

Center for Global Health

colorado school of public health

Rotary International Health Scholarship Application

Application deadline: February 16, 2026, 11:59 pm MST

Purpose

The Center for Global Health at the Colorado School of Public Health, in collaboration with the Castle Pines, Denver, Castle Rock High Noon, Aurora Fitzsimmons, Evergreen, University Hills, Denver Cherry Creek, and Southeast Denver Rotary Clubs are pleased to announce the continuation of a scholarship for University of Colorado graduate students in the health sciences.

The mission of Rotary International is to “provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.”

Rotary members believe they have a shared responsibility to take action on our world’s most persistent issues. More than 45,000 clubs work together to:

- Promote peace
- Fight disease
- Provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Improve maternal and child health
- Support education
- Grow local economies
- Protect the environment

Rotarians are interested in learning about students’ aspirations for making a global impact. Specifically, Rotarians are keen for students to explore service, education and research projects, understanding their contributions and how they plan to ensure sustainability in their endeavors.

Funding

The number of awards given, and the amount of each scholarship award will be at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee. However, in general, the award process will prioritize the number of students over the amount of the award. For example, if \$3,000 is available for distribution in a year, it is preferable that three awards of \$1,000 each be given over one award of \$3,000. Funds are released after project completion and presentation. Per University scholarship policy, the monies will be disbursed into your bursar account at the University. The monies will automatically go towards any outstanding balance in your student account through Financial Aid Office. If an outstanding balance does not exist, the Financial Aid Office will request the monies be sent to you via check or direct deposit, whichever method you have established with their office.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be full-time graduate students in good standing at the University of Colorado (CU) or the Colorado School of Public Health (CoSPH). Applicants must identify a CU or CoSPH faculty mentor and a site-based mentor who agree on project objectives.
- Preference is given to projects in resource-limited settings, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and to students in their final year of study.
- The review and selection committee will be looking for projects that align with the values and mission of Rotary, address the vulnerability of the population to be served, sustainability, and public health implications of the project, feasibility of the project, ability of the applicant to complete the project, and the applicant's level of experience/expertise.
- Team applications are permitted, and awards are shared equally. Projects should be feasible and typically completed within four weeks if conducted abroad. Proposals consisting solely of clinical electives will not be considered.
- This scholarship is intended to support international engagement. While travel abroad is strongly encouraged, visa or other constraints may limit travel for some students. In such cases, applicants may propose alternative activities aligned with the scholarship's goals, such as remote collaboration with international partners, virtual research components, or culturally immersive projects conducted in partnership with global institutions.
- Current and past travel is **NOT** eligible. Eligible travel dates for the scholarship are May through August. Students should plan sufficient time to realistically complete a project (a minimum of four weeks abroad).
*Special conditions for shorter time stay. Please contact jacob.kohlhoff@cuanschutz.edu.
- If an applicant has received another scholarship administered by the Center for Global Health and is awarded a Rotary Scholarship, they must choose between the two scholarships. Only one Center for Global Health administered scholarship can be awarded to an applicant per cycle but highly encouraged to augment the CGH award with others.

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit the application form via the Google Form and all supporting materials to Jacob Kohlhoff (jacob.kohlhoff@cuanschutz.edu) by the application deadline.

1. Completed application form: <https://forms.gle/BsjP5juTD39ywGeH6>
2. Project budget, including airfare, lodging, meals, visas, insurance, and local transportation. Note "miscellaneous" expenses will not be accepted.
3. Personal statement (250 words) explaining how this activity fits into your overall educational plan/personal development and how it contributes to the health and well-being of the community you will engage with. Please explain why you are applying for the Rotary Club Scholarship, ensure to align your statement with the core values and objectives of the Rotary Club.
4. Describe (500 words) your interest in International Health, and how this project or training experience will likely affect your future career plans. Also, describe how your proposed activity reflects the values of Rotary International. For more information on Rotary, see page one of the application or visit www.rotary.org.

5. Project description (500 words) providing the background, objectives, and intended outcomes. Explain why you selected this activity and destination, and how your work will foster capacity building, cultural exchange, and long-term benefits for the local community. Highlight ethical considerations and respect for local expertise.
6. If applicable, IRB/COMIRB statement if human subjects research is planned. Note most projects will require both local ethics approval as well as COMIRB approval. As this process is lengthy, please comment on COMIRB approval or describe your timeline for COMIRB approval prior to your departure from the US. This is something that should be discussed with your University of Colorado faculty sponsor.
7. If applicable, study materials (e.g., questionnaire, interview guide, consent forms, information sheets).
8. Two letters of recommendation, from:
 - a. Colorado faculty mentor
 - b. International on-site sponsor
9. Curriculum vitae

Award Requirements

Within six (6) months of completing the Rotary funded project, each award recipient is required to give a brief (up to 12-15 minute) oral presentation to a contributing Rotary Club (you will be assigned to a specific Rotary club) describing your project in a PowerPoint presentation and submit a 150-word written summary for the CGH website. Please include any photos of your experience, ensuring that any photos featuring people include written consent for sharing. You will send this to Jacob Kohlhoff, jacob.kohlhoff@cuanschutz.edu. All funded activities must be completed by the end of the summer term immediately following selection for the award and prior to the start of the subsequent fall semester (e.g., recipients selected in Spring 2026 must complete their project before the Fall 2027 semester begins). Any resulting academic publications must be shared with the CGH. Funds are disbursed after project completion and presentation through the University bursar system.

For questions, please contact Jacob Kohlhoff at jacob.kohlhoff@cuanschutz.edu.