

Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships

www.rotary.org

Deadline: Varies (March to August)

Fields of Study

Open. Any country with a Rotary Club.

Description

The Rotary Foundation offers a variety of educational awards in order to promote friendly relations between peoples of different nations. Scholarships are awarded for one or more years of university study, or for intensive language training, in any country in which there is a Rotary Club. The Rotary Foundation's oldest and best-known program is Ambassadorial Scholarships. Since 1947 more than 38,000 men and women from 100 nations have studied abroad under its auspices. Today it is the world's largest privately funded international scholarships program.

The purpose of the Ambassadorial Scholarships program is to further international understanding and friendly relations among people of different countries. Today, the program sponsors several types of scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students as well as 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 local Rotarians and others the experiences that led to greater understanding of their host countries.

Ambassadorial Scholarships support the mission of The Rotary Foundation to further international understanding and world peace. The scholarships increase awareness of and respect for cultural differences. By sending ambassadors of goodwill to study in another country, the scholarships instill the Rotary ideal of Service Above Self and encourage scholars to dedicate their personal and professional lives to improving the quality of life for the people of their home community and country. The scholarships also develop leaders who can address the humanitarian needs of the world community.

Applicants should check with their local Rotary Club to ascertain which scholarships are available in their sponsoring district. The Academic Year Scholarship provides between \$23,000 and \$24,000; it may not be possible for recipients of this scholarship to earn a degree or a diploma during the study period. The Multi-Year Scholarship supports two years of full-time degree-oriented study abroad at approximately \$13,000 a year. The

Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarship is intended primarily for language study; it is available for either three or six months, depending on the sponsoring district.

Rotary Foundation scholarships are intended to cover round-trip transportation between the recipient's home and the study site, required academic fees, some educational supplies, reasonable living costs, and limited contingency expenses. Expenses beyond the amount provided are the recipient's responsibility.

Criteria for Selection

Rotary Scholars are expected to have “ambassadorial” qualities that would make them ambassadors of goodwill for Rotary and for the U.S. in the country they propose to visit. The 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.

Eligibility: one must be a citizen of a country in which there is a Rotary Club. (The list of “non-Rotary countries” consists of a few countries in the Middle East and East Asia.) By the time of the commencement of the fellowship year, applicants for the graduate scholarship must have received a bachelor's degree, and applicants for the undergraduate scholarship must have completed at least two years of college work. Foreign language study applicants must have completed at least one year of college-level coursework or equivalent in the proposed language of study. Relatives of Rotarians or of employees of Rotary Clubs are not eligible to apply. Applicants must be proficient in the language of the country to which they apply.

Application Procedure

Application should be made through a Rotary Club in the Rotary District of the applicant's legal or permanent residence or place of full-time study or employment. The application must be typewritten and submitted in duplicate to the secretary of the sponsoring club no later than the club deadline. This deadline is set separately by each Rotary Club and may be as early as March or as late as July/August. It is imperative, therefore, that you find out as soon as possible the timetable used by your local club. For information about hometown Rotary Clubs or for the list of countries in which there are Rotary Clubs, see www.rotary.org.

Potential applicants should contact their local Rotary Club in the first instance, but if Rotarians in that District are not sponsoring candidates for the Ambassadorial Scholarship,

it may be possible to be nominated by a Club or District located nearby. Contact the Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinators (RRFC) for your Zone to ask if an adjacent Club or District would consider an application for the scholarship. The Rotary Zones and RRFC are listed on the Rotary website.

Normally, each Rotary Club may nominate two candidates for consideration by the Rotary District selection committee. The number of awards in each district is determined by the amount of money contributed by that District during the preceding year. Selection by both the club and the district is based upon the application documents and an interview. The district interview may be held anytime in the summer or early fall. Applicants are notified of selection by December. *See below* for special opportunities for WPI graduates.

Applications for the Ambassadorial Scholarships are available on the Rotary Foundation. http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/139en.pdf

Additional Information

Before speaking with Rotarians about application materials or procedures, it is *essential* that students become familiar with Rotary and its programs around the world.

The deadlines for Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships are *early*—in the spring of one’s junior year or the following summer (March to July) for applications for Rotary Scholarship for the year after one’s graduation.

