



INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE EXCHANGE STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

BASIS OF THE YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

1. The Rotary Youth Exchange Programme is an education exchange conducted by Rotary on behalf of the NSW Department of Education in conjunction with the Education Authority in the exchange country.
2. The Entry Visa to the Host Country is a Student Visa and satisfactory participation at school is a condition of the visa.
3. Rotary Youth Exchange is respected all over the world as one of the best and most prestigious programmes available to students.

OBJECTIVES OF THE YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

4. To further International goodwill and understanding by enabling students to study at first hand some of the culture and accomplishments of people in lands other than their own.
5. To enable students to advance their education by studying in an environment entirely different to their own and by undertaking study of courses and subjects not normally available to them in secondary schools of their own country.
6. To broaden the student's own outlook by learning to live with and meet people of cultures, creeds and colours different to their own, and by having to cope with day to day problems in an environment completely different to the one they have experienced at home.
7. To act as ambassadors for their own country by addressing Rotary Clubs, community organisations and youth groups in their host country and by imparting as much knowledge as they can of their own country and its culture to the people they meet during their year abroad.
8. To study and observe all facets of life and culture in the country where they are hosted so that on return to their home country they can pass on the knowledge they have gained by addressing Rotary Clubs, youth groups and community organisations.

APPLICATION PROCESS

9. Prospective applicants and their parents must familiarise themselves with the contents of the application pack and confirm a Rotary Club is prepared to consider sponsoring the prospective applicant. Timeline includes critical cut off dates. Please ensure you are acquainted with the dates in the schedule of timings at the end of this document. Students should be at least 16 years and not older than 18 years 3 months of age at 31 December in the year of application.

10. If proceeding to apply, you must submit four copies of all documentation, including medical and dental reports, to your sponsor club. While the additional copies may be photocopied, all signatures must be original in blue ink and photos must be original or high quality colour photocopy. The School should forward the Reference Report (4 copies of Application Section H) direct to sponsor Rotary Club or District Committee Chair.

11. If application is satisfactory sponsor club will conduct interviews to determine if they can endorse application. In addition to student interviews, the club will conduct a home interview with parents.

12. If the student is successful in club interview, the club will endorse and witness all four applications and will forward them to District Youth Exchange Committee. Applicant then will be required to attend a District level interview panel to evaluate suitability for placement in the programme, and to assess what countries would be appropriate placement for each particular applicant.

13. If successfully admitted to the programme, attendance at all briefing weekends by the outgoing student is **MANDATORY. Sporting finals, cultural performances, graduation dances, school and community activities will not be accepted as justification for non attendance at any briefing activity.** Failure to attend briefings will usually result in the student being withdrawn from the exchange programme. The parents are required to accompany the student to briefing sessions. These will provide training in cultural matters and an understanding of the rules and procedures and will include insurance, ticketing, emergency procedures and will seek to ensure parents are aware of, and confident of the professionalism of the programme,

14. The District Committee reserves the right to reject the nomination of any student who, in their opinion, may not be suitable for the exchange programme.

COUNTRIES

15. Countries presently exchanging with our district include:

Finland	Denmark	Belgium	Austria
Taiwan	Brazil	Japan	Germany
Sweden	Peru		

Students will be asked to nominate several countries of particular interest. The committee does not undertake to place students in particular countries but will seek to place students in the culture believed to offer the best opportunities for that particular student.

FINANCE

16. While host clubs provide a modest living allowance to the students, most expense is the responsibility of the student's parents. While the overall cost is not small, a comparison with other exchange programmes usually show the Rotary programme compares very favourably.

