

Rotary Group Study Exchange

Information for potential applicants as Team Members



Rotary GSE Team Visit to The Central Area of South Africa

Dates: From 27th October to 23rd November 2009

Rotary Group Study Exchange – What is it?

Founded on an objective to develop world understanding and peace between the nations of the world, Rotary GSE provides a unique opportunity for career-minded professionals in business to explore and develop their vocations, experience and leadership skills in a distant country. However this exacting programme is no holiday as revealed below.

What are the benefits to the participant?

At no cost to either employer or employee:

1. it gives a HUGE personal development opportunity in the vocational fields of everyone.
2. it is widely recognised as the best management training that money CAN'T buy!
3. it provides a proven way to gain self confidence and practice in public speaking.
4. it helps those destined for the top to gain valuable international experience.
5. it is good for even those whose work does not require foreign dealings, because of the multiculturalism of Britain today!

The GSE programme has become so popular that some employers are actively encouraging their staff to apply. This applies in particular when senior management has already benefited from having been a GSE Team Member.

Where will they be going this year?

They will be going to Rotary District 9320 in South Africa - the 50 plus clubs in this District shown bordered by the blue line on the map on this page are spread over an area of some ninety eight thousand square miles [250,000 sq. km]. This is approximately the size of the entire United Kingdom. Whilst District 9320 is by no means the largest of all the Rotary Districts around the world, many of the distances between clubs require air transport to be completed in a reasonably short time.

District 9320 covers most of the Eastern Cape, a small part of the Northern Cape, the entire Free State, and a part of the North West also the independent country Lesotho. It comprises clubs ranging in size from large ones in cities like Port Elizabeth to small ones in charming little country towns such as Colesberg.

South Africa Quick Facts:

- Population: 48,687,000
- Area: 471,000 Square Miles.
- Leading Industries: Mining (world's largest producer of platinum, gold and chromium), automobile assembly, metalworking, machinery, textiles, iron & steel, chemicals, fertilisers, food stuffs and ship repair.

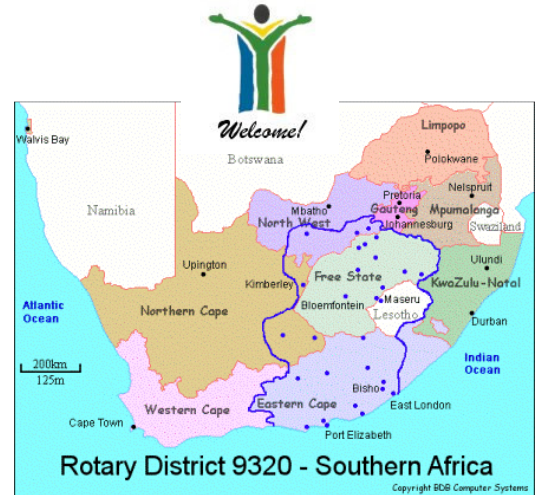
What does it cost?

Because Rotary see this scheme as just one way to advance their objective to promote world understanding and peace, all the direct costs of each GSE visit are borne entirely by Rotary International. Hence any men or women professionals are thoroughly recommended to apply for this unique opportunity.

More specific Information

Professionals of all ages may apply. In particular it has been found that candidates who are in the early stages of their careers realise the best opportunities from the experience.

Following the selection and a thorough training programme over 7 or 8 weekends of their free time, the team of four GSE participants is led by an experienced Rotarian to make this visit for a period of 4 weeks. The Rotary Clubs in Rotary District 9320 South Africa, will have prepared an approved plan of hosting at the homes of selected Rotarians, travel throughout their district and team activities. A rigorous programme which is certainly no holiday is reviewed briefly as follows:



Vocational visits to meet organisations in the profession of each team member in an organised programme of study, discussion and reciprocal exchange of ideas. Representatives right up to very senior levels in these organisations inevitably welcome the team members to discuss and compare strategies and objectives in their professions.

Cultural experiences allow the team members to study the people, culture and institutions in these countries. This comes from the carefully organised plan of home-stays and visits to places of cultural interest and importance.

Fellowship opportunities encourage team members who will have been strangers initially, to work closely together and with their hosts to consider each other's problems, aims and community concerns. These foster long lasting friendships and international understanding.

Rotarian involvement encourages participants to address Rotary Club meetings and to examine and understand the high Rotary ideals of 'Service Above Self'. Thus the team members are able to develop their public speaking abilities and self-confidence to new high standards whilst also witnessing the many humanitarian and educational projects being progressed as well as examples of how their professions are practiced in the different environment.

There are countless examples and testimonials available of the success enjoyed by past Rotary GSE Team Members. Also, there are many examples of the progression to high seniority made by GSE team members.

From our Thames Valley based District over the past 16 years, more than 80 professionals have benefited from this experience most often quoted after their return as "life changing". 15 of these have come from businesses in manufacturing, 8 have come from health related services, 2 most recently from the Fire Service and no less than 8 officers from the Thames Valley Police have taken part over past years.

Former Thames Valley Police Chief Constable, Peter Neyroud who was then a junior officer was selected as a GSE team member visiting Southern India.

Application procedure

Four team members are sought. They should be potential leaders in their vocations and starting to progress up the managerial ladder.

Applications will be put forward by any one of the 60 Rotary Clubs in Rotary District 1090 which broadly covers the Thames Valley. The location of these clubs in the area stretch from Banbury in the North, Faringdon in the West, Crowthorne in the South to Ruislip and Pinner in the East. Any applicants must either be resident or work in this district, which covers all of Oxfordshire and Berkshire with most of Buckinghamshire and part of Middlesex.

Interviews by a senior panel of Rotarians of all potential candidates will take place **May 16th 2009** so the deadline for the submission of completed applications is **April 27th 2009**.

In order to put anyone interested in touch with a convenient Rotary Club, please contact preferably by email, Rotarian Tom Scharff who is managing the recruitment programme for this GSE. Please make contact at:

Rotarian Tom Scharff, email: tomscharff@btinternet.com
Also Tel: 01628-666218 or Mobile: 0751-545-9946