

# Rotary Youth Exchange

CLASS OF 2027

A one-year lifechanging opportunity!

<https://rotarydistrict9999.org/page/rotary-youth-exchange/>



 **8+**  
Location Options



**Sandra Isaacs**  
**District Governor**



**Dave McKissock**  
**RYE Chair**

# WHO WE ARE

Rotary International is one of the world's most famous Humanitarian organisations.

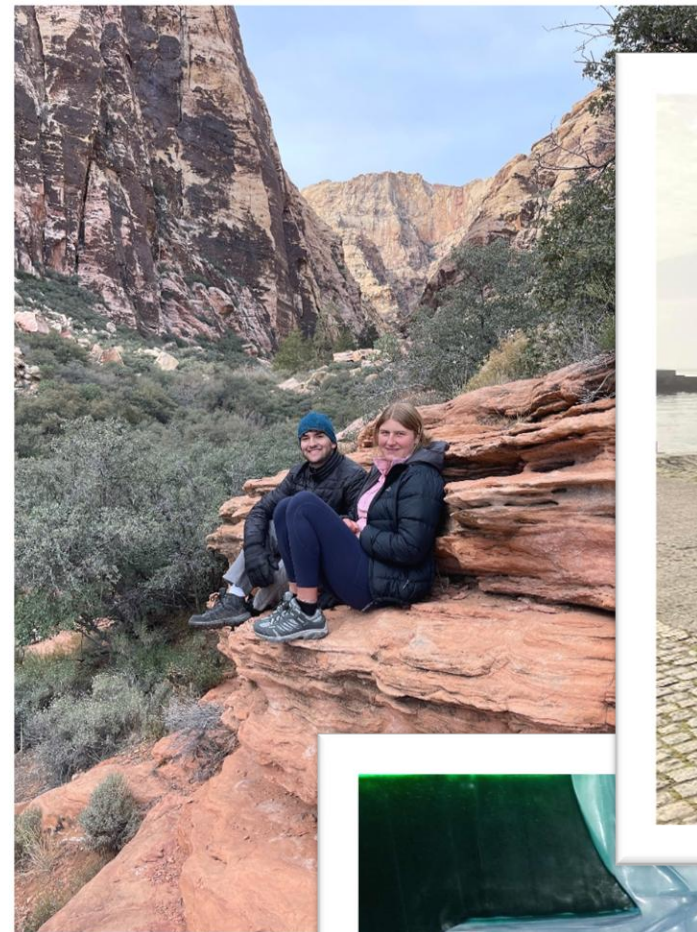
Started in 1905 there are now over 41,000 Rotary Clubs with 1.4million Rotarians throughout the world.

Our goal is to put Service Above Self to help local and global communities.

We are famous for establishing; Plunket (Karitane Hospital), Outward Bound, National Women's Hospital, Riding for the Disabled, Milk in Schools, Cure Kids, Ellerslie Flower Show, Defensive Driving Courses, Milk in Schools, IHC, United Nations and our commitment to END POLIO.

We are a volunteer organisation, and our Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) committee is made up of some of the most passionate Rotarians who commit long hours to giving our young adults this incredible opportunity.





# Rotary Youth Exchange Vision & Mission

01

To provide young people with opportunities to fully immerse themselves in a new culture

02

To develop the leaders of tomorrow as global citizens

03

To promote peace and justice throughout the world



# We are the most prestigious exchange programme in the world

## About Us

Oldest exchange programme in the world dating back to 1927!


Over 9,000 young people exchange to 80 different countries every year.

RYE alumni are famous for their problem-solving skills, resilience, ability to work together and independently and global and cultural perspective.

Our programme is reciprocal and whilst your student is home-hosted overseas we ask you to home-host too.

Having Rotary Youth Exchange on your CV impresses recruiters and Universities throughout the world

Unique support structure as you are supported in NZ and your new host country!



