



## **INFORMATION ABOUT ROTARY FOUNDATION AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

***TO BE AWARDED BY ROTARY DISTRICT 6440 IN 2009-2010***

### **EXACTLY WHAT ARE THE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE 2010-2011 AWARD YEAR**

Academic Ambassadorial Scholarships are grants of \$25,000 to study abroad in full-time enrollment at an institution assigned by Rotary Foundation trustees, after reviewing the five ranked choices of institutions on a winner's application. The Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarships are valued at \$12,000 and \$17,000 for three and six month programs, respectively. District 6440 generally forwards nominations for both Academic Ambassadorial Scholarships and three / six month Cultural Scholarships. District 6440 has elected not to participate in the multi-year program option for the 2009-2010 awards. When costs exceed the maximum award the additional required funds are the award winner's responsibility. Scholars may accept other grants/scholarships and must report grants to Rotary International.

### **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS?**

The scholarships are intended to further international understanding and friendly relations among different countries. Winners become "Ambassadors of Good Will" and make appearances/presentations before, during and after the award year. Any country other than the U.S. where Rotary exists can be assigned to U.S. winners. It is up to the discretion of the RI Trustees if scholars are assigned to areas of a country where they have already lived or studied. Each winner is assigned a Rotarian "sponsor counselor" (at home) and "host counselor" (at school) who provide orientation, advice and assistance. An R.I. Foundation staff member is assigned to each scholar. Cultural Scholarships are for intensive language training and cultural immersion.

### **WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR THE SCHOLARSHIPS?**

District 6440 applicants must be U.S. citizens. Rotarians, honorary Rotarians, employees of Rotary, and spouse/child/adopted child/grandchild or spouse of a lineal descendent of the foregoing categories are all ineligible. There are no age or marital status requirements. Applicants are encouraged to read pamphlet RF2-132-EN for additional information about the program. District 6440 candidates must have permanent address, work address or college address within District 6440. In close decision-making, those with a home address in the district may take precedence.

### **WHAT ARE THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR WINNERS?**

Funding is subject to successful academic progress and submission of required satisfactory reports. Awardees must also pass a language proficiency examination when a test is deemed necessary and appropriate by R.I.

### **WHAT IS THE SELECTION PROCESS?**

Once clubs submit their endorsed applications, the members of the District Scholarship Committee carefully and independently read all applications. At least a majority of the committee must agree to interview a particular applicant. The finalists, who will be personally

interviewed by the selection committee, are selected on the basis of their completed applications, written essays, letters of reference, academic transcripts, and other applicable criteria. Should there be more candidates that the Selection Committee is able to interview an initial summer meeting may be scheduled for all applicants in which case details will be sent to each applicant upon receipt of their application.

In-person interviews are required for the scholarship finalists. Interviews are scheduled for mid-August specific dates will be determined. It is the applicants' responsibility to find out the interview dates. When the dates are determined, the schedule will be posted on the District's website. Interview letters (with copies to sponsoring club) are sent at least two weeks prior to the interview date. It is the responsibility of the applicant to appear at the assigned interview time at his/her own expense. No special interview dates are possible. Those applicants not qualifying for interviews are sent letters (with copies to the sponsoring club).

Interviews of 25 minutes consist of personal comments and standardized questions asked of all candidates. The selection committee consists of District Rotarians and when possible a former District Scholar. Final decisions are made following the interviews. Decision letters (with copies to sponsoring club) are sent to applicants within a week following the interviews.

### **WHAT CRITERIA ARE USED TO SELECT WINNERS?**

1. **Ambassadorial Potential:** Basic friendliness... intelligence... personality ...rapport...character...national and international knowledge of current events and situations...awareness of social/economic/political problems...speaking skills...maturity...international understanding and/or experience...open mindedness...listening ability...the general ability to represent America at its best...and understanding of Rotary sponsorship and responsibilities.
2. **Overall Impression:** Level of maturity...response to questions...verbal and written skills...self-image and presentation...observations that an applicant was neither intimidated by the committee nor overly aggressive.
3. **Variety of Interests and Skills:** Breadth, not depth in one or two areas, is preferable...prior volunteer service to others is important.
4. **Match of Career Choice, Institutions Selected, and Language Required:** The committee looks at how well-researched and matched are college choices, applicant's career plans and language skills.
5. **For Cultural Awards:** The appropriateness of intensive language training. (Languages available are Arabic, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, and Swedish).

