

Q & A with District 5110 Rotary

8/31/2015

Q: When a candidate studies at OSU but is from another district or state, is it better for them to apply in their home district or district 5110?

A: Regarding in which district to apply: students might consider applying in both districts. Each district will be looking at a unique pool of applicants, so two applications each in different pools give two different chances at getting the scholarship. I can tell you that we are not comparing applications across districts - District 5110 won't know if a student has also applied to another district.

Q: There is a question on the handout: "Would you like to help provide high-level training to a bright person in a 3rd world country?" Could you explain this?

A: Regarding the line you quote from the flyer, this reflects that we will be looking at applicants for both outbound and inbound study. That is, while we could have an OSU student applying to study in another country, we could also have a student from another country applying to study here. Both would be competing for the same grant.

This helps surface an important detail: the scholarship winner has to reflect a collaboration across Rotary districts. That is, if an OSU student seeks to study in Thailand, for example, he or she has to secure the support of a Rotary club or district there. (I chose Thailand specifically because there is a Corvallis club with a strong tie to Thailand and a medical study program there.)

Also, I can tell you that the scholarship committee will be looking at how the awardee would contribute to this region as a result of the scholarship. A typical way would be speaking to Rotary clubs here about the experience, upon return.

Q: Regarding: "The successful candidate must be sponsored by a Rotary club in District 5110 and also sponsored by an international club/district for graduate study outside his/her home country." Does this mean the candidate must contact the international Rotary club/district, or does that happen within the local application process?

A: The Greater Corvallis Rotary Club will sponsor an applicant, and we can make the necessary contacts with the Rotary Clubs at destination sites for graduate work. Our Rotary District 5110 will provide \$15,000 in funds, matched by Rotary International for a sum total of \$30,000. Should an applicant require additional support, our club is willing to provide additional funding (which will also be matched by RI).

Q: If a student's academic interest fits into one of Rotary's 6 areas of focus, can they study anywhere with a Rotary presence abroad? The implication seems to be that there is a strong interest in developing countries, but what if there is a great program in the UK where the student will pursue a program of study relevant to the developing world?

A: Very important that the student's course of study be tied to one of Rotary's six areas of focus; that's what's important to us, so that's what the scholarship will fund. Anywhere in the world. But it's also true we're looking for maximum impact - so, will a student have greater impact studying in say U.K. or in a country where Americans are less common, and thus the student acts as kind of an ambassador through their presence? We'll be looking for the most compelling case in terms of impact...