



## What is Rotary?

Rotary International is the world's oldest service club organization founded in 1905. Members representing a cross section of the community's business and professional leaders that are non-political and open to all cultures, races and creeds.

With "Service Above Self" as their motto, Rotary clubs provide service in the community, workplace, and throughout the world. Rotarians encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and build goodwill and peace with programs like Youth exchange.

Rotary clubs have sponsored successful international youth exchanges since 1958.

## The Youth Exchange Program

Each year Rotary Youth Exchange provides thousands of young people with the opportunity to experience the cultures and accomplishments of people in other countries. The ambassadorial nature of the exchange promotes world understanding and peace.

Short-term exchanges were first initiated in Europe in 1927, long Term student exchanges then started in 1958. In 1972, Youth Exchange became an official program of Rotary International and now more than 8,000 students are sent to about 80 countries each year.

The Rotary Youth Exchange is a non-profit program.

## How our exchange works

As a Rotary Youth Exchange student, you will spend one year living in another country, usually with three or four host families. You will become part of those families and their community. These Rotary families are volunteers who will welcome and care for you, supervise your year and introduce you to their culture and lifestyle.

In your host country you may learn another language, experience cuisines, study different subjects, enjoy a new culture and discover another way of living. In addition, you will learn a great deal about yourself and gain confidence and self-sufficiency.

You are required to attend school as part of your visa requirements. You will attend school in your local community, as well as participating in Rotary activities and civic functions. At the same time you will make new friends, see places and experience adventures that will take a lifetime to recount.

## Who is Eligible?

Applicants must be between over 15 and under 18 years of age at the time of departure. In D9620, most are now leaving after having completed Year 10 but this is not a requirement. We look for maturity, a positive focus and strength of character. Ability to interact and communicate, to participate in community activities and to adapt to changing situations is also an asset.

We look for good attitude and a pleasant, outgoing personality and a desire to benefit from a year abroad.

A solid academic record is preferable. Students must also undergo a rigorous District selection procedure.

## How much will the Exchange Cost?

**Costs will vary depending on the country of exchange.**

**The host Rotary club provides:**

**Outbound Student with Blazer**

**Inbound Student -**

- Rotary approved host families, usually 3 or 4
- Schooling and payment of normal fees and expenses
- An Ambassadorial monthly allowance of approximately \$150AU for incidental expenses.

**The students' natural parents / guardian pay a global fee which provides for:**

- Return airfare, as arranged by Rotary to the destination and visa and other travel documentation which can be organized in Australia.
- Personal insurance, as defined by Rotary International
- Orientation weekends, briefing days and tour of our district
- Uniform including Polo shirt and jersey .
- Name badge, student card, souvenir lapel pins etc.
- An administration fee.

**The students natural parents / guardian also provide for:**

- Any language courses in the host country
- Internal travel and organized tours during the exchange
- The day to day living expenses of the student, personal items, clothing, footwear, toiletries, gifts, mobile phone, photos, etc



## How to apply

Complete an Initial Application form, found on our web site [RYE Initial Interest Application Form](#). This application should be forwarded to a Rotary Club in your area along with a letter advising that you are interested in applying for Rotary Youth Exchange before the closure date as listed on the web site. If the local club is participating in the program, they will interview interested students and select a candidate.

## Selection Process

An application of interest should be made to your local Rotary Club. The local club will present the full application to the District Committee. This committee's role is to select exchanges. Final selection is dependent on a District interview and a weekend briefing Seminar.

## Successful applicants are on their way!

The final country of destination is decided by the committee in consultation with the students and depending on the availability of exchange in the preferred country. Further seminars, home visits and briefing weekends are all part of the continuing Rotary involvement in your preparations. Your family is also involved all the way and during your year's exchange they will be provided with continuing support and information.

- A January to January 12-month program for students who meet the relevant qualification criteria and successfully pass a selection interview.
- Exchanges are available to differing countries in Scandinavia, Europe, Brazil and Japan.
- Home hosted by Rotary approved families.
- Full academic year of schooling in the host country.
- Administrated at a club level with the support of the Rotary International network.

- Individual counselor both here and in the host country
- Back-up and counseling for the family of the exchange student.



## For further information please contact

**Rotary District 9620** (South East Queensland to Gympie and west to Kingaroy, South West to St. George)

[www.youthexchange.rotary9620.org](http://www.youthexchange.rotary9620.org)

or email [rye@rotary9620.org](mailto:rye@rotary9620.org)

**District Chairman – Bernie Wilson**  
**Phone: 0409 729 638**

### 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, Rotary spouses, 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'.

## Information for Students

# A World of Opportunity

## Some facts about the Australian Rotary Youth Exchange Program



[www.youthexchange.rotary9620.org](http://www.youthexchange.rotary9620.org)