Why Not Study Abroad as A Rotary Foundation Global Scholar?

What is Rotary Global Scholarship?

- ***Designed for Graduate Study:*** Rotary Global Scholarships are designated for graduate study in a country other than the United States. Applicants must have completed an undergraduate degree prior to applying and should also be accepted into a university program *outside the US* for a Masters or Doctorate degree.
- ***Application Process:*** These scholarships are competitive and have three parts; please see section below, "How does this all work?"
- ***Includes a Service Project****:* In addition to graduate academic studies, applicants must propose and implement a sustainable, measurable and needs-based community service project that is associated with one of the seven areas of service supported by Rotary. Service Projects should be in the student's chosen field and must be completed during the scholarship period. The Seven Areas of Focus are presented in the graphic below. For more information on developing your Service Project linked to one of Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus, please **click here**.



Am I eligible?

- Applicants must have applied and been accepted (or are awaiting acceptance) to a graduate program outside the US. Applicants cannot be family members of Rotary members and must live in Rotary District 6290. This means that you currently work in, attend school in, or are a resident of District 6290. For further guidance **click here**. Non-US citizens currently studying in District 6290 are also eligible. However, *students who are residents of District 6290 will receive priority consideration.*

Why apply for a Rotary Global Scholarship?

- Global Scholarships fund graduate level studies (Masters, Doctorate) abroad.
- Global Scholars must execute and complete a sustainable, measurable and needs-based community service project during the scholarship period.
- Scholarships are awarded for one year with the opportunity to receive renewed annual funding for up to four years. The annual maximum scholarship support is $30,000. This level of support will not only help a student complete a graduate degree abroad, but it will help open employment and professional opportunities that will shape a positive trajectory of impact for a lifetime.
- Global Scholarships connect scholarship recipients with a local Rotary Club in the country in which they study. This allows for support within the country and also provides a community that scholars can interact with throughout their course of study and Service Project.

How does this all work?

- **STAGE ONE Application – *Prospective Candidates***
  Prospective candidates with interest will complete a Stage One Application. Virtual meetings with members of the GSC will follow. **Stage One Applications are due February 22, 2027.** ***Click here*** *for the Stage One Application.*

- **STAGE TWO Application – *Candidates (Invited)***
  After completing Stage One and being invited into Stage Two, candidates will be given the opportunity to complete and submit a Stage Two Application. This application must include a conceptual outline of your intended service project. Stage Two applicants will be interviewed by the GSC. The final candidate will be recommended to the D6290 Rotary Foundation; upon approval, the final candidate will be invited to proceed to the Rotary International online application. **Stage Two Applications are due April 5, 2027.** *Stage Two Applications will be sent to selected prospective candidates.*

- **ROTARY INTERNATIONAL (RI) ONLINE Application – *Global Scholar Candidate (Selected)***
  Excerpts from the Stage Two Application are uploaded to the RI Online Application template in collaboration with the GSC Chair. Upon completion, RI will review and approve the candidate, who will officially become the Global Scholar for the upcoming academic year. **RI Online Applications must be completed by May 24, 2027**. *The Global Scholar candidate will be sent access to the application and work with the GSC Chair to complete it in May.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONSULT THE FOLLOWING:

2026-2027 Timeline for Selecting a Global Scholar

- **November, 2026 – February, 2027**
  - Rotary District 6290 Prospective Candidate search
- **February 22, 2027**
  - STAGE ONE Applications due
- **March 1, 2027**
  - Virtual meetings with GSC members to explore Stage Two Potential; invitations to Stage Two go out in the first week of March
- **March 4, 2027**
  - Virtual meetings with GSC members to discuss Stage Two Application and importance of connecting with host Rotary Club
- **March 24, 2027**
  - Virtual meetings with GSC members to develop service project concept and provide guidance, as needed
- **April 5, 2027**
  - Interviews with GSC; 30-45 minute interviews (6:00 – 8:00PM)
  - Selection of Global Scholar candidate to move forward with Rotary International Application
- **April 19, 2027**
  - Virtual meetings with GSC members to develop service project concept and provide guidance, as needed
- **May 24, 2027**
  - Rotary International Online Application Completed

RI Confirmation of Global Scholarship by July 1.

Qualities of Successful Candidates for the Rotary Global Scholarship

- Excellent leadership skills and potential
- Proven record of success in chosen academic field
- Demonstrated, personal commitment to community service
- Well-defined and realistic educational and career goals
- Sincere interest and intent in maintaining a relationship with Rotary after the scholarship year
- Motivated to work with others in creative problem-solving
- Commitment to involvement with the host sponsor club in their host location

Service Projects

- A key aspect of the Global Scholarship is the partnership between the scholar and the host Rotary Club (overseas), in which the Scholar is involved. As a part of this relationship, Global Scholars must conceive of and plan out a Service Project associated with one of the Seven Areas of Focus embraced by Rotary during the Scholar's year or years of study in the host country. This takes planning and vision; applicants are strongly encouraged to get started on this in Stage One of the application process. For examples of Service Projects please **click here.**

Are you interested in a conversation about applying?

