

IMPORTANT COUNTRY INFORMATION for Ambassadorial Scholars

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Some of the following information on your host country is based on information provided by past scholars and is subject to change. Included in your packet is a list of prior year scholars who studied at or near the university where you have been assigned for study. These prior year scholars can offer a wealth of information and guidance on the university, housing, Rotary involvement, and more.

Important Information about AFRICA

Admission to African Institutions. Be prepared to begin studies in Southern Hemisphere institutions in January, February or March of your award period. Starting in the mid-year months of July and August may cause an inconvenience to your host district Rotarians and the study institutions due to problems securing housing at that time of the year, participating in Rotary Club activities and attending the regional scholar seminar. In francophone countries in the Northern Hemisphere, the regular academic year at most institutions starts in October. This is also true in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

Contact your assigned study institution early and be persistent when applying for admission. It can take several months to gain admission. Occasionally a scholar may experience difficulties in communicating with the study institution or may be denied admission, so you should apply to Foundation-approved alternate institutions in addition to your assigned institution. It also is recommended that your list of approved alternate study institutions contain at least one institution located outside of Africa.

Scholars who do not require language training, either because they are native speakers of The Foundation-required language for the host country or because they passed a Berlitz/TOEFL exam, may request a month of language training in a local dialect if they feel it would be beneficial. Any requests must be made to the Foundation at least **five months** before the scholar's study period begins. Interested scholars should contact their coordinator for more details.

Individual relationships are important. Create relationships with staff at your assigned and alternate study institutions whenever possible. It greatly strengthens your position if you are able to address your inquiry to a person rather than to a department. As soon as you receive information about your interim Rotarian contact person from The Foundation, establish communication with this Rotarian immediately. He or she may be able to assist you during the pre-departure stage until you are assigned a permanent Rotarian host counselor.

Regular mail may take four weeks or more to get through to its destination. It is advised to communicate with Rotary and university contacts via fax or e-mail, or to call directly when possible.

Safety. Upon arrival in Africa, you should contact your national Embassy or Consular unit to register your local address, telephone, email, and emergency contact information. The Embassies and Consular offices provide travel warnings and emergency advisories during the year so that you can be aware of potential safety issues. All scholars are urged to stay informed of local and international political developments and to exercise caution while traveling abroad.

Local Transportation within your Host District: Scholars studying in African countries may find that local transportation is difficult and expensive. The Rotary Foundation does not specifically include in-country transportation funds in the award calculation. Scholars are expected to use their monthly living allowance and their Contingency Fund for local transportation. It is strongly recommended that you contact scholars who studied in your district previously to find out specifics of local transportation in your Host District. You must arrange and finance your own local transportation so keep this in mind when locating housing and budgeting your funds.

Banner exchange. Be prepared for the possibility of a formal exchange of small banners with your host district by carrying with you the banner of your sponsor district or club.

Resources.

Finlay, Hugh; et al. *Africa: A Lonely Planet Shoestring Guide*. Lonely Planet Publishing, 2001. www.lonelyplanet.com

Lamb, David. *The Africans*. Vintage Books, New York, 1987.

Nydell, Margaret K. Omar. *Understanding Arabs: A Guide for Westerners*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, 1997.
<http://interculturalpress.com/shop/index.html>

Nwanna, Gladson I. *Do's and Don'ts Around the World – Middle East: A Country Guide to Cultural and Social Taboos and Etiquette (International Traveler's Resource Guide)*. World Travel Institute Press, 1998.

Richmond, Yale and Gestrin, Phyllis. *Into Africa Intercultural Insights*. Intercultural Press, 1998.
<http://interculturalpress.com/shop/index.html>

Gruere, J.P. et Morel, P. *L'Afrique. Les aspects socio-culturels vus par les Français. L'Afrique Noire vue par les Français. Communications interculturelles*. Groupe E.S.C.P, 1989.

<http://dir.yahoo.com/Regional/Countries> ; www.africaonline.com ; www.africanet.com ; www.lonelyplanet.com

<http://www.702.co.za/> (this is a news and talk radio station in Johannesburg, South Africa, also available to listen via Windows Media Player)

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Important Information about AUSTRALIA

Academic-Year Scholars. Many graduate degree programs in Australia confer a degree in 3 semesters. The Academic-Year scholarship covers only two semesters. If scholars intend to remain in Australia for three semesters, the third semester is not covered by the Rotary Scholarship and must be covered with personal funds. A few institutions in Australia operate under a tri-semester system (3 semesters in 12 months). The Rotary Scholarship only covers two semesters.

Application to the university. Indicate on all correspondence to the study institution that you are a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar. If you are applying to a degree program, you may be required to submit proof that you will study for the entire length of the program. Many degree programs in Australia require fourteen months to four years for completion. If you have an Academic-Year Scholarship, it will only provide nine months of funding, so you must support yourself during any additional time if you plan to pursue a degree. Investigate gaining admission as a visiting student.

A minimum of one to two weeks is required for airmail letters to arrive in Australia. Letters sent via surface mail can take considerably longer. Correspondence via fax or e-mail may help you.

Start Date. You are required to follow the standard academic year at most study institutions in Australia, which will begin between January and March **2005**. You should not begin your study program at the start of the second semester (July or August 2004) because this may cause an inconvenience to your host district Rotarians and your study institution due to problems securing housing at that time of the year. Since no scholarship may begin before 1 July 2004 and all scholarships must begin before 30 June 2005, scholars may not begin their study period in the second semester (July or August 2005).

Housing. Australian Rotarians specifically request that you secure on-campus housing which you must arrange before your arrival. Your host counselor is not responsible for providing interim housing before your room is available at the university. If you arrive before your housing is available, you will be responsible for the costs of your lodging.

Visa issuance and required health coverage. Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholars are considered full-fee students. To obtain your visa, you must follow the instructions below and contact your nearest Australian embassy/consulate at least four months before your departure.

English Language Proficiency Test

For scholars whose native language is not English, an IELTS test score is required to receive a visa to study in Australia. TOEFL scores are not accepted. Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars may submit IELTS scores to The Rotary Foundation instead of TOEFL scores as their required pre-departure document.

An international draft payment (approximately A\$500 per year) must be forwarded to your assigned study institution to pay the **Overseas Student Health Coverage (OSHC)** fee. Your scholarship does not cover this expense. This mandatory insurance is necessary to obtain an Australian visa. You must purchase additional insurance to meet Rotary's minimum coverage requirements. The OSHC does not cover emergency evacuation, repatriation of remains or medical expenses when traveling outside of Australia, such as between your home and study country at the beginning and end of your scholarship term. After receiving your OSHC fee, your assigned study institution will issue you a Certificate of Enrollment, which serves as proof of your acceptance. Send this form with your visa application to the Australian embassy or consulate. A visa will not be issued until the Certificate of Enrollment is received.

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Advance tuition payment. Scholars will usually receive a Full Offer Letter (admission letter) from the university with a request that scholars sign and return the letter with a payment for the first semester's tuition and the OSHC. However, when returning the signed letter, Foundation scholars need only to include the following:

- OSHC payment
- A copy of the Letter of Financial Guarantee from The Rotary Foundation
- A statement advising the university that as a Rotary Scholar, you will not have access to your scholarship funds until your arrival in Australia, whereupon you will pay the full semester's fees for tuition and housing
- If the university requires a small deposit for tuition or housing prior to your arrival in Australia, you will need to cover this cost with personal funds until you receive your scholarship funds in Australia.

Resources.

Renwick, George. *A Fair Go for All: Australian and American Interactions*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, 1991.

Sharp, Ilsa. *Australia*. SB Graphic Arts Publishing, 2002.

Some of the following information on your host country is based on information provided by past scholars and is subject to change. Included in your packet is a list of prior year scholars who studied at or near the university where you have been assigned for study. These prior year scholars can offer a wealth of information and guidance on the university, housing, Rotary involvement, and more.

Important Information about BELGIUM

Application for Admission. We suggest that you begin the application process at your assigned study institution immediately upon receiving your assignment letter. Scholars should apply directly to their assigned study institution to the *1ere cycle*, *2ere cycle* or *3ere cycle* or *3eme candidature*. Application deadlines at most Belgian universities are in the spring, and are quite strict. You must submit all required application documents, exactly as specified, by the deadline or your application is at risk of not being considered for admission. Scholars who are not citizens of the European Union must have the equivalence of their secondary studies certified by the Belgian government as part of the application process. Information on getting certified equivalence can be provided by the assigned study institution.

Please note that it can be extremely difficult to contact university personnel from mid-May to mid-August, when many universities are closed for summer holidays. Please request that your assigned university give you an admission letter before the month of August (*confirmation d'inscription*) or a letter on university letterhead from a professor at the university confirming that he/she will supervise your studies in a certain department.

Visa issuance. The visa process in Belgium may be lengthy. Please contact a Belgian consulate as soon as possible to inquire about the visa procedures. Most universities are closed during the month of August for the summer holidays. Please request that your assigned university give you an admission letter before the month of August (*confirmation d'inscription*) or a letter on university letterhead from a professor at the university confirming that he/she will supervise your studies in a certain department). With this documentation, you will be able to apply for a visa.

Language Exams. All scholars assigned to Belgium must speak French unless requesting assignment to Dutch-speaking region, in which case proficiency in Dutch is mandatory. Academic-Year Scholars are required to take the Berlitz language exam in French or Dutch. If your assigned university is located in the south part of Belgium (Wallonie), including the cities of Liège, Namur, Charleroi, Mons, and Tournais, you are required to take the Berlitz exam for French. If your assigned university is located in the north part of Belgium (Flanders), including the cities of Antwerp, Ghent, and Brugge: you are required to take the Berlitz exam for Dutch. Scholars assigned to Brussels may take either the French or Dutch Berlitz exam. Approximately 40% of Belgians speak French and 60% of Belgians speak Dutch. Nearly all the Dutch speaking people can also speak French.

Start of the Academic Year in Belgium. The academic year in Belgium starts in September or October. Most Belgian universities do NOT offer a mid-year start date in January. Therefore, scholars who do not gain admission in a regular study program at their assigned university (or at a Foundation-approved university) for the fall will have to research alternate universities in other countries. Please note that this does not apply to research scholars whose start dates are flexible.

Similarly, Academic-Year Scholars who do not have a satisfactory result on the required Berlitz language exam by late August may jeopardize their scholarship. For this reason, scholars are encouraged to take the Berlitz exam as soon as possible.

Resources.

Miles, Rebecca. *Eyewitness Travel Guide to Brussels (Bruges, Ghent, and Antwerp)*. DK Publishing, 2000.

Shilling, Marvinna Andrus. *Update Belgium*. Intercultural Press, 1988.

