



A PREMIER GLOBAL STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM.

Semester at Sea®

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SAS Presentation Notes

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Title of presentation

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What is Semester at Sea?

- Established in 1963, Semester at Sea is the original shipboard education program for study abroad.
- The *MV Explorer* sails three academic voyages each year. Fall and spring itineraries take her around the globe to as many as 14 off-the-beaten path destinations.
- Undergraduates from universities around the world can transfer as many as 15 semester units back to their home campuses.
- The University of Virginia is the academic sponsor.
- Operated by the Institute for Shipboard Education, a 501(c)3 non-profit.

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Mission:

The mission of Semester at Sea is to educate individuals for leadership, service, and success in shaping our interdependent world.

SAS combines academic excellence with challenging experiential programming to help today's scholars to develop a global perspective.

In an increasingly interdependent world, there is a vital need to advance the exchange of knowledge and understanding among cultures.

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Unparalleled Learning Experience:

FALL AND SPRING VOYAGES

- circumnavigate the globe in 100-110 days (up to 14 ports)
- apx. 700 college students from 250-300 colleges and universities around the world

SUMMER VOYAGES

- explore a world region in 65-70 days
- niche graduate programs in Student Affairs and Education

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Semester at Sea's floating campus, the *MV Explorer*, is one of the safest, fastest, and most advanced ships in operation today.

- 590-feet long
- 25,000 tons
- Built in 2002 by Blohm & Voss in Germany
- 7 decks
- 418 cabins

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World-Class Living/Learning Environment:

- Nine classrooms, all linked through closed-circuit TV and wireless Internet
- Common areas for study
- 9,000-volume library
- Access to University of Virginia's online library resources
- Wireless Internet throughout the ship
- Wellness center
- Fitness center
- Outdoor sports court and pool
- Medical clinic
- Two dining rooms

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Lifelong Learners on Semester at Sea:

- A global learning adventure for adults who want more than just a vacation.
- Lifelong Learners may attend courses (not for academic credit) as they choose which adds a valuable inter-generational component to classroom discussions.

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Why Semester at Sea?

- Unlike other study abroad programs, you will simply see more, go farther, and do more on a ship.
- On our fall and spring voyages, you'll circumnavigate the globe.
- Rigorous academics with transferable credit from the University of Virginia.
- Intensive intercultural learning opportunities supported by first-hand field experiences in up to a dozen countries.
- Improved career opportunities in an increasingly global marketplace.

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Impact: What Our Alumni Say

- "I'm able to see things from different points-of-view now—not just from an American point-of-view."
- "This experience makes you understand peoples and cultures infinitely more than you would just from reading about them."

- “Thirty years later, my experience on Semester at Sea is what formed my understanding of the world the most.”

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Impact: What Our Faculty Say

- “Students learn how easy it can be to respect people from other cultures as human beings with the same wants and needs that they have.”
- “This sort of opportunity for university students to see first-hand who they are in a larger context has never been more needed in the world than it is today.”
- “Students leave the ship having clarified goals for their lives and careers, with global skills that will help them stand out and thrive in an increasingly interdependent global marketplace.”

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Distinguished Lecturers and Guests:

- Fidel Castro (Cuban president)
- Anwar Sadat (Egyptian president)
- Indira Gandhi (Indian prime minister)
- Mikhail Gorbachev (USSR president)
- Corazon Aquino (president of the Philippines)
- Sidi Mohammed (Crown Prince of Morocco)
- Archbishop Desmond Tutu (Nobel laureate)
- Mother Teresa (Nobel laureate)
- Nelson Mandela (Nobel laureate)

“The mission of this grand experiment has been to foster greater intercultural understanding by exposing its participants—young and old, students and faculty—to people and cultures around the world while providing them with a sea-going classroom in which to study and absorb what they’ve seen and learned.”

– Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

Note: Archbishop Tutu served as Distinguished Lecturer-in-Residence during the Spring 2007 voyage and sails again on the Fall 2010 voyage.

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SAS Itineraries

Fall, spring, & summer

Experiential learning

SAS-sponsored field practica, many led by faculty for course credit

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A typical round-the-world itinerary: Fall and spring semesters: 100-110 days

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A typical summer itinerary: 65-70 days

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Courses:

Open to all majors from business to psychology to engineering to the performing arts

In-country field work comprises 20 percent of grade for each course

Transcripts are issued by the University of Virginia reflecting the letter grade earned.

Credit is transferable just as if the student studied in Charlottesville for a semester.=

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Institute for Shipboard Education:

Since 1963, the non-profit Institute for Shipboard Education has operated Semester at Sea. Other ISE programs include parent trips (during SAS voyages), Enrichment Voyages, the Forum on Global Education, and SAS Alumni Reunion voyages.

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Parent Trips:

Parents of current voyagers may meet the ship in one of the ports-of-call during the voyage. Past parent trip destinations have included:

- Thailand
- Viet Nam
- Egypt
- Italy
- Turkey

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Enrichment Voyages:

Formerly known as Seminar at Sea, Enrichment Voyages are educational excursions to culturally rich and diverse destinations aboard the *MV Explorer*.

- 10-21 days
- Open to all ages
- Not for academic credit
- Panama Canal or Amazon itineraries

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Alumni Reunion Voyages:

- 1-2 times per year between the semesters
- Great opportunity for alumni to re-connect with their SAS experience and former shipmates
- Destinations like Cabo San Lucas and Turks & Caicos

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The Forum on Global Engagement:

This invitation-only event hosted by President Les McCabe and the ISE/SAS Board of Trustees is an opportunity for educational travel, dialogue, and exchange in the unique environment of the *MV Explorer* with international experts and thought leaders. Participants, who are invited to attend by the ISE/SAS President and Board of Trustees, include Semester at Sea alumni and friends spanning all levels of professional, academic, and international backgrounds. Forum on Global Engagement participants are selected for their potential discussion contributions, diversity of perspectives, and previous level of support and participation in Semester at Sea programs.

Sample topics:

- Finance
- Health
- Sustainability
- Diplomacy
- Medicine
- Religion
- Gender Studies
- Arts

Distinguished speakers have included:

- Nobel laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu
- Julian Bond, former chairman of the board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor (Retired)
- Sir Christopher Ball, leading thinker, reformer, and implementer of education policy
- Jessica Jackley, social entrepreneur and co-founder of micro-loan facilitator Kiva.org
- Peter Rodriguez, the Darden School of Business at U.Va.

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Affording SAS:

ISE makes available \$4 million in financial aid annually. To be eligible, students do not necessarily need to qualify for standard forms of financial aid (such as Pell Grants) on their home campuses. Applicants are strongly encouraged to file the FAFSA and submit the Student Aid Report to ISE along with tax returns from the most recent tax year and any supplemental information that might be helpful in our review.

For thousands of students, financial aid has helped to make their Semester at Sea voyage a reality. Careful cabin category selection and strategic choices with the International Field Program options can help students keep costs down and

maximize program affordability.

Contact SAS admissions or go online to learn more about financial aid, scholarships, grants, and work study opportunities.

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Learn more about SAS:

Go online: www.semesteratsea.org

Friend SAS; Follow SAS; See SAS in action