
Read in conjunction with *IF1. Cost of Exchange Programmes to Districts, Clubs and Students*

The Long Term Exchange Programme is a significant cost to a club, around £1800 - £2000*. Cost is by far the greatest obstacle to the growth of the programme and yet when a suitably deserving applicant is found it is often the case that it appears to become less of a problem. How the finance is managed depends upon the amount of planning that has gone before as well as how the student has 'appeared'. (* as at 2016)

Clubs need to know that their decision to support a student does not have an impact on the current budget but on that for the next Rotary year. Even then nothing needs to be paid out until the end of August and thereafter in monthly instalments.

Applicants for Long Term Exchanges arise either randomly through the website or as a result of a club being pro-active and looking for a suitable candidate.

The club must decide whether it can fund the student alone or if it needs the support of other clubs.

Currently most LTE applicants in RIBI self select. If they appear and are accepted in good time a club might be able to split the cost over two Rotary years but more often or not this is not the case and a club must decide from a standing start and under pressure whether or not to support the candidate. Often it is the impression created by the candidate which sways the decision of a club which would not normally have thought of supporting youth exchange and some of the smallest clubs have willingly taken on the task, with fund raising events to enable them to do so.

Clubs or groups of clubs which want to support and develop the Long Term programme will sometimes cluster together to spread the cost, share expertise and provide sustainability by rotating the responsibility around the group.

Different clustering models have been suggested. One such is to work within the Assistant Governor Areas, thereby fitting into the district structure and getting the Assistant Governor bringing him/her into direct contact with the programme. The experience gained informs the Executive as well as a future District Governor about Youth Exchange.

The inbound student supported by such an arrangement has the benefit of actually belonging to one club while having close contact with the others and being able to get involved in a variety of activities across the Area.

This group can be either reactive to a self selected applicant in the Area or be pro-active by approaching local schools and setting up competition for an outbound exchange. This latter has the potential for growing the programme as it raises its prestige and the place awarded becomes a desirable commodity.