

By far the greatest number of students who go on exchange in RIBI do so with the support of clubs which have never done so before because a random local student has registered his/her interest at the DYEA website. Often the choice of the club in this situation is forced by geography but where alternatives are possible it is wise for a new DYEO to enlist the knowledge of the Assistant Governors who should be able to advise which is the most likely club to cooperate.

In general DYEOs visit clubs

- to explain the Registration of Interest which has just arrived from a local student,
- as a result of an invitation from interested members who would like to participate,
- having put themselves forward as a speaker to raise awareness of the programme.

The slides on [D4A: Presentation for Clubs.ppt \(download here\)](#) with its associated [D4B: Print – Out for Clubs Presentation.pdf \(download here\)](#) aim to cover much of the factual information but DYEOs may customise as required and change the balance completely in favour of a more personal approach using audio visual materials and bringing in former Youth Exchange students (ROTEX) to tell their story. It is a matter of judging what the audience actually wants or needs at that time.

Points worth making to a Club audience:

Youth Exchange is a 'Peace' programme, started to enable to young people of the world to meet and learn to understand other cultures - not a programme for 'rich and privileged children'.

Youth Exchange students are not to be confused with Foundation scholars.

Youth Exchange has been the starting point for a great many young people, either influencing their careers or leading them on to other Rotary programmes and even into Rotary itself.

Parents of Youth Exchange students are a good source of membership as they see the beneficial effect of the programme upon their children. We have some of these in RIBI.

Youth Exchange is no more dangerous than any other activity and possibly less so because Certification is geared to child protection.

Youth Exchange is not a great burden on the club's time or resources. Young person will enjoy helping with club projects if asked to do so.

Most Youth Exchange programmes cost Rotary nothing but our students cannot take advantage of the opportunities which Rotarians provide unless the clubs interview and recommend them to other districts.

There are about 7000 exchanges every year – this is about 6900 without any connection at all with GB & Ireland. Do we want to be left out?

We may have a visa problem which prevents our students from doing Long Term Exchange - the flagship programme – in countries outside Europe but it is still possible for a student to have a wonderful life changing experience in one of these countries.

Most clubs which have had a Youth Exchange student happily come back for more.