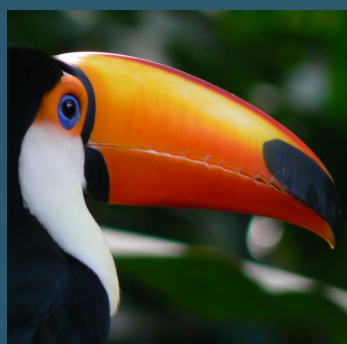
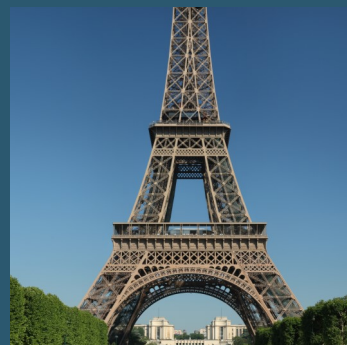
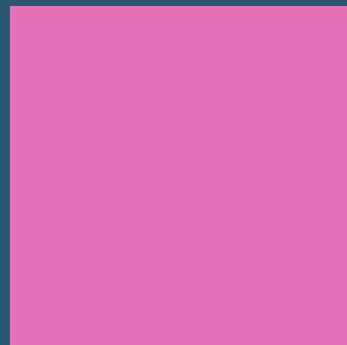




Rotary Youth Exchange

www.youthexchange.org.nz





What is RYE ?

This year thousands of young people will have the opportunity of a lifetime - a chance to live in another country and see the world and themselves from a new perspective through a Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE).

RYE is an international exchange programme for high school students who are between 15 and up to 18 years of age. As an RYE student you will spend 12 months in an overseas country, attending school while living with several host families. You will make friends in your host country and with other exchange students from around the world. You will likely learn a new language, a new way of living and a great deal about yourself. You will continue to benefit from a Rotary exchange for many years after the exchange is completed.

Students are hosted by a community Rotary Club which organise host families and provide a counsellor for advice and day-to-day contact. Each student is involved with their hosting Rotary club and activities organised by the Rotary Youth Exchange Programme.

RYE is not about "sending" students on an exchange but about facilitating a cultural experience within which the student can develop and grow and learn about the world around them and, in the process, make lifelong friends from all around the world.

"The most important thing I learnt during my Rotary Youth Exchange in Finland, which continues to help me navigate through both professional and personal life today, is the humanity that we share in common with people all over the world. That humanity bridges racial, religious, political and language boundaries. It is the one single trait that binds us all into one very small, beautiful world. I believe this is the greatest contribution that the Rotary Youth Exchange programme gives to each individual exchange student and, through the cumulative experiences and friendships created by the programme, to the world as a whole."

Theresa Le Bas
Exchange student
To Finland



Where can I go ?

We have a select number of countries that we exchange with and this can vary so check our website

for details.

When applying for an exchange you nominate your three preferred countries and we endeavour to provide one of your choices, but you might also choose a different country for your exchange .

The philosophy of the Rotary exchange programme is that the experience itself is the key and this is not country dependent.

We typically have a longstanding exchange relationship with our exchange partner countries and know that we can rely on them. We have often met, face-to-face, the key people involved in the operation of the programme in these countries.

Speaking the language of the exchange country is not essential but having taken a language at school is definitely an advantage.



"I have gained a better understanding and awareness of the world around me. I think I have matured as a person - I am comfortable in my own skin"

"I have friends from all around the world"



What is Rotary?

Rotary is a worldwide service organisation of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build international goodwill. Rotary has many programmes for youth and undertakes service projects in the local community and around the world. You may have heard of Rotary in your local community - there will be a Rotary club near you. www.rotary.org.nz



The benefits of Rotary Youth Exchange ?

You will meet people from other lands and experience their cultures and this plants the seeds for a lifetime of international understanding.

You will grow and develop increased confidence and independence with the ability to take advantage of the wider future opportunities that an exchange will open for you.

An exchange and university are complementary and not mutually exclusive. The independence and interpersonal communication skills learnt on exchange stand students in good stead for their future.

Your confidence and leadership potential will be developed giving you the opportunity to stand out and providing great attributes for the future.

An exchange gives life experiences that would otherwise take years to accumulate.



Exchange Preparation:

If you apply for an exchange you will attend a selection weekend where you will find out all about the programme and have the chance to meet students from overseas, who

are in NZ on exchange, as well as NZ students who have completed an exchange. This way you find out exactly what an exchange is like and what to expect.

Of course we will want to find out more about you so we can complete the selection process. This weekend will also include an information session for parents to ask questions and provide the chance for them to meet visiting and returned exchange students.

Successful applicants will attend further briefings and an orientation weekend involving overseas and returned students as Rotary ensures that all selected students are well prepared for their exchange. You will learn skills that will stay with you for life.

We also hold get together's for parents while you are away on exchange.



How much does it cost ?

Rotary will provide the host families for your exchange and enrol you at a school for no charge. Rotary will provide you with your Rotary Youth Exchange blazer and a small monthly allowance.

The main costs you incur for an exchange are the airfare and insurance along with the exchange tour with the other exchange students. Depending on your host country, this tour could be for 10 - 20 days. For European countries this is usually a "Euro Tour" while for other countries it might be a cross country tour.

In addition to this your other costs will be for day to day living in your host country. Rotary is a non profit service organisation which facilitates travel and insurance and does not take any profit on these costs. The funding of day to day living costs will be directly between parent and student. We provide latest estimates of costs at our information evenings based on information provided by returned exchange students.



How do I apply or get more information ?

Applications close on the 30 April for departure the following January. Students must be aged between 15 and up to 18 years at time of departure.

If you are ready for the rewarding challenge and the unique and life long rewards that come from living in another country as a Rotary Exchange Student, then fill out the simple preliminary application form on our website, or go to the "Contact Us" page if you would like further information.

www.youthexchange.org.nz



Check our website for more information, letters from exchange students, & details of our information evenings.

"I have found that what I gained from my exchange has actually developed and improved more over the last few years. So in a way, the things you get from an exchange stick with you and continue to be of use well beyond the exchange year - I guess they will stick with me for life."



Why Rotary Youth Exchange ?

- Student training and preparation
- Rotary student support structure
- Rotary activities and involvement
- Rotary is a reputable global service organisation established in 1904
- Stay with several host families for variety and a true cultural experience
- Personal growth & development, independence, & self confidence
- Worldwide friendships
- Learn a language
- Fun & new experiences
- Gain a fresh understanding of yourself & others
- A life changing experience