



KEY MESSAGES

To you, that well-worn Semester at Sea sweatshirt is a comfortable memento of your voyage. To someone else, it may be the spark that leads to a voyage of his or her own. You never know when someone is going to ask you what Semester at Sea is all about. When it happens, how do you respond?

Your personal stories of global experiences you never would have had otherwise are so valuable to the continued success of the program. We all relish the opportunity to share them, but there are other points that are helpful to express to someone just hearing about Semester at Sea for the first time. So we've put together a few items you can include in your conversations to help you describe the full scope of the program.

SAS is truly global: Semester at Sea is the world's premier global education program. On four academic voyages each year, SAS offers college undergraduates and lifelong learners an unparalleled learning experience. Fall and spring voyages sail around the entire globe. Summer and short-term voyages explore a world region in-depth.

The *MV Explorer*: Built in 2002, the *MV Explorer* is a true floating university campus. Student capacity is apx. 725. Total capacity including crew is just over 1,000. Don't call her a "boat" - at 25,000 tons, the *Explorer* is most definitely a ship.

Impact of the program: 97% of participants say that Semester at Sea is their most significant college experience.

Global comparative education – Our students survey the world's peoples, patterns, cultures, and traditions. Global, comparative education is the element that distinguishes Semester at Sea from other study abroad programs.

Health & safety – The safety, health, and wellness of all of our participants is the primary focus of Semester at Sea. The *MV Explorer* was ranked in the 99th percentile by the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), which means our safety considerations are well above international standards.

Diverse learning community of undergraduates, faculty and staff, interport lecturers, international students, and lifelong learners—all of whom live and learn on a passenger ship outfitted as a globe-exploring university.

The University of Virginia – Semester at Sea is sponsored academically by the nation's 2nd ranked public university. Academic credits are awarded by U.Va. and students uphold the university's honor code.

Transferability – Semester at Sea students are enrolled as visiting students of the University of Virginia. While all credits earned meet the generally accepted standards for transfer, students must follow their home institution's procedures to ensure that the transfer will be successful.

Field-based, experiential learning – The ship is a campus where participants study in a traditional setting. The world is transformed into an academic laboratory where students earn 20% of their grade.

Sustainability – The ISO green-certified MV Explorer has implemented improvements to minimize the ecological footprint of her activities on the environment.

Affordability – ISE is committed to helping as many students as possible realize the benefits of our global study abroad program. About 40% of participants receive ISE scholarships or work grants each year, and more than \$4 million in financial aid is available annually.

Service – Semester at Sea combines meaningful community service through our Field Program with classroom instruction to enhance the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen global communities.

Lifelong Learning (LLL) program - For adults with a passion for global adventure and a love of learning, the Semester at Sea Lifelong Learning Program provides an unparalleled experience. For the undergraduate students, the opportunity for intergenerational learning that LLLs provide is a unique and valuable component of SAS. Semester at Sea is the only study abroad program with adults participating as lifelong learners.

Enrichment Voyages – Offered twice each year, these 10-21 day educational excursions to culturally rich and diverse destinations aboard the MV Explorer are open to participants of any age. Voyage itineraries are centered around the primary destinations of the Panama Canal and the Amazon.

Gap Semester program – A select group of college-bound gap students who excelled in high school and have been accepted to an accredited college or university can get a taste of the entire world and enter college with a defined sense of the world by taking part in the Semester at Sea experience.