SYA Summer 2019

Start Your Adventure

www.sya.org
Open your world to new possibilities

About SYA Summer:
SYA Summer is modeled after the highly successful School Year Abroad, which has been transforming high school students into global thinkers for over 50 years. The SYA Summer five-week experience consists of four weeks of language and culture lessons – both in and outside of the classroom, excursions and community-based activities, and a meaningful homestay with a local family. The fifth week is devoted to travel, allowing students to explore more of the country they will soon be calling their “second home.”

SYA Host Families:
Living with a local host family allows SYA Summer students to learn how a language comes to life in a cultural context while forging a lifelong bond with a new family.

SYA interviews, carefully selects, and maintains ongoing relationships with each host family. SYA also visits each home and provides an orientation for the families. The Program Director and Host Family Coordinator then review each student’s file to make the best possible placement. Many families have hosted students in the past, bringing to the program their invaluable experience.
June 20–July 25, 2019
Students depart on June 19

- Take an active role in an intensive Mandarin Chinese language program impossible to replicate at your home school.

- Immerse yourself in the community by participating in local activities and living with a Chinese host family.

- Attend traditional brush painting, calligraphy and martial arts classes to have a more authentic experience.

- Explore ancient cultural and historical sites in Beijing and other lesser-known destinations during faculty-guided excursions.

- Travel for seven days at the end of the program to destinations such as Xi’an, the starting point of the infamous Silk Road and home to the Terracotta Warriors, and historic Gansu Province.

Turbo charge your language skills and broaden your understanding of China’s cultural heritage as well as the contemporary events which have shaped modern China. Morning classes are followed by extracurricular activities or group excursions in Beijing to see some of its greatest attractions and to experience its vibrant culture. Living with a local family — the cornerstone of SYA’s programs — will do more than provide a place for you to practice what you learned at school; it’s an opportunity to become completely immersed in the culture and establish lifelong relationships. The fifth week of the program is dedicated to providing students an experience of China beyond Beijing. In years past, destinations for the final trip have included: Xi’an, Lanzhou and Xiahe in northwest China.

“SYA China Summer has elevated my confidence in speaking Chinese language. I have gained a greater understanding of what it is like to live in China.”

SYA Summer: China student
Immerse yourself in Rennes to deepen your understanding of French language and culture, particularly France’s regional diversity. Classes are held in the morning and afternoons are dedicated to activities, visits and excursions that allow you to discover this fascinating region of Brittany, France. Evenings and weekends are spent in the comfort of your host family where you’ll have ample opportunity to share the highlights of your day over a delicious meal. Wrap up your stay with a five-day trip to Paris.

“My host family has played a very significant role in my life here. I bonded with them immensely and spent much of my free time with them. Not only have they helped me absorb the true French culture, but they made me feel at home and more comfortable being away from my real family for five weeks.”

SYA Summer: France student

- Improve your French language skills while expanding your knowledge of France through multidisciplinary classes which incorporate history, contemporary culture, and journalism.

- Live with a caring host family who will teach you more about French language and culture than you could ever learn at school.

- Participate in local activities such as: kayaking, rope courses and circus school.

- Discover northern France with trips to places like Mont Saint-Michel, Saint Malo and Normandy — home to D-Day landing sites of World War II.

- Finish the program with a trip to Paris where the Louvre, Musée d’Orsay, Montmartre and la Tour Eiffel are just a few of the attractions.
June 19-July 24, 2019
Students depart on June 18

- Rapidly improve your proficiency in Spanish language and expand your knowledge of the people and culture of Spain.
- Partake in local activities such as cooking, art and dance classes.
- Maximize your learning through a close relationship with your host family; let them “teach” you as you once “learned” your native tongue from your own family.
- Enjoy excursions to surrounding areas large and small, whether hiking in the Pyrenees or visiting Barcelona.

Make the leap from “learning Spanish” to experiencing Spain with all of your senses. Classes are held in the morning, and afternoons are designed to help you immerse yourself in the local language and culture. Evenings and weekends are devoted to your host family experience. You will be carefully placed in a Spanish family who will become your guide to Zaragoza and the surrounding area.

The program is located in Zaragoza, a vibrant city situated midway between Madrid and Barcelona. While there will be day trips and a brief visit to Madrid during the first four weeks, the culmination of the program will be a trip through northeastern Spain, ending in Barcelona.

“I can confidently say that this was one of the best experiences of my life. I feel like I have grown so much in my understanding of the Spanish culture, and my Spanish language skills improved immensely. I feel like I am leaving the program an infinitely more confident and curious person. I absolutely loved it!”

SYA Summer: Spain student
ADMISSIONS & ELIGIBILITY
All SYA Summer programs are open to rising 10th-, 11th- and 12th- grade high school students. Application for admission is considered complete when the following have been received:

- Online application and $50 application fee
- Personal essay
- Transcript (with fall semester grades)
- Recent uploaded photo

Admissions decisions begin on January 18, 2019. Once your completed application has been submitted with all required parts, please allow up to two weeks for a decision. Applicants will be notified via email to check their online account when a decision has been made. For more info visit www.sya.org/summerapplication.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS
China: Students must be currently enrolled in Mandarin level 1 or above.

France & Spain: Students must be currently enrolled in French or Spanish level 2 or above.

DATES & TUITION
Duration: Five weeks in China, France or Spain. See country sections for program dates.

Departure/Return: SYA organizes a round-trip group flight, typically from the East Coast, to Beijing, Paris and Barcelona. There will be a chaperone on the outbound flight in June, but not on the return flight in July. Families are not required to purchase a ticket on the group flight.

Program fee: $8,500 inclusive of tuition, homestay, meals, excursions and health insurance. Not included are: round-trip airfare, personal expenses such as visa fees, travel insurance and spending money.

Please note: group flights depart the day before each program starts abroad.

FINANCIAL AID
SYA Summer has limited financial aid available for families who show a demonstrated need. The summer program financial aid deadline is January 11, 2019.

Visit www.sya.org/summer/summer-tuition for more details.
Here is what some of our parents say about us:

“SYA’s relationships in the community and the placements with host families is what stands out in my mind. Our daughter’s homestay was extraordinary. But then to complement that learning, the academic classes and the extracurriculars deepened, enhanced and supported the immersion experience. SYA is a top-notch program. The faculty and director were outstanding. I can’t say enough good things about SYA.”

**SYA Summer: China ’18 parent**

“The program is impressive in its organization. We were a bit apprehensive about sending our 16-year-old daughter to Europe on her own, but could not have been more pleased. Sophie learned so much and her younger sister cannot wait to go next!”

**SYA Summer: France ’17 parent**

“We were so very impressed with the SYA Staff in Spain and the program that they had put together. My daughter believes these were some of the finest teachers that she has ever had. She absolutely loved the coursework and the excursions.”

**SYA Summer: Spain ’18 parent**

For more details visit

[www.sya.org/summer](http://www.sya.org/summer)