Anselot, Noël. *Ces Belges qui ont fait la France*. Ed. France-Empire, 1982.

Hill, Richard. *We Europeans*. Europublications, Bruxelles, 1993.

Barzini, Luigi. *The Europeans*. Penguin books, 1983.

Lonely Planet guide to Belgium

Lonely Planet guide to Brussels

http://www.gacpc.com/gacpc/titles/title_pages/CSBEL.asp

www.belgium.com

www.lonelyplanet.com

www.tiscali.be

www.belgium.be

www.agers.cfwb.be

www.bruxelles.irisnet.be

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Important Information about CANADA

Academic year. Many graduate programs in Canada require twelve months or more of study to earn a degree. If you have an Academic-Year Scholarship, you will receive funding only for the regular academic year of the institution (usually eight months), so you must support yourself during any additional time you spend at your assigned institution or in your host country. The Rotary Foundation will cover two semesters of study, not three. Your round-trip airline tickets are not valid beyond twelve months from the original date of departure.

Tuition Deposits and Fees. If you are asked by your assigned institution to pay your tuition fees before arriving in Canada, explain that as a Rotary Foundation Scholar you will receive your scholarship funds upon arrival, and therefore you will be able to pay your tuition fees at that time. You should also submit a copy of your Letter of Financial Guarantee as proof of your scholarship funding. Any required tuition deposits, however, should be paid using personal funds, and will be reimbursed in one of your scholarship payments, provided you enroll at that institution.

Scholars Assigned to Study in Québec. Before applying for your student visa for Canada, you will need to obtain a *Certificat d'acceptation du Québec (CAQ)*. If there is not a Québec immigration service in your area, you should request a CAQ application by writing directly to the following address:

Direction régional de Québec
 Ministère des Relations avec les citoyens et de l'Immigration du Québec
 890, avenue De Lévis
 Québec (Québec) G1S 3E1 Canada
 Phone: (418) 643-1435 ; Fax: (418) 643-7460 ; Internet Site: <http://www.mrci.gouv.qc.ca>

Please begin this process early to allow sufficient time to obtain your CAQ and Canadian student visa.

Scholars assigned to study in Montréal. If you are assigned to study in Montréal and your native language is not French or English, you must submit proof of your language ability in one of these languages by taking the Rotary Berlitz or TOEFL exams (see your Scholar Handbook for more details). Since both French and English are widely spoken in Montréal, your knowledge of both languages would enhance your ability to serve as an ambassador of goodwill. Academic-Year Scholars may be provided funding for one month of intensive language training in *one* of these languages prior to the start of their academic studies. For example, if you are a native speaker of English, you may receive funding for one month of French language instruction in Québec, provided you have studied the French language previously. Please contact your Scholarship Coordinator for more details.

Resources.

International Students Handbook - 5th Ed. Ottawa, Ontario: Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), 1993.

Study in Canada. (www.studyincanada.com)

Information for foreign students, including information on housing, insurance, and study institutions, as well as general information on Canada and its educational system. In English, French, Spanish, and Japanese.

Canadian Bureau for International Education. (www.cbie.ca)

Information for international students, including immigration information in English, French, and Spanish.

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Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada. (www.aucc.ca)

Links to individual colleges and universities and general information for foreign students in English and French.

Citizenship and Immigration Canada. (www.cic.gc.ca).

Information on immigration requirements for foreign students in English and French.

About Canada. (www.canada.gc.ca/canadiana/cdaindex_e.html)

General information about Canada in English and French.

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Important Information about Egypt

Scholars assigned to American University in Cairo (AUC). All scholars must apply for regular coursework at the university: Rotary Academic-Year and Multi-Year scholarships may *not* be used for full-time Arabic language and culture classes at the affiliated Arabic Language Institute. Academic-Year scholars may attend a Foundation-funded, one-month intensive Arabic language course prior to the academic year upon request. Consult your Scholarship Coordinator for details. Since the language of instruction at AUC is English, Academic-year scholars who are not native speakers of English need to prove English language proficiency by taking and passing the TOEFL exam. When applying for admission at AUC, indicate on all correspondence that you are a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar, and include your Letter of Financial Guarantee with your application. AUC will waive the deposit for Rotary scholars and will bill The Rotary Foundation directly for tuition expenses only.

Academic-Year Scholars assigned to other institutions in Egypt. Academic-Year Scholars who are applying to institutions that require fluency in Arabic for coursework must pass a Rotary Berlitz language test before enrolling. Additional Foundation-funded language training in the host country may be available upon request if approved by The Rotary Foundation and the sponsoring Rotary District. If you are interested in pursuing a one-month Arabic language course in Egypt prior to beginning the academic year, please contact your Scholarship Coordinator for more details. You are responsible for providing all tuition cost information about language courses and regular coursework to your Scholarship Coordinator.

Cultural Scholars. Cultural Scholars going to Egypt will attend the Arabic Language Institute at AUC. Six-month Cultural Scholars should begin studies in the Spring semester and enroll for the summer session immediately following, or can enroll in the summer session and the fall semester following in order to remain in Egypt for 6 months. Please note that the Rotary Foundation will pay for the summer session tuition plus one semester's tuition, and 6 months of room and board for Six-month Cultural Scholars. Three-month Cultural Scholars should enroll for either the Fall or Spring semester at the Arabic Language Institute. Keep in mind that although the entire semester's tuition will be paid by the Rotary Foundation, only 3 months of room and board can be covered by the scholarship for Three-Month Cultural Scholars. *Cultural scholars wishing to remain in Egypt beyond the 3 or 6 month duration of their scholarships must do so at their own expense.*

Visa issuance. Consult your local Egyptian consulate for requirements on obtaining a student visa. Scholars from certain countries may arrive in Egypt on an entry visa and then apply for an extended student visa with their school enrollment. If you are eligible for an entry visa, make sure it will be released to you at least two months before departure (for submission to The Rotary Foundation) and that it will remain valid until a student visa can be secured in Egypt. Other scholars may need to obtain a regular student visa before entering Egypt. In either case, you must secure a student visa for the entire period of study in Egypt.

Safety. Upon arrival in Egypt, you should contact your national Embassy or Consular unit to register your local address, telephone, email, and emergency contact information. The Embassies and Consular offices provide travel warnings and emergency advisories during the year so that you can be aware of potential safety issues. All scholars are urged to stay informed of local and international political developments and to exercise caution while traveling abroad.

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Resources.

Nydell, Margaret K. Omar. *Understanding Arabs: A Guide for Westerners*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, 1997.

Nwanna, Gladson I. *Do's and Don'ts Around the World – Middle East: A Country Guide to Cultural and Social Taboos and Etiquette (International Traveler's Resource Guide)*. World Travel Institute Press, 1998.

Wilson, Susan L. *Culture Shock! Egypt*. SB Graphic Arts Center Publishing, 2002.

www.mfa.gov.eg (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Web site – link to Arab Republic of Egypt)

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Important Information about FRANCE

Admission. Many public universities in France offer study programs for non-native speakers of French (*études françaises pour étudiants étrangers*). These programs are essentially a year of language training, combining language courses with supplementary courses in cultural studies, geography, anthropology, history, political science, etc. Academic-Year and Multi-Year Scholarships should not be used for these programs. When applying to a French national university, plan to apply to the *premier, deuxième* or *troisième cycle*.

When applying to the *premier cycle* (corresponding to the first two years of French university study), you must apply for admission through a local French Embassy or Consulate in your home country. **The deadline for application usually falls in January or February. Please obtain application materials and begin the application process immediately. If you have missed this deadline, investigate the possibility of being a full-time auditor/visiting student at your assigned university (Academic-Year Scholars) and contact your Scholarship Coordinator to discuss alternative study options. Please note that most universities are closed during the month of August for the summer holidays. Please request that your assigned university give you an admission letter before the month of August (*confirmation d'inscription*) or a letter on university letterhead from a professor at the university confirming that he/she will supervise your studies in a certain department. With this documentation, you will be able to apply for a visa in August.**

If you are applying to either the *deuxième cycle* or *troisième cycle* at a French national university, you may not be able to obtain an official admission letter until shortly before your studies begin. Therefore, we ask that you please forward copies of any documents obtained from your assigned institution regarding your admission status, such as an *attestation de pre-inscription*, or letter from a professor agreeing to supervise your research.

Start of the Academic Year in France. The academic year in France starts in late September or October. Most French universities do NOT offer a mid-year start date in January. Therefore, scholars who do not gain admission in a regular study program at their assigned university (or at a Foundation-approved alternate university) for the fall will have to research alternate universities in other countries. Please note that this does not apply to research scholars whose start dates are flexible. Similarly, Academic-Year Scholars who do not have a satisfactory result on the Berlitz language exam by late August may jeopardize their scholarship. For this reason, scholars are encouraged to take the Berlitz exam as soon as possible.

Entry to France. In addition to your student visa, which you must obtain prior to departure, you will require a *carte de séjour* as a student in France. Within a few days of your arrival in France, you must apply for your *carte de séjour* with the local *préfecture de police* by presenting copies of all documents that were required when applying for your visa. You will also need to provide proof of insurance coverage and medical exam. Please inquire with a local French consulate regarding the specific documents required and bring additional copies of these documents with you to France.

National Insurance. Once you arrive in France, you will be required by French universities to be covered under the *Securité Sociale* (French national insurance). Please remember that the national insurance in France does **not** meet the insurance requirements of The Rotary Foundation: it does not cover you during your travel dates to France and back home, nor does it cover you for medical evacuation and repatriation of remains. Please plan to use your contingency fund to defray this cost (usually 175 Euro).

Transportation. All Academic-Year and Cultural Scholars assigned to France who make their travel arrangements through RITS are flown into Paris. If your assigned study city is not Paris, you should take the train to your study city. The Rotary Foundation will reimburse you for a round-trip train ticket from Paris to your study city and back (TGV-coach class). You may make your train ticket reservations online at www.sncf.fr or www.raileurope.com.

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Housing. In France, you may rent an apartment for six months or a year. You may be asked to pay a refundable deposit of three months rent to secure your apartment. Therefore, we recommend that you research housing options as far in advance as possible and bring some personal funds with you if you would like to secure your housing. You may wish to do this prior to receiving your first scholarship check. If you have been assigned to Paris, we recommend that you contact your Rotarian host counselor in advance and request some assistance with finding housing (also see below for tips on finding housing in Paris).

International student offices at the universities to which you are applying and your local French consulate are also good resources for information on housing. Once you are in France and have your *carte de séjour*, you can apply to the CAF (Caisse d'Allocations Familiales) for housing financial assistance.

