



Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship Programme

Rotary District 1010 (Scotland North)

Selection Process – Notes for Candidates





What is the Ambassadorial Scholarships programme?

Ambassadorial scholarships are funded through the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. The Foundation's mission is:

To enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

Scholarships are awarded for study in another country for one or two years. The purpose is as much about gaining an appreciation of other societies and cultures as it is about undertaking further education.

Candidates are put forward by Rotary clubs, and selected for scholarships by Rotary Districts. These are groupings of Rotary clubs. This note explains the procedures and priorities which apply within District 1010. District 1010 covers clubs in the North of Scotland.

The note also includes references to Rotary International literature on the ambassadorial scholarships scheme. If you are interested in applying you should first look at these references.



What are the qualities expected of an Ambassadorial Scholar?

As an Ambassadorial Scholar you will be expected to share the Rotary Foundation's mission by giving as much weight to your ambassadorial duties as to your course of study. You will be assisted in this by contacts through Rotary clubs in your study district. But you will be expected to give talks at Rotary clubs and generally engage in Rotary and other local community events and activities.

You will need to demonstrate a high level of achievement in your field of academic or vocational studies, but in addition you will need to demonstrate that you have the qualities needed for your ambassadorial role. These qualities include:

- Excellent leadership potential
- Understanding of your obligations as an ambassador and as a participant in the international network of Rotary
- Good communication skills
- Commitment to community service
- Good knowledge of the culture of Scotland



What level of study is supported?

Candidates will be considered from a variety of educational and career backgrounds.

You may:

- Have an undergraduate or postgraduate degree and be interested in studying at a university in another country
- Be trained in a profession or higher level skill at a college
- Be in mid career and wish to take time out to undertake further studies and gain experience in another country

What subjects are covered?

The quality of candidates will be the over-riding consideration in selecting candidates to be put forward by District 1010. The District, however, encourages candidates to consider studies in one of the subject areas which the Rotary Foundation has identified as having a strong humanitarian impact. The subjects include:

- Food Production and Distribution and Nutrition
- Medicine/Health Care
- Mental Health
- Population Development
- Youth/Family Values
- Urban Studies/Planning
- Environmental Studies

The Rotary Foundation's oldest and best-known program, was founded in 1947. Since then, nearly 38,000 men and women from about 100 nations have studied abroad under its auspices. Today it is the world's largest privately funded international scholarships program. Nearly 800 scholarships were awarded for study in 2005-06. Through grants totaling approximately US\$500 million, recipients from about 70 countries studied in more than 70 nations.

What countries can I study in?

The Rotary Foundation encourages students to consider studies in countries which do not enjoy the presence of as many overseas students as more popular destinations (such as North America and Australasia). In some of these countries the ambassadorial contacts may count more for advancing world understanding. These are countries in Africa and Asia, where English is the usual language of study, and in Latin America, where proficiency in Spanish is generally required. There are also Western European countries where there are relatively few ambassadorial scholars, and fluency in a language other than English is not essential: Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Norway, Poland and Slovakia.

We will not, however, rule out proposals to study in countries such as the United States or Australia if you are proposing a particular topic of study, perhaps closely related to your career, and you would have specific reasons for studying in your preferred country.

If you are interested in applying for a scholarship we can provide more details on the preferred study destinations.



Will a scholarship pay all my study costs?

Scholarships are for a flat sum of \$24,000. This is the same for one or two years.

Payment covers tuition fees, travel (once each way), board and lodging expenses, and a provision for some incidental expenses.

This will cover all your study costs in some of the preferred destination countries. But in others you may have to make up the full costs of your period of study from other sources, particularly if your study is to last for more than one year. It is unlikely that your sponsoring Rotary club would be prepared to fund additional costs.

Note that District 1010 will only support full year (or two year) academic scholarships. We will not currently support three or six month 'cultural' scholarships for intensive language training in another country.

Am I eligible?

The full eligibility rules can be found on the Rotary International web site (see page 5 of this note for details).

