



rotary
youth
exchange

Short Term Program 2026



Program overview

The Short Term Exchange Program (STEP) is a 12 week cultural family to family exchange program coordinated by Rotary Districts and Clubs on both sides of the world. Students are matched based on gender and interests, attend school with their exchange sibling and live as a member of their family.

Australian students usually complete their exchange during the summer break from the end of October to end of January. Overseas exchange siblings usually stay with the Australian family first, during their summer break (July-September for Europe and Asia or Jan-March for South America).

Students must be aged 15 to 17 at the time of departure.

The program needs students and parents as a team, both committed to the exchange experience.

Countries on offer for 2026 (subject to change):

Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Czech Republic/Slovakia, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Taiwan, Thailand



Program Cost

The 2026 STEP Rotary Fee is \$7,000 which includes:

- Administration expenses
- Return airfares, as arranged by Rotary to the country of exchange
- Travel Advice
- Personal/Travel Insurance, as defined by Rotary International
- Compulsory Briefing and Training Day
- Manuals including printed and electronic
- Rebound day on return
- Rotary Polo Shirt
- Rotary Rugby Top



Important Dates

- November 2025 - Applications open for STEP 2026
- 16 November 2025 - Online information session
- Nov - Feb 2026 - Preliminary applications completed and submitted
- Nov - Feb 2026 - Successfully interviewed by a local Rotary club (sponsor club)
- 1 February 2026 - District Interview Day in Benalla
- February 2026 - Applications Close



CONTACT US

Rotary District 9790 - Youth Exchange
Submit your expression of interest
<https://ryea.org.au/>

Chairperson - Meredith Miegel
chairperson@rye9790.com.au

STEP Coordinator - Christina Pizzini
christina@rye9790.com.au

You will be an Ambassador

Ambassadors are typically selected by their home country's government to represent their country's interests and fostering positive relationships between their home country and the host country.

Youth exchange students are selected by the Rotary District Youth Exchange Committee and although you won't have to negotiate with foreign governments, you will represent Australia, our Rotary District, your sponsoring Rotary Club and of course, your family. You will foster positive relationships between your host country and family and your home country and family.



Gain your independence

In your host country you will experience different foods, study different subjects, enjoy a new culture and a new way of living start to learn a new language or continue to study a language you may already be learning.

During your Exchange you'll learn a lot about yourself and grow in confidence and maturity.

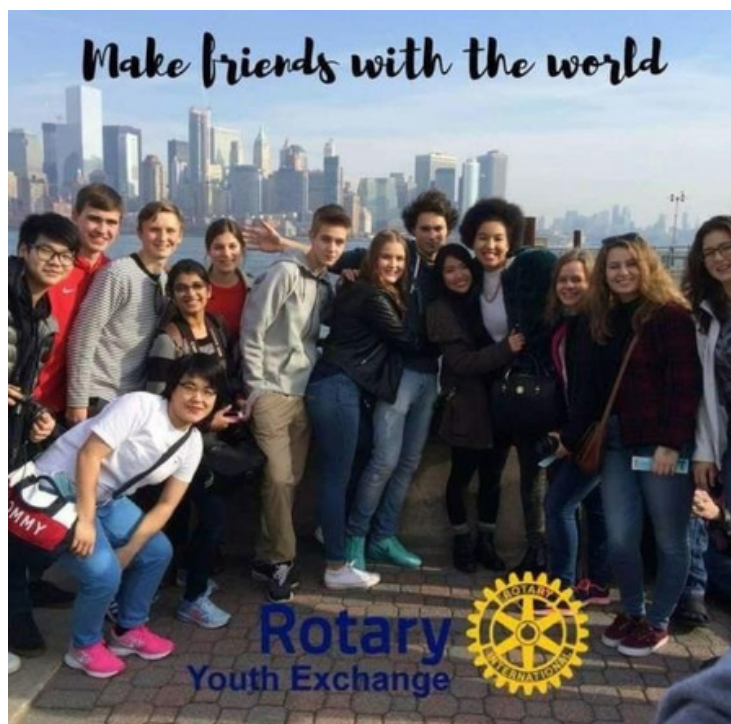
Make life-long friendships

Rotary Youth Exchange provides a unique opportunity to experience first-hand the many cultures of a different country and a new way of life. Often, you will make life-long friendships with the families, Rotarians and fellow Exchange students you meet.

Rotary STEP is a wonderful program that benefits not just the students involved but can also enrich the lives of their families on both sides of the world. Strong connections can be formed that last a lifetime!

Host Countries

Country options may change from year to year. Students have the opportunity to nominate a preferred country of exchange available to the District. However, if there is no student for you to match with in that country, a willingness to accept an exchange in another available country is encouraged.



“Helping to build goodwill and understanding between countries”