French Alumni Association. The *Association des Boursiers de la Fondation Rotary* is an organization of former Rotary Scholars who reside in France (see website address below). Each year the *Association*, in conjunction with Rotary districts in France, sponsors several activities for all Rotary Scholars studying in France. The first planned activity is usually a welcome weekend held in Paris near the end of September. All Rotary Scholars are required to attend this event if they have arrived in France to begin their scholarship term.

You will be receiving correspondence from the *Association* with more information about the group and its activities. Note that you may use a portion of your contingency fund to help pay for these activities (Academic-Year and Cultural Scholars). Former Rotary Scholars who have studied in France often remark that the time spent with the *Association* and other Rotary Scholars was one of the highlights of their year in France.

Resources. To prepare for your studies in France, you should read the publication *I'm going to France*. You may request a copy of this book from your local French consulate or by writing to the Centre International des Etudiants et Stagiaires (CIES), 18, rue de la Grange-aux-Bells, 75010, Paris.

Daley, Robert. *Portraits of France*. Boston: Little, Brown, and Co., 1991.

Platt, Polly. *French or Foe?: Getting the Most Out of Visiting, Living, and Working in France*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, 1995.

Hall, Edward T. and Hall, Mildred. *Understanding Cultural Differences (Germans, French and Americans)*. Intercultural Press, 1990.

Bernstein, Richard. *Fragile Glory, a Portrait of France and the French*. Ed. Alfred A. Knopf, New-York, 1990.

Zeldin, Théodore. *Les Français*. Points actuels, Seuil, 1983.

Merk, Vincent und Browaey, Marie-Joëlle. *Frankrijk*. Wolters-Noordhoff Groningen, 1992.

Hill, Richard. *We Europeans*. Europublications, Bruxelles, 1993.

Barzini, Luigi. *The Europeans*. Penguin books, 1983.

-www.education.gouv.fr

-www.recherche.gouv.fr

-www.yahoo.fr (click on 1. Enseignement et Formation, 2. Enseignement Supérieur, 3. Ecoles, Universités et Facultés)

-<http://www.info-france-usa.org/>

-<http://french.about.com/>

-www.doucefrance.com

-www.france-universite.net

-www.afusa.org (Alliance Francaise USA)

Tips on finding housing in Paris: -www.fusac.fr (Contacts for English speakers in Paris; housing tips)
 -Check the Cité Universitaire for affordable dorm rooms on the city's south side
 -Check daily postings for housing offers at the "American Church" in Paris
 -Contact apartment agents in your host club
 -Check the www.caf.fr website (for financial assistance)

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Important Information on GREECE and CYPRUS

Language requirements. Scholars who seek assignment to Greece or Cyprus must have some background in the modern Greek language, as the language of instruction at most institutions is Greek. If the language of instruction at the Greek or Cypriot institution is English, scholars must prove proficiency in both English and Greek. Because there are no Rotary clubs in Turkish Cyprus, assignments will be considered only to Greek Cyprus.

Additional Foundation-funded language training in the host country is available upon request and only if approved by The Rotary Foundation and the sponsoring Rotary District. If you are interested in pursuing a one-month Greek language course in Greece/Cyprus prior to beginning the academic year, please contact your Scholarship Coordinator for more details.

Visa. All students must obtain a student visa. Please contact the appropriate Consulate for information on the visa process.

Safety. Upon arrival in your study country, you should contact your national Embassy or Consular unit to register your local address, telephone, email, and emergency contact information. The Embassies and Consular offices provide travel warnings and emergency advisories during the year so that you can be aware of potential safety issues. All scholars are urged to stay informed of local and international political developments and to exercise caution while traveling abroad.

Resources.

Broome, Benjamin. *Exploring the Greek Mosaic. A Guide to Intercultural Communication in Greece.* Intercultural Press, 1996.

Rawlins, Clive L. *Greece.* SB Graphic Arts Center Publishing, 2002.

<http://www.greekembassy.org/> (Greek Embassy in USA)

<http://www.greece.gr/> (General information on Greece)

<http://www.ana.gr/> (Athens News Agency)

http://www.learningenrichment.org/greece_stud.html (studying in Greece)

<http://www.embassyworld.com/embassy/cyprus1.htm> (Embassies of Cyprus around the world)

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Important Information about INDIA

Admission to Indian institutions. Be patient but persistent when applying for admission. Contact your host Rotarians as soon as possible; they may be able to assist you with admission and housing. It is often difficult to receive information in writing. Phone calls, faxes, e-mail and/or a contact person in India will assist you in gathering the documents needed. Do not expect that after submitting your application, a Letter of Acceptance will come in a timely manner; keep calling them until you receive an answer. We recommend you apply to other study institutions in addition to your assigned study institution and be flexible with regard to your departure date and final destination. Maintain good communication with your Scholarship Coordinator for help in preparing for your departure. Universities begin in late July, so begin the application process immediately and earnestly.

Visas. Scholars interested in conducting research in India are required to receive a special visa, which requires much more time and paperwork than the regular student visa. The American Institute of Indian Studies is a good source for assistance with information regarding the necessary requirements for the visa. Their website is <http://www.indiastudies.org/>

Guidelines for visa applicants can be found at http://www.indianembassy.or/consular/visa_guide.htm. For the nearest Indian Consulate/Embassy to you, please see this page: <http://www.indianembassy.org/links/indialinks.htm> and click on the link entitled "Web Sites of Indian Missions". Important: Ensure your visa is endorsed to your study institution. If you forget to have them do this, it will cause some problems in India, but you should be able to fix it with the help of your study institution after arrival.

Language requirements. Scholars must score at least 173 (computer-based) or 500 (paper-based) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). In order to better fulfill their ambassadorial obligations, scholars should plan to take classes in Hindi, Urdu or any of the other fourteen official languages, depending on the region where they will be studying.

Additional Foundation-funded language training in the host country may be available upon request if approved by The Rotary Foundation and the sponsoring Rotary District.

Restricted Currency. Please note that India has a policy of restricted currency. It is not possible to send rupees out of the country to pay credit card bills or other bills in your home country. Please budget your credit card and other expenses accordingly, as your scholarship funding will be provided to you in rupees upon your arrival, and not in any other currency nor prior to your departure.

Communications. Regular mail may take up to four weeks to get through to its destination. When a direct phone call is not possible, communicate by fax and/or e-mail. Even so, many parts of India experience frequent "brown-outs" of electricity that may sometimes disrupt electronic communications.

Air Travel. The months of November through February tend to be the busiest months for travel to and from India. If you are traveling to or from India during this time, please be prepared to be flexible on your flight date, as seat availability may be lower than usual.

Resources.

Kolanad, Gitanjal. *Culture Shock: India*. (Culture Shock guides) June 2001.
http://www.gacpc.com/gacpc/titles/title_pages/CSINR1.asp

Naipaul, V.S. *A Million Mutinies Now*, Viking Penguin. 1991

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Tharoor, Shashi. *India: From Midnight to the Millennium*. 2001

Tharoor, Shashi. *The Great Indian Novel*. 1993

<http://humanities.uchicago.edu/orgs/aiis/hp.htm>
(for research students)

<http://www.indiagov.org/culture/iccr/studyinindia.htm>

www.lonelyplanet.com

Some of the following information on your host country is based on information provided by past scholars and is subject to change. Included in your packet is a list of prior year scholars who studied at or near the university where you have been assigned for study. These prior year scholars can offer a wealth of information and guidance on the university, housing, Rotary involvement, and more.

Important Information about SINGAPORE and HONG KONG

Language requirements. Scholars must score at least a 173 (computer-based) or 500 (paper-based) on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). In Hong Kong, fluency in Cantonese or Mandarin Chinese is also acceptable and recommended.

Additional Foundation-funded language training in the host country is available if requested and approved by The Rotary Foundation and the sponsoring Rotary District.

University housing on campus in Singapore may be difficult to obtain; look into reserving a place when your application for admission is submitted. Universities in Singapore begin in late July or early August, so you are encouraged to begin the application process immediately.

Resources.

Brooks, John W. "The Pacific Rim." *Passport Pal*; \$29.95.

Order toll-free by calling 888 PASSPAL (727-7725) or via e-mail at jwbrooks@passportpal.com.

Craig, JoAnn Meriwether. *Culture Shock! Singapore*. SB Graphic Arts Publishing, 2002. Order toll free in the USA 1-800-452-3032, or at bookstores. http://www.gacpc.com/gacpc/titles/title_pages/CSSINR1.asp

Fallon, Steve. *Hong Kong & Macau*. Lonely Planet Publishing, 2002. www.lonelyplanet.com

Li, Elizabeth; Wei, Betty Peh-Ti; *Culture Shock! Hong Kong*. SB Graphic Arts Publishing, 2002. Order toll free in the USA 1-800-452-3032, or at bookstores. http://www.gacpc.com/gacpc/titles/title_pages/CSHKR1.asp

Richmond, Simon. *Singapore*. Lonely Planet Publishing, 2003. www.lonelyplanet.com

Sous la Direction de Gentelle, Pierre. *Chine. Peuples et civilisation*. La Découverte, 1997.

Some of the following information on your host country is based on information provided by past scholars and is subject to change. Included in your packet is a list of prior year scholars who studied at or near the university where you have been assigned for study. These prior year scholars can offer a wealth of information and guidance on the university, housing, Rotary involvement, and more.

Important Information about ITALY

During the month of August, Italy celebrates *Ferragosto*, and much of the country goes on vacation. Most offices, institutions, and businesses are closed, and many locals are away on holiday. It is essential that you resolve all scholarship-related issues (including contacting your Rotarian host counselor) before the month of August. Since most academic programs in Italy begin in October or November, you should strive to submit all of your pre-departure documents to your Scholarship Coordinator before August.

Admission to state institutions. All scholars seeking admission to an Italian state university for enrollment in *Corsi Singoli* (non-degree seeking courses) must apply via the Italian consulate with territorial jurisdiction over their state or country of residence. You may not apply to the university directly. Since each consulate has a very specific application format that requires various documents, please contact the Italian consulate nearest you for instructions. You should contact the university directly or use the relative website/program literature to find the cost information to send to your Scholarship Coordinator.

In most cases, you must prove enrollment in an accredited university or college in your country of origin in order to gain admission to an Italian state university. Therefore, your consulate may require that you be a student pursuing a degree in your home country. You must specify in your application that you will return to your university to complete your program. Students enrolling in *Corsi Singoli* should not be required to take a language examination in order to gain admission to the state universities, although this rule can vary according to universities and programs. The university or the consulate should be able to provide an admission letter or *nulla osta*, which declares that nothing will prevent your enrollment in the university once you pay the tuition fees. If a *nulla osta* is not available from the registrar's office or from the consulate, you should provide a letter from a professor that will supervise your studies during the year.

