

How does the Rotary Peace Fellowship determine relevant experience?

The Rotary Foundation welcomes eligible candidates from all backgrounds. We are looking to invest in early-career candidates for the master's degree program with at least three years of full-time relevant experience, and mid-career candidates for the certificate program with at least five years of full-time relevant experience.



Candidates for the Rotary Peace Fellowship must have relevant professional experience in peacebuilding and/or community or international development prior to application, as well as potential for future growth and impact resulting from their participation in the fellowship. Relevant experience includes professional work, as well as impactful volunteer experience, that involves the leading, planning, implementation, or evaluation of peacebuilding or development initiatives in the following categories:

1. **Government, official diplomacy, or policymaking** as part of a local, national, or international agency or institution.
2. **Non-governmental organizations** that contribute to the analysis, prevention, management, resolution, or recovery from conflict, or that engage in work related to humanitarian assistance or development.
3. **Economic development**, or peacebuilding through the expansion of economic opportunity for underserved populations.
4. **Private citizen diplomacy**, such as leadership of cultural or vocational exchange programs, or leadership through volunteer organizations on causes related to peace and development.
5. **Research and education** initiatives through roles at think tanks, in academia, leading train-the-trainer programs, or as an educator where teaching material primarily covers global or cross-cultural studies, peace studies (including human rights, mediation, negotiation, or dialogue), or conflict analysis/resolution. Primary or secondary teacher and college instructor or professor positions, including administration roles, must have specific association to peace and development topics or initiatives.
6. **Advocacy and activism** on behalf of causes related to peace and development, including legal professionals specializing in related areas such as human rights or the representation of vulnerable individuals or groups.
7. **Leadership in a religious congregation or organization** emphasizing pacifism, sanctuary, nonviolence, or peacebuilding through interfaith dialogue and tolerance.
8. **Media and the arts**, in roles that contribute to peace through the research and spread of reliable information, encouragement of positive social change, and shaping public opinion towards peaceful outcomes.
9. **Law enforcement or military** leadership positions specifically related to peacekeeping, building community partnerships, and improving community interactions.
10. **Public health** roles related to community development that prevent the spread of disease and improve health outcome and access for underserved populations or communities in crisis. Healthcare professionals, including lab technicians, nurses, and doctors, must demonstrate specific association with peace and development initiatives.

Peacebuilding is an evolving field; a candidate with innovative or context-specific experience that does not relate to a category listed above may include it in their application, and Rotary Peace Centers staff will evaluate its relevancy to the fellowship's goals on a case-by-case basis. For example, candidates in professions such as engineering, urban planning, information technology, or fund development should demonstrate that their work has a direct connection to identifiable development outcomes; positions in these fields are generally not considered to be relevant experience, even if the mission of the candidate's employer is connected to peacebuilding, development, or humanitarian assistance. Administrative positions such as office management, customer service, and human resources, or restaurant work, retail sales, and security guard roles are generally not considered relevant work experience compatible with the fellowship criteria.