission: *to guide students through a challenging curriculum focused on developing skills for an increasingly interdependent world. Central to the SYA experience is the adventure of fully engaging with different languages, cultures and peoples.*

Our U.S. home office is located in North Andover, MA, where our president and administrative team manage central functions, such as admissions and alumni relations and provide guiding leadership for all SYA campuses. In each country, our campuses are run by a Resident Director and a combination of U.S. and local faculty.

Our Story

School Year Abroad was founded in 1964 by Phillips Academy in Andover, MA. Within a few years, Phillips Exeter Academy and St. Paul's School joined to support this endeavor. Today, SYA operates independently as a school fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

Our Students

SYA has 47 member schools located around the United States and in London. While approximately 40 percent of our students come to us from member schools, SYA accepts qualified students from all high schools. Our students form close bonds and support each other even as they fully immerse themselves in the language and customs of their chosen country. Together with faculty,

SYA students create a learning community that is dedicated to global understanding in a complex, place-based, experiential way.

Our Focus

The basic act of living abroad with a host family provides fundamental growth. SYA, however, seeks even deeper learning for our students. We have designed a highly-deliberate program to deepen four key student skills: language proficiency; critical and creative thinking; intercultural competence; independence and interdependence. *Learn more at www.sya.org/mission.*

Our Faculty and Staff

English and math teachers come to SYA with years of college-preparatory experience in U.S. education. They are often drawn from our member schools. They join expert local faculty who know how to help U.S. students maximize their studies abroad.

SYA students are challenged, safe and supported as they jump into this all-encompassing adventure. They have an exceptional team of adults standing behind them on each campus, including:

- Resident directors, teachers and host family
- Co-curricular activities coordinator
- Host family coordinator
- Academic advisor
- College counseling liaison



This brochure is not enough!

Visit www.sya.org for more information on all our campus locations, programs and teachers. Watch videos and meet SYA students. Explore course offerings and co-curricular options. With all this information at your fingertips, the only question left will be...Which country will you choose?



BEIJING

China

Whether you are an absolute beginner or already know some Chinese, SYA China won't just "teach" you Mandarin, we will surround you with the language and culture of Beijing. You'll unravel the mysteries of this ancient land and understand the complexities of its modern-day issues. Our curriculum, your host family and all the myriad experiences in between create a level of intensity and specialization unmatched anywhere else.

Beijing is the historical and cultural hub of China and with a population of 21.7 million people, you will never lack for entertainment, social interaction or interests to pursue. Co-curricular activities range from community service to sports to music. Better still, SYA can arrange for classes in tai chi, calligraphy, brush painting or other Chinese arts, allowing you to dabble in options you might not easily find at home.



SYA China operates on the campus of Beijing Normal University Middle School #2, using the U.S. educational model.

Course content often overlaps; for example, Environmental Science and Political Science students recently held a formal debate on China's carbon emissions.

ASW (Activities, Service and Wellness program) involves students in the community, where they practice language skills and better understand China through varied social perspectives.

Speech festivals and tone competitions are two ways the faculty encourage students to perfect their Mandarin.

Learn more at www.sya.org/china.



Travel with a Purpose

SYA's educational travel program is intentionally designed to challenge students physically, linguistically and emotionally. Our trips take students off the beaten path and bring them into contact with a wide variety of communities, helping them put to use what they have learned in the classroom and widening their personal perspectives. Travel serves as a catalyst for increased awareness and respect for cultural differences, leading to greater intercultural competence. Visit www.sya.org/travel.





RENNES

France

Rennes, the capital of Brittany, allows you to experience the distinct Breton culture as you simultaneously master the French language and discover France's place in the world. This lesser-traveled corner of the country lets you focus on immersing yourself locally, and yet Paris can be reached by train in less than 90 minutes.

French is the language of diplomacy and is considered the *lingua franca* of art, cuisine, dance and fashion. To complement this scope, SYA offers a wide range of courses, from humanities and environmental science to political science and global issues. All courses are taught in French except for English and math. Learning doesn't stop in the classroom. You'll have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities from crew and choir to cooking and community service. Time with your host family will further hone your skills.



Each year, students, faculty and host siblings cross the bay to Mont Saint-Michel at low tide, just as pilgrims have done for over a thousand years.

Student writers, teachers and town officials recently worked together to publish *The American Involvement in the First World War (1914 - 1918), From Brittany to the Western Front*, a book celebrating the 100th anniversary of the entry of America in WWI.