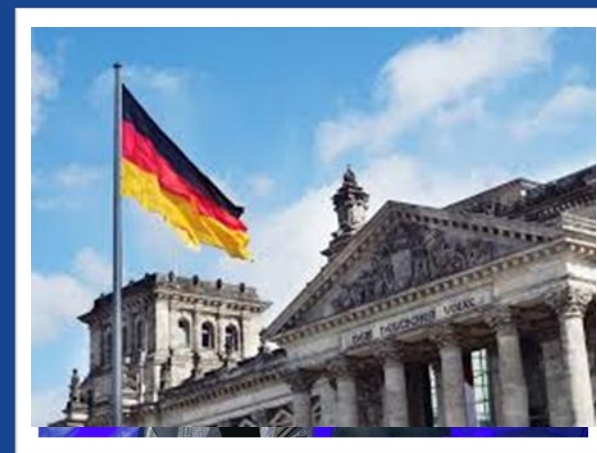
"Rotary Youth Exchange has changed my life. I am a lot more confident in myself and my career aspirations"





# Where we exchange to

We have a variety of partnerships throughout the world, some over 30 years old! We are always looking into new partnerships.



**Germany**



**Austria**



**Switzerland**



**France**



**Sweden**



**Argentina**

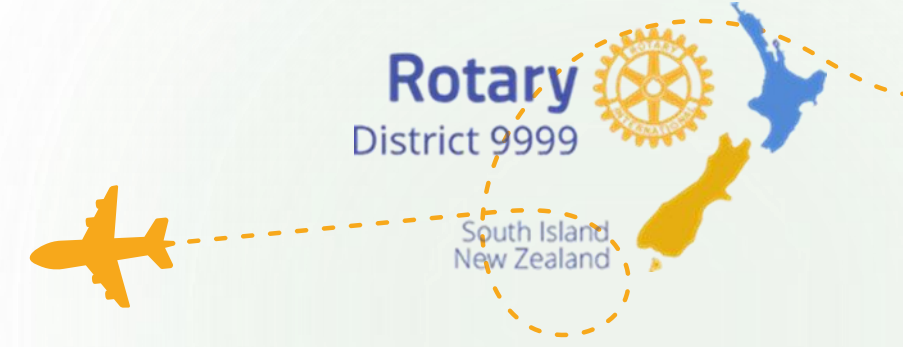
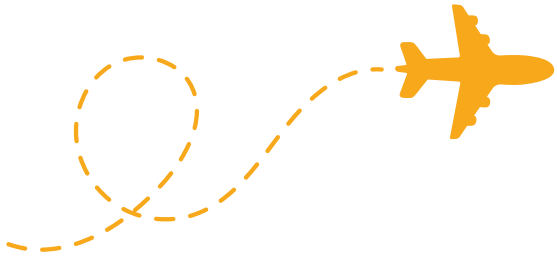


**Chile**



**Brazil**





# The benefits

## Too many to name...

**Resilience and independence**

**Problem solvers**

**Diverse and thoughtful global citizens**

**Cultural perspective**

**University application & CV credentials**



**Maturity – ready for the next step**

**Worldwide network of friends and family**

**Ambassadors of NZ**

**Academic opportunities**

**Fluent in a new language**



# The offer

## One year cultural immersion

Students have the opportunity to spend a whole year living overseas

Students live with 3 – 4 host families where they are expected to do normal chores. This gives them the opportunity to see different families and experience new opportunities!

Students must attend school – this is compulsory and a great way to meet local students and try new subjects/sports

Students meet a wide range of exchange students who often become lifelong friends

Most countries offer the opportunity for a 2-3week Summer Trip where students will visit major landmarks

Students are supported by Rotary in both NZ and their new country

# The Costs

Our programme is run by volunteers throughout the world



May

\$125 non-refundable application fee. Paid by May 20. This covers our administration costs.

June

If your application is successful, we invite you to a Selection Weekend in June at a cost of approximately \$50

July

\$1,500 cost. This covers our compulsory weekends and your travel deposit. .

Sept

\$6,000 cost towards flights, stopovers, travel insurance and visa processing

Jan

Approximate \$1,500 cost to cover emergency bond (in country), Summer Trip and language camp (if necessary.)  
\$700 Bond to Sponsored Rotary Club

Jan -  
Jan

Discretionary spending money

**\$26K**

Total cost

**There is no board/accommodation costs or costs to go to school.**

# The Costs continued

## Our programme is run by volunteers throughout the world

Students receive a small monthly allowance from Rotary whilst overseas. Approximately \$100USD per month to purchase bus passes, cellphone data etc.

Rotary New Zealand will contribute towards their preparation and uniform

Students are expected to contribute towards their exchange – part-time job, chores etc.

There is some financial assistance via trusts available, but students need to apply themselves.

Whilst \$26,000 is an approximate, it's all dependent on the student and how they choose to live.

