



SCHOOL YEAR ABROAD

At home in the world since 1964

Thank you for your interest in SYA SUMMER.

This packet includes the instructions and forms necessary to complete your application. Fill out all forms completely and clearly using **black or blue ink**.

Applicants will be evaluated when their file is complete, and admissions decisions will be made on a rolling basis, starting on January 18, until the programs are full.

- Supply all information requested on Part I of the application — do not leave anything blank. The application must be signed by you and both your parents or guardian(s).
- Attach a copy of the inside photo page of your passport and return this with the application form, the two personal essays and the \$25 non-refundable application fee (made out to School Year Abroad). If you need to apply for a passport to attend, please apply for one and attach a copy of the application.
- Write your name and other requested information at the top of two confidential recommendation forms. We require recommendations from your **current-year** advisor and language teacher. Prepare two stamped envelopes addressed to SYA Summer, 439 South Union Street, Lawrence, MA 01843 and attach one to each recommendation form. Ask your writers to send the recommendations directly to SYA Summer as soon as possible.
- Give the registrar or guidance counselor at your school the transcript release form (with top filled out), and ask that person to send SYA a transcript of your work *through the most recent term or marking period*, including any standardized test scores such as the SSAT, PSAT or SAT.

Please note: We will confirm receipt of your application and fee by e-mail. Applications will be reviewed and evaluated when complete, and acceptances will be sent to both the student and parent/guardian.

We look forward to getting to know you.

Roland Lemay
Director of Admissions



SYA SUMMER

439 South Union Street Lawrence, Massachusetts 01843
T 978.725.6828 syasummer@sya.org www.sya.org

Application for Admission Summer 2010

All information is required. Please write clearly, using black or blue ink. Do not fax this document.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

I am a candidate for SYA Summer in:

- China
 France
 Spain
 Financial Aid Applicant

Full legal name Preferred name
first middle last

Home address
street city state zip code

Home phone () Cell () E-mail

M F
 Height
 Weight
 Date of birth
 Place of birth
city state country

Present school Current grade level Boarder Day

Years of formal high school language class to be completed by the end of this year (*Indicate language(s) you have studied with number of years. Ex: 2 Spanish*):

___ French, ___ Latin, ___ Mandarin Chinese, ___ Spanish, ___ Other _____

FAMILY INFORMATION

Full name of parent/guardian (required)

.....
title first middle/maiden last

Home address
street

.....
city state zip code

Home phone ()

Cell ()

E-mail

Employer

Occupation

Work phone ()

Full name of parent/guardian (required)

.....
title first middle/maiden last

Home address
street

.....
city state zip code

Home phone ()

Cell ()

E-mail

Employer

Occupation

Work phone ()

Please check the appropriate boxes and include the year of the events indicated below:

Legal guardian(s): father mother other I live with my mother father both other

Parents married in
 Parents separated in
 Parents divorced in
year year year

Mother remarried in
 Father remarried in
 Mother deceased in
 Father deceased in
year year year year

Please explain any unusual circumstances

SYA Summer's policy is to send information to both natural parents unless a written legal decision instructs otherwise.

Siblings' names, ages and schools
.....
.....

Relatives, if any, who are alumni or who now attend SYA (please include name, country/year and relationship):
.....
.....
.....

I learned about SYA Summer from SYA rep, Web site, publication, teacher, former SYA student, other
Please provide specific information on how you heard about us (name of SYA rep/Web site/teacher/etc.)
.....

VISA/IMMIGRATION INFORMATION (Used for the visa application process only)

Note: If the student does not already possess a passport valid for at least six months after the conclusion of the program in late July, you must apply immediately for a passport and may need to request "expedited" service.

Are you a U.S. citizen? If not, of what country are you a citizen?

Do you possess a valid passport yes no

If yes, please provide the following information and send us a photocopy of the photo page with your application:

Issuing country Passport number Expiration date

If you are not a U.S. citizen, what travel document do you have?

Are you a resident alien? If yes, please send us a photocopy of Resident Alien Card (green card).

Are you a non-resident alien? If yes, please send us a photocopy of visa stamp that is in your passport.