### **FACTORS OF LESS IMPORTANCE:**

Unless they differ significantly from the norm, test scores, grades, and recommendations do not play a major role in the selection process.

**NOTE:** A candidate who is deemed solely focused on academics, to the exclusion of ambassadorial responsibilities, will not be considered for the scholarships.

### **HOW DOES A PERSON APPLY FOR THESE SCHOLARSHIPS?**

Prospective applicants must obtain and use the 2010-2011 Award Year Scholarship application. The form can be obtained from Rotary International (Rotary.org), a local Rotary club or from some college resource centers. Applicants should begin the process many months before the

District 6440 deadline of July 1, 2009 when all completed applications must be in the hand of the District Foundation Scholarship Chair. Ignore different deadlines which may be printed on the application. Do not return the application to Rotary International in Evanston. Each applicant must first have the endorsement of a District 6440 Rotary Club serving the territory where the applicant lives, works or attends college. In District 6440, it is strongly recommended that clubs carefully evaluate these applications and interview the candidates personally. Endorsed applications are then sent by the sponsoring club to the District Foundation Scholarship committee chair.

### **SPECIAL TIPS FOR CANDIDATES:**

Make all responses relevant to the questions asked. Know that some elements of individuality and personality are expected in responses; however, too much "creativity," unfocused and lengthy responses can work against an applicant. Know that most applicants use a total of five to eight pages to complete the essay questions. In District 6440, almost all of our Academic Year applicants and winners have been for graduate level study and awards; however, undergraduates are encouraged to apply and some have been winners. Finally, non-successful applicants are welcome to try again in later years; a new application for must then be submitted.

### **SPECIAL TIPS FOR ROTARY CLUBS:**

Refer interested applicant to another club for endorsement consideration when address of that qualified applicant is not in your club territory. Applicants qualifying for club endorsement only by a work or school addresses, with permanent home addresses outside the district, are somewhat disadvantaged in close decisions. Endorsement should not be automatic...qualify all applicants, preferably with a club interview, before their submission to the district.

### **HOW CAN CLUBS PUBLICIZE THESE SCHOLARSHIPS?**

You can start now! Place articles in club bulletins and in local papers...schedule a club program and regular announcements about the scholarships...invite past and future Rotary Scholars to make club appearances...contact area college personnel and explain the program...ask high schools/colleges nearby to provide you with names/addresses of potentially interested graduates and mail explanatory letters...develop display boards for local merchant/professional office use...encourage members to look for candidates.

### **FURTHER QUESTIONS?**

Contact: Linda Lutz (847-913-7795), [LindaLLutz@comcast.net](mailto:LindaLLutz@comcast.net)

# District 6440 Ambassadorial Scholarship Selection Highlights

- Applicants must live (permanent address), work, or go to school full-time in District 6440
- Applicants must be US citizens; they are representing District 6440
- Personal interviews are required; interviews will take place in August 2009
- Applicants that are selected in August 2009, will begin their scholarship no sooner than July 1, 2010 and no later than June 30, 2011
- Applications are due to Ambassadorial Scholarship selection committee chair Linda Lutz, by July 1, 2009
- Clubs are encouraged to interview their prospective candidates and invite them to Club meetings and functions
- Ambassadorial scholars are asked to attend District 6440's District Conference on Foundation Day, tentatively scheduled for April 30
- Ambassadorial Scholarships are funded through District Designated Funds; in addition District 6440 has 3 endowed academic scholarships generally 2 of which are available each year
- In 2010 flat grants will be awarded in the following amounts: Academic scholarship \$25,000, 6-month cultural \$17,000, 3-month cultural \$12,000
- The scholarship application can be found on-line through [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)
- As the ambassadorial scholarships are awarded by Rotary Districts, any questions on the scholarship application, selection, deadline should be directed to the District chair.
- Once the District selects ambassadorial scholars, the District will forward applications to Rotary International where final decisions are placement are determined
- If you'd like further information you can check District 6440's website ([www.rotary6440.org](http://www.rotary6440.org) ) or contact Linda Lutz, 847.913.7795 or [LindaLLutz@comcast.net](mailto:LindaLLutz@comcast.net)