

Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarships

The Rotary Foundation's oldest and best-known program is Ambassadorial Scholarships. Since 1947 more than 30,000 men and women from 100 nations have studied abroad under its auspices. Today it is the world's largest privately funded international scholarships program. More than 1,200 scholarships were awarded for study in 2000-01. Through grants totaling approximately US\$26 million, recipients from some 69 countries studied in more than 64 nations.

The purpose of the Ambassadorial Scholarships program is to further international understanding and friendly relations among people of different countries. The program sponsors several types of scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students as well as for qualified professionals pursuing vocational studies. While abroad, scholars serve as ambassadors of goodwill to the people of the host country and give presentations about their homelands to Rotary clubs and other groups. Upon returning home, scholars share with Rotarians and others the experiences that led to greater understanding of their host countries.

Interested applicants must apply for Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships through their local Rotary club. Because application deadlines vary by club and district, only your local club can provide specific information on deadlines. Remember that scholarship availability varies by Rotary district. If your local district is not offering scholarships, you may wish to inquire next year.

Types of Scholarships:

Academic-Year Ambassadorial Scholarships provide funding for one academic year of study in another country. This award is intended to help cover round-trip transportation, tuition, fees, room and board expenses, and some educational supplies up to US\$25,000 or its equivalent. Academic-Year Scholarships are the most common type of scholarship offered; nearly 1,000 were awarded for study in 2000-01.

Multi-Year Ambassadorial Scholarships are for either two or three years of degree-oriented study in another country. A flat grant of US\$12,000 or its equivalent is provided per year to be applied toward the costs of a degree program. Multi-Year Ambassadorial Scholarships are offered mainly by Rotary districts in Japan and Korea; 150 were awarded for study in 2000-01.

Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarships are for either three or six months of intensive language study and cultural immersion in another country and provide funds to cover round-trip transportation, language training expenses, and homestay living arrangements up to US\$12,000 and US\$19,000, respectively. Applications are considered for candidates interested in studying Arabic, English, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, and Swedish.

Some Rotary districts may only offer one type of scholarship (or none at all); applicants must check with the local club regarding availability.

Eligibility Criteria:

- q All applicants must be citizens of a country in which there are Rotary clubs.
- q Applicants must have completed at least two years of college-level coursework or equivalent professional experience before commencing their scholarship studies.
- q Initial application must be made through a Rotary club in the applicant's legal or permanent residence or place of full-time study or employment.
- q Candidates cannot be Rotarians, Honorary Rotarians, or employees of a club, district, or other Rotary entity or of Rotary International. Spouses, lineal descendants (child or grandchild by blood or legal adoption), spouses of lineal descendants, and ancestors (parent or grandparent by blood) of persons in the foregoing categories are also ineligible. Please note that Rotarians and their

relatives remain ineligible for scholarship awards for 36 months after a Rotarian has resigned from club membership.

- q The scholarships are not appropriate for students seeking to continue studies already begun at a foreign institution.
- q Persons with disabilities and members of Rotaract clubs are eligible and encouraged to apply.

In addition to the criteria listed above, applicants for Academic-Year and Multi-Year Ambassadorial Scholarships must be proficient in the language of the proposed host country. Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarship applicants must have completed at least one year of college-level coursework or equivalent in the proposed language of study.

Terms of Scholarships:

- q Study or training must be undertaken in another country or territory in which there are Rotary clubs but not in the sponsoring Rotary country or district.
- q Although applicants are asked to list their preferred study locations, the Rotary Foundation Trustees reserve the right to make assignments to any suitable institution to ensure the widest possible geographical distribution of scholars. Candidates must be flexible in their study institution assignments.
- q Scholars will not be assigned to study in a city, state, or province where they have previously lived or studied for more than six months. As a result, the scholarships are not appropriate for foreign students seeking to continue studies at a given university.
- q Each scholar is responsible for applying directly to the assigned study institution, gaining admission, obtaining required visas, and making travel arrangements. The scholarship may not be used in conjunction with a study-abroad program affiliated with a home country institution.
- q Scholars must locate funds to cover all expenses that are not specifically funded by their scholarships or for which their scholarships are not sufficient. Scholarships will not be increased to cover spouses, dependents, or anyone other than the scholar.
- q Scholars may receive additional funding from other sources during the scholarship period, but The Rotary Foundation will not duplicate funds provided by other sources.
- q Depending on tax laws in the home and host countries, the scholarships may be taxable in part or in full. It is the scholar's responsibility to investigate tax regulations as they pertain to scholarship funding.
- q Academic-Year and Multi-Year Scholarships may be used for almost any field of study but cannot be used for unsupervised research, medical internships or residencies, or employment. Scholars planning to pursue medical studies will not be permitted to engage in hands-on procedures or direct-care patient services during the scholarship period.
- q Any applicant for Academic-Year or Multi-Year scholarships whose native language is not that of the proposed study country must submit evidence of ability to read, write, and speak the language of that country. Academic-Year Scholarship candidates must also pass a language proficiency examination determined by the Foundation.

Ambassadors of Goodwill

Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships are made possible by the generous contributions of Rotarians who choose to sponsor scholarships through The Rotary Foundation. These Rotarians select scholars to serve as "ambassadors of goodwill" between the people of their sponsoring and hosting countries.

The best ambassadors of goodwill are those who approach their scholarship with an open mind and recognize that it is not always possible to earn a degree during their scholarship period or to study at their first-choice study institution. Scholars who are flexible and are committed to the ambassadorial aspect of the scholarship report life-changing experiences.

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