The undersigned agree that all recommendations and other information that SYA Summer receives as part of this student application shall not be disclosed to anyone, including the candidate and his/her family, except internally at SYA on a need-to-know basis and otherwise as deemed advisable by the Executive Director. As a condition of admission, the undersigned hereby authorize the home school (including the school's administrators, health care professionals, counselors, and teachers) and family physician to release any information about counseling, discipline, health problems, psychological conditions, drug and alcohol use, and/or psychiatric hospitalization, in addition to all academic records. The undersigned agree that such information is necessary in determining whether or not the student can meet the special social, psychological, physical, and academic challenges presented by living abroad. The undersigned further agree that, if the candidate is admitted and enrolls at SYA, SYA may share any relevant information it possesses about the student with host families, health care professionals, and school personnel abroad as well as share any information about the student's behavior and experience at SYA (including academic, health and discipline information) with the student's parents/legal guardians and home school.

Signature of applicant Date

Signature of parent/guardian Date

required

Signature of parent/guardian Date

required

To whom should SYA bills be sent?

name

number and street

city

state

zip code

I have enclosed the required \$25 non-refundable application fee.



SYA SUMMER

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Advisor or Counselor Recommendation Summer 2010

SYA Summer offers a rigorous academic program and the challenge of adapting to life in a different culture through extracurricular activities and a long-term homestay. We seek motivated students with strong verbal skills who are willing at times to sacrifice personal comfort in order to make contributions to the school community and to their host family. We thank you in advance for your candid responses. All recommendations will be held confidential.

..... is applying for admission to SYA SUMMER 2010
name of applicant

in China / France / Spain (*circle one*).

PLEASE RETURN to SYA SUMMER by mail to the address above. Student applications are evaluated when they are complete, and admissions decisions are made on a rolling basis, starting on January 18, until the programs are full.

- Please circle the words or phrases that **best** apply to this applicant: balanced, caring, cheerful, complainer, confident, conscientious, cooperative, demanding, determined, disorganized, easily discouraged, entitled, flexible, follower, gregarious, helpful, impatient, inconsistent, low self-esteem, moody, naïve, negative leader, open-minded, organized, patient, popular, positive leader, resilient, respectful, responsible, rigid, risk-taker, self-centered, self-conscious, shy, trustworthy, unappreciative, unreliable.
- How long have you known this candidate? In what capacity?
- Is this the type of person you would enjoy hosting for an extended period?
- Would you enjoy having this applicant as a member of a group for which you were responsible?
- What do you feel a host family would like most and least about this student?
- Please indicate any school or community activities in which the candidate has participated with distinction.

Parents of all applicants have formally authorized home schools and teachers to share the following information with SYA Summer. Please use the back of this form if you require additional space.

- Does this applicant have any physical, psychological or learning problems that could make it difficult to succeed in a host family or flourish in a challenging academic program, while adapting to life in a new culture and a new language?
- Will this applicant need any ongoing counseling, special services or accommodations while abroad?
- Has s/he ever been the subject of disciplinary action?

OVERALL EVALUATION	Top 5%	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Weak	No basis for judgment
As a person and ambassador of good will	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
As a student	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signature Date

Name printed School

Home phone School phone E-mail



SYA SUMMER

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Transcript Release Form Summer 2010

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANT

Please fill out the top section and give this form, along with a stamped and addressed return envelope, to your Principal, Registrar or Guidance Counselor. Please emphasize that we must have a current transcript and that they should keep a copy of this form on file.

..... is applying for SYA Summer 2010
name of applicant

in China / France / Spain (*circle one*).

We authorize the school to release transcripts, standardized test scores and discipline record to School Year Abroad.

.....
student signature *parent signature* *date*

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SCHOOL

With this form the above student and parent give authorization for the release of her/his transcript to SYA Summer. Please submit complete academic information for this student and keep a copy of this release form on file for future requests which may include final year grades and standardized test scores for the current year. Include all courses taken and grades achieved from ninth grade through the **most recent term or marking period of the current academic year**.

In addition, please answer the following questions:

1. What is the total enrollment for the applicant's grade?
2. Does your school use a block schedule?
3. Has there been an interruption in the applicant's attendance at your school? (If yes, please explain)
4. Has the applicant been in disciplinary trouble at your school? (If yes, please explain)

Signature Date

Name printed Title

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form and ensuring that it be returned to our office along with the requested transcript and standardized test scores as soon as possible. Student applications are reviewed when all information is received, and admissions decisions are made on a rolling basis, starting on January 18, until the programs are full.



