

GLOBAL SCHOLARSHIP MANUAL

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CONTENTS

Program Objectives	Page 3
Introduction.....	Page 3
The Selection Process.....	Page 3
Distribution of Materials.....	Page 4
Interviewing Candidates: What to Look for?.....	Page 4
Orientation.....	Page 5
Hosting Scholars.....	Page 6
Alumni Outreach.....	Page 6

ROTARY GLOBAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

OBJECTIVES.....

The Global Scholarship Program supports The Rotary Foundation's ultimate goal of world understanding and peace by:

- Increasing awareness of and respect for cultural differences by sending ambassadors of goodwill to study in another country
- Instilling in scholars the Rotary ideal of ***Service Above Self*** through active participation in Rotary service projects
- Encouraging scholars to dedicate their personal and professional lives to improving the quality of life for the people of their home community and country
- Developing leaders who can address the humanitarian needs of the world community
- Impacting all of the world through a balanced geographical distribution of scholars from low-income countries
- Fostering a lifelong association between Rotary and its scholars

INTRODUCTION

Rotary's Ambassadorial Scholarships is the oldest and best-known program of the The Rotary Foundation. The program was founded in 1947 and ended in 2013 after supporting nearly 38,000 men and women who studied in over 100 nations. The same year The Rotary Foundation restructured the scholarship program, but District 7710 elected not to participate. However, District Governor, Newman Aguiar (2015-16), expressed an interest in making scholarships available in the 2016-17 academic year under a new program known as the District's **Rotary Global Scholarship** and as a result one scholar was selected and began a year of study at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland in September 2016. The District will select one Global Scholar in each subsequent year.

This new Global Scholarship Program will only be successful in furthering the objects of Rotary if attention is paid to four essential program elements - a **careful selection process, comprehensive orientation, enthusiastic hosting, and alumni outreach.**

THE SELECTION PROCESS

The District Scholarship Committee is responsible for promoting scholarship availability, attracting strong candidates, and selecting the most qualified scholars with support from The Rotary Foundation. The committee is comprised of club leaders, the District Governor and a District Governor Elect. The committee's responsibilities are as follows:

- Promote the program to Rotary clubs in District 7710 and local colleges and universities, and encourage clubs to nominate qualified candidates.
- Select scholars who best represent the ideals of Rotary and will support the program objectives. In addition, the Trustees of The Foundation encourage districts to select candidates whose study fields will have a strong humanitarian impact in one of the following

Areas of Focus:

- ✓ Peace and conflict prevention/resolution
- ✓ Disease prevention and treatment
- ✓ Water and sanitation
- ✓ Maternal and child health
- ✓ Basic education and literacy
- ✓ Economic and community development

Distribution of Materials and Promotion

Each Fall the District Scholarship Committee notifies each club as to the availability of Global Scholarships and the dates for submitting applications. Clubs are encouraged to promote the scholarship and interview and sponsor a candidate.

All Global Scholars must meet the following requirements:

- ✓ Must have completed a Bachelor Degree at the time the scholarship begins
- ✓ Must be a citizen of a country in which there is a Rotary club
- ✓ Cannot be a Rotarian, honorary Rotarian, or employee of a club, district or other Rotary entity of Rotary International. Spouses, lineal descendants (child or grandchild by blood, adopted or not adopted), spouses of lineal descendants, and ancestors (parent or grandparent by blood, adopted or not adopted) of persons in the foregoing categories are also ineligible. Note- Rotarians and their relatives remain ineligible for scholarship awards for 36 months after a Rotarian has discontinued club membership
- ✓ Application must be made through a local Rotary club in the applicant's legal or permanent residence or place of full time study or employment
- ✓ Study or training must be undertaken in another country or territory where there are Rotary clubs, but not in the sponsor's Rotary country or district
- ✓ There are no age or gender restrictions on Global Scholarships
- ✓ Persons with disabilities are eligible for Foundation awards. If otherwise qualified for the scholarship, such applicants should not be disqualified because of the disabling condition

Interviewing Candidates: What to Look For

In selecting candidates, committees (club and district) should consider how potential scholars will help further the program objectives and whose program of study best meets Rotary's **Area of Focus** they have selected.

Committees should note whether or not the candidate has thoroughly researched the proposed study institutions. The candidate should have goals that are well-defined and realistic about both the study field and university choice, and should ensure that a program in his/her study field is available at each institution listed on the application.