Start the process for application as soon as possible after receiving your assignment: deadlines can vary among consulates, and yours may have an early deadline by which to submit the application request. It can take several months to process admission to a state university, so you should gather appropriate information from the Italian consulate immediately. All costs for applications are your responsibility.

Admission to private study institutions. Applications to private study institutions in Italy should be handled directly with the study institution. Remember that your letter of admission must be unconditional. Therefore, if you are required to pass a language examination or another type of test upon arrival in order to enroll, your admission cannot be guaranteed until you have successfully passed all entrance exams. You will be responsible for expenses incurred until you can confirm admission and have submitted all pre-departure documents to your Scholarship Coordinator at The Rotary Foundation. After admission is granted from the university in writing, you may request reimbursement with your receipts for any Rotary-approved language training taken in the meantime and for room and board during language training. If you know you must take an entrance exam before enrolling, you should submit an Option 2 Scholar Ticket Purchase Request Form to arrange for your own travel, and later seek reimbursement after admission is gained.

Admission to music study institutions. Most conservatories and music schools in Italy require applicants to audition in person. If possible, you should arrange to travel to Italy with your own funds to audition in advance and secure your admission. However, please keep in mind that you must be in your home country to apply for a study visa to Italy: it is not possible to apply for a visa while in Italy. If you cannot audition until shortly before the academic year, you should submit an Option 2 Scholar Ticket Purchase Request Form to arrange your own travel and reimbursement after admission is gained. It is in your best interest to apply to more than one Foundation-approved study institution and schedule all of your auditions around the same time so that you may increase your chances of gaining admission to a music school in Italy. Some schools are very competitive. See the Scholarships Handbook and enclosed materials for further information about "Alternate Study Institutions" and "Travel."

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Remember that the Foundation cannot provide any scholarship funds until your admission is confirmed in writing and your pre-departure documents are submitted. After admission is granted, you may request reimbursement with your receipts for any Rotary-approved language training taken in the meantime, and for room and board during language training.

Visa and Permesso di Soggiorno. You must enter Italy on a student visa that covers the duration of your study period. You should report to the Questura in the city of your assigned study institution (if different from the city where you had language training) within one week of arrival in order to apply for a *permesso di soggiorno*. This process may take several weeks to months, and will require several forms of documentation, including the Letter of Financial Guarantee and insurance coverage. If you have purchased one of the Rotary-approved insurance policies for study abroad, this policy should be valid for the insurance required by the Questura, and you should provide a copy of your insurance card or literature explaining the international coverage of the policy. To avoid long lines and returning several times, you should find out in advance which documents the Questura requires for the *permesso di soggiorno* application. Remember to make copies of your visa application materials and all other material submitted for your *permesso di soggiorno*. The cost for the *permesso di soggiorno* may be paid for out of your contingency fund, if necessary (applicable for Academic-Year and Cultural Scholars).

Housing. Housing can be very expensive in Italy, and hard to find at the last minute. Many housing contracts are finalized in the summer months before the *ferragosto* break, so you should start looking for economical housing as soon as possible. Ask your university if they have student residences, “*collegi universitari*”, “*studentati*”, or a student housing service. Your host Rotarians may be able to assist you in this search, but they are under no obligation to do so. You are strongly encouraged to contact Rotary scholars from the previous year to inquire about a housing exchange and to find out about the best lodging options in your study city. You may also want to research possibilities available to “Erasmus” students (European exchange students in Italy) as there are many resources for them through the Italian university that may be applicable to you as a European or non-European foreign student. The following website also has apartment listings for cities in Italy: www.postoletto.com

Resources.

Barzini, Luigi. *The Italians*. Atheneum, 1996.

Costantino, Mario and Gambella, Lawrence R. *The Italian Way: Aspects of Behavior, Attitudes, and Customs of the Italians*. McGraw-Hill NTC, 1996.

Falassi, Alessandro and Flower, Raymond. *Culture Shock! Italy*. SB Graphic Arts Center Publishing, 2002.

Neighbor, Travis and Lerner, Monica. *Living, Studying and Working in Italy: Everything You Need to Know to Fulfill Your Dreams of Living Abroad*. New York: Henry Holt & Co., Ltd., 1998.

Hill, Richard. *We Europeans*. Europublications, Bruxelles, 1993.

Barzini, Luigi. *The Europeans*. Penguin books, 1983.

www.virgilio.it (Italian search engine. Click on *education* and *siti di laurea—la guida alle universita' italiane* for links to state schools, or click on *scegliere l'universita—l'orientamento universitario* for general information).

www.istruzione.it (government site for the department of public education)

Some of the following information on your host country is based on information provided by past scholars and is subject to change. Included in your packet is a list of prior year scholars who studied at or near the university where you have been assigned for study. These prior year scholars can offer a wealth of information and guidance on the university, housing, Rotary involvement, and more.

Important Information about JAPAN

Japanese Language. All Academic-Year Ambassadorial Scholars (excluding Japan Ambassadorial Scholarship recipients) are required to pass the Level I of the Japanese language Proficiency Examination (日本語能力試験) administered by the Japanese government every December as part of their pre-departure preparation. Please schedule this exam as soon as possible. Information on this examination can be found at <http://momo.jpf.go.jp/hiroba/home.html>. *Scholars who are unable to pass Level I of the Japanese Language Proficiency Examination are urged to contact their Scholarship Coordinator immediately to discuss other alternatives.*

Admission. The academic year in Japan begins in April. However, many study institutions allow international students to begin mid-year (in September or October) provided they have already passed the Level I Examination described above within the past two years. If you plan to begin your studies mid-year, please contact your assigned study institution immediately, as application procedures may take as long as six months to complete. Because obtaining a student visa may take several more months, timely application to your assigned study institution is critical. *Please note that 2004-2005 scholars may not begin their studies in April 2004.*

Visa. Because it may take several months to obtain a student visa to Japan, you are encouraged to initiate the visa application procedure immediately after being admitted to your assigned study institution. If you are a Japan, Academic-year, Multi-year or Six-month Ambassadorial Scholar, you must have a “Certificate of Eligibility” to apply for a student or pre-college student visa at a Japanese embassy or consulate. Your assigned study institution should apply to the Ministry of Justice in Japan for your Certificate of Eligibility as soon as you are admitted. *You should immediately request the help of your host Rotarians if you experience any problems with your Certificate of Eligibility or visa applications.*

Housing. Housing in Japan can be expensive and difficult to locate. You are advised to begin looking for housing as soon as possible. While many universities do not have housing available for international students, they may be able to assist you with your search. You may also request assistance from your host Rotarians, but you should keep in mind that your host Rotarians are not obligated to make housing arrangements for you. Scholars who will be studying in Tokyo may seek assistance through the Center for Domestic and Foreign Students’ Tokyo Student Housing Guidance Office, 1-21 Yotsuya, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160, Japan, +81-3-3359-5997 tel.

Insurance. Japanese law stipulates that international students residing in Japan for twelve months or more are required to enroll in the National Health Insurance system. International students residing in Japan for less than twelve months are eligible but not required to enroll (please note that most Three-Month Cultural Ambassadorial Scholars cannot register as residents of Japan and are therefore ineligible). Because the National Health Insurance does not cover medical evacuation or repatriation of remains, if you intend to enroll in the National Health Insurance you must obtain a supplemental insurance policy for medical evacuation and repatriation of remains. Furthermore, because you may not enroll in the National Health Insurance System until you have completed alien registration procedures in Japan, you must also obtain a policy to cover your travel and initial stay in Japan. Supplemental policies may be arranged through some travel agencies or through the companies whose brochures are included elsewhere in your Acceptance Packet. Please submit to your Scholarship Coordinator a Certificate of Insurance Coverage for each policy you secure.

Resources.

Association of International Education, Japan (<http://www.aiej.or.jp/index1e.html>)

4-5-29 Komaba, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 153, Tel.: +81-3-5454-5216 Fax: +81-3-5454-5236

Information for international students in English, Japanese, Korea, Chinese, Thai, and Bahasa. Publishes “Student Guide to Japan,” which is also available online.

Center for Domestic and Foreign Students (<http://www.naigai.or.jp/>)

Practical Information on living and studying in Japan, including information on housing, in English and Japanese.

Japan Information Network (<http://www.jinjapan.org/>)
General information on Japan, including geography and culture.

De Mente, Boye. *Behind the Japanese Bow: An In-Depth Guide to Understanding and Predicting Japanese Behavior.* Lafayette. Intercultural Press, 1993.

Finklestein, Barbara. *Transcending Stereotypes: Discovering Japanese Culture and Education.* Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, 1991.

A Guide to Living Abroad: A Practical Reference for Living in Japan. Princeton, NJ: Living Abroad Publishing, Inc. 1995.

Barnlund, Dean C. *Communicative Styles of Japanese and Americans: Images and Realities.* Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1989.

Condon, John and Kurata, Keisuke. *In Search of What's Japanese about Japan.* Shufunotomo, Tokyo.

Condon, John. *With Respect to the Japanese. A Guide for Americans.* Intercultural Press, 1984.

Some of the following information on your host country is based on information provided by past scholars and is subject to change. Included in your packet is a list of prior-year scholars who studied at or near the university where you have been assigned for study. These prior-year scholars can offer a wealth of information and guidance on the university, housing, Rotary involvement, and more.

Important Information about KOREA

Scholarship Term. The academic year in Korea begins in March. However, many study institutions allow international students to enter at the beginning of the second semester in September. *Please note that 2004-05 scholars may not begin their studies in March 2004.* The academic year is ten months in length, with two-month breaks between terms. Scholars that remain in their host districts during the break will receive ten months of room and board funding. Scholars that depart their host district during the break will receive only eight months of room and board funding.

Korean Language. All Academic-Year Ambassadorial Scholars are required to pass a Berlitz Korean language exam as part of their pre-departure preparation. Please schedule this exam as soon as possible. *Academic-Year Ambassadorial Scholars may not use their scholarship to pursue language studies.*

Resources.

International Cooperation Bureau
Ministry of Education
77 Sejong-ro 1-ka, Chongro-gu
Seoul, 110-760 Korea
+82-2-720-3405 tel
+82-2-720-1501 fax
<http://www.moe.go.kr/>

Sonja Vegdahl Hur, *Culture Shock! Korea*. Graphic Arts Center Publishing, 2002

www.lonelyplanet.com

Some of the following information on your host country is based on information provided by past scholars and is subject to change. Included in your packet is a list of prior-year scholars who studied at or near the university where you have been assigned for study. These prior-year scholars can offer a wealth of information and guidance on the university, housing, Rotary involvement, and more.

