



Rotary Peace Fellowship Application FAQ

TIMELINE

What is the timeline of the application process?

Applications are due to a Rotary district by 31 May. The district must send any applications it endorses to The Rotary Foundation by 1 July. Rotary staff and the fellowship selection committee review applications. Rotary selects fellowship recipients and notifies all applicants of the selection results in November.



Do I need to be accepted to the university at my preferred Rotary Peace Center before fellows are selected?

No. Do not apply to any Rotary Peace Center university partner until Rotary notifies you that you've been selected. Once you've been selected, a Rotary Peace Centers specialist will contact you and provide information for the next step.

If I'm selected as a fellow, how much time will I have to apply to my assigned university?

You should apply as soon as you are notified that you've been selected. Application deadlines differ from university to university, so you should contact the admissions office of your assigned university for application procedures and deadlines.

ELIGIBILITY

Where can I find more information on each of the centers?

You should research the centers before you begin your application. You'll find links to each of the [Rotary Peace Centers](#) on Rotary.org, where you'll find details on curriculum, language test result requirements, admission criteria, and other information.

What qualifies as relevant work experience?

Relevant experience varies depending on your area of expertise and focus. It could be directly related to peace-building or conflict resolution. It can also be work in other areas such as resource and environmental issues, education and literacy, women's rights, journalism, public health, and disease prevention among others. International experience, working with a nonprofit or multilateral institution, working in a developing country, working with youth, or volunteer work are also considered relevant experience.

Examples of work experience that is **not** relevant include retail sales, restaurant work, and administrative work for a business not related to peace, development, or community building.

What qualifies as full-time work experience?

Full-time work is defined as working more than 30 hours per week in one position. This can be paid or unpaid and doesn't need to be in consecutive years. For example, if an applicant had four internships over five years, and each internship was 40 hours per week for three months, that would count as one year.

Is there an age restriction for applicants?

No. However, the applicant must have a minimum of three years of full-time relevant work experience for the master's degree program and a minimum of five years for the professional development certificate.

Why can't Rotary members apply?

The Rotary Foundation benefits people outside of Rotary. Awarding the Rotary Peace Fellowship to Rotary members, their spouses, children, or other lineal descendants violates the Foundation's mission and creates a conflict of interest. And as a tax-exempt organization, which cannot be operated for the benefit of its members, doing so could jeopardize the Foundation's tax-exempt status.

ROTARY CLUBS/DISTRICTS

What is a Rotary club? What is a Rotary district?

Rotary clubs are made up of business professionals and community leaders, known as Rotarians, who share common interests and a passion for service. There are more than 34,000 Rotary clubs worldwide. A Rotary district is a group of Rotary clubs within a region, which may encompass a state or province or several countries. Rotary has more than 530 districts, which range in size from 30 to 40 clubs to more than 100.

What is a district endorsement?

The district endorsement is a supporting document that is completed by a Rotary district after it has interviewed the candidate and determined that the candidate is eligible for the fellowship. It is required for a completed application and must be signed and dated by the district governor and another Rotarian district leader.

Can I contact a Rotary district directly?

Many Rotary districts prefer that applicants get the recommendation of a Rotary club before seeking their endorsement. We recommend that you first contact a local Rotary club.

How do I get in contact with a Rotary district?

The best way to get in touch with a Rotary district is through your local Rotary club. Because some Rotary districts cover more than one country, many district interviews take place via phone or video conferencing software, such as Skype. Additionally, if a club isn't familiar with the fellowship, ask them to direct you to the local district Rotary Foundation chair. This chair will have the necessary relevant information.

How do I know which Rotary club or district to contact?

Although each applicant must be interviewed and endorsed by a Rotary district in order to be considered for the fellowship, we suggest that you start by contacting a Rotary club close to your permanent residence. Rotary clubs are organized into districts, and each Rotary club will be in contact with its district. You can find a Rotary club in your area by using the [Club Finder](#) on Rotary.org. If you would like to connect directly to your district, you can find its contact information by using our [District Finder Tool](#).

Tip: Search by keyword to find all clubs within a specific city or country.

I don't have a local Rotary club. Help!

Rotary clubs aren't in all countries. In this case, please email Rotary Peace Centers staff at rotarypeacecenters@rotary.org, and we can help you get in touch with a Rotary district. *Note:* You must have your application ready for submission before contacting staff.

Can I become a member of Rotary while applying?

No. Fellowships cannot be awarded to Rotary members, so joining a Rotary club during the application process would make you ineligible. But do look into joining a Rotary club after your fellowship. Alumni of Rotary programs make great candidates for membership!

EXAMS

Do native English speakers need to take the TOEFL or IELTS test?

No. The exams are required for non-native English speakers only.

I received my bachelor's degree from an accredited university where English is the sole language of instruction. Do I need to take the TOEFL or IELTS test?

An English-language exam is not required if you completed your undergraduate or postgraduate degree at an English-speaking university in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, or Australia, unless you attend the peace center at Duke University. You will need to provide proof of the university's language of instruction with either a letter from the university or transcripts indicating that English is the university's language of instruction. Applicants to Duke from non-English-speaking countries need to submit an IELTS or TOEFL score regardless of previous English experience.

Do I have to take the GRE?

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is the only university in the program that requires GRE scores. But if you rank the joint Rotary Peace Center at Duke-UNC as your first or second preference, we strongly recommend that you take the GRE — even if you prefer Duke — to increase your competitive chances at this center. Learn more about the exam at ets.org/gre.

Does the Rotary Peace Fellowship cover exam fees for the TOEFL, IELTS, or GRE?

No. However, some Rotary districts are willing to reimburse applicants.

TRANSCRIPTS

Are transcripts required?

Transcripts are required for the master's degree programs. They must include course names and grades/marks associated with that course. Please do not include certificates or diplomas. Transcripts must be in English. If the original transcripts are not in English, you must have them translated by a professional translator, and the translator is required to sign the transcripts.

Transcripts aren't required for the professional development certificate program. You may include them, however, if you feel they highlight your accomplishments.

Do I need to send my original transcript?

No. Submit a copy of your transcript with your application. However, if you are awarded the fellowship, you will need to apply to your selected center, which will require that you submit an official transcript directly to the university.

I earned many other awards, certificates, and diplomas. Can I add these to my application to improve my chances? No. Including extra documents that are not required with your application will not help you and will be removed from your application. If you are unsure what is required, please look at the application checklist on the application instructions.