In summary:

- you must have completed at least two years of university or college course work at the time the scholarship period begins or have a secondary school education with employment in a recognized vocation for at least two years.
- you must be citizen of a country in which there is a Rotary club.
- you cannot be a Rotarian, an honorary Rotarian, an employee 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 discontinued club membership.]
- you must apply through a local Rotary club in your legal or permanent area of residence or place of full-time study or employment.
- your studies must be undertaken in another country or territory where there are Rotary clubs, but not in the sponsor Rotary country or district.
- there are no age or gender restrictions on Ambassadorial Scholarships.
- members of a Rotaract club are eligible and encouraged to apply, provided they meet all other eligibility criteria.
- persons with disabilities are eligible for Foundation awards. With the support of Rotarians in the sponsor and host districts, students with disabilities have served as successful Ambassadorial Scholars in the past.

Should I apply through a club in District 1010 or a club in another Rotary District?

The ambassadorial role is all about building bridges between communities around the world. For this reason District 1010 will give priority to candidates who have their homes in District 1010. This includes those who have come to 1010 to develop their career or for fulltime studies and have made it their home, as well as those who have been brought up in the District. But students who live elsewhere out of term are encouraged to make enquiries with their home Rotary club or District. These can be found through the RIBI website <http://www.ribi.org/districts/index.asp> or by asking one of the contacts for scholarships in District 1010.



What is the application process?

Step 1	Applications forms and full details are available on the Rotary International Website (see page 5 for address). Hard copy forms and guidance booklets can be obtained from Stephen Chorley, District Scholarships Officer (e-mail Stephen@dbay.demon.co.uk, address 8 The Spinneys, Dalgety Bay, Fife KY11 9SL)
Step 2	Potential applicants should in the first instance obtain further information through their local club secretary, or another club member allocated this role. Alternatively contact may be made direct to the District Scholarships Officer (contact above).
Step 3	Completed applications should be submitted initially to a club (see above under 'Should I apply though a club in District 1010?') They may alternatively be sent direct to the District Scholarships Officer. The club will inform the District Scholarships Officer of applications received.
Step 4	Applications will be reviewed initially by clubs. Applications received by the District Scholarships Officer will be sent to clubs for review – though if wished the Scholarships Officer will carry out a review on behalf of the club, keeping the club informed. The purpose of this stage is to establish that the candidate is eligible and that the club is satisfied that the candidate is suitable for consideration for a scholarship. This may involve an informal interview. But there will be no selection at this stage – a club may put forward more than one candidate for consideration by the District.
Step 5	The District will arrange for formal assessment including an interview during September and early October. Clubs who have put forward candidates will be given an opportunity to comment on the recommendations before a final decision is made. The District Committee will then make a final decision on candidates to be forwarded to Rotary International by 1st October.

Applications from those interested should be submitted to a club by 31st July 2008 (for study in the academic year 2009/10). These will then be passed to the District by 15th August 2008 for formal consideration. Interviews will take place during September, and sponsored applications will be forwarded to the Rotary Foundation by 1st October.

The primary selection is undertaken by the District Committee. As long as candidates put forward to Rotary International are eligible they will be allocated scholarships. The final destination of scholars is, however, managed by Rotary International reflecting the stated preferences of candidates.

Only the names of those finally put forward to Rotary International will be released for general circulation.



The District Selection Committee will be:

- The District Governor
- The District Governor Elect
- The District Foundation Chair
- An experienced host counsellor or past District Scholarships officer
- An academic assessor

The District Scholarships Officer will manage the process and advise on programme arrangements and procedures

Canvassing of any member of the committee or the District Scholarships officer will result in disqualification.

The District Selection Committee will also determine whether one or two scholars will be sponsored. If there are no candidates who meet the District's priorities there will be no obligation to sponsor any scholars.

Sources of further information

The following websites give access to further information:

General information on Rotary International - <http://www.rotary.org>

Ambassadorial Scholarships - <http://www.rotary.org/en/StudentsAndYouth/EducationalPrograms/AmbassadorialScholarships/Pages/ridefault.aspx>