17. Costs are revised annually and reflect changes in programme delivery costs.

Participation in the 2011 programme incurred the following costs:

▪	Programme Fee	\$A 6,800
▪	Airline Fuel Levy	Variable but 2008 \$800 2011 \$427
▪	Emergency Fund	\$A 500
▪	Souvenirs/gifts for hosts etc	\$A 200 to \$A 500
▪	Host district tours	\$A 1,000 to \$A 3,500
▪	Personal living expenses	Variable

The Programme Fee includes a significant range of benefits. These include:

- Return airfares;
- Student accommodation and meals at briefing sessions;
- Student accommodation and meals at debrief sessions after exchange;
- Rotary District 9700 blazer and polo shirt;
- Name badge - plastic embossed;
- Business cards with coloured photograph;
- General programme operational costs;
- Travel and Accident Insurance (\$A723)

We observe a wide variance in total cost between different students and between host countries and because of currency exchange rates but a total cost of \$A15,000 is an indicative figure. Many parents comment that this figure is not vastly different to the actual cost while the student is at home and less than attending school or university away from home.

18. Payment of the Programme fee in favour Rotary International District 9700 International Youth Exchange Committee is required at the following stages:

- Payment \$A 800 to be forwarded with application when forwarded by sponsor club to District Committee
- Payment of \$A3,000 to be forwarded to District Committee by 30th June where the applicant is successful at District interviews.
- Payment of the balance is payable to District Committee by 11th September.
- Provisional Fuel Levy of \$600 is payable to the District Committee by 26th November. Any excess or refund will be advised in early January.

The fee applicable to the 2012 exchange will be in line with costs advised above and final figure will be available at the District interviews on 1-2 May 2010. Any difficulty with payment schedule should be discussed with District Committee Chairman well before the due dates. Where a student withdraws before departure, a refund will be made after deducting costs which can not be recovered by the Youth Exchange Committee. This may mean that a very late withdrawal will have a very low or nil refund payable.

RULES

19. The International Rules are set out in the Application Form. Rules relevant to Host Country will be advised by that country when placement is confirmed. As an example of Host Country Rules, the District 9700 Rules which apply to all inbound students to District 9700 are available at the District 9700 web site:

<http://www.rotarnet.com.au/users/9/9700dist/yep.asp>

YOUTH EXCHANGE OUTBOUND TIMELINE

STUDENTS TRAVELLING OUTBOUND 2011

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| ▪ Application enquiry | } |
| ▪ Obtain Medical report | } |
| ▪ Obtain Dental report | } Any time up to 22 March 2010 |
| ▪ Obtain Principal report | } |
| ▪ Complete application | } |
| ▪ Applications close at Rotary Club Level | 22 March 2010 |
| ▪ Interviews conducted by Rotary Clubs | 22 March 2010 – 18 April 2010 |
| ▪ Applications close at District level | 21 April 2010 |
| ▪ Interviews conducted by District Committee at Young | 1 and/or 2 May 2010 |
| ▪ Briefing weekend - Bathurst | 11/12 September 2010 |
| ▪ Briefing Weekend - Wagga Wagga | 27/28 November 2010 |
| ▪ Students depart | January 2011 |
| ▪ Students return | January 2012 |
| ▪ Debriefing weekend Grenfell | 5 February 2012 |

STUDENTS TRAVELLING OUTBOUND 2012

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| ▪ Application enquiry | } |
| ▪ Obtain Medical report | } |
| ▪ Obtain Dental report | } Any time up to 19 March 2011 |
| ▪ Obtain Principal report | } |
| ▪ Complete application | } |
| ▪ Applications close at Rotary Club Level | 19 March 2011 |
| ▪ Interviews conducted by Rotary Clubs | 22 March 2011 – 15 April 2011 |
| ▪ Applications close at District level | 15 April 2011 |
| ▪ Interviews conducted by District Committee at Young | 30 April/ 1 May 2011 |
| ▪ Briefing weekend - Bathurst | 10/11 September 2011 |
| ▪ Briefing Weekend - Wagga Wagga | 26/27 November 2011 |
| ▪ Students depart | January 2012 |
| ▪ Students return | January 2013 |
| ▪ Debriefing weekend Grenfell | 3 February 2013 |