Students interested in global issues recently hosted a live webinar on News-Decoder, in addition to having numerous articles published.

There is a two-year language prerequisite to apply for SYA France.

Learn more at www.sya.org/france.



Home Away from Home

Host families lie at the heart of the SYA experience and significantly contribute to student growth. Families add perspective and an authentic language learning environment that completes our academic program. Host families are also a crucial part of the SYA support system. SYA students are treated as members of the family, not guests or lodgers. The connection has proven to be so strong that we've even had second-generation host families in Rennes. Visit www.sya.org/hostfamily.



VITERBO

Italy

Italy is a country of layers where ancient ruins and modern culture exist in harmony. SYA Italy will help you see how the two relate through experiential learning and interdisciplinary classes—all initially taught in English except for Italian. Imagine discussing the origins of democracy at the Roman Forum one day, and then debating government policies at a Model UN conference the next! Viterbo provides the ideal launching point—big enough to offer an exciting day-to-day life; small enough to feel like home and only a 90-minute train ride from Rome.

The Italians are welcoming people with a cultural commitment to hospitality. This translates to a feeling of connection throughout your day. Every interaction, whether buying a *panino* or hanging out with friends, practicing with your soccer team or playing with your band, will enrich your language skills and deepen your relationship with the Italian culture.



SYA Italy teaches multiple languages—Italian, Latin and Ancient Greek—yet there is no language prerequisite to apply.

The most anticipated festival of the year in Viterbo—*la Festa di Santa Rosa*—occurs just days after the students move in with their host families.

Along with Model UN, students last year attended the Global Issues Network (GIN) conference in Luxembourg.

Imagine working on a group project with students from France, Italy and Spain. Recently, SYA political science students in Europe collaborated on a project entitled EU in 2030.

Learn more at www.sya.org/italy.



Hands-on Field Work

SYA Italy beautifully exemplifies our placed-based and experiential learning curriculum. On a leased urban farm near campus, for example, students test the fundamentals of soil science and microbiology for our applied agroecology course. Students in the ancient history course assist with local archeology excavation. Visit www.sya.org/curriculum.





ZARAGOZA

Spain

SYA Spain will take you deep into the study of a language and culture brought to the Americas over 500 years ago. All classes are taught in Spanish except English and math. Your home base, Zaragoza, is Spain's fifth-largest city, located halfway between Madrid and Barcelona. Relatively unspoiled by tourism, it is an ideal location for immersing yourself in the local community.

Each experience you have—whether chatting with your host family, rowing on the Ebro, or painting in a nearby studio—will reinforce what you're learning at school and teach you more about this influential language and culture than you could ever learn from a book. Beyond the city, you'll attend "class" in some pretty spectacular locations, from the canyons of the Sierra de Guara to the halls of the famous Museo Nacional del Prado.



SYA Spain students pursue a wide range of spring capstone projects. One student traveled through Spain, researching her roots and gathering research for her project entitled *Sephardic Jews in Spain: Their Plight and History*.

SYA Spain offers something for everyone with a vast array of electives taught in Spanish, including theater, history, art history, macroeconomics, sociology and environmental science.

There is a two-year language prerequisite to apply for SYA Spain.

Learn more at www.sya.org/spain.



Connecting with Local Students

While SYA operates as an independent school, we want students to experience the local schools as well. The “Un Día Aquí, Un Día Allí” exchange program pairs an SYA student with a student from a nearby high school so that each can experience the other’s typical school day. The Joven Erasmus club provides another opportunity to collaborate with Spanish peers interested in current events. Visit www.sya.org/cocurriculares.



一塵不到

秋扶皇極五事備十政理功

道合天心四時行百物生德

Bringing it all back home.

SYA students return each spring with new friends, wider horizons and another country to call home. Above all, they return with valuable skills that help them excel throughout the rest of high school, the college application process and their future professions.

SYA and College

SYA students find their voices overseas. This self-assurance helps them identify the colleges and universities that will best advance their future goals. Some students even choose to apply internationally, having discovered a passion for linguistics, world cultures or international affairs.

In presenting themselves to colleges, SYA students have the advantage of a distinctive story to tell. An SYA project or personal discovery often becomes the focus of a college essay. Among college admission officers, SYA students are widely known to be disciplined, informed, courageous and well-adjusted to life away from home. Ultimately, the SYA experience helps students speak and write about themselves with precision and high aspirations. It empowers them to manage the college process with strength and purpose.