Important Information about LEBANON

Language requirement. Scholars who seek assignment to Lebanon must speak Arabic, as this is the language of instruction at most institutions. If the language of instruction at the Lebanese institution is English or French, scholars must prove proficiency in Arabic and the additional language(s).

Additional Foundation-funded language training in the host country is available upon request and only if approved by The Rotary Foundation and the sponsoring Rotary District. If you wish to continue taking an Arabic language course during the academic year, please contact your Scholarship Coordinator for more details.

Visa. All scholars must obtain a student visa that covers the entire length of stay. Please contact the Lebanese Consulate in your jurisdiction for information on the visa process for your country. **You will not be able to enter Lebanon if your passport holds an Israeli visa or stamp.**

Safety. Upon arrival in Lebanon, you should contact your national Embassy or Consular unit to register your local address, telephone, email, and emergency contact information. The Embassies and Consular offices provide travel warnings and emergency advisories during the year so that you can be aware of potential safety issues. All scholars are urged to stay informed of local and international political developments and to exercise caution while traveling abroad.

Resources.

Friedman, Thomas L. *From Beirut to Jerusalem*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1991.

Nydell, Margaret K. Omar. *Understanding Arabs: A Guide for Westerners*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, 1997.

Nwanna, Gladson I. *Do's and Don'ts Around the World – Middle East: A Country Guide to Cultural and Social Taboos and Etiquette (International Traveler's Resource Guide)*. World Travel Institute Press.

Peroncel-Hugoz, Jean-Pierre. *Une croix sur le Liban*-1984

www.dailystar.com.lb

Some of the following information on your host country is based on information provided by past scholars and is subject to change. Included in your packet is a list of prior year scholars who studied at or near the university where you have been assigned for study. These prior year scholars can offer a wealth of information and guidance on the university, housing, Rotary involvement, and more.

Important Information about Mexico, Central and South America

Communication. Mail delivery can be unreliable, involving delays or loss of mailed items. Use private courier services such as DHL, TNT Skypak, Emery, Federal Express, etc., and establish a university contact person by telephone when sending application materials and correspondence. Use of fax or e-mail is also strongly recommended.

Admission to institutions. Be prepared to make extra efforts when working through admission procedures. Responses to applicant inquiries can be slow. Do not be discouraged by the lack of response if you apply early. You should apply to at least one Foundation-approved alternate study institution as a precaution. Private institutions are sometimes more responsive to international students than public institutions.

Visa issuance. Investigate visa requirements for your study country as soon as possible. Procedures for visa acquisition can be lengthy, complex, and expensive. You may be required to provide a police report, proof of financial solvency (usually in the form of a notarized personal bank account statement) in addition to the Letter of Financial Guarantee from The Rotary Foundation, and/or results of an HIV test. You may also be required to produce a letter of admission from your assigned institution with a signed stamp from the Ministry of Education. If a flight itinerary and/or ticket is required, please contact your Scholarships Coordinator. Contact the nearest consulate or embassy of your assigned country four or five months prior to your planned departure date for detailed instructions about the procedures you will need to follow and the documents you should prepare before and after your arrival in your study country. Note that some countries will not issue a visa more than one month in advance of your departure.

Academic calendar. The academic year in most Central American and South American countries is usually 9 or 10 months long. Mexico and Ecuador follow a Northern Hemisphere schedule (regular classes begin Sept/Oct). The rest of Central and South America follow a Southern Hemisphere schedule (regular classes begin Jan/Feb). Scholars must enroll for the regular academic year, as universities and host Rotarians are not able to accommodate starts at the second term. Please discuss your plans with your Scholarships Coordinator at the Foundation.

Housing. Because many universities do not have dormitories on campus, you should contact your Rotarian host counselor as soon as possible to request assistance in finding housing. Your Scholarship Coordinator and former scholars may be able to offer additional resources as well. Some scholars live in *pensiones* or with local families. If you want to rent an apartment, you may want to ask your host counselor to help you find a roommate.

Police Registration. Most scholars will be required to register with the police within three to six months of their arrival. Please check with the consulate or embassy of your study country to determine when you will need to register with the police and what documents you will need to bring with you to register.

Crime. The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. U.S. citizens may refer to the Department of State's pamphlet, *A Safe Trip Abroad*, <http://travel.state.gov/asafetripabroad.html> for ways to promote a trouble-free journey. Please be sure to read the information provided in this link (especially the country specific information). The pamphlet is available by mail from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, via the internet at <http://www.access.gpo.gov>, or via the Bureau of Consular Affairs home page at <http://travel.state.gov>.

Resources.

Harrison, Phyllis A. *Behaving Brazilian. A Comparison of Brazilian and North American Social Behavior*. Newbury House Publishers, 1983.

Condon, John. *Good Neighbors: Communicating with the Mexicans*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, 1985. (also available in Spanish: *Buenos Vecinos*)

Fantini, A. et al (Eds.). *Living in Mexico*. Brattleboro, VT: Pro Lingua Associates, ISBN 0-86647-057-3.

Hutchison, William and Poznanski, Cynthia. *Living in Colombia*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, 1987.

Paz, Octavio. *The Labyrinth of Solitude (Understanding the Mexican)*. New York: Grove Press, 1961.

Popular Culture in Chile: Resistance and Survival. Boulder, San Francisco and Oxford: Westview Press, 1991.

Latin America.

<http://www.terra.com/espanol.htm>

<http://cgi.starmedia.com>

<http://www.buscapique.com/buscarotary/buscafile/rotary.htm>

<http://www.rotaryspain.org/rota-latino/es/portada.html?10831709>

Argentina.

<http://www.uol.com.ar>

<http://www.buenosaires.gov.ar>

Bolivia.

<http://www.boliviaweb.com>

Brazil.

<http://www.porta.com.br/Educacao>

<http://www.uol.com.br>

Chile.

<http://www.uol.cl>

Colombia.

<http://www.uol.com.co/>

Costa Rica.

http://www.embassyworld.com/embassy/costa_rica1.htm

<http://www.ticotimes.net/>

Ecuador.

<http://www.ecuador.studyabroad.com>

<http://www.eldiario.com.ec>

Mexico.

<http://www.uol.com.mx/>

<http://www.consulmexny.org>

Uruguay.

<http://us.uruguaytotal.com/>

Paraguay.

http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/south_america/paraguay/

Venezuela.

<http://www.uole.com.ve>

Some of the following information on your host country is based on information provided by past scholars and is subject to change. Included in your packet is a list of prior year scholars who studied at or near the university where you have been assigned for study. These prior year scholars can offer a wealth of information and guidance on the university, housing, Rotary involvement, and more.

Important Information about SPAIN and PORTUGAL

Academic programs. Many public universities in Spain or Portugal automatically enroll non-native speakers of Spanish or Portuguese in foreign student programs. These programs are essentially a year of language training, combining language courses with supplementary courses in cultural studies, geography, anthropology, history, political science, etc. Academic-Year and Multi-Year Scholarships should not be used for these programs. When applying, especially at large public universities, request admission to a specific program or department, or ask to be admitted as a visiting student (SP: *alumno visitante or oyente*. PO: *ouvinte*).

Applications. Generally, there are no official university application forms. You will be required to send several notarized documents, such as a letter of introduction, a resume, an essay, and a photograph of yourself. All written documents must be completed in or translated into Spanish or Portuguese. If you are an Academic-Year Scholar, you have the option of applying to a degree program or attending as a visiting student. The application process for visiting student status is more simplified than the process for degree programs. No matter what program you apply for, you should specifically request that they send you a letter of acceptance.

Communicating with universities. It is essential to begin applying for admission four to five months before you plan to begin your studies. During the summer months, particularly July and August, most university officials are on vacation and offices are closed. Direct your inquiries to a specific program or department. Tuition fees and start dates for classes may vary, so inquire what they are for your program of study and inform your Scholarship Coordinator.

Matriculation. It is likely that your letter of acceptance to the university will be an informal letter inviting you to register for classes. In most cases you will not be able to plan your classes until you arrive at the university in person to register. Past scholars have advised bringing copies of your original admission documents, especially several official copies of your transcript and diploma, with you to registration.

In Spain, university matriculation packets can often be found at *estancos*, which are small tobacco shops found throughout most cities in Spain. *Estancos* also sell stamps and dispense government forms as well as other official documents.

Visa issuance. Scholars from the European Union will not need a visa. All other scholars are issued student visas which expire after 90 days. You will need to go to the police station to begin the process of getting your student identification card to extend your visa. This process could take some time and past scholars have advised beginning the process as soon as you arrive. Make sure you bring with you copies of the documents that were required when applying for your visa originally. You will also be able to get your identification number at the police station. Scholars have reported that the ID number may be necessary to obtain a bank account.

Housing. Try to secure housing ahead of time, especially if you are assigned to study in Spain. Contact past Ambassadorial Scholars (see list included in your Acceptance Packet). Contact your assigned university about housing options (lodging on campus may be limited and is often on a first-come, first-served basis). Although a host counselor should be appointed to you prior to the start of your academic studies, you may not have received his or her contact information prior to your departure. Therefore, do not solely rely on your host counselor for assistance with respect to housing.

General advice for Spain-bound scholars. Virtually everyone in Spain has a cellular phone, often using it for text-messaging. A cellular phone will be useful for securing housing in your assigned study city.

Resources.

Casas, Penelope. *Discovering Spain: An uncommon Guide (2nd Edition)*. New York: Dimensions, 1996.

Hooper, John. *The New Spaniards*. New York: Penguin Books, 1995.

Ames, Helen Wattle. *Spain is Different*. Intercultural Press, 1992.

Hill, Richard. *We Europeans*. Europublications, Bruxelles, 1993.

Barzini, Luigi. *The Europeans*. Penguin books, 1983.

Spain.

www.embassyworld.com

<http://www.buscapique.com/espana>

www.cpnl.org/presentacio/welcome/htm and www.cpnl.org/ensenyament/index.htm (free Catalán language training)

www.elpais.es (El Pais newspaper)

www2.abc.es (ABC)

<http://www.rotaryspain.org/>

http://www.gacpc.com/gacpc/titles/title_pages/CSSPAR1.asp

http://www.gacpc.com/gacpc/titles/title_pages/CSBAR.asp

Portugal.

<http://portugal-info.com/>

<http://www.the-news.net/>

<http://www.portugal.org/>

Some of the following information on your host country is based on information provided by past scholars and is subject to change. Included in your packet is a list of prior year scholars who studied at or near the university where you have been assigned for study. These prior year scholars can offer a wealth of information and guidance on the university, housing, Rotary involvement, and more.

Important Information about THE NETHERLANDS

Academic programs. Graduate programs in the Netherlands are taught in either Dutch or English. Scholars applying to a Dutch-taught program must have proficiency in Dutch, and scholars applying to English-taught programs must have proficiency in English.