Scholars are strongly encouraged to support program objectives by choosing a study field which will help address the humanitarian needs of the world community. The encouraged fields of study include: health care awareness and education, children at risk, concern for the aging, literacy and numeracy, population issues, urban concerns, disabled persons, international understanding and goodwill, poverty and hunger, polio eradication, and environmental awareness and protection. Studies related to Rotary International’s Menu of Service Opportunities are also encouraged. See www.rotary.org for more details.

Flexibility in placement is crucial as Rotary may not be able to place scholars in their country of first choice. Certain countries are designated study countries encouraged for Ambassadorial Scholars, but the list of study institutions by country is much longer. (Again, see rotary.org for details) Scholars are encouraged to request to study in countries which host relatively few scholars, such as Japan, Korea, Scandinavia, and developing nations in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and South America.

Applicants will increase their chances if they have leadership potential; prior experience as a volunteer and/or a commitment to community service; propose a field of study with an impact on humanitarian needs; are flexible in the proposed placement; and research community service projects that could be pursued with Rotary in the host community. The Menu of Service Opportunities gives examples of community service of interest to

Rotarians: http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/605b_en.pdf

Many former Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars serve in important posts with their governments; others are highly respected in their fields. Examples of outstanding Rotary alumni include the Bill Moyers, a US journalist; Sadako Ogata, UN High Commissioner for Refugees; Paul Volcker, former chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board; Carlos Alberto Da Mota Pinto, former prime minister of Portugal; Otto Borch, Danish ambassador to the US; Philip Lader, former US Ambassador to the United Kingdom; Sanford Ungar, President, Goucher College; David Mulford, US Ambassador to India; Helmut Jahn, architect; Chiharu Sakai, Japanese pianist; Kerry Healey, former lieutenant governor of Massachusetts; and Roger Ebert, a popular US film critic.

Recent Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars from WPI

- Alexia D. Bililies '09, international studies and humanities & arts
- Akanksha Sharma '08, biology & biotechnology
- Helena C. Zec '06, biomedical engineering
- Christin T. Reynolds '04, civil & environmental engineering
- Karen C. Kosinski, '02, biology & biotechnology

Special Opportunity for WPI Graduates

The Worcester Rotary Club, District 7910, periodically announces a competition for an endowed Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship with a preference for graduates of WPI. This endowed scholarship was established by a gift from a WPI alumnus to the Rotary Foundation. Applicants must have completed at least two-years of college-level coursework, so WPI graduates, graduating seniors, and rising seniors or juniors (students who have completed their junior or sophomores year) are all eligible to apply.

The Ambassadorial Scholarship application form is available from the Rotary website. The Academic Year Scholarship application includes a form, transcript, two letters of recommendation, list of activities, and two essays--one autobiographical and a statement of proposed field of study, career plans, and reasons for indicating five study institutions in several foreign countries: http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/139en.pdf

After reviewing the application form and Rotary website, WPI students or alumni interested in applying these scholarships should contact the Worcester Rotary Club to express an interest in applying and to confirm details related to the competition. The Worcester Rotary Club is in District 7910: www.rotary7910.org The Rotary International website includes the full application materials.

Students or alumni of other institutions should contact the appropriate office at their home institution.

Related Rotary Scholarship Program:

Rotary World Peace Scholars

The Rotary Foundation has partnered with eight leading universities around the world to establish the Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution. Each year, Rotary will select 70 scholars to study at one of the seven Rotary Centers worldwide. The selected Rotary World Peace Scholars will begin two-year master's-level degree programs in conflict resolution, peace studies, and international relations. Each Rotary District may nominate one candidate for the world-wide competition.

Rotary World Peace Scholars must meet all requirements for admission into their chosen university for a master's-level program. They must possess excellent leadership skills and relevant work or volunteer experience, demonstrating a commitment to a career devoted to peace, conflict resolution, and international understanding. Rotary World Peace Scholars also must be proficient in a second language, including that of the host university. Each Rotary district may nominate one candidate for the selection process. Contact local Rotary Clubs for application deadlines; applications are on the web.

The Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution are located at Sciences Po, Paris; University of Bradford, England; University of Queensland, Australia; International Christian University, Tokyo; Universidad del Salvador, Buenos Aires; University of California-Berkeley; and a joint program at Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

For more information:

Peace and Conflict Studies

<http://www.rotary.org/en/StudentsAndYouth/EducationalPrograms/RotaryPeaceAndConflictStudies/>

Rotary Centers for International Studies

<http://www.rotary.org/en/StudentsAndYouth/EducationalPrograms/RotaryCentersForInternationalStudies/>