

HANDBOOK

The path to a Rotary Peace Fellowship

Each year, Rotary awards up to 130 fully funded fellowships for leaders from around the world to study at one of its peace centers. Here’s how you can recruit candidates and support them through the application process and beyond.

1

Recruitment of candidates Ongoing

Candidates should be highly motivated peace and development leaders with the potential to have even greater impact in their work through the advanced knowledge, training, and skills that the Rotary Peace Fellowship provides. They could include journalists, social workers, therapists, artists, environmentalists, and lawyers who are advancing social justice and human rights. The program accepts both early-career professionals and experienced change-makers who can benefit from the fellowship’s broad network of peacebuilders, academic experts, and Rotary members.

Rotary and Rotaract members should look for candidates within their workplaces, social and professional networks, universities, local governments, and nongovernmental and community organizations.

Use the referral form you can find at on.rotary.org/peace-referral to send potential applicants more information.

Learn more about supporting Rotary Peace Fellowships at rotary.org/peace-fellowships.

2

Candidate applications 1 February–15 May

Candidates need to complete an online application. They are encouraged to use the Club Finder tool at my.rotary.org/club-search to locate the nearest Rotary or Rotaract club or an online club to learn about Rotary’s work. Club members can support candidates by inviting them to Rotary activities, helping them prepare a competitive application, providing feedback on résumés and essays, and volunteering to submit a club or district recommendation.

3

Staff review 15 May–June

Staff members evaluate applications for eligibility and completeness. Candidates must be proficient in English, have a bachelor’s degree, and have a gap of at least three years between the completion of their most recent academic degree program and the intended start date for the fellowship (students enrolled in a university program are not eligible).

Master’s candidates must have at least three years of full-time relevant experience in peace or development work. Certificate candidates must have at least five years and be from the region where they are applying, have worked in the region, work elsewhere with communities or initiatives related to the region, or demonstrate a compelling interest in peacebuilding approaches in the region.

Active Rotary members and employees of Rotary clubs, Rotary International, or other Rotary entities, as well as immediate family of members and employees, are not eligible. Rotaractors are eligible to apply as long as they do not hold dual membership in a Rotary club.

4

Scoring of qualified applicants July–September

Rotary evaluators and university partners thoroughly review applications based on criteria including commitment to peace and development, leadership potential, compatibility with fellowship objectives, and fit with Rotary; academic record and compatibility with the candidate’s preferred university program; and for certificate candidates, the feasibility and impact of their proposed social change initiative. University staff interview the top candidates.

5

Selection of finalists September–October

Rotary Peace Centers Committee members and university partners select the finalists, who are approved by The Rotary Foundation Trustees. Each year, they award up to 130 fully funded scholarships, typically to 50 master’s degree and 80 certificate students.

6

Candidate notification November

Fellowships cover tuition and fees, room and board, round-trip transportation, and internship and field study expenses. Those receiving a fellowship for a master’s program must apply separately for admission to the university where the peace center is located.

7

Peace fellows engagement Ongoing

Rotary and Rotaract clubs can work with fellows on peacebuilding projects, support their initiatives with district grants, invite them to speak at club meetings, and include them in activities.

ROTARY PEACE CENTERS AROUND THE WORLD

MASTER’S PROGRAM UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

15- to 24-month course with a two- to three-month applied field experience; best for early-career candidates

◆ Duke University and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Fellows earn a master’s degree from Duke or the University of North Carolina; in addition, fellows at both universities can earn a graduate certificate in international peace and conflict resolution from UNC, a few hours’ drive from Duke.

◆ International Christian University, Tokyo

Fellows earn a master’s degree in peace studies at the ICU Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, known for its interdisciplinary program and liberal arts approach.

◆ University of Bradford, Bradford, England

The Department of Peace Studies and International Development at Bradford is the largest academic center of its kind in the world.

◆ University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Fellows earn a master’s degree in peace and conflict studies at the Graduate Centre in Governance and International Affairs.

◆ Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

The Department of Peace and Conflict Research is known for its collection of data related to armed conflict and organized violence.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

One-year blended learning program that includes a nine-month social change initiative; best for midcareer professionals

◆ Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

The program integrates theory, research, and practice with a focus on issues relevant to Africa. Fellows earn a postgraduate diploma in peace-building and conflict transformation.

◆ Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul

Opening in 2025, the multidisciplinary program offers a postgraduate diploma in peace and development studies for fellows focusing on peace-building within the Middle East or North Africa.