Scholars applying for admission to a Dutch-taught program may be required to pass a Dutch-language examination in order to be unconditionally admitted to a study program. If unconditional admission cannot be guaranteed until you have successfully passed a language exam, you will be responsible for expenses incurred until you can confirm unconditional admission and have submitted all pre-departure documents. After unconditional admission is granted from the university in writing, Academic-Year Scholars may request reimbursement, with their receipts, for one month of Rotary-approved language training taken in the meantime and for one month room and board during language training. Academic-Year Scholars who know they must take a language exam before gaining unconditional admission to their assigned study institution should submit an Option 2 Scholar Ticket Purchase Request Form to arrange for their own travel and reimbursement after unconditional admission is gained.

Academic year. Many graduate programs in the Netherlands require ten months or more of study to earn a degree. If you have an Academic-Year Scholarship, you will receive funding only for the regular academic year of the institution (nine months), and you must support yourself during any additional time you spend at your assigned institution or in your host country. Your round-trip airline tickets are not valid beyond twelve months from the original date of departure.

Most universities and study institutions start in late August or early September. Mid-year starts are unusual.

Language exams. All scholars assigned to the Netherlands must speak Dutch or English. Academic-Year Scholars are required to pass the Berlitz language exam for Dutch or the TOEFL exam for English. Scholars applying to a Dutch-taught course are required to take the Berlitz exam for Dutch, and scholars applying to an English-taught course must take the TOEFL exam. Only native English speakers applying to an English-taught program are exempted from taking a language exam.

Language training. All Academic-Year Scholars are strongly encouraged to take one month of intensive Dutch-language training regardless of the language in which their study program is taught. The cost of Dutch language training is covered by the Academic-Year scholarship. Past scholars have found Dutch-language training extremely beneficial, and host Rotarians greatly appreciate scholars' efforts to learn the local language.

Visa issuance. There is no advance visa required for citizens of the European Union, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Iceland, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan. Scholars from all other countries must apply for an Authorization for Temporary Residence (M.V.V.) with the Dutch consulate prior to coming to the Netherlands, and there may be other advance visa requirements as well. Please contact the Dutch consulate in your home country to inquire about any visa requirements as far in advance as possible.

All scholars will need to register with the "Foreign Police" after arrival; universities can advise on this process.

Housing. A few study institutions in the Netherlands will offer limited student housing, but most will not. Housing can be very hard to find in the Netherlands, particularly in Amsterdam. Therefore, we recommend that scholars research housing options as far in advance as possible. Contact the assigned study institution, Host Rotarians, and scholar alumni to try and locate housing.

Resources.

De Vries, Andre. *Live and Work in Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg*. 3rd ed. Vacation Work Publications.

Janin, Hunt and Ria van Eil. *Culture Shock! the Netherlands*. Portland, OR: Graphic Arts Center Publishing, 1998.

Rush, Pat. *Living and Working in the Netherlands: All You Need to Know for a Long or Short Term Stay*. How to Books, Ltd., 2001.

White, Colin and Laurie Boucke. *The Undutchables: An Observation of the Netherlands, Its Culture, and Its Inhabitants*. 4th ed. Lafayette, CO: White-Boucke Publishing, Inc: 2001.

<http://www.studyin.nl/>

<http://www.nuffic.nl/index.html>

<http://www.studyoverseas.com/europe/netherlands1.htm>

<http://www.americanvlaai.com/index.htm>

<http://www.minbuza.nl/>

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/europe/netherlands/>

Some of the following information on your host country is based on information provided by past scholars and is subject to change. Included in your packet is a list of prior year scholars who studied at or near the university where you have been assigned for study. These prior year scholars can offer a wealth of information and guidance on the university, housing, Rotary involvement, and more.

Important Information about NEW ZEALAND

Visa issuance. When applying for your student visa you will be asked to submit a number of documents, including proof of adequate finances and round-trip transportation to and from New Zealand. In addition, The Rotary Foundation is not able to serve as a guarantor on the form "Financial Undertaking for a Student". You should submit a copy of your Letter of Financial Guarantee and any additional information about personal finances with your visa application. If you use the Rotary International Travel Service (RITS) for your travel arrangements, a copy of your itinerary from RITS should be sufficient proof of round-trip travel to obtain your student visa.

Tuition Deposits and Fees. As a Rotary Scholar, you will be charged the domestic tuition rate as opposed to the international tuition rate. Therefore, you will be charged at the same rate as citizens of New Zealand. Please provide the admission office with a copy of your Letter of Financial Guarantee and verify that your admission letter indicates that your tuition fees are based on the New Zealand domestic rate.

If you are asked by your assigned institution to pay your tuition before arriving in New Zealand, explain that as a Rotary Foundation Scholar you will receive your scholarship funds upon arrival and therefore, you will not be able to pay your tuition fees until that time. You should also submit a copy of your Letter of Financial Guarantee as proof of your scholarship funding. Any required tuition deposits, however, should be paid using personal funds, and will be reimbursed in your scholarship payments, provided you enroll in that institution.

Educational System. It is recommended that you research course times at your assigned institution. Scholars from the Northern Hemisphere are typically challenged in matching their home course timetables to a country where most courses commence in February/March, which is the summer term in New Zealand.

Start Date. You are required to follow the standard academic year, which will begin between January and March 2005 at most study institutions in New Zealand. You should not begin your study program at the start of the second semester in July or August 2004 (mid-year) as this may cause an inconvenience to your host district Rotarians and your study institution due to problems securing housing at that time of the year. Since no scholarship may begin before 1 July 2004 and all scholarships must begin before 30 June 2005, scholars must begin their scholarship study between January and March 2005.

Housing. Shared flats are a standard in New Zealand. For example, food costs and meal preparation are shared. Flatmates have their own bedroom but share study/lounge/recreation rooms, kitchens, bathrooms, phones, services, etc.

Scholar Inbound Orientation. The six Rotary Districts of New Zealand organize a Scholar Orientation Seminar. All Rotary Scholars studying in New Zealand are invited; please contact your Rotarian host counselor and ask him or her when the 2004-2005 scholar orientation will be held.

Resources.

Lonely Planet guide to New Zealand

http://au.yahoo.com/Regional/Countries/New_Zealand/Education

<http://www.immigration.govt.nz>

<http://www.nzta.govt.nz> (New Zealand Tourism Board)

www.lonelyplanet.com

Some of the following information on your host country is based on information provided by past scholars and is subject to change. Included in your packet is a list of prior year scholars who studied at or near the university where you have been assigned for study. These prior year scholars can offer a wealth of information and guidance on the university, housing, Rotary involvement, and more.

Important Information for Scholars Assigned to GERMANY, AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND, HUNGARY, CZECH REPUBLIC, SLOVAKIA, and CROATIA

For those scholars assigned to study in the countries listed above, your scholarship payments will be issued by our affiliate foundation in Düsseldorf, Germany, called Rotary Deutschland Gemeindienst e.V. (RDG). The RDG office coordinates the financial transactions of Rotary International in the aforementioned countries, and you may contact RDG directly if you have not received your payment by the start of classes, provided your Scholarship Coordinator has received all of your pre-departure documents. The staff at RDG and The Rotary Foundation Scholarships Program work closely together and are able to communicate on any problems that may arise regarding your scholarship funding. Please note the RDG contact information located with the list of Service Center Addresses toward the back of your Scholar Handbook.

Admission to institutions. The application deadline for study beginning in October is generally 1 September in Austria, 15 July in Germany, and 1 June in Switzerland.

Language exams. Scholars assigned to study in Germany and Austria must speak German, and Academic-Year Scholars must pass the Berlitz exam for German. Additionally, study institutions in Austria and Germany require most degree-seeking students from non-German-speaking countries to take the PNdS (*Prüfung zum Nachweis deutscher Sprachkenntnisse*) language exam before beginning studies. This test is administered by German universities. If you fail this examination, the university may withdraw its admission offer.

All scholars assigned to Switzerland must speak French, German, or Italian. Academic-Year Scholars whose native language is not that spoken in their assigned study city must pass a Berlitz language exam. If your assigned study institution is located in the cities of Geneva, Lausanne, or Neuchatel, you are required to take the Berlitz exam for French. If your assigned study institution is located in the cities of Basel, Bern, Lucerne, St. Gall, Winterthur, or Zurich, you are required to take the Berlitz exam for German. If your assigned study institution is located in Lugano, you are required to take the Berlitz exam for Italian. Scholars assigned to Fribourg may take either the French or German Berlitz exam.

Study Institution Admission Letters. Many of the universities and music schools do not notify students regarding the status of their application for admission until July or August prior to the start of the academic year. For those scholars assigned by The Foundation to language training, this means you may not receive notification of admission prior to your intended departure for language training. If you find that you have not obtained notification of admission within a few weeks of your departure for your study country, we encourage you to contact the institution directly to inquire about your application. You may also contact your host counselor to request advice or assistance on how to expedite the processing of your application. Your host counselor may be able to put you in contact with someone at the university who can assist you in confirming the status of your application.

Because we are unable to authorize the release of your airline tickets until we receive confirmation that you have been admitted to your assigned study institution or an approved alternate institution, it is important that you be proactive in contacting the study institution early about applying for admission. We encourage you to apply to alternate study institutions in case you are unable to gain admission or receive a response from your assigned school.

Piano Rental for Music Students. Many music schools have limited space available for piano students to practice. If you find upon your arrival that you do not have access to a piano at the music school, you may request reimbursement for the cost of renting a piano. If you wish to pursue this option, you should submit a letter from the study institution confirming that practice rooms are not available for your practice needs. Additionally, you should submit an estimate from a piano rental company in your host country outlining the cost of renting a piano, including the monthly rental fee, cost of delivery, tuning and pick-up charges. Please note the Foundation will only cover nine months of piano rental, and you will be required to pay additional costs for renting the piano for a longer period of time.

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Transportation Allowance. Scholars in Austria and Germany requiring additional ground transportation from their language training city to their study city, or for those who must travel from a major international airport located in another city to their assigned study city, are encouraged to travel by train. Scholars may reimburse themselves for their train fare from their contingency fund or tuition funds issued to them as they will be issued a flat sum for tuition expenses regardless of institution unless otherwise notified by your Scholarship Coordinator. Scholars in Switzerland, Hungary, The Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Croatia are encouraged to contact their Scholarship Coordinator to find out if they are eligible for reimbursement for ground transportation. Please note that no additional funds will be provided for scholars who choose to travel first class or include additional stopovers on the way to their study city.