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Chinese Language Teacher Recommendation Summer 2010

SYA Summer offers a rigorous academic program and the challenge of adapting to life in a different culture through extracurricular activities and a homestay. We seek motivated students with strong verbal skills who are willing at times to sacrifice personal comfort in order to make contributions to the school community and to their host family. Long experience has taught us that motivation and language aptitude are more important for success at SYA than years of practice or current level. We thank you in advance for your candid responses. All recommendations will be held confidential.

..... is applying for admission to SYA Summer 2010 in China.
name of applicant

PLEASE RETURN to SYA SUMMER by mail to the address above. Student applications are evaluated when they are complete, and admissions decisions are made on a rolling basis, starting on January 18, until the programs are full.

- Please circle the words or phrases that **best** apply to this applicant: balanced, caring, cheerful, complainer, confident, conscientious, cooperative, demanding, determined, disorganized, easily discouraged, entitled, flexible, follower, gregarious, helpful, impatient, inconsistent, low self-esteem, moody, naïve, negative leader, open-minded, organized, patient, popular, positive leader, resilient, respectful, responsible, rigid, risk-taker, self-centered, self-conscious, shy, trustworthy, unappreciative, unreliable.
 - Is this the type of person you would enjoy hosting for an extended period?
 - Would you enjoy having this applicant as a member of a group for which you were responsible?
 - What do you feel a host family would like most and least about this student?
 - Describe briefly the present Chinese language course or attach a course description. Please include name and level of textbook used and the number of hours per week the class meets.
.....
.....
 - Has this student studied simplified or traditional characters? Pinyin?
 - Please state in the space below (and on an extra page if needed) this student's strengths and weaknesses in your class. Consider class participation, natural foreign language "sense," attention to detail, ability to comprehend and express self in foreign language.
.....
.....
.....
 - Current language level.
 - Does this student accept advice or criticism well? yes no • Does this student procrastinate? yes no
 - Current letter grade (or percentage) in your course As of (date)
 - This grade was earned with great effort was earned with average effort was earned easily
 accurately reflects student's ability demonstrates a lack of effort
 - OVERALL EVALUATION
- | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | Top 5% | Above Average | Average | Below Average | Weak | No basis for judgment |
| As a person and ambassador of good will | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| As a student | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Signature Date

Name printed School

Home phone School phone E-mail



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French/Spanish Language Teacher Recommendation Summer 2010

SYA Summer offers a rigorous academic program and the challenge of adapting to life in a different culture through extracurricular activities and a homestay. We seek motivated students with strong verbal skills who are willing at times to sacrifice personal comfort in order to make contributions to the school community and to their host family. Long experience has taught us that motivation and language aptitude are more important for success at SYA than years of practice or current level. We thank you in advance for your candid responses. All recommendations will be held confidential.

..... is applying for admission to SYA Summer 2010 in France or Spain (circle one).
name of applicant

PLEASE RETURN to SYA SUMMER by mail to the address above. Student applications are evaluated when they are complete, and admissions decisions are made on a rolling basis, starting on January 18, until the programs are full.

- Please circle the words or phrases that **best** apply to this applicant: balanced, caring, cheerful, complainer, confident, conscientious, cooperative, demanding, determined, disorganized, easily discouraged, entitled, flexible, follower, gregarious, helpful, impatient, inconsistent, low self-esteem, moody, naïve, negative leader, open-minded, organized, patient, popular, positive leader, resilient, respectful, responsible, rigid, risk-taker, self-centered, self-conscious, shy, trustworthy, unappreciative, unreliable.

- Is this the type of person you would enjoy hosting for an extended period?

- Would you enjoy having this applicant as a member of a group for which you were responsible?

- What do you feel a host family would like most and least about this student?

- Describe briefly, including texts and methods used, the present foreign language course, or attach course description.
.....
.....
.....

- Please state in the space below (and on an extra page if needed) this student's strengths and weaknesses in your class. Consider comprehension, natural foreign language "sense," attention to detail, ability to comprehend and express self in foreign language.
.....
.....
.....

- Current language level.....

