ROTARY CENTRAL
CAYMAN ISLANDS

Global Grant Scholarship Applicant Guidelines

2026 to 2027 application cycle

Applications open	Rotary Central deadline
1 October 2026	1 December 2026

Open to Caymanians seeking eligible graduate study or research overseas

Minimum global grant award: US$30,000

Selection and endorsement by Rotary Central Cayman Islands and Rotary District 7020 do not guarantee an award. The Rotary Foundation makes the final funding decision.

1 Purpose of the scholarship

The Rotary Global Grant Scholarship supports future leaders whose graduate education and long-term career plans will produce measurable and sustainable change in one of Rotary's seven Areas of Focus. Rotary Central Cayman Islands will identify, interview, and, where appropriate, endorse an exceptional Caymanian candidate for consideration by Rotary District 7020 and The Rotary Foundation.

A global grant scholarship funds full-time, in-person graduate-level coursework or research outside the applicant's home country for at least one academic year. A global grant has a minimum total budget of US$30,000 and may support study or research for one to four academic years, subject to approval and available financing.

2 Rotary Areas of Focus

- Peacebuilding and conflict prevention
- Disease prevention and treatment
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Maternal and child health
- Basic education and literacy
- Community economic development
- Environment

Applicants must identify one primary Area of Focus and explain specifically how their proposed programme, previous experience, and career plans advance its goals. A broad or incidental connection is unlikely to be competitive.

3 Eligibility requirements

Applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

- Be Caymanian.
- Have completed an undergraduate degree before the proposed graduate programme begins.
- Apply for, or have been accepted into, a recognized graduate-level programme or research programme outside the Cayman Islands. Proof of admission is required before the Foundation application can be submitted.
- Plan to study or conduct research full-time and in person for at least one academic year.
- Demonstrate proficiency in the language of instruction and, where relevant, the host country's language.
- Show that the proposed study, previous experience, and long-term career goals are strongly aligned with one Rotary Area of Focus.
- Demonstrate academic achievement, leadership potential, community service, sound judgment, and the capacity to create sustainable and measurable change.
- Be available for Rotary Central and District 7020 interviews, orientation, reporting, and reasonable Rotary engagement during and after the scholarship.
- Not be a Rotarian, an employee of Rotary International or another Rotary entity, or an ineligible family member of such a person under The Rotary Foundation's current rules. Rotaractors may apply.

Admission status

Proof of admission must accompany the eventual Foundation application. Conditional admission is acceptable only when the remaining condition is proof of financial support or completion of the applicant's undergraduate degree. Admission conditioned on improving a language test score is not acceptable.

4 Application period and selection timeline

Date or period	Stage
1 October 2026	Rotary Central application period opens.
1 December 2026	Complete applications must be received by Rotary Central Cayman Islands.
December 2026	Eligibility screening, review, shortlisting, and club interviews.
By 31 December 2026	Rotary Central finalizes its club-level selection and endorsement.
January to February 2027	Candidate preparation, sponsor coordination, and any further club or district requirements.
27 February 2027	Club-endorsed application due to Rotary District 7020.
March 2027	District 7020 interviews; date and venue to be advised.
After district selection	The sponsor clubs or districts develop and submit the global grant application to The Rotary Foundation.

Foundation timing matters. Applications for candidates beginning study in August, September, or October must reach The Rotary Foundation by 30 June. For other start dates, applications are accepted on a rolling basis and should be submitted at least three months before departure. Applicants should not make non-refundable commitments in anticipation of an award.

5 Required application package

Submit a complete package by 1 December 2026. Incomplete or late applications may not be considered. The package should contain:

Document	What to include
Completed Global Grant Scholarship Candidate Application Template	Complete every applicable section, including personal and emergency contact information, education, objectives, Area of Focus, programme information, budget, and financing.
Curriculum vitae or résumé	Include education, employment, leadership, service, awards, research, publications, and relevant professional activity.
Recent photograph	Provide a clear, recent head-and-shoulders photograph suitable for applicant identification.

Document	What to include
Personal identification and civil-status documents	Provide valid photo identification and a copy of the applicant's birth certificate. Include adoption documentation if it is relevant to the applicant's legal identity or status evidence.
Proof of Caymanian status	Provide a Caymanian Status Certificate, status letter, acknowledgement letter, or other official evidence acceptable to Rotary Central Cayman Islands.
Academic records and qualifications	Provide official or certified transcripts from secondary, post-secondary, and tertiary institutions, as applicable, together with copies of all degrees and relevant certificates earned.
Relevant work-experience evidence	Where work experience supports the proposed graduate study or Area of Focus, provide employer letters, service records, or other reliable verification of duties and dates.
Programme, course plan, and admission evidence	Provide the programme description, proposed courses or research plan, full programme dates, and admission letter or evidence of application. If a decision is pending, state the expected decision date.
Transfer-credit confirmation where applicable	If the institution will award transfer credit, provide its written confirmation and show how the credits affect the study plan, duration, and cost.
Budget and institution-issued cost evidence	List costs in local currency and US dollars. Attach the institution's official tuition and fee schedule by semester, plus reasonable housing, airfare, visa, insurance, and other eligible cost estimates.
References	Provide two signed references, preferably one academic or professional and one community-service or leadership reference.
Language evidence where applicable	Include test results or other evidence required by the institution or programme.