Most important, the committee should look for the candidate's potential as an **Ambassador of Goodwill** who will increase awareness of and respect cultural differences. Consider how candidates will represent their home country and Rotary, as well as how they will adapt to a new culture.

During the interview, the committee should emphasize the objectives of the scholarship program. The committee should also emphasize that the academic AND the ambassadorial aspects of the scholarship have equal importance. A scholarship recipient is expected to maintain a high level of academic achievement while abroad. The candidate must also understand that a Rotary Scholarship is designed to further **world understanding** and **world peace**, linking together Rotarians in the host and international districts.

Another responsibility of the selection committee during the interview is to verify that candidates have sufficient fluency in the language of each proposed study country.

At the conclusion of the club interviews they will endorse their preferred candidate with the reasons for the endorsement, the name of the club counselor and forward the application and the endorsement to the District Committee.

Once the District completes its interviews of all candidates who were endorsed by the clubs and arrives at its choice, the District must complete an on-line application for The Rotary Foundation. This application incorporates many of the same questions as on the District's application, but the District must also verify a commitment to host our scholar by the District that includes the study institution. The application cannot be advanced until this agreement has been secured. The Foundation will not begin its final review and approval of the application until all signatures by the host and international districts are in place. Final approval of the scholarship grant is contingent upon approval by The Rotary Foundation.

ORIENTATION

The second essential element of a successful scholarship program is a strong scholar orientation program achieved through a one-on-one orientation relationship between the sponsor counselor and scholar, a district or multi-district orientation seminar. It is mandatory for scholars to attend an

outbound orientation seminar. Scholars who do not attend an orientation seminar available to them may forfeit their awards.

Orientation has four goals:

- ✓ Provide scholars with an understanding of the history, goals, and ideals of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation. In line with the Scholarship Program objectives, this is an opportunity to instill the ideals of Rotary's motto ***Service Above Self***.
- ✓ Give them a thorough understanding of their responsibilities as ambassadors of goodwill before, during and after their scholarship period, with an aim towards achieving the first objective of the Scholarship Program: increasing awareness of and respect for cultural differences.
- ✓ Encourage fellowship among scholars, Rotarians and alumni.
- ✓ Establish an ongoing relationship between the scholar and Rotary – this is where fostering a lifelong association between Rotary and its scholars begins.

HOSTING SCHOLARS

The next essential element of a successful program – hosting scholars – depends on several key people for success. Rotary club sponsor club counselors prepare scholars for their time abroad. A key feature of the Global Scholarship is the partnership between the district in the study country location (host counselor) and the district in the scholar's home country (international counselor). The club sponsoring an applicant must appoint a specific Rotarian counselor. That person is a Rotarian who is responsible for providing guidance and support to the scholar throughout the study period.

Rotarians and clubs in District 7710 are encouraged to also host in-coming scholars. Responsibilities of hosting in-coming scholars includes assisting in transportation, banking, shopping options, inviting them to speak at club and district programs.

ALUMNI OUTREACH

The activities of scholars after time abroad are an important, though often overlooked part of the Scholarship Program. A common complaint from Rotarians is that they don't hear from scholars after their return to their home countries. Many scholars, on the other hand, lament that they are not invited to participate in Rotary activities. It is the responsibility of the clubs and the District Scholarship Committee, in cooperation with the alumni Committee, to ensure that Foundation Scholar Alumni are welcomed home and kept involved in Rotary.

In addition, club sponsor counselors, are expected to welcome the scholar home. After the scholar is resettled, invite him/her to speak at clubs in the District and assist in arranging these engagements. This gives club members the opportunity to learn of the scholar's experiences, helps to publicize the Rotary Foundation's programs, and gives Rotarians in the district an example of Foundation programs in action. It also gives the scholar a sense of belonging to the "Rotary family" and an opportunity to share their experiences. In addition to providing alumni pins that can be presented to scholars even

before their departure, The Foundation provides certificates for the district to present to the scholars upon their return. Presentation of the certificates can be a starting point for actively maintaining contact with the scholars on their return home.

With strong Rotarian involvement in these four basic elements, the Global Scholarship Program creates Rotary ambassadors of goodwill who will further the mission of The Rotary Foundation.