

Rotary



rotary youth exchange



Rotary Youth Exchange

The program is for students who will be aged 16 - 18 years old when they leave New Zealand in January of the year of their exchange and lasts for 12 months with students returning to New Zealand in January of the following year. At any one time there are approximately 7,000 students on exchange around the world.

As an exchange student you will live with 3 or 4 host families in your new country. You will be traveling on a student's visa so will be **required to attend school**. You will be hosted by a Rotary Club in the area that you live and will be expected to attend Rotary meetings and other Rotary functions.

During the year you will meet other exchange students from around the world and make life long friends with some of them and with members of your host families, people from your school and local community.

Most countries that we exchange with have an exchange student tour lasting anything from 1 to 2 weeks traveling round the country you are living in and, especially in Europe, into neighboring countries.

We are currently having exchanges with Austria, Belgium, Brazil, France, Germany and Switzerland.

An initial application form needs to be completed and considered by a Rotary club in your area. If they are satisfied that you will be a suitable candidate they recommend you to a District Committee that oversees the program for this Rotary area. **This should be ideally completed by 31st March.**

A selection interview with all applicants and their parents takes place in Rotorua in late April early May each year and the successful applicants (and their parents) from that process are then required to take part in an orientation program consisting of 1 day in July at Rotorua, a weekend in September at Taupō and another 1 day in Rotorua in December.

The cost to your parents varies quite considerably depending on the country you go to and how much you spend. You can expect the year to cost ~\$15,000 - \$25,000 and perhaps more depending on the number of tours you go on and how much you spend on entertainment. About \$8,000 of that amount is spent before you leave on air fares, insurance, visas, Rotary Orientation Program, cards, uniform etc.

Your host family will feed you and provide accommodation. Your host Rotary club will pay your school fees and will pay you an allowance equivalent to about NZ\$150 each month. You will need to pay for your entertainment and personal needs and any major tours you go on.

If you would like an application form please e-mail your address to Paul Higson paul.higson@cbre.com and he will send one to you together with contact details for a Rotary club in your area.

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