

WHAT DOES AN EXCHANGE COST?

Actual costs will vary depending on the country of exchange, and the student's personal spending habits.

Student and family provide:

- An administration fee.
- Return overseas airfare, as arranged by Rotary to the country of exchange.
- Insurance under the Australian Rotary Youth Exchange policy.
- Internal travel in overseas country, including Rotary organised student tours.
- Day-to-day personal expenses, postage, phone calls, internet, clothing, footwear etc.
- A small emergency fund (redeemable at the end of the exchange, if unused).

Host Rotary Club provides:

- Board and lodging with host families.
- Some schooling expenses.
- A modest monthly allowance.
- A Club Counsellor to monitor the student's personal welfare.
- Training and briefing sessions.

Sponsor Rotary Club provides:

- Student Rotary Blazer
- Some Rotary Clubs provide banners for exchanging

WHAT TO DO NOW?

If you are interested in making an application, you must do this on the appropriate application form. The initial application form is available on the District website,

www.ryea.org.au

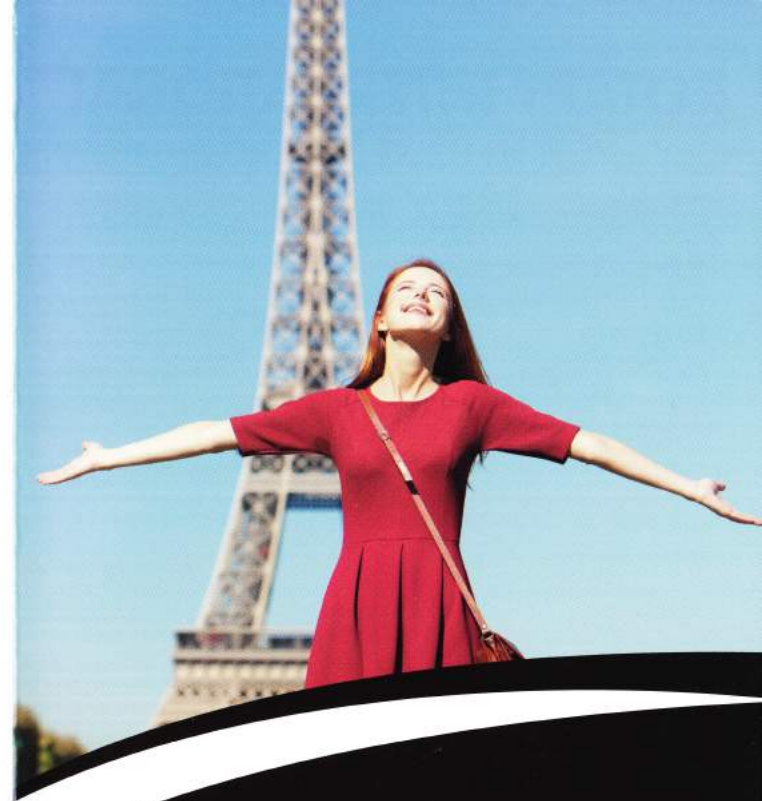
The Youth Exchange Chairman must receive your completed application form, a copy of your latest school report, a recent ID colour photograph (5cms square) and an **application fee of \$50**. The application form should reach The Chairman by **1st April**.



Rotary



For more information:
www.youthexchange.net.au



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Information for Students and Parents

District 9670 Australia

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

WHAT IS IT?

The Rotary International Youth Exchange Program is arranged by Rotary Clubs for young people to experience a year of education overseas, in a wide choice of countries. It also offers many other opportunities, both during and after the exchange is completed.

The Rotary program is highly respected internationally by schools, parents and students themselves because of its sound infrastructure.

Students stay with host families who are arranged by the hosting Club. In the majority of exchanges there is more than one host family, the preferred number being three or four. Host families may or may not be members of Rotary, but are all Rotary approved.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

The benefits of the exchange are many and varied. Students gain considerable self-confidence, tolerance and self-reliance through having to accept greater responsibility for themselves and their actions.

Students have to adapt to unfamiliar and different surroundings and ways of life which are different from that of Australia. For some, it will be the first extended period of separation from their own family. The experience provides the opportunity to develop many useful social 'survival skills'.

The exchange provides a unique opportunity for young Australians to experience at first hand the many cultural aspects of a different country, a new way of life, and in many instances, another language. The friendship students make will be life long and important in achieving the aims of the exchange – **the building of goodwill and understanding between countries.**

WHO CAN APPLY?

Any male or female secondary school student. The children of Rotarians are welcome, but of course gain no preference in selection.

Applicants must be in year 10 or year 11 in the year they make application to be eligible for the program. The preferred age of applicants is between 15–17 years.

Applicants should be making sound progress at school and have a general interest in people and places. They should possess a good general knowledge of Australia – its political system, socio-economic policies and its involvement in international affairs.

Applicants must have displayed high standards of personal conduct and attitudes which are widely accepted in our community. They should have an outgoing personality and be interested in cultural and outdoor pursuits.

Rotary is looking for young people who can act as personal ambassadors.

HOW ARE STUDENTS SELECTED?

Students are selected by Rotary Clubs on the basis of their application and a personal interview.

Applications close with the District Youth Exchange Chairman on **1st April**. Clubs will receive their allocated application form by mid-April and will interview students by late April.

The successful applicant from the Rotary Club is then nominated to the District Youth Exchange Program Committee. This Committee then interview nominated applicants in May before arranging exchanges with overseas Districts. Students have the opportunity to nominate any preferred countries of exchange from those available. However, there are limited places available in any one country, and a preparedness to accept an exchange in any of the available countries is necessary.

ROTARY PROVIDES TRAINING

Rotary Clubs have an important role in the exchange. Both the hosting and sponsor Clubs will provide one of their members to act as a Counsellor. The Counsellor's role is to maintain close contact with the student. This is expected to continue throughout the exchange period, not only with the student but also with the student's family, keeping everyone informed on the progress of the exchange.

The District Committee provides a briefing program for a wide range of subjects including personal development and public speaking. This aims to prepare the student for the exchange. Parents of students are also required to be involved in the briefing program.

HOSTING AN INBOUND STUDENT

While it is not obligatory, parents will be encouraged to host or organise hosting for an Inbound Exchange student for a period of three months. This hosting is to be approved by the Host Rotary Club of the Inbound student.

ARE THERE OTHER OBLIGATIONS?

Students are required to adhere to the rules of the program, as applied in the country of exchange. These relate to personal behaviour and the expectations of being an ambassador for themselves, their family, their country and Rotary. During the exchange year away, students are required to attend and complete a year of secondary level schooling.

EDUCATION CONSIDERATIONS

All outbound students will be required to return to secondary education in Australia; there may be credits available for study undertaken whilst away, however, this needs to be checked with The Board of Studies before departure. The question of breaking school before the HSC year is a matter of personal choice between the student and their families. The real bonus for education is the cultural experience that students gain from the exchange itself.

