

**ROTARY DISTRICT 5680
GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

POLICIES

I. BACKGROUND

(These policies are revised and updated from documents dating back to July 1, 1949, when the committee was organized under old Districts 178 and 567, and finally District 5670)

The District's Graduate Student Scholarship was initially referred to as the "*District Student Exchange Fellowship*." According to the district's Manual for Rotary Clubs, the principle underlying the purpose of the "Fellowship" was contained in the expression "People to People." The manual further stated:

"Although it is the express duty of Fellows who receive fellowship awards under the program to make personal contact with as many people as possible in the place of study abroad, in every walk of life of that country, it is hoped that the Rotary families of the District will do equally as well here at home as good will ambassadors."

II. DEFINITION

The district GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE [hereafter referenced to as "the committee"] is a committee of Rotary District 5680, as established in Article Seven, Section 5 of the district bylaws.

III. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

To foster international understanding by providing scholarships to partially finance a year of graduate level overseas study by students from this district in an approved foreign university and to provide such scholarships to qualified foreign students to come to District 5680 for graduate level study at an approved four year college/university located within the geographic boundaries of District 5680.

IV. METHOD OF FINANCE:

This scholarship program shall be financed by an annual per capita assessment on all the Rotarians in the district, as prescribed in Article Six, Section 3b of district bylaws.

V. ADMINISTRATION:

A. The graduate scholarship committee shall be composed of seven members: three past district governors and three responsible Rotarians (one from each club-size category) with each member serving for three years; and a scholarship committee chair appointed by the district governor for a term of one year. The chair may be re-appointed and serve successive terms. Two persons

(one past district governor and one responsible Rotarian) will be appointed annually by the district governor and confirmed by the executive committee. The district governor and district governor-elect will be non-voting ex-officio members of the committee. [Reference: Article Seven, Section 5 of District 5680 bylaws]

- B. The committee chairperson shall be the head of the committee and shall preside at all meetings and have the power to call meetings at his/her own option or on the request of other members of the committee. Such meetings shall be held at a time and place reasonable and convenient for all members and notice of such meetings shall be sent to all committee members in writing at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.
- C. The chairperson will designate one of the committee members to serve as recording secretary to prepare minutes of meetings, which will be distributed to all committee members, including ex officio, on a timely basis.
- D. In the event of a vacancy on the committee, by reason of health issues, death, removal of residence from the district, or any other reason, the district governor shall appoint a new member to fill the unexpired term.
- E. The committee chair may authorize reasonable administrative expenses to be paid from the district's graduate scholarship fund.

VI. POLICY ON SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS

A. OUTBOUND STUDENTS

For outgoing students the study shall be in a college or university in a foreign country to be selected by the student and approved by the Committee. It should be one of the institutions listed on the application filed by the student. Scholarships shall be limited to one academic year of graduate level study.

B. INCOMING STUDENTS

For incoming international students, the study shall be in a 4-year college/university with graduate programs and located within the boundaries of District 5680. Scholarships shall be limited to one academic year of graduate level study.

[Note: The exception is at Oklahoma Panhandle State University where study by the international student may be at the undergraduate level. The undergraduate student should be an upperclassman with established success in the classroom.]

VII. APPLICATION CRITERIA

A. APPLICATION FORMS

1. The Committee shall provide the official application form on the district website. Availability of the application will be promoted broadly through

the district newsletter, at PETS, and by other district communications.

2. The Committee shall set a date, time and place for a personal interview with applicants. No grant shall be made to an outgoing student without this personal interview.

B. OUTBOUND STUDENTS

1. The outbound student applicant shall have a home of record in the geographic boundaries of District 5680 and have earned a bachelor degree by the time overseas study is to begin. The applicant shall submit the completed form to the Rotary Club nearest to his/her home. Said Rotary Club shall examine the application, interview the applicant if necessary, and, if approved, endorse the application. A Rotary club shall submit no more than one outgoing candidate per year.
2. Applicants shall be deemed to be a good representative of Rotary International, shall have a good academic record, shall submit a transcript of their undergraduate studies, and letters of recommendation. If applicable, they shall provide proof of competency in the foreign language of instruction at the university they will attend. They shall also provide certification from a physician of their fitness for study overseas.
3. The approved application will be returned to the applicant with club endorsement. The applicant will then be responsible for submitting the completed application with all necessary attachments [transcripts, recommendations, language qualifications, etc.]to the scholarship committee on or before the announced deadline.
4. As expressed in the scholarship application, upon their return from overseas study, the outgoing graduate student scholarship recipient will be invited to speak at Rotary clubs throughout the district.

C. INCOMING STUDENTS

1. The incoming graduate student recipient(s) may be selected from foreign students currently enrolled in the first year of graduate study at one of the college/universities located within the boundaries of Rotary District 5680. [Note exception in Section VI B]
2. The committee may also invite an overseas Rotary district to select a student for scholarship consideration. In this case, English language proficiency must be confirmed as part of the application.
3. Academic requirements shall be the same for incoming students as for outgoing students and he/she must be accepted by the institution of study within District 5680 before any payment is made on the grant.

4. As expressed in the scholarship application, incoming graduate student scholarship recipients will be invited to speak at Rotary clubs throughout the district

VIII. SELECTION AND PAYMENT

- A. The final selection of recipients of the awards shall be vested solely in the committee, under rules promulgated by them and the decision of the committee shall not be subject to review.
- B. In the event an awardee does not make use of the grant at the designated time, the committee shall have the power to declare such award vacated and shall have the option of making an additional award in a future year
- C. Incoming. The amount of the scholarship grant to such incoming student(s) shall be determined by the committee and 50% of such grant shall be paid directly to the institution of study at the start of the first semester with a like payment for the second semester.
- D. Outbound. The amount of the scholarship grant to such outbound student(s) shall be determined by the committee and 50% of such grant shall be sent to a U.S. bank account designated by the scholarship recipient. Payment will be made prior to the student's overseas departure. At the beginning of the second semester, a like payment will be deposited in the account upon request by the student.
- E. Incoming and outbound students shall be responsible for their own transportation, for their personal expenses, and for all graduate schooling expenses above the amount of the grant.

IX. PROMOTION

- A. The selections made by the district graduate scholarship committee shall be shared on a timely basis with all Rotarians in the district via the district newsletter. A press release may also be sent to local media as appropriate.
- B. To foster the international nature of Rotary, clubs will be encouraged to invite incoming graduate student scholars to their meetings to present a program on their country, course of study, and future plans. Incoming graduate student scholars will also be available to speak to Rotarians at the district conference.
- C. Upon return from overseas, the outbound scholar will also be invited to speak at Rotary clubs and the district conference about their year abroad.