

Parents/students wanting an Inbound Exchange:

Exchanges are made between DYEOs. Parents from abroad who write in wanting an exchange for their child need to be rerouted back to their own country to contact their own DYEO.

GB/ Ireland is a popular destination for Youth Exchange and so we can usually guarantee to place our outbound students where they want to go in the world, in the knowledge that there will normally be an inbound waiting to exchange with them. We therefore respond to the needs of our own students first and only seldom do we accept a student from DYEOs abroad before we have one to send out in return, mainly because of the hosting issue.

We often receive requests directly from parents of foreign students either wanting an exchange or as visitors wanting accommodation. The requests typically come to the DYEO via the RIBI or District website but they also come to clubs.

If any of these involve students who are the right age for an exchange the best response is for the DYEO to send them a letter advising them of this with details of how to go about making a suitable application in their locality. Otherwise the District Secretary may put out the request on District Mailing with a disclaimer that any arrangement is private and not within Rotary and so all involved are doing so at their own risk.

Requests to RIBI from Rotary Districts Abroad.

Often Districts will receive direct requests or pleas for an exchange, most of them circulating to the whole of RIBI, however personal they may sound.

Is it a direct request or a general circular? Is the district certificated? Last year a general request came from an uncertified District in Morocco. [See CP1A: Non-Certified & Non-Participating Districts](#). Is it an expression of interest or do they have a specific, already chosen, student whom they want to send to us?

Whatever the situation, while the request will normally reach all districts it will also reach the Multidistrict Chairman who will respond to persuasive emails on behalf of everyone.

Most of the requests will be for the Long Term programme although this will not actually be stated. A number of the requests will therefore be dismissed because of our visa problem. ([See L: Long Term Exchange Programme](#)).

However, increasingly districts approach our districts asking to do Short Term exchanges with RIBI. These approaches need to be treated with caution because while they use the same name as we use – Family to Family Exchange – the concept that they have in mind is usually different and does not fit well with the demands upon our high school age students. DYEOs need to check before becoming involved that they are talking about the same thing.

Our STEP Family to Family Exchanges are well established across the northern hemisphere, being a pairing of like minded students, staying together during the summer holidays for approximately 3 + 3 weeks in each home in turn. ([See S: Short Term Exchange Programme](#))

The alternative STEP pattern has the inbound student coming over possibly for several months, possibly doing some sort of independent activity such as a course. The outbound student in the exchange need not be particularly compatible with the inbound, and could be at school while the inbound student is pursuing his/her programme.

The DYEA does not support this pattern. Our outbounds could not go abroad for so long while still at high school. Also while hosts are happy enough to welcome an exchange student during the holidays, having one to stay during term time could be regarded as a distraction.