Worldwide Alumni Community

SYA is a launching point—not an experience that ends. Across the globe, SYA graduates are 8,000 strong. As an SYA alum, you'll join a community of individuals who hold a unique experience in common and keep the SYA network vibrantly connected. It's not surprising that many of our alumni hold U.S. diplomatic positions, including the former U.S. ambassadors to France, Costa Rica, Luxembourg and Macedonia. From political leaders to restaurateurs, educators to fashion designers, authors to CEOs, the entrepreneurs, artists and global thinkers who emerge from SYA are making their mark on the world. *Meet more alumni at www.sya.org/IamSYA*

"Most students asking about SYA want to know: 'Will being away from my teachers and my school activities put me behind in the college process?' The very real answer is that being away is a powerful and compelling addition to what they present to a college. It says they were willing to take a risk. It also helps enormously with the 'Who am I?' part of the college admission process, where students need to distinguish themselves from so many other applicants."

—Mr. Rod Skinner, Director of College Counseling at Milton Academy, MA



Have Questions? Ready to Apply?

Our admission staff is here to help.

- Use www.sya.org/apply to start your application.
- Call 978.725.6828 with any questions.
- Watch videos, read student blogs, and more at www.sya.org.

Scholarships and Financial Aid

In a typical year, nearly 50 percent of our families receive financial aid totaling about \$2.5 million. In addition to need-based financial aid, SYA offers merit-based scholarships to assist families with providing their children an outstanding academic experience. Learn more at www.sya.org/affordingsya.

Apply by February 12, 2020!

This deadline is for both the general application and the financial aid application.

Member Schools

SYA's association includes a consortium of 47 top U.S. independent high schools who have demonstrated a strong commitment to world language instruction and global education. While approximately 40 percent of our students come from member schools, SYA accepts qualified students from all high schools.

CHARTER MEMBER SCHOOLS

- Phillips Academy, *Andover, MA*
- Phillips Exeter Academy, *Exeter, NH*
- St. Paul's School, *Concord, NH*

MEMBER SCHOOLS

- Albuquerque Academy, *Albuquerque, NM*
- Belmont Hill School, *Belmont, MA*
- Brooks School, *North Andover, MA*
- Campbell Hall, *Los Angeles, CA*
- Culver Academies, *Culver, IN*
- Deerfield Academy, *Deerfield, MA*
- Episcopal High School, *Alexandria, VA*
- Georgetown Day School, *Washington, D.C.*
- Greenhill School, *Addison, Texas*
- Harvard-Westlake School, *North Hollywood, CA*
- Lake Forest Academy, *Lake Forest, IL*
- Lakeside School, *Seattle, WA*
- Mercersburg Academy, *Mercersburg, PA*
- Milton Academy, *Milton, MA*
- Newark Academy, *Livingston, NJ*
- Norfolk Academy, *Norfolk, VA*
- Peddie School, *Hightstown, NJ*
- Punahou School, *Honolulu, HI*
- Saint Mary's Hall, *San Antonio, TX*
- San Francisco University High School, *San Francisco, CA*
- Sidwell Friends School, *Washington, DC*
- St. Albans School, *Washington, DC*
- St. John's School, *Houston, TX*
- St. Mark's School, *Southborough, MA*
- Thacher School, *Ojai, CA*
- The American School in London, *London, U.K.*
- The Bishop's School, *La Jolla, CA*
- The Blake School, *Minneapolis, MN*
- The Branson School, *Ross, CA*
- The Community School of Naples, *Naples, FL*
- The Head-Royce School, *Oakland, CA*
- The Hill School, *Pottstown, PA*
- The Hotchkiss School, *Lakeville, CT*
- The Latin School of Chicago, *Chicago, IL*
- The Lawrenceville School, *Lawrenceville, NJ*
- The Loomis Chaffee School, *Windsor, CT*
- The Packer Collegiate Institute, *Brooklyn, NY*
- The Potomac School, *McLean, VA*
- The Spence School, *New York, NY*
- The Taft School, *Watertown, CT*
- The Westminster Schools, *Atlanta, GA*
- Trinity School, *New York, NY*
- Westminster School, *Simsbury, CT*
- Wilmington Friends School, *Wilmington, DE*

