

# WHAT IS ROTARY?

Rotary is an international association of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, promote high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. With over 1.2 million members in over 32,000 clubs in nearly 170 countries, Rotary initiates community projects that focus on the most serious issues confronting people around the world: poverty, conflict resolution, health, hunger, illiteracy, and the eradication of polio.

*“I have made lifelong friends and stepped out of my comfort zone, which I would otherwise not have done. I gained a greater understanding of myself, my values, and what is important in life. Be prepared for a life-changing experience that will challenge you in ways you never thought possible.”*

*“Each and every team member was challenged on a number of occasions to reach inside themselves and stretch their limits. As individuals, we were exposed to peoples, cultures, and vocational experiences that have made us more complete human beings. We have been allowed to reach out to a group of individuals a half a world away to better understand them and ultimately ourselves in the process. What organization other than Rotary could provide this opportunity for us?”*

*“This visit was beyond my expectations. I had the opportunity to study the medical system, learn about medical insurance, and watch eye surgeries by reputed eye surgeons in the host country. I can implement some of these techniques in my clinical practice and upgrade my professional services.”*



*“Vocationally, I gained a better focus and direction in my job. I am more willing and ready to take up challenges, including giving public lectures. I have returned with a strengthened feeling of self-worth and confidence.”*

Contact the Rotary club in your area for application materials and deadlines.  
[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)



**YOUNG PROFESSIONALS JUST LIKE YOU FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD . . .**



**. . . ARE FURTHERING INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING, GOODWILL, AND PEACE.**

# GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE

**An International Exchange Program for Young Professionals**

**The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International**





## WHAT IS GROUP STUDY EXCHANGE?

The Group Study Exchange (GSE) program of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for young business and professional men and women between the ages of 25 and 40 in the initial years of their professional life. The program provides travel grants for teams of participants to exchange visits between paired areas in different countries. For four to six weeks, team members study the host country's institutions and ways of life, observe their own vocations as practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships, and exchange ideas. Team members can come from corporations, small businesses, community organizations, medical and educational facilities, government offices, and nonprofit agencies.

## WHY SHOULD I PARTICIPATE?

Individuals who participate in this rewarding, once-in-a-lifetime experience will return home with a broadened cultural perspective and new understanding of a nation's history, language, commerce, and government. A GSE offers a unique opportunity to develop leadership skills, work on team building, and increase self-confidence. The program is designed to have an invaluable impact on the career of a young professional in the increasingly global workplace by creating networking opportunities and lifelong friendships.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO MY EMPLOYER AND MY COMMUNITY?

GSE enhances the international perspective of the next generation of young leaders that will take your company into the future. GSE participants return with new communication and facilitation skills that promote tolerance and collaboration with professional people of other cultures. GSE fosters a creative approach to problem solving by expanding the employee's skill set, exposure to alternate methodologies, and preparation for addressing community needs. In addition, GSE provides a great public relations opportunity to promote awareness of your business or organization, as local and international media may feature interviews, photos, and articles about the exchange.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

GSE team member applicants must:

- Be between the ages of 25 and 40
- Be fully employed with at least two years of work experience in their chosen field
- Be in the early stages of their careers or professions
- Reside in or be employed in the sending Rotary district and also be citizens of the country in which they reside
- Be proficient in the language of the country being visited
- Be personable, articulate, cooperative, motivated team players, and enthusiastic about their vocations

- Seek to gain a maximum educational value from the program, as well as be able to fulfill the rigorous demands of international travel and active participation in an extensive itinerary

The best candidates for GSE are rising leaders who meet the qualifications above and who have an interest in people of other cultures. GSE can be an excellent way to recognize top-performing staff or provide exposure for potential young leaders with limited international experience.

*Note:* Spouses of participants may not accompany teams. In addition, the following are ineligible: a Rotarian; an employee of a Rotary club, district, other Rotary entity, or Rotary International; any Rotarian's or Rotary employee's spouse, ancestor (parent or grandparent by blood), lineal descendant (child or grandchild by blood and any legally adopted child); or a spouse of a lineal descendant.

## WHAT IS THE STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM?

Teams are composed of 4-6 non-Rotarian team members, usually of various business and professional backgrounds, and one Rotarian team leader. The GSE experience spans 4-6 weeks. During the exchange, teams will visit local businesses, government offices, and community organizations in the host district, tour historical and cultural sites, stay with Rotarian host families, and make presentations about their home countries and professions. Team members receive orientation and cultural preparation from the sponsor



Rotary district before their departure. This may include language training, practice of oral presentations, visits to Rotary clubs, and background about Rotary International's mission and the programs of its Foundation. The host country is determined before a team member's application and selection.

## WHAT IS PROVIDED?

For each team member, The Rotary Foundation provides the most economical round-trip air ticket between the home and host countries. Local Rotarians in the host area provide for meals, lodging, and group travel in their district. Each team member is responsible for all personal and incidental expenses incurred before, during, and after the study tour, including any personal travel arranged after the exchange.

## WHAT IS REQUIRED OF ME?

Before leaving:

- Participate in orientation sessions and group meetings, and obtain the necessary documents for traveling. This includes passport, travel visa, immunizations, and medical insurance.

During the tour:

- Accept the decisions of the Rotarian team leader.
- Fulfill any requirements to speak at Rotary host district gatherings.
- Remain with the group throughout the study tour except when individual activities are planned.
- Maintain standards of behavior that will reflect positively on Rotary and the home country.

After returning:

- Prepare and submit final reports of the tour as required by the sponsor district and The Rotary Foundation.
- Speak about your GSE experience to Rotary clubs and other groups.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

Contact your local Rotary club for application deadlines. Applications must be made through local Rotary clubs; those sent directly to The Rotary Foundation will not be considered. Candidates are selected by a qualified committee of Rotarian leaders. Additional information about Rotary club locations, GSE application materials, and program guidelines can be found at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

