

START AT SEA

GAP YEAR GUIDE





THE WORLD IS YOUR CAMPUS



Semester at Sea offers a one-of-a-kind Gap Year Program. Students earn 10 or 13 college credits while sailing the ocean and visiting 10+ countries. Our ship is the MV World Odyssey, the most unique floating college in the world. Equipped with classrooms, a movie theater, gym, wellness clinic, and more - our ship is where you'll learn, live, travel, and reflect on your global study abroad experience.

FEATURES OF THE SEMESTER AT SEA GAP YEAR PROGRAM INCLUDE:

Academic Program: Gap Year students will enroll in two or three 100- or 200-level college courses. Available courses include *Astronomy, Cultural Anthropology, Exploring World Music, Oceanography, Reading without Borders, Sociology, World Literatures, and many others!*

- IE 200 Global Studies course. Students also will enroll in the Global Studies course. This course is required for all students on the voyage. Global Studies integrates three core themes – port country discovery, intercultural competence, and oceans and sustainability – and prepares students for life as global citizens.
- IU-172 New Student Seminar (1-credit) This seminar is required for Gap Year students and is only for Gap Year students.

It prepares students for success on the voyage by building a network among peers and setting the stage for academic and community success. The seminar meets for 1 hour every other day for the first half of the voyage. It also includes a 1-day in-country Field Class in the first port-of-call.

In-Country Experiences: In addition to in-country field classes, students have the opportunity to explore the port countries through field programs or by planning their own travel.

- Semester at Sea designs a range of optional field programs for participants including multi-day explorations of a country, homestays with local families, and service programs.
- Students have an opportunity to develop their own travel plans in each country with newfound friends and classmates.

Shipboard Life and Support: Semester at Sea's student life team provides direct support to Gap Year students and offers a variety of opportunities for involvement outside of the classroom.

- One Resident Director is responsible for co-teaching the New Student Seminar and providing ongoing assistance and engagement with the Gap Year students throughout the voyage.
- There are over 75 student organizations on each voyage for students to join covering a range of interests like photography, spirituality, theater, and social justice.
- An experienced team of professionals including resident directors, academic advisors, mental health counselors, and physicians are aboard the ship to support all voyagers.

Admission Requirements:

- Graduated high school by time of voyage.
- Preferred cumulative GPA of 3.0.

Application Requirements:

- Official high school transcript.
- One academic letter of recommendation.
- Disciplinary Clearance Form completed by your high school.

- 300-500 word essay on the following question: Why do you wish to participate in Semester at Sea as a Gap Year student and how will your Semester at Sea voyage develop your personal global perspective? Highlight your discussion by focusing on how the overall experience of exploring multiple countries will further develop your awareness.

International Applicants:

- English translation of secondary school transcript.
- If first language is not English or secondary school instruction was not provided in English: TOEFL iBT 79, IELTS 6.5, PTE 53, or Duolingo 110.



WHY START WITH SEMESTER AT SEA?

Earn **10 college credits** through Colorado State University

Visit **10+ countries** across **2-3 continents** in **~105 days**

97% of alumni say SAS was their “most significant semester in college”

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS:

Semester at Sea provides scholarships and grants to gap year students based on high school academic performance, interests, financial need, and other criteria. In addition to alumni- and donor-funded scholarships and grants, and merit- and need-based SAS awards, our financial aid office can help connect deposited students to external scholarships available exclusively to gap year students, as well as all students seeking a study abroad experience.

Many gap year students also finance their semester through private loan providers, including Sallie

Mae and College Ave. After a student is accepted and deposited, we work with our academic partner, Colorado State University, to admit them as a guest CSU student, which gives each student the status needed to apply for those private loans.

Through all of this, the financial aid office supports gap year students by identifying opportunities, awarding aid, and providing valuable counsel intended to keep student needs and best interests at the forefront. Learn more at semesteratsea.org/financial-aid.

“Semester at Sea offered me unprecedented support and an opportunity for growth that I couldn’t find anywhere else. It’s also an opportunity to transition from high school to college without falling behind in credit hours.”

KROS DOERFLINGER, OKLAHOMA, USA

“I chose Semester at Sea because it allows me to explore the world at what I feel is the best time.”

NOEMI LUCCIOLA, NEW YORK, USA
(STARTING AT SUNY-BINGHAMPTON IN SP23)

“I am growing socially and intellectually within the community of SASers while taking exciting courses that apply what we’re learning to the real world.”

VIOLETA CISNEROS GONZALEZ, MEXICO CITY, MEXICO
(STARTING AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY IN SP23)

“I’m studying to be a pilot and want to see different parts of the world up close. There are so many different cultures and experiences represented on the ship and taking the time to meet everyone has been really important to me.”

ALYSSA WEEKS, WASHINGTON, USA



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