Rotary Global Scholars and Rotary Peace Fellows

www.rotary.org

Deadline: Varies (rolling deadlines)

Fields of Study

Open. Any country with a Rotary Club.

Description

The Rotary Foundation has offered a variety of educational awards in order to promote friendly relations between peoples of different nations. The Rotary Foundation’s oldest and best-known program was the Ambassadorial Scholarship. Since 1947 more than 41,000 men and women from 100 nations have studied abroad under its auspices. The Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship program will end in 2013.

The Foundation now offers multiple scholarship opportunities through district and global grants. The new grant structure gives Rotarians greater flexibility in sponsoring the next generation of leaders. Each Rotary District may have a different structure for its scholarship program.

In general, these scholarships fall under the rubric of Rotary Global Scholars whose area of study relates to six areas of focus, and Rotary Peace Fellows who study at one of the Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution. This information sheet gives information about both programs. In addition, some Rotary scholarships potentially could be for undergraduate or graduate students study locally or abroad in any subject matter. They could involve periods of any length (for language training, a certificate program, a semester, a year or more).

Rotary Global Scholars must be undertaking graduate study in one of the Foundation’s six 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

In the past, the Ambassadorial Scholarship program had more general aims to further international understanding and friendly relations among people of different countries. The
new opportunities do not simply recreate that program under a new name. Nevertheless, potential scholars must have an interest in the goals of Rotary and be willing to speak to Rotary Clubs. The scholarships instill the Rotary ideal of Service Above Self and 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 Rotary Global Scholarships have a minimum value of $30,000. Some grants might combine graduate study with funding a humanitarian project.

**Rotary Global Scholars: Criteria for Selection**

In Rotary Global Grant Scholarships, ambassadorial skills are optional for scholars. The primary consideration is forging a link between Rotary and future skilled professionals within an area of focus. That said, global grant scholars are expected to participate in Rotary activities, and Rotarian sponsors provide opportunities for them to do so.

Some of the qualities that Rotary clubs and districts consider when sponsoring a candidate include the following. The candidate should be someone who:

- Possesses excellent leadership skills and potential
- Has a proven record of success in his/her academic field or vocation
- Has demonstrated a personal commitment to community service
- Has well-defined and realistic goals
- Has concrete ideas as to how he/she will make advances within his/her chosen career field
- Is sincere about maintaining a lifelong relationship with Rotary after the scholarship period

In addition, 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.) Applicants must be proficient in the language of the country to which they would be traveling. Check with your local Rotary Club for further details.

**Rotary Peace Fellows at the Rotary Centers for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution: Criteria for Selection**

**Rotary Peace Centers** offer a master's degree in international relations, sustainable development, peace studies, and conflict resolution, or a professional development certificate in peace and conflict studies.

Rotary Peace Fellows are leaders promoting national and international cooperation, peace, and the successful resolution of conflict throughout their lives, in their careers, and through service activities. Fellows can earn either a master’s degree in international relations,
public administration, sustainable development, peace studies, conflict resolution, or a related field, or a professional development certificate in peace and conflict resolution.

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.

Learn about the Rotary Peace Centers
- Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand (professional development center)
- Duke University and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA
- International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan
- University of Bradford, West Yorkshire, England
- University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia
- Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

Fellows are chosen from countries and cultures around the globe based on their ability to have a significant, positive impact on world peace and conflict resolution during their careers. You cannot study at a Peace Center located in your home country.

Eligibility criteria
- A strong commitment to international understanding and peace demonstrated through professional and academic achievements and personal and community service activities
- A bachelor’s degree or commensurate experience as a minimum, with strong academic achievement
- A minimum of three years’ combined paid or unpaid full-time relevant work experience (master’s degree) or five years’ relevant work experience with current full-time employment in a mid- to upper-level position (professional development certificate)
- Proficiency in a second language (master’s degree) or in English (professional development certificate)
- Strong leadership skills

Individuals applying immediately after obtaining an undergraduate degree are generally not strong candidates for Rotary Peace Fellowships. People with disabilities and members of Rotaract clubs are eligible and encouraged to apply.

Selection takes place at the club, district, and world levels. For more information, contact your local Rotary club or the Rotary Peace Centers Department at The Rotary Foundation.

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. Deadlines for the Rotary Peace Centers follow a central schedule (which begins early—January to March one-and-a-half years ahead of the study opportunity). Deadlines for other programs may be
rolling or more flexible. Check with your Rotary Club as soon as possible to determine the local timetable.

Applicants should contact their local Rotary Club in the first instance, but if Rotarians in that District are not sponsoring scholarships, 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: www.rotary.org.

The number of awards in each district is determined by the amount of money contributed by Rotarians in that District during the preceding year. Selection by both the club and the district is based upon the application documents and an interview.

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 scholarships of whatever kind are early—in the spring of the year before the opportunity for study.

Scholars are strongly encouraged to support program objectives by choosing a study field which will help address the humanitarian needs of the world community. Flexibility in placement is crucial as Rotary may not be able to place scholars in their country of first choice.

The following advice for Ambassorial Scholarships still applies: 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.

Many former Rotary Ambassorial 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.

Rotary Ambassorial Scholars from WPI
Opportunities for WPI Graduates

The Worcester Rotary Club, District 7910, occasionally announces a competition for an endowed Rotary Scholarship with a preference for graduates of WPI. This endowed scholarship was established by a gift from a WPI alumnus to the Rotary Foundation. WPI graduates, graduating seniors, and rising seniors or juniors (students who have completed their junior year) may eligible to apply. Professional and/or career interests should be related to one or more of the Rotary Foundation’s six areas of focus.

WPI students or alumni interested in applying these scholarships could 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

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