

**Rotary**  
District 5495



**Rotary  
Youth  
Exchange**

**LONG TERM (YEAR LONG) YOUTH EXCHANGE SCHOLARSHIP**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Donna Goetzenberger  
Rotary Youth Exchange Chair  
Rotary International, District 5495  
[rye5495@gmail.com](mailto:rye5495@gmail.com)  
(602) 469-1293  
[www.rye5495.org](http://www.rye5495.org)

**What is a Rotary Long Term Youth Exchange Scholarship?**

This Rotary sponsored and organized program sends America's best student ambassadors age 15 to 18 to spend up to a year living with host families (usually 2-3) and attending school in a different country, learning a new way of living, a great deal about yourself, and the language of that country. You'll be an ambassador, teaching people you meet about your country. You can help bring the world closer – and make some good friends in the process. Rotary is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all participants in its programs.

**What countries can I go to?**

Country choices change slightly each year but typically include France, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Sweden, The Netherlands, Czech Republic, Austria, Russia, Poland, Slovakia, Turkey, Brazil, Taiwan, Japan, Argentina, Chile, Peru, and Ecuador, among many others. Students are asked to consider 5 countries but may still be assigned to another. It will be important to be open-minded and adventuresome! Other countries may be available. Please inquire.

**What is the process for acceptance?**

Students submit applications by June 30 of each year. Applicants will be interviewed by the District typically in late summer or early fall. If the student is selected as an Outbound RYE candidate, they will be asked to complete the full application. The district committee will make final awards and country selections. The full application does not guarantee placement. **For application: [www.rye5495.org](http://www.rye5495.org)**

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

Rotary club volunteers administer the program at the local level, which helps keep costs low for students and families. Costs vary, but students can expect program costs between \$5,500 - \$6,000, depending upon the country.

**Most of which is not paid until late Spring/early summer, prior to departure** (other than the \$1,000 application fee).

- **\$1,000 total application/program fee:** the only fee paid to Rotary to cover program costs.
  - \$500 due at the time of the interview, \$100 of which is non-refundable as of the time of interview
  - \$400 refundable up to and including 30 days of interview; thereafter,

- \$200 refundable by November 30<sup>th</sup>
  - \$0 refundable as of December 1
- \$500 final payment of application/program fee due as of December 1, non-refundable

- Insurance: Students must pay for an international health policy or state/country health insurance. This varies from country to country. Most policies cost approximately \$1,000-\$1,500 for the year. Sometimes it's less, depending on the country you go to. You may NOT provide your own insurance.
- Travel costs: students provide your own travel (plane/train/etc). Note: 30-day excursion fares do not apply. These are 300+ day changeable tickets. Fuel cost increases have affected ticket pricing. All airfare booking and arrangements are to go through TZell, approximately \$250 fee
- Language School: some countries (mainly the German speaking countries) require a language camp/school upon arrival. Costs vary from approx.. \$500-\$1,000
- Passport: students arrange and pay cost of passport, approx. \$165, plus mailing.
- Visa: This is the "permission" to live in the country for a year. Cost varies by country and are the responsibility of the students. (Approx. cost is \$150-\$450.) Also, some countries require proof of a certain amount of available funds in a parent bank account (Italy, Spain, etc.), and other countries require an FBI background check (Argentina, Spain, etc.)
- Optional travel programs: A wonderful way to see more of the country. Costs vary (not included in program fee).
- Emergency fund: Most host countries require an emergency fund of \$500 in the Country's currency. This is refunded at the end of the exchange year, if not used.
- Personal expenses: cell phone, clothing, travel, entertainment, personal items, etc. (not included)
- Pins for exchanging, "Arizona" thankyou gifts for counselor and host families (not included)
- Optional travel/excursions, and personal expenses are in addition, but are not required.

TOTAL PROGRAM COST IS APPROXIMATELY \$5,500

**What is the Timeline:**

- Applications due by September 1 (however, this date can be extended upon request)
- Late September: Interviews, \$500 1<sup>st</sup> payment of application/program fee due at interview
- Complete second portion of application process (doctor/dentist appointments, submit names of possible local host families for inbound exchange student): November 1<sup>st</sup>
- December 1: 2<sup>nd</sup> payment of \$500 application/program fee due, **non-refundable**
- Committee meets to make country assignments, Notification of country assignment (by early Spring if fully completed second portion of application process)
- RYLA (MLK weekend in January)
- March/April: Outbound Orientation (Rotary sponsored, **mandatory attendance by student and parent**)
- By May 31<sup>st</sup> or shortly thereafter: Guarantee Form returned from host district
- 1st week in June: apply for visa
- May/June: Rotary District Conference (mandatory/Rotary Sponsored)
- July: purchase airline tickets
- Approx. end of July and August: leave for assigned country (date determined by host district)

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

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 at your local high school. High school credit varies from no credit, several years of language class credit, to a full year of credits for the classes you take abroad. Work with your high school counselor to get the maximum credit benefit and know the requirements before you leave. To be safe, do not base your graduation on getting any credits for the year. Colleges love exchange programs and recognize the benefits. You will be a more well-rounded, culturally rich student by the end of the year and you will have great things to write on your college essays!! Do not expect to take your SAT while abroad or work on your college applications. If going on an exchange after your senior year you can apply to college and schools often grant a deferment once you are accepted.

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

It depends on the country and is at the discretion of the host country. If allowed, parents may visit in late Spring of the exchange year, or after they are out of school for the summer. This must be coordinated with the host district for approval ahead of time. Students are still on their exchange year, so no interference with school or host family plans, or scheduled program events is allowed.

**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. This requires 2-3 host families for the year. Outbound students must take an active role in securing host families for the Inbound student by having 3 families apply to host while you are away...your parents may be one of those families, if they choose to. Ask your Rotary contact for more information. It's a great experience! Hosting applications are found at [www.rye5495.org](http://www.rye5495.org)

**ABOUT ROTARY:** Rotary is an international non-profit service club made up of volunteers who are passionate about "Service Above Self" and about promoting peace around the world through friendship and understanding.

Any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us!

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