

Rotary District 5490 Youth Exchange Frequently Asked Questions

What countries can I go to? Country choices change slightly each year...

Argentina	Austria	Belgium
Brazil	Chile	Czech Republic
Denmark	Ecuador	France
Germany	Italy	Japan
Mexico	Poland	Russia
Slovakia	South Korea	Sweden
Switzerland	Taiwan	Thailand
Turkey	Etc...	

- All Students are asked to consider three (3) countries. Please be open minded!!!
- Other countries may be available. Please Inquire.

What is the process for acceptance?

Student present preliminary applications by Oct. 31st of each year. Student interviews are conducted by sponsoring club. If the student passes the first interview, they will be asked to complete the full application by Dec or Jan. Final awards and country selections are made by the district committee by March 1st. The full application does not guarantee placement.

What are the costs for the family/student/parents?

Costs will vary but students can expect that the year will cost between \$4000 - \$4500 minimum depending upon the country. Optional travel costs and personal expenses will be in addition but are not required.

- \$300 application fee is the only fee paid to Rotary. (refundable if scholarship is not awarded)
If the student is accepted into the program and they decide to pull out before departure, then this fee is NON refundable.
- Insurance: Students either pay for or are provided a policy or state/country health insurance. This depends upon the country you choose. Most policies cost around \$800 for the year. You may NOT provide your own insurance.
- Travel costs: students provide your own travel (plane/train/etc). We have a travel agent that can assist you. Note: 30-day excursion fares do not apply. These are 300+ day changeable tickets. Fuel cost increases have affected ticket pricing.
- Visa/Passport: students arrange for your own passport and visa. Each country varies.
- Emergency fund: Host countries require an emergency fund of around \$500.
- Personal expenses: phone calls, clothing, travel, entertainment, personal items, etc.
- Blue blazer: all students must purchase a navy blue blazer before departure to wear for travel.

What is the Time Line:

Aug – Oct: Preliminary applications and interview

Nov-Jan: Complete application due for invited students

March 1st: Notification of acceptance and country assignment

April: 1st Outbound Orientation May or June: Rotary Conference June: 2nd Orientation

July-Sept: leave for assigned country

What does Rotary provide?

Sponsoring Rotary club in AZ:

- Outbound orientation (spring before departure)
- District Conference (May/June departure)
- 2nd orientation (June before departure)
- Business cards
- Polo shirt

Hosting Rotary club in the host country:

- Monthly allowance (\$50 - \$100 US equivalent per month)
- School (books or uniforms may require payment)
- A hosting Rotary club
- Orientation and other joint youth exchange events
- Trips around your host country (these vary by country)
- Host families all year long (1 – 4 host families --3 is typical)
- Some countries require a language intensive upon arrival. (cost may vary)

Will I get any credit for this year in my Arizona high school? How do colleges look at this experience?

Typically the Arizona high schools give minimal to no credits for this abroad year. Although you benefit immeasurably as a person and a student, usually your school will not recognize the year academically. You must work with your school independent of Rotary. Although this is an academic exchange and you are required to attend school, learn the language and make progress in your host country school, this does not guarantee you credit in the US. Work with your high school counselor to get the maximum credit benefit. Do not base your graduation on getting any credits for the year.

Colleges love this type of program and recognize the benefits. You will be a more well rounded, culturally rich student by the end of the year. You will have great things to write on your college essays!! Or--you can apply to schools with the intent to go abroad and schools often grant a deferment once you are accepted. Do not expect to take SAT abroad or work on your college applications. This year abroad is to focus on being away--NOT to plan your return year. Get that planning done ahead of time!!

May we visit our son/daughter while they are abroad?

Yes, you may visit but ONLY parents and siblings---no friends may visit. Also, Rotary restricts visits before March of the exchange year. Therefore you MUST visit AFTER March. We recommend the student's spring break or after they are out of school for the summer.

How can our family be a HOST FAMILY while our student is abroad?

For each outbound student we send, we are required to take one inbound student. So, of course your family can host an inbound student for 3-6 months while your student is abroad. Just ask your Rotary contact for more information. It's a great experience. We request that you provide us with the names of 3 families who would like to host a student (possibly including your own).

Any other questions: Please contact Norm Samuelson, Norm@NormSamuelson.com, 928-273-0471