

GSE APPLICANT GUIDELINES

Purpose: To provide young professionals a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity in the initial years of their professional life. For four to six weeks team members study the host country's institutions and ways of life, observe their own vocations as practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships and exchange ideas. These young professionals are furthering international understanding, goodwill and peace.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Be between the ages of **25 and 40**
2. Be fully employed with **at least two years** of work experience in their chosen field
3. Be in the early stages of their careers or professions
4. **Reside in or be employed in** the sending Rotary district and also be **citizens of the country** in which they reside
5. Be proficient in the language of the country being visited or willing to try to become so
6. Be personable, articulate, cooperative, motivated team players and enthusiastic about their vocations
7. Seek to gain a maximum educational value from the program and **be able to fulfill the rigorous demands of international travel** and active participation in an extensive itinerary
8. **Be willing** to fulfill their obligations to the district regarding district conference presentation and club visits upon their return

Club Responsibilities:

1. Seek applicants for the GSE team
 - a. Screen applications to ensure eligibility
 - b. Check age, citizenship, residency, length of time in profession
 - c. Ask applicants to provide three letters of reference one of which is from their employer verifying their ability to be absent from work and travel for the exchange, to attend the District Conference and to attend at least the sponsoring club's meeting following the exchange.
 - d. Have applicants provide a list of any Internet sites, blogs, etc. on which they appear
 - i. Check these sites to ensure good character, judgment and professionalism
 - e. Have applicants sign form allowing a background check
2. Conduct interviews and select **1 applicant and 1 alternate applicant** (in case first choice withdraws prior to the district committee interviews)
3. Submit approved application and attachments to the district GSE Chair prior to established deadline
4. Work with the applicant to help them learn about Rotary and the GSE experience so they will be prepared for the district level interview
5. Provide financial support in an appropriate amount if proposed candidate is selected for the team
6. Invite the team member to club meetings both before and after the exchange
7. **Bring to the attention of the district committee and District Governor any concerns or issues regarding the candidate or member as soon as they become known.**

District Committee Responsibilities:

1. Inform clubs of application deadline in a timely manner so the club may follow the complete process for each candidate
2. Screen applications received from clubs for eligibility and attachments (blog list, background check authorization)
3. Set up and conduct interviews
4. Inform candidates of results of interview
5. Provide support and coordination as needed to complete a successful exchange