Insurance. Scholars studying in Germany are *required* to be a member of the *Allgemeine Orts Krankenkasse* (AOK), the public health insurance organization. The AOK does not meet The Rotary Foundation minimum requirements for insurance coverage. Also, you are not covered by AOK until you are actually enrolled in your assigned institution. Therefore, you must purchase additional insurance to meet Rotary's minimum coverage requirements. Austria requires a similar national insurance enrollment.

Visa requirements. To obtain information about visa application procedures for Austria, contact the local Austrian consulate and the Austrian Foreign Student Service (ÖAD). Both organizations provide information about visa application procedures. For Germany, contact the local German Consulate and the *Akademisches Auslandsamt* department at your assigned German university. For Hungary, the Czech Republic, Croatia and Switzerland, contact the embassy or consulate. Scholars studying in Switzerland will also need to register with the local police after their arrival in Switzerland to obtain a residence permit.

If you do not need a visa to remain in the host country for the entire term of your scholarship, obtain a waiver in writing from an immigration official and submit a copy to your Scholarship Coordinator. Some countries do not allow foreign students to apply for visas or residency permits until they have been fully admitted to their study institution or until they have arrived in the host country. Investigate such possibilities well in advance. If you learn that you cannot receive a visa before arriving in the host country, be prepared to use your personal funds until the Foundation receives a copy of your visa and can issue your first scholarship payment.

Resources.

Hall, Edward T. "Hidden Differences, Studies in International Communication: How To Communicate with the Germans." Hamburg: *Stern Magazine*, Gruner and Jahr AG, 1983.

Hill, Richard. *We Europeans*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, 1994.

Hoffman, A. *Facts About Germany*. Frankfurt/Main: Societäts - Verlag, 1992.

Hall, Edward T. and Hall, Mildred. *Understanding Cultural Differences (Germans, French and Americans)*. Intercultural Press, 1990.

Nees, Greg. *Germany. Unraveling an Enigma*. Intercultural Press, 2000.

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (www.daad.de)
 Bundesministerium für Bildung, Wissenschaft und Kultur (www.bmbwk.gv.at)
 Study Hungary (www.studyhungary.hu)

Resources for Switzerland

Steinberg, Jonathan. *Why Switzerland ?* 2nd ed. Cambridge University Press: 1996.

Switzerland is yours.com (<http://switzerland.isyours.com/e/immigration/programs/study/>)

<http://www.crus.ch/>

<http://www bbw.admin.ch/html/pages/bildung/intbildung-e.html>

<http://www.admin.ch/>

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/europe/switzerland/>

Some of the following information on your host country is based on information provided by past scholars and is subject to change. Included in your packet is a list of prior year scholars who studied at or near the university where you have been assigned for study. These prior year scholars can offer a wealth of information and guidance on the university, housing, Rotary involvement, and more.

Important Information about SCANDINAVIA

Language Training. Many courses are taught in English. If you choose to enroll in this type of program, you must take the TOEFL exam if you are not a native English speaker. English language training is not an option. Scholars are strongly encouraged to request a month of language training in the native language of their host country to assist in participation of Rotary activities and in fulfillment of their ambassadorial responsibilities.

Scholars wishing to enroll in study programs in the language of the host country are required to take the Berlitz exam, and are strongly encouraged to take language training. Please schedule your language exam as soon as possible so that you will have time to make language training arrangements. Language training institutions in Scandinavia have early application deadlines and limited openings for summer courses.

Visas and Residence Permits. Although nationals of certain countries may not require visas to enter Scandinavian countries, Ambassadorial Scholars with at least three-month periods of stay in their require *residence permits*, which must be issued before arrival. Since it may take up to several months to obtain a residence permit, you are strongly recommended to apply immediately upon being admitted to your assigned study institution. The residence permit is considered a pre-departure document which must be submitted to your Scholarship Coordinator before scholarship funding or tickets are released.

Tuition and Fees. Although most public universities in Scandinavia do not charge tuition, students are expected to pay a nominal student union fee. Please inform your Scholarship Coordinator of the amount so that it may be included in your award.

Resources.

Bain, Carolyn, et al. *Scandinavian Europe*. Lonely Planet Publishing, 2003. www.lonelyplanet.com

Hill, Richard. *We Europeans*. Europublications, Bruxelles, 1993.

Barzini, Luigi. *The Europeans*. Penguin books, 1983.

Monk, Karin Vidstrup. *Scandinavian phrasebook*. Lonely Planet Publishing, 2001. www.lonelyplanet.com

Norden (<http://www.abo.fi/norden/>)

General information on higher education in the Nordic countries in English, Finnish, and Swedish.

www.lonelyplanet.com

Denmark.

CiriusOnline.dk (<http://www.ciriusonline.dk/english/factsheets/>)

Information on studying in Denmark in Danish and English.

Udenrigsministeriet, Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (<http://www.um.dk/>)

Department of Information, Asiatisk Plads 2, DK-1448 Copenhagen K, Denmark

General information on Denmark in English, French, German, and Danish.

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Finland.

Center for International Mobility (CIMO)
 P.O. Box 343 (Hakaniemenkatu 2)
 FIN-00531 Helsinki
 Tel.: +358-0-7747-7033
 Fax: +358-0-7747-7064
<http://www.cimo.fi>

Discover Finland (<http://finland.cimo.fi/>)

Information on studying in Finland in English. Maintained by the Center for International Mobility.

Directorate of Immigration (<http://www.uvi.fi>)

Information on immigration and residence in Finland in English, Finnish, and Swedish.

Swallow, Deborah. *Culture Shock! Finland*. Graphic Arts Center Publishing, 2002. Order toll free in the USA 1-800-452-3032, or at bookstores. http://www.gacpc.com/gacpc/titles/title_pages/CSFIN.asp

Sweden.

Hogskoleverket: National Agency for Higher Education (<http://www.hsv.se/>)

Information on studies and student life in Sweden in English and Swedish.

The Swedish Institute (<http://www.si.se>)

Information about studies and research in Sweden, including information about Swedish language studies, in English and Swedish.

Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (<http://www.utrikes.regeringen.se/inenglish/visainfo.htm>)

Information on obtaining Swedish visas and residence permits in Swedish and English.

Swedish Migration Board (<http://www.migrationsverket.se/load1.htm?english/einfo/estudgy.htm?>)

Information on obtaining Swedish visas and residence permits in Swedish and English.

Virtual Sweden (<http://www.virtualsweden.net/si/67.cs>)

General information on Sweden in English.

Robinowitz, Christina Johansson and Carr, Lisa Werner. *Modern-Day Vikings. A practical Guide to Interacting with the Swedes*. Intercultural Press, 2001.

Norway.

National Academic Information Centre (<http://www.nnr.no/>)

Pb 8150 Dep, 0033 OSLO, Tel.: +47-21021860, Fax: +47-21021802, NAIC@nnr.no.

Information on higher education in Norway, including admission for international students and a list of institutions and study fields, in English and Norwegian.

Det Norske Universitetsrad, Norwegian Council of Universities (<http://www.uib.no/ur/>)

Information on higher education in Norway, including links to universities and university colleges, in English and Norwegian.

ODIN (<http://odin.dep.no>)

General information about Norway in English, French, German, Spanish, and Norwegian.

Su-Dale, Elizabeth. *Culture Shock! Norway*. Graphic Arts Center Publishing, 2002. Order toll free in the USA 1-800-452-3032, or at bookstores. http://www.gacpc.com/gacpc/titles/title_pages/CSNORR1.asp

Some of the following information on your host country is based on information provided by past scholars and is subject to change. Included in your packet is a list of prior year scholars who studied at or near the university where you have been assigned for study. These prior year scholars can offer a wealth of information and guidance on the university, housing, Rotary involvement, and more.

Important Information about TAIWAN

Language Requirements. Academic-Year Scholars are expected to pass a Rotary Berlitz proficiency examination for Mandarin Chinese. Taiwan uses a writing system that is considerably different from that used in The People's Republic of China. Additional Foundation-funded language training is available if requested and approved by The Rotary Foundation and the sponsoring Rotary District. Some knowledge of Taiwanese is also helpful.

Housing. All scholars are expected to find their own housing. Your host counselor or the Rotarian contact may be able to provide some information regarding housing availability. The university housing office may be able to provide some information regarding available housing in the area and contact information. Many previous scholars have chosen (and advised incoming scholars) to stay at a local hostel for a limited period of time while locating a more permanent accommodation that suits their needs.

Living with a Chinese family is generally the least expensive option and provides the most "Chinese" experience. However, Chinese families tend to be more conservative than their Western counterparts, and may place restrictions on the hours tenants may come and go at night. In addition, Chinese families often require a face-to-face interview before deciding whether or not to accept a student.

Please note: Cultural Scholars are *not* assigned to homestay families by The Foundation or the language training institute. If scholars wish to live with a Chinese family during their scholarship term, they will need to make arrangements themselves *after* they have arrived in Taiwan.

The following is a list of hostels in Taipei:

Formosa-II Hostel
2F, Lane 62, 5 Chungshan N. Rd., Sec. 2
Tel: (886-2) 511-6744/9625

Taipei Hostel
6F, Lane 5, 11 Linsen N. Rd
Tel: (886-2) 395-2950

Taipei International Youth Activity Center (TIYAC)
30 Hsinhai Rd.
Tel: (886-2) 362-1770
Fax: (886-2) 363-4104

YMCA
19 Hsuchang St.
Tel: (886-2) 311-3201
Fax: (886-2) 311-3209

Resources.

Brooks, John W. "The Pacific Rim." *Passport Pal*; \$29.95.

Order toll-free by calling 888 PASSPAL (727-7725) or via e-mail at jwbrooks@passportpal.com.

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Important Information about TURKEY

Language requirements. Scholars who seek assignment to Turkey must have some background in Turkish, as this is the language of instruction at most institutions. If the language of instruction at the Turkish institution is English, scholars must prove proficiency in both languages.

Additional Foundation-funded language training in the host country may be available upon request if approved by The Rotary Foundation and the sponsoring Rotary District. If you are interested in pursuing a one-month Turkish language course in Turkey prior to beginning the academic year, please contact your Scholarship Coordinator for more details.

Visa issuance. All students must obtain a student visa. Please contact your local Turkish Consulate for information on the visa process.

Safety. Upon arrival in Turkey, you should contact your national Embassy or Consular unit to register your local address, telephone, email, and emergency contact information. The Embassies and Consular offices provide travel warnings and emergency advisories during the year so that you can be aware of potential safety issues. All scholars are urged to stay informed of local and international political developments and to exercise caution while traveling abroad.

Resources.

Bayraktroglu, Arin. *Culture Shock! Turkey*. SB Graphic Arts Center Publishing, 2002.

