

Academic Credit for Inbound Rotary Exchange Students

The Rotary Exchange Student Program is a cultural exchange program and generally speaking participants do not seek and do not obtain academic credit for their studies here in the US. However, some inbound students who have made arrangements with their schools in their homeland have been able to obtain academic credit for the classes they successfully completed in the US.

Here is the procedure used for a student from Argentina who did obtain academic credit for her US High School studies:

The student had an agreement from her school in Argentina to accept such studies for credit provided that she obtained an Apostille. See the following link for an explanation of "Apostille".

<http://www.dos.state.ny.us/CORP/msrfaq.html>

With the help of her host parents she took the following steps here in the US:

1. At the conclusion of the student's school year, obtain the student's transcript that states the courses taken and the student's grades.
2. Have the transcript signed by the school principal.
3. Have the principal's signature notarized. Someone in the school office will be a Notary and can do this.
4. Take the signed and notarized transcript to the County Clerks office where the Notary was certified and obtain a certification document for the Notary.
5. Send both documents, together with the \$10 fee, to the Department of State, Miscellaneous/State Records Bureau, 41 State Street, Albany, NY 12231 for authentication. The country where the document is being sent to must be specified. The telephone number of the Miscellaneous/State Records Bureau is (518) 474-8642. You may also bring your document to the Albany Office for processing between the hours of **8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.** Processing will take 2 to 4 business days. **Use Federal Express overnight to get the documents to and from Albany. Include in the envelope with the documents a FedEx pre-paid return envelope.**
6. Give or send the authenticated documents to the student.

SEE NOTES ON THE NEXT PAGE

Notes:

- a. The host father who assisted the student from Argentina is John Robins, Pittsford, NY 585 381-0194 (johntrobins@yahoo.com)
- b. Comments from John: I would be glad to help any student, host parent or Rotary counselor with this procedure although, it seems rather straight forward to me. It just requires a little effort in running around getting documents and signatures. Also, it must be done rather promptly because the student is probably leaving the country and needs to get the documents to their education authorities as soon as possible. If the student is on the bus trip, it might be much better to send the document to the student's parents in their home country. My editorial opinion is that this should be taken very seriously because it can mean the loss or gain of 1 academic year to the student and their family. Most of the students that I have had experience with, that had not already graduated from High School in their home countries, just assumed they would get credit for their year here. Of course, most had no idea how that was going to happen. I believe the sponsoring organization should take responsibility for obtaining the Apostille. It is easy to do, doesn't cost much and may be of great value to the student.