

PERSONAL ENDORSEMENTS

The following are typical of the appreciation shown for being a Rotary exchange student;

"An exchange is when strangers become family, foreigners become friends, a second language becomes like your first, and a year suddenly becomes days"

"Making the exchange is very beneficial and there is so much to gain by living in another country and learning their language and culture"

"I would say if you were even considering going on an exchange you should definitely apply because you couldn't possibly regret what will be the most adventurous, busy and exciting year of your life so far. I wouldn't change it for anything"

"Thanks to Rotary I have been able to experience this incredible year abroad. Not only have I learnt a new language and culture, and made life long friends, I've got to travel to the other side of the world, whilst living some of the most incredible moments of my life. The year was an unforgettable journey, which I consider to be priceless"



Statement of Conduct for Working with Youth
'Rotary International strives to create and maintain a safe environment for all youth who participate in Rotary activities. Rotarians, Rotarian's spouses, and partners, and other volunteers must safeguard the children and young people they come into contact with and protect them from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse'.



Rotary Youth Exchange Program

- ◆ an opportunity to develop your personal self confidence and maturity
- ◆ an opportunity to develop a lifetime of international friendships
- ◆ an opportunity to develop a real understanding of many different cultures
- ◆ an opportunity to attend school in a different country
- ◆ an opportunity to develop new language skills
- ◆ an opportunity to develop a base for future education and career goals
- ◆ an opportunity to develop in many ways

For further information contact;

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*Information
for students
and parents*



Parlez - vous
**YOUTH
EXCHANGE?**

Learning a new language
is just one of the benefits
of Rotary Youth Exchange

EMBRACE NEW EXPERIENCES AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program is arranged for young people by Rotary districts and clubs to experience a year of personal development and education overseas, in a wide choice of countries.

The friendships made will be international, life long and important in achieving the aims of the exchange – the building of goodwill and cultural understanding.

The benefits of the exchange are many and varied. Students grow considerably in self-confidence, through the experience of living outside of their comfort zone in new surroundings. Studies have shown this experience to equate to as much as seven years of personal development. This is invaluable in their future education and career development.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants should be making sound progress at school and have a general interest in people and places and have an outgoing personality and be interested in cultural or outdoor pursuits. Students must be in years 9, 10, or 11 in the year that they make application. The preferred age of applicants is between 15 years 6 months and 17 years 6 months at the time of departure. This is in January of the year following application.

Whilst many leave on exchange after completing year 9 or 10 some do successfully break the VCE years by personal choice. There may be credits for some subjects studied whilst away particularly any language. These possibilities should be checked with the student's school before departure.



PROGRAM COST

The actual total cost will vary depending on the country of exchange and the student's own personal budget.

Student and family provide:

- A participation fee of \$5,000 (payable in 3-4 instalments due from May to December), covers:
 - Return overseas airfare, as arranged by Rotary, to the country of exchange.
 - Travel Insurance including full medical cover.
 - Costs associated with administration of the program and the student's preparation.
- Additional day-to-day personal items including clothing, footwear entertainment expenses, etc.
- Provide a small emergency fund to cover personal unforeseen expenses (refunded at the end of the exchange, if unused)
- Cost of any compulsory language camps in the host country.
- Other discretionary costs for any Rotary organised tours and trips etc.

Host Rotary Club and/or District provides:

- Board and lodging with approved host families.
- For any schooling expenses.
- A modest monthly allowance.
- A Counsellor to look after the student's welfare.
- Orientation and some Rotary group activities.

THERE ARE OTHER OBLIGATIONS

As our students stay with at least two, but preferably three or four host families who are arranged by the overseas hosting club there is an obligation prior to selection for the student's family here to reciprocate.

This is done by providing to Rotary the names of three or four families prepared to host an inbound student for a period of approximately twelve weeks duration for each family. This is a rewarding opportunity to be involved in the exchange program and for the family to get to know and understand another culture and to make a new friend from the other side of the world.

These families will be then be interviewed for suitability and must be approved by Rotary and must satisfy all legislative requirements of working with children legislation and Rotary International policy. Rotary provides advice and on going support for host families

ROTARY PREPARATION

Rotary clubs have an important role in the exchange and its success. They provide one of their members to act both as a mentor and counsellor. This person's role is to maintain close contact with the student up until the time of departure and during the year of exchange, and with the student's family. This keeps everyone informed of the progress of the exchange.

HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in making an application you must do this on the application form, which is obtainable from the District Secretary or any participating Rotary Club.

The Rotary Club will then make a selection from the applications received and after a personal interview.

Students have the opportunity to nominate preferred countries of exchange that are available. However, a preparedness to accept an exchange in any of the available countries is necessary.

These countries can typically include but are not limited to, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Brazil, Taiwan and Japan.