- Please reach out – we look forward to meeting you and learning about your goals!
- Email Dr. Rachel Sytsma-Reed, District 6290 Global Scholar Chair, at: rachel@greatlakescfa.org.

District 6290 GLOBAL SCHOLAR PROGRAM

General Program Information

Background

Global Scholarships fund graduate-level coursework or research for one to four academic years. **A key feature of the scholarship is the partnership between the district or club in the *study* location (host sponsor) and the district and club in the scholar's *home* country (international sponsor)**.

Global Scholarships have taken place since 1947, funding university studies for more than 30,000 students in over 100 countries. The Scholarships are highly competitive and more dependent on achievement and promoting the ideals of Rotary versus financial need. Rotary District 6290 (D6290) Global Scholarships require a Service Project in addition to the academic course load (see instructions on page 2).

In the past 12 years, D6290 has supported nine graduate students, each of whom have received a total of about $30,000 *per year* to successfully complete their programs; some of these students have received funding for multiple years. To date in D6290, more than $400,000 in scholarships have been awarded.

A Global Scholar candidate demonstrates:

- Excellent leadership skills and potential
- A proven record of success in his/her academic field or vocation
- A commitment to community service
- Well-defined and realistic goals
- Concrete ideas for advancing within his/her chosen field
- Sincerity about maintaining a lifelong relationship with Rotary after the scholarship period
- Willingness and commitment to be involved with the host sponsor club in their host location

The Application Process

1. Prospective candidates will apprise the Global Scholar Committee (GSC) Chair by email (rachel@greatlakescfa.org) of intent to apply.
2. Prospective candidates will Complete the Stage One Application and meet virtually with GSC members.
3. Select prospective candidates will be invited to Submit a Stage Two Application and then, once completed, participate in an interview with the GSC.
4. One candidate will be invited to the final, Rotary International application (online). This candidate, upon final approval from Rotary International, will be become the Rotary District 6290 Global Scholar for 2027-2028 and will receive a $30,000 Rotary Global Scholarship.

Application Process Details

If you become a D6290 Global Scholar, you will be expected to design and execute a Service Project related to one of Rotary International's 7 Areas of Focus (page 5, below; for more information visit https://www.rotary.org/en/our-causes). Please begin thinking about possible service projects to complete during your graduate work as a D6290 Global Scholar in Stage One. You will be asked to discuss your ideas with GSC members in a number of different conversations as you move through the application process, and you'll need a conceptual outline by Stage Two. Should you be selected as the Global Scholar, your work in the Stage Two Application will be incorporated into the Rotary International Online Application, which is the final step in the application process.

STAGE ONE (Prospective Candidate) APPLICATION:

Contingent upon initial communication with the GSC, select prospective candidates will be invited to submit a **Stage One Application**. You must also submit a current resume with the application. If you're able to submit a letter of acceptance from the university to plan to attend for your Masters or Doctoral degree, please do; a letter of acceptance will be required for Stage Two, should you be invited to proceed to that stage.

Stage One Application Checklist: *(be sure all components are submitted together)*

- ☐ Completed Stage One Application
- ☐ Resume
- ☐ Letter of acceptance from the university where I intend to study (preferred in STAGE ONE; required in STAGE TWO). *Students able to submit a letter of acceptance from the university where they intend to study will receive priority consideration in Stage One.*

Completed Stage One Applications (single PDF file) are due Monday, February 22, 2027.

STAGE TWO (Candidate) APPLICATION:

After completing Stage One and being invited to Stage Two, candidates will be invited by the GSC to complete and submit a **Stage Two Application**, which will include a conceptual outline of your intended service project. Selected Stage Two candidates will be interviewed by the GSC, and a finalist will be identified.

Stage Two Application Checklist: *(be sure all components are submitted together)*

- ☐ Completed Stage Two Application
- ☐ *Conceptual outline* of your proposed Service Project aligned with a Rotary International Area of Focus
- ☐ 2 Letters of Recommendation
- ☐ Proposed budget (form provided with Stage Two Application)

Completed Stage Two Applications are due Monday, April 5, 2027.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL ONLINE APPLICATION:

The final step in the application process is an online Rotary International (RI) application. The chosen Global Scholar will work with the GSC Chair to upload work from the Stage Two application for RI review and approval.

The RI online Application is due Monday, May 24, 2027.

Virtual Meetings:

Candidates should prepare to meet with GSC members at several key points in this process. Please hold dates below. *Apprise GSC Chair immediately with any conflicts.*

- By phone and/or email prior to entering the application process, as needed
- **March 1*** – Informal interviews conducted by GSC members; determine who to invite to Stage Two
- **March 4** - GSC members meet with Stage Two applicants: overview of Stage Two; importance of connecting with host Rotary Club; Service Project conversation/work
- **March 24*** – flesh out service project; work on essays; work on applications
- **Monday, April 19*** – interview preparation with candidates, as needed
- **May 3, 4 –** GSC interviews with candidates - *full committee*