

Global Grant (GG) Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What makes a Global Grant Scholarship unique?

Answer: The Global Grant Scholarship is the current iteration of earlier programs such as Rotary Foundation Scholarships and Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships. Throughout the years, these scholarship programs have provided significant support to people who are aligned with the ideals and goals of Rotary. For example, current applicants must be committed to pursue studies aligned with one or more of Rotary's Areas of Focus. This is not just an award for academic achievement. Scholars selected for at GG Scholarship are expected to fully explore the "Rotary World" found in their host district and club in order to enhance their studies and broaden their outlook. Historically, successful scholars pursue further academic credentials, participate in service opportunities, speak at Rotary Club and Rotaract Club events and travel. As one element of the Rotary Four Way Test states: "Will it build good will and better friendships?" Thus the time spent building relations as part of academic study and in the Rotary/local community is important. Testimonials reveal this leads to long lasting professional and personal connections.

Question: Is there a required academic standing, such as a minimum average from their undergrad, for applicants?

Answer: At the outset of the application process the applicant needs to show evidence of successful completion of an undergraduate program that is aligned with the graduate program interests of the applicant. Also part of the application requires the candidate to show evidence that he or she can pursue graduate studies and eventually gain access into a graduate program at an institution approved by Rotary. In summary, the successful candidate will have to show evidence of academic achievement; ability to pursue rigorous academic and co-curricular pursuits; and, life balance. Therefore a student with a solid academic background but not a "straight A" record should still apply.

Question: The information supplied says that the GG Scholarship is for up to \$40,000USD. How is the actual amount determined?

Answer: Recently the scholarship amount for District 7010 has been raised to up to \$40,000 USD. This reflects the reality of the cost of graduate studies outside of Canada. However, the funds are only released to the scholar upon receipt of evidence for expenditures in categories approved by Rotary (for example: return air travel from home to country of study; room and board; tuition; other meals; books and study supplies.) This could be less than the \$40,000USD amount. The successful candidate does not provide matching funds. However, experience shows that there is personal cost to studying abroad coupled with the cost of having a little fun and travel outside of any study expectations. The application form has a budget planning sheet that assists with this item.

Question: Would the scholar be able to study in Canada from a university out of the country and are they able to do some of their studies here and there, traveling back and forth?

Answer: Given the unique nature and expectations of the Global Grant Scholarship explained elsewhere, the scholarship requires the student to be in residence in the host country. On-line or other forms of e-learning may take place. However, this typically is an adjunct to the more traditional study approaches offered on site at the host university. Using Canada as a base would not be acceptable. Studying at a university overseas that has an affiliation with a university in Canada or elsewhere may enhance the study experience. Given the expectations of the scholarship frequent travel back to Canada would not be appropriate. Recently, scholars have travelled back for the Christmas holiday season. Beyond the opportunity to see their families, in these specific situations it was less expensive to come home for their study break than to remain in their university residence. Of course, the need to return for urgent family matters would always be appropriate.

Question: How does Rotary make sure that the scholar is meeting the academic and "ambassadorial" aspects of their scholarship.

Answer: There is frequent communication among the scholar, host club and the District 7010 GG Scholarship Chair. Academic progress and participation in the other activities aligned with the scholarship are monitored. The participant will be required to submit reports. Sometimes students do not complete their academic requirements in one year. A good example would be the final completion and, in some cases, the defense of a dissertation. This is okay. No extra funding is provided in this situation.

Question: The time between the initial announcement about applications and the starting date of the actual scholarship year is more than 12 months. Why does the process take so long?

Answer: The process from the time of the initial application through the start of the successful applicant's study year is approximately 15 months. This allows for the vetting of candidates' applications; interviews; getting the endorsement of the host Rotary District where the successful candidate's study institution is located; securing a host club; and, completing the Global Grant application required for funding approval. On this latter point, our District could select a candidate and then have the Global Grant application rejected by RI. While this is uncommon, I have been advised by Rotary International that this has happened. For example, experience has shown that the university selected as part of the initial application may change for several reasons. In this situation, there is the possibility of not having a satisfactory alignment with the Areas of Focus. This is a requirement for securing the Global Grant.