

SFYI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



*Opening the Doors of the World
to Young Adults*

“The person who has lived the most is not the one with the most years
but the one with the richest experiences.”

– Jean Jacques Rousseau

Mission Statement

The Southern France Youth Institute aims to instill in students a better understanding of themselves in the context of a global community through multi-cultural immersion opportunities in its semester and year abroad academic programs.

At the Southern France Youth Institute young adults participate in a dynamic and exciting study abroad program. Here the doors of the world are opened to students. Our institute weaves academics, art, language, travel, opportunities for cultural exchange and outdoor adventure activities to create a plethora of experiences that enlighten and educate young adults.

We have created a unique program filled with clearly defined, rewarding and attainable goals. Rich in challenge and once-in-a-lifetime experiences, Southern France Youth Institute offers:

- A challenging academic schedule
- French language immersion
- Dynamic art history and studio art
- Opportunities for cultural exchange
- Extensive European discovery travel
- Participation in musical, athletic, social and artistic activities
- Personal mentoring and academic tutoring
- Exciting outdoors adventure activities
- Physical fitness awareness
- A staff to student ratio of 1:4
- Caring and qualified staff

Student Profile

At Southern France Youth Institute, young adults ages 16 to 20 expand their self interests, heighten their sense of independence and discover personal strengths and self-confidence. An appropriate candidate is:

- Eager for new experiences
- Open-minded and curious
- Interested in European culture
- A high school student in grade 11 or 12
- A student taking a gap year between high school and college
- An undergraduate seeking a semester or year abroad

The school's setting provides students with a combination of rural and metropolitan experiences. This exposure is vital to the students' understanding of our global community and offers students a uniquely European experience.

Location

The Southern France Youth Institute resides in the French village of Villesèque des Corbières. Located in the heart of the French castle country, the charming small village is a mere 20 minutes from the Mediterranean Sea and less than an hour from the border of Spain.



Academics

Southern France Youth Institute's academic curriculum is designed to be hands-on and interactive. This approach engages students and makes learning a fun and interesting process.

All students are required to complete a French language immersion course and an in-depth Western European art history and art appreciation course. Plus, students can take up to three independent study courses through distance-learning partners. This enables students to satisfy additional coursework requirements allowing for a seamless transition back to high school or to their undergraduate college.

Through daily classroom instructional time, dinner hour conversations about French culture and current events, and visits to historical sites and museums and exploratory art studio work, students are immersed in an environment designed to inspire and educate. In addition, a guest lecturer series adds to the cultural and language experience.

Certified on-site teachers and tutors supervise each student's academic work and performance. Our academic dean works with each family to review transcripts and to aid in the selection of appropriate academic coursework.

Travel

Travel plays a significant role in the life and studies of students enrolled in the Southern France Youth Institute. Through our dynamic travel-based curriculum, students are engaged in the study of the people, customs, architecture, cuisine and the arts of the region.

The travel focus changes with each semester, but includes a minimum of three countries and/or regions visited each semester. Examples of trips include:

- Exploring the South of France
- Discovering Paris and the local region combined with traveling to other regions and cities of interest in France
- A travel adventure in Morocco and areas in Spain that may include Madrid or Granada
- Visiting other important cities in the French and Spanish Catalonia, for example: Collioure, Carcassonne, Barcelona, Cadaqués and Figueres
- A romantic cities tour to Venice and Florence, Italy
- Experiencing London, the pulse of Britain



In addition to the pre-planned educational trips, students are exposed to activities as diverse as exploring arts festivals, personal tours of Roman sites, interviews with artists, trips to the opera, museum tours, camel treks and skiing in the Pyrénées. These experiences allow students to practice their language skills, expand their sense of independence and to develop a broad understanding of European culture.





Outdoor Adventure Activities

While artistry and culture influence much of one's experience while at the Southern France Youth Institute, the geography of Southern France offers boundless potential for unique outdoor experiences.

With the Pyrénées Mountains and the Mediterranean Sea virtually hand in hand, students are fortunate to experience exciting activities, which are not offered in most educational settings.

The Southern France Youth Institute provides excellent opportunities for camping, backpacking and rock climbing. Weekend excursions in the winter can be spent skiing and snowboarding, while sea kayaking and windsurfing are popular sports along the coast when the weather warms.

Unique daily exercise programs focus on awareness of the mind/body connection crucial for physical and emotional well-being. Activities are tailored to suit the desires of our students and to accommodate youthful energy. Some students may start their morning practicing yoga, others choose to hike and explore the region in the afternoon, while others may elect to purchase a membership at a fitness facility in nearby Narbonne. The goal is to create a balance between a structured exercise routine with one that incorporates an awareness of the particular physical and emotional needs of that day.

Student Life

Students are housed in the Southern France Youth Institute's beautifully restored 18th century town house. The house was designed to embrace family-style living, complete with a French country kitchen, patio for alfresco dining and a generous library. The house also boasts an inviting living room, comfortable dorm rooms and a beautiful garden.

Each student shares a room with another student and has full access to laundry facilities and high-speed Internet. Students are provided with three robust meals per day, seven days per week, oftentimes prepared by a French chef.

Professional Staff

The Southern France Youth Institute is run by a diverse set of faculty and staff, all equally passionate about opening the doors of the world to young adults. They are all committed to mentoring, tutoring and supporting students. All teachers and tutors, both stateside and on-site, are credentialed professionals.

Opening the Doors of the World to Young Adults

Admissions are based on careful consideration of every student. Each semester is limited to a minimum of twenty students. Students may enroll in either the spring or fall semesters or for a full year. Summer term programs are also available.



We know there are many choices when it comes to selecting a study abroad program. We welcome you to call us at **1.208.263.4974**, toll free at **1.877.997.7686** or visit our web site at **www.sfyi.org** to learn more.

Southern France

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