- Does this student accept advice or criticism well? yes no • Does this student procrastinate? yes no

- Current letter grade (or percentage) in your course As of (date)

This grade was earned with great effort was earned with average effort was earned easily
 accurately reflects student's ability demonstrates a lack of effort

- OVERALL EVALUATION

	Top 5%	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Weak	No basis for judgment
As a person and ambassador of good will	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
As a student	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signature Date

Name printed School

Home phone School phone E-mail



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Personal Essay Summer 2010

Applicant name: Applying for SYA Summer in: China France Spain

(If you want to print the essay on this page set your top margin to "3.25" and left and right margins to ".5" and follow your printer's directions to print on the correct side of this form. If you use a separate sheet or second sheet be sure to put your name on it and "SYA SUMMER 2010")

Please tell us in 500 words or less why you are interested in SYA Summer, what you feel you would add to the program, and what you hope to accomplish while abroad.



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“Dear Family” Letter Summer 2010

Write a letter in *your own handwriting* on 8.5 x 11 sized paper to describe yourself to the host family with whom you will be placed if accepted. The “Dear Family” letter is important for a number of reasons: it will help us select a compatible host family; and it will give your foreign hosts their first opportunity to find out about you and your family. If you are applying to go to France or Spain, please write the letter in French or Spanish. If you are applying to go to China and are currently in Mandarin I, you may write the letter in English. If you are in Mandarin II or above, please write as much of the letter in Mandarin as you can.

Your letter should include the following, in any order you wish:

1. Your full name and home address.
2. A brief overview of your family including names, occupations and interests.
3. A few sentences devoted to your home town and state or region of the country.
4. Something about your school, your classes and school-related interests.
5. Other activities and interests including perhaps summer and part-time jobs.
6. Your reasons for wishing to study abroad and your hopes for the summer with your new family.
7. An expression of appreciation for the hospitality they are offering you.

The letter should be personal and serious, yet natural and unpretentious. Most importantly, it should be your own composition.

SYA SUMMER

High School Study and Homestay

Financial aid policy statement

SYA Summer sets aside a portion of its total income for financial assistance. Due to the limited financial aid available, individual grant-in-aid will not exceed \$2,000 and will only be awarded to families with demonstrated need.

Frequently asked questions:

Why is there a difference between the summer and the year-long program?

An admissions policy that is as close to need-blind as possible is the foundation of SYA's mission and a fundamental goal of the SYA Board. However, the focus of financial aid resources is on the year-long programs, SYA's core program, rather than on the summer programs which are new and completely elective for students.

How do I apply for financial aid?

The summer application has a box for indicating your interest in applying for financial aid. Upon receipt of an application with the box checked, admissions will send the family an *Application for Financial Assistance*. There will also be a copy of the application on the SYA Web site.

If you attend a private school and are currently receiving financial aid, we will work directly with your financial aid officer at your school to determine eligibility.

All applicants for financial aid must complete the SYA Summer two page *Application for Financial Assistance* form and send it along with a copy of the most recent tax return by March 15.

Documents should be sent to:

SYA Summer Financial Aid
School Year Abroad
439 South Union Street
Lawrence, MA 01843



SCHOOL YEAR ABROAD



SYA SUMMER

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Application for Financial Aid 2010

Applicant name: Applying for SYA Summer in: China France Spain

Family Income

	Father	Mother
Annual salary/wages	_____	_____
Other annual income	_____	_____
Total annual income	_____	_____
- Annual business expenses	_____	_____
Net annual business expenses	_____	_____

Family Assets

Real estate	Purchase price	Current assessed value	Unpaid mortgage
Principal residence	_____	_____	_____
Other (describe)	_____	_____	_____
Other (describe)	_____	_____	_____
Total value	_____	_____	_____

Savings and investments	Current value		
	Father	Mother	Student
Bank Accounts (checking, savings)	_____	_____	_____
Investments (stocks, bonds, mutual funds)	_____	_____	_____
Other tangible assets (antiques, art, etc.)	_____	_____	_____
Total value	_____	_____	_____

Family Debt

Savings and investments	Current balance		
	Father	Mother	Student
Credit card accounts	_____	_____	_____
Home equity loans (not noted above)	_____	_____	_____
Credit lines	_____	_____	_____
Total debt	_____	_____	_____