Kinzer, Stephen. *Crescent & Star: Turkey Between Two Worlds*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2001.

www.turkey.org

Some of the following information on your host country is based on information provided by past scholars and is subject to change. Included in your packet is a list of prior year scholars who studied at or near the university where you have been assigned for study. These prior year scholars can offer a wealth of information and guidance on the university, housing, Rotary involvement, and more.

Important Information about THE UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND

Length of Scholarship. Most graduate programs in the United Kingdom and Ireland confer a degree in one year (twelve months). If you have an Academic-Year Scholarship, it will provide funding only for nine months, which reflects the regular academic year of the institution. Requests for funding to cover more than nine months will not be approved. You must support yourself during any additional time if you plan to pursue a degree. Please note that round-trip airline tickets are valid for twelve months from the original date of departure and cannot be extended beyond twelve months. If you plan to remain in the UK for longer than twelve months, you should travel using one-way ticketing.

Multi-Year Scholars. If you are a Two-Year Multi-Year Scholar, you must be enrolled in full-time classes for both years of your scholarship period. You may not use the second year to complete requirements for the first year program, such as research and writing the thesis or dissertation. Scholars who are admitted during their first year in a one-year masters program must be admitted to another graduate program at the same institution for the second year. Multi-Year Scholars may not change institutions after the first year. Exceptions will not be approved.

Inbound Scholar Orientation. As your study period approaches, you will receive information about the Rotary in Britain and Ireland (RIBI) LINK Weekend, a scholar orientation program in the UK. The RIBI LINK Weekend is the oldest and largest scholar orientation seminar and usually occurs during the last weekend in September. Please plan to attend this orientation weekend to meet the other 200+ Rotary scholars in the UK and Ireland and meet the Rotarians who have opened their homes to host each of the scholars during this very special weekend. The experience is highly recommended by all the scholars who have attended previously. **All Rotary Scholars are STRONGLY URGED to attend if they have arrived in the UK or Ireland to begin their scholarship term.** You may use your Contingency Fund to finance travel to and from the Link Weekend, but you will not receive additional funding from The Rotary Foundation for attendance at this orientation.

Insurance/Health Coverage in the UK In the UK, the National Health Service (NHS) may provide some of your health insurance coverage. However, the NHS does not provide adequate coverage for Foundation scholars (e.g., medical evacuation, repatriation of remains, traveling outside the UK, such as your flight to and from the UK). If you choose to use NHS insurance, you must purchase a supplemental insurance policy to meet all of Rotary's minimum coverage requirements.

Visa issuance. From 13 November 2003, entry clearance will be required for nationals of the following countries who intend to stay in the UK for longer than six months: Australia, Canada, Hong Kong (special arrangements for BN(O)s applying in Hong Kong), Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea and the USA.

It is your responsibility to contact the British or Irish consulate or embassy in your home country to determine specific requirements. <http://www.ukvisas.gov/uk/> If you are required to obtain a visa before arrival, you must submit a photocopy of the visa stamp as a pre-departure document.

Police registration. You may be required to pay a police registration fee upon arrival in your host city or town. This fee may be paid from your scholarship contingency fund (Academic-Year and Cultural Scholars).

Bank in the UK. Opening a bank account in the UK can be a difficult, lengthy process. You should plan to go with your Host Counselor when opening your account. Previous scholars have received good service from NatWest Bank and HSBC. Visit the following website provided by UKCOSA, The Council for International Education, for an explanation of UK banking services, what services you may be offered, and issues to consider when choosing your bank. <http://www.ukcosa.org.uk/images/bank.pdf>

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Resources.

The British Council

<http://www.britcoun.org/>

UKCOSA: The Council for International Education

<http://www.ukcosa.org.uk/>

About study in the UK

www.studyuk.hobsons.com

UK Government Sites

<http://www.open.gov.uk/>

The British Information Services

This agency provides several publications about health coverage in the U.K. that are helpful to overseas visitors and students. To receive them, scholars in the United States may contact The British Information Services, 845 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022, USA. Tel: (212) 745-0200.

Barron, Tom. *Get Set for Study in the UK*. Edinburgh University Press, 2003

Delaney, Mary. *Of Irish Ways*. ISBN 0-06-46035-3

Hill, Richard. *We Europeans*. Europublications, Bruxelles, 1993.

Barzini, Luigi. *The Europeans*. Penguin books, 1983.

Ireland.

Davenport, Fionn. *Ireland*. Lonely Planet Publishing, 2002.

Levy, Patrick. *Culture Shock! Ireland*. Graphic Arts Center Publishing, 2002. Order toll free in the USA 1-800-452-3032, or at bookstores. http://www.gacpc.com/gacpc/titles/title_pages/CSIRER1.asp

www.lonelyplanet.com

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Important Information about the UNITED STATES

Admission to institutions. Universities in the U.S. have application deadlines as early as November for August or September admission. Apply to your assigned study institution and Foundation-approved alternate study institutions as soon as possible. Admission procedures at U.S. institutions can be complicated and involve much paperwork. Inquiries should be addressed to the admissions office of your assigned study institution.

Visa issuance. Once admitted to your assigned study institution, your university will issue the papers necessary (“I-20”) for you to obtain a visa through the American consulate/embassy in your country. If the university’s program is twelve to twenty-four months of study, you may be asked to show proof of funding for the entire period before the university will issue visa documents. Since the Academic-Year Ambassadorial scholarship provides 9 months (2 semesters) of funding, you may need to provide the study institution with proof of additional funding if you plan to stay longer than 9 months.

Please note that it may take **up to 12 weeks** to apply for a visa. Most international students obtain an “F1”, “J1”, or “M” visa. It is your responsibility to research the appropriate visa for your situation. Before your arrival, your study institution should enter your name in “S.E.V.I.S.”, the Student Exchange Visitor Information System, which tracks all international students entering the United States. Upon your arrival at the airport in the United States, Customs officials will confirm that your name is in S.E.V.I.S. Please note that you cannot arrive more than 30 days before the date on your I-20 form (the start date of your studies at your study institution). Once in your host country, all visa questions should be directed to the “D.S.O.”, Designated School Officer at your study institution.

Health Insurance. The United States does not have a national health insurance program, so you must purchase insurance. Often, universities will require you to purchase insurance coverage that they offer. If this coverage does not meet the requirements outlined on your Rotary Certificate of Insurance, you must obtain supplemental insurance. Please note that you are **required** to have insurance from the day you leave home until the day you return home.

Resources. NAFSA, the Association of International Educators, has a number of publications that may be helpful to you. Of particular interest may be *NAFSA’s International Student Handbook: The Essential Guide to University Study in the USA, Second Edition*. You may contact NAFSA at the following address:

Publications Department
 NAFSA-Association of International Educators
 1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 1000
 Washington, DC 20009-5728 USA
 Telephone: (202)462-4481 or (800) 836-4494 (from the USA)
 Fax: (202) 667-3319
 E-mail: inbox@nafsa.org
 Web site: <http://www.nafsa.org>

Visa Services, US State Department (http://travel.state.gov/visa_services.html#niv)
Information on foreign student visas.

Althen, Gary. *American Ways*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, 1996.

Simone de Beauvoir, *America Day by Day*, Trafalgar Square.
 Lanier, Alison. *Living in the U.S.A.* 5th Edition, revised by Gay, Charles W., Intercultural Press, 1996.

Carroll, Raymonde. *Evidences invisibles. Américains et Français au quotidien*. Seuil, 1987.

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Hall, Edward T. and Hall, Mildred. *Understanding Cultural Differences (Germans, French and Americans)*. Intercultural Press, 1990.

Labro, Philippe. *The Foreign Student*, Hapers Collins Publishers, 1988.

Stewart, Edward S. and Bennett, Milton J. *American Cultural Patterns*. Yarmouth, ME, Intercultural Press, 1992.

Zongren, Liu. *Two Years in the Melting Pot*. China Books, San Francisco, 1988.

Some of the following information on your host country is based on information provided by past scholars and is subject to change. Included in your packet is a list of prior year scholars who studied at or near the university where you have been assigned for study. These prior year scholars can offer a wealth of information and guidance on the university, housing, Rotary involvement, and more.

Important Information about RUSSIA EASTERN EUROPE and THE FORMER SOVIET REPUBLICS

Academic programs. Many universities in Russia automatically enroll non-native speakers of Russian in foreign student programs. These programs are essentially a year of language training, combining language courses with supplementary courses in cultural studies, geography, anthropology, history, political science, etc. Academic-Year and Multi-Year Scholarships should not be used for these programs. When applying, request admission to a specific program or department, or ask to be admitted as a visiting student and/or auditor. The same is true for study institutions in Eastern Europe.

Language Training. As mentioned in the Scholar Handbook, Academic-Year Ambassadorial Scholars are required to take a Rotary Berlitz exam if the official language of your host country is not your native language. Even if your study program does not require you to be proficient in the native language, The Foundation requires that you be proficient in order to fulfill your ambassadorial duties. Scholars assigned to language training who are pursuing studies in Russia, one of the former Soviet Republics, or another Eastern European country should research language training courses through their universities or an independent language training center in their host country. Before enrolling in a language-training program, scholars should submit information about the program, including cost and coursework to their Scholarship Coordinator for approval. Once approval for the course has been given, scholars may enroll and expect to receive reimbursement for the course fees in their first scholarship payment.

Visa issuance. To obtain information about visa application procedures for Russia or any other country in Eastern Europe, scholars should contact the local consulate or embassy of their assigned host country. The assigned study institution may also be an additional source of information. If you do not need a visa to remain in the host country for the entire term of your scholarship, obtain a waiver in writing from an immigration official and submit a copy to your Scholarship Coordinator. Some countries do not allow foreign students to apply for visas or residency permits until they have been fully admitted to their study institution or until they have arrived in the host country. Investigate such possibilities well in advance. If you learn that you cannot receive a visa before arriving in the host country, be prepared to use your personal funds until the Foundation receives a copy of your visa and can issue your first scholarship payment.

Resources.

Richmond, Yale. *From Da to Yes. Understanding the East Europeans.* Intercultural Press, 1995.

<http://interculturalpress.com/shop/index.html>

Richmond, Yale. *From Nyet to Da. Understanding the Russians.* Intercultural Press, 1996

<http://interculturalpress.com/shop/index.html>

Wayne, Paul & Maria. *Culture Shock Moscow at Your Door.* Graphic Arts Center Publishing. Order toll free in the USA 1-800-452-3032, or at bookstores. http://www.gacpc.com/gacpc/titles/title_pages/CSMOS.asp

www.lonelyplanet.com

<http://www.access-russia.com>

Russian Life Magazine. <http://www.rispubs.com/rlhist.cfm>