Application package preparation

Before submitting, applicants should use the following checks to make the package easy to verify and review:

- Use the same legal name on the application form, identification, birth certificate, academic records, and admission documents, or explain any difference and attach supporting documentation.
- Ensure that the programme title, institution, start and end dates, proposed courses, and study mode agree across the application, admission evidence, and budget.
- Make sure every transcript, degree certificate, employer letter, institutional cost document, and reference is legible and identifies the issuing organization.
- Show costs by academic term where possible and distinguish tuition, mandatory fees, living expenses, travel, insurance, supplies, and other items.
- Clearly label documents and identify any requirement that is pending, who will issue it, and the expected date of receipt. Rotary Central may require outstanding documents before endorsement.

6 How applications will be assessed

Rotary Central Cayman Islands will consider the whole application. Strong candidates will provide clear, specific evidence in the following areas:

Assessment area	Evidence sought
Eligibility and readiness	Meets all requirements; realistic programme, admission, financing, and departure plan.
Area of Focus alignment	Direct connection between the programme, relevant Rotary goals, prior experience, and career plans.
Academic merit	Strong preparation and evidence of the ability to succeed in the proposed programme.
Leadership and service	Sustained initiative, ethical leadership, community involvement, and ability to represent Cayman and Rotary well.
Impact and sustainability	A credible plan for measurable, lasting benefit, including how knowledge and networks will be applied after study.
Communication and fit	Clear written application, thoughtful interview, cultural adaptability, and willingness to engage with Rotary.
Budget and feasibility	Accurate, supported, cost-conscious budget and a credible plan for expenses above the scholarship amount.

7 Preparing a strong application

- Start with the change you want to create, then show why this particular degree or research programme is necessary to achieve it.
- Name the specific goals within the selected Area of Focus that your activities will support; avoid relying only on the title of the programme.
- Connect the past, present, and future: relevant education and service, the proposed programme, immediate plans after study, and long-term impact.
- Use concrete examples and outcomes to demonstrate leadership and service.
- Identify realistic indicators of success, the population or system that will benefit, and how the work can continue beyond the scholarship.
- Research the host location, living costs, academic calendar, visa requirements, and potential Rotary host club early.
- Proofread the entire package and ensure that dates, costs, programme names, and exchange-rate calculations are consistent.

8 Budget guidance

The proposed budget must equal the proposed financing. The scholar is personally responsible for costs above the approved scholarship amount. Expenses incurred before grant approval are not reimbursable.

Generally eligible	Not eligible
Passport and visa; required inoculations; eligible travel; tuition; books; school supplies and computer; required school fees and health insurance; room and board; household supplies; local transportation; eligible language training; relevant conferences; programme-related fieldwork.	Pre-approval expenses and enrollment deposits; vehicles; expenses for spouses or dependants; living costs in the home country; taxes; medical or dental care; furniture; clothing and personal accessories; pet costs; entertainment; personal travel; Rotary-event expenses.

The final eligibility of every expense is governed by the current Terms and Conditions for Rotary Foundation Global Grants. Applicants studying in the United States should also obtain appropriate advice about possible tax withholding on scholarship funds used for expenses beyond tuition, books, necessary equipment, and fees.

9 What happens after Rotary Central selection

1. Rotary Central's endorsement advances the candidate to District 7020; it is not a scholarship award.
2. District 7020 may interview candidates and may request revisions or additional documents before deciding whom to endorse.
3. If selected by the District, Rotary sponsors must identify a qualified host sponsor in the country of study and prepare the formal global grant application in the Rotary Grant Center.
4. The candidate will create a My Rotary account using the same email address entered by the sponsor and complete the scholar profile in the Grant Center.
5. The Rotary Foundation reviews the full grant application and makes the final decision. No scholarship exists until written Foundation approval is issued.
6. The applicant must promptly report any change to admission, programme, institution, dates, budget, visa status, or other material information.

10 Scholar responsibilities if approved

- Complete Rotary's required online pre-departure orientation and any orientation arranged by Rotary Central or District 7020.
- Obtain the required visa, make travel arrangements, and secure appropriate travel insurance.
- Maintain regular contact with the Rotary Central club counsellor, host counsellor, and sponsor contacts.
- Participate reasonably in Rotary meetings, service activities, and cultural engagement in the host country.
- Use funds only for approved purposes and keep complete financial records. Receipts must be provided for any expense of US$75 or more, and sponsors may impose additional requirements.
- Work with the scholar and sponsors to submit a progress report within 12 months of the first grant payment and a final report within two months after the scholarship period ends.
- Remain connected with Rotary after the scholarship and share the results and impact of the experience when invited.

11 Submission instructions

Applications must be submitted to Rotary Central Cayman Islands during the application period of 1 October through 1 December 2026, to rotarycentralscholarship@gmail.com . Applicants should retain a complete

copy of everything submitted. Rotary Central may contact applicants to verify information or request clarification.

12 Important conditions

- Rotary Central Cayman Islands may verify eligibility, academic records, references, admission, and other material information.
- False, misleading, or omitted material information may result in disqualification or withdrawal of endorsement.
- The Club may decline to endorse a candidate if no application sufficiently meets the scholarship requirements.
- Requirements may change if Rotary International, The Rotary Foundation, or District 7020 updates its rules. Current Rotary policies and grant terms prevail over these local guidelines.
- Personal information will be used for scholarship administration and may be shared with Rotary entities, reviewers, and prospective sponsors as necessary for selection and grant processing.