In comparison, many other organisations do similar exchanges, and their costs are upwards of \$30,000.

**There is no board/accommodation costs or costs to go to school.**



\$26K

Total cost



# Frequently asked questions

## Departure



Students depart in January 2026 and return one year later,

No options for shorter exchanges

Students typically travel together and students going to Europe have a Rotary organised stopover.

Our Rotary travel agent organises all the flights and insurances. She also assists with the visa

Students must have full travel insurance, usually provided by Allianz that meets Rotary's requirements.



## Frequently asked questions

# Language, culture & country

Having a second language is advantageous, but not essential

Students must undertake self-directed study towards their new language

Students give us a preference of their chosen countries (we ask for the top 3) and we try to match their preferences, interests and personality. Preference is given to those with language skills for that country.

Most students (especially in Europe) will complete a language camp within a few weeks of arriving.



# Frequently asked questions

## Health & safety

Youth Protection is at the heart of our programme. All volunteers and host families must be Police Vetted

All volunteers must complete online learning modules to ensure the safety and care of our young people

Students have multi-layers of pastoral care to ensure they have support at all times

Majority of countries require students to be COVID vaccinated although this can change.

All students must be vaccinated against Polio.

There may be other vaccines required, which will be discussed with the student prior to departure.

Full medical insurance covers any Doctor's visits and accidents whilst overseas.



# Frequently asked questions

## Schooling



Students must attend and participate in local school – this is where they meet most of their friends!

Subjects do not cross-credit to any NZ qualification so a great opportunity to try a new subject.

Students usually go out in their Year 11, 12 or 13 year and either come back and repeat the year they've missed or skip a level. Many students use their Year 12 qualifications for University Entrance, and some take a bridging course at University if needed.



# Frequently asked questions

## Home hosting



As our programme is a reciprocal programme it is compulsory for families to host two inbound students for a period of four months and either host for a third period or find a local family that can

Home hosting is a great opportunity for the whole family to be involved, learning a new culture and understanding how our Kiwi students might be coping overseas

Home hosting allows for multi-cultural experiences and the opportunity to showcase NZ!

Host periods start in January of each year

Just like your student does not pay any board to live overseas, there is no financial reward for hosting



# Frequently asked questions

## Other



Parents are not allowed to visit their student whilst overseas. This has detrimental impact on the exchange, and some countries will terminate the exchange if this happens

We aim to send 7 – 12 students out each year but this may fluctuate. We assess each student on their own merits so if we need to increase our numbers we can do so

We are looking for students who are organised, good communicators and keen to say YES!





# WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR...

Young people aged between 15 – 17 ½ as at January 2027

Students who are keen to be ambassadors and represent NZ

Students who are go-getters and keen to say YES to lots of opportunities

Families who can commit to hosting inbound students



# The initial application form



#1

Personal information and name of two referees

#2

Your top 3 countries and why...

#3

200 words on Rotary International

#4

Confirmation of hosting ability



# What happens next?

Applications are currently open until 20 May 2026



## Apply now!

*Apply via our website using the form. Your application must be typed and late applications may not be considered.*

*Remember to put your best foot forward! You will then be sent an invoice to be paid by mid May 20 2026 please.*



## Get saving!

*It's your exchange so get out there and start earning towards your exchange. It might be a part-time job or a fundraising idea*



## Update us

*Send us your last school report or year results by end of November 2026*



## Selection

*We will be in touch inviting students to a Selection Weekend where you will be interviewed and participate in group activities.*

# After that...

It's all go, go, GO!



## Confirmation

*We aim to be in touch with you by late June – mid July to confirm you've been accepted.*



## Introductions

*We run a series of introductory sessions including a compulsory Orientation Weekend in August*



## Full Application

*You complete a full application form which includes school reference, doctor's visit and dental check up!*



## Preparation

*We work with you to prepare you for your amazing year overseas. Students need to learn their new language. There is another compulsory Māori immersion weekend.*

# Our Contact Information



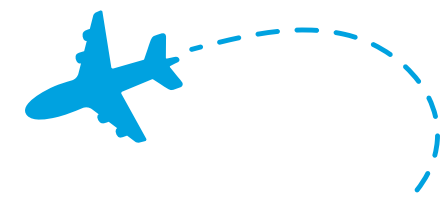
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<https://rotarydistrict9999.org/page/rotary-youth-exchange/>



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