

The Rotary National Science & Technology Forum

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Dear Head of Science/Technology/Mathematics

Applications are now sought by your local Rotary Clubs from Year 12 Science, Technology, and/or Mathematics Students for consideration to attend the 36th Rotary National Science & Technology Forum ("Forum") which is to be held in Auckland from **10 – 24 January 2026**.

We would like you to identify students from your school who you consider demonstrate a strong interest in Science, Technology and/or Mathematics and encourage these students to apply for one of the 168 places available at the Forum and direct them to our website rotaryscienceforum.nz.

The Forum application process is initiated online via the website. The Forum website has three sections with relevant documents set up; "[For Students](#)," "[For Schools](#)" and "[For Rotary Clubs](#)." All relevant information, e.g. Forum Brochure, Application details to be submitted as well as an online Application Base Data Form can be found on our website rotaryscienceforum.nz.

Included with this letter are a background to the Forum and guidelines for Student Selection. Your Principal has also received a similar letter seeking their support for students applying to the Forum and we kindly ask you to check that your School Principal has seen that letter. Both this letter and the one to the Principal can be found under the *For Schools* section of the Forum website.

Applications to the Forum must go through a Rotary club. Rotary clubs throughout New Zealand interview and then nominate suitably qualified students from their local secondary schools to their Rotary District Coordinator. The District Coordinator then makes the final selection to fill their allocated quota of places at the Forum.

If you are unsure of the local Rotary club which supports your school, please ask your Principal or school administrator in the first instance. Rotary clubs have also been asked to contact their local schools and make themselves known. If your school is uncertain of your supporting Rotary club, please email the Forum Administrator at rotarysciencetechnologyforum@gmail.com

Rotary Clubs and the District Coordinators will be seeking students who will most benefit from the academic, leadership and personal experiences provided by the Forum. The Rotary Clubs will focus on identifying well-rounded students, from the diverse economic and cultural backgrounds of New Zealand's population who are open-minded, lateral thinkers and who show good communication and interpersonal skills during their informal interview. Whilst selection will not be based solely on results, demonstrating an overall capability by achieving good results in their chosen subjects will be an important consideration.

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The registration fee for the two-week residential 2026 Forum is **\$2,495 including GST**. This covers the costs of feeding and accommodating the Forum attendees in comfort and to provide most of what is necessary for their instruction, leisure, and entertainment for two weeks. Transport costs for students who reside beyond a 150km radius of Auckland are met by sponsor funds. We are aware that covering the total cost of the registration fee may prove challenging for some students and their families, but we do ask that you encourage all interested students to apply as most Rotary Clubs are prepared to offer some financial assistance. We suggest that Schools consider providing some financial support or assistance with sourcing sponsorship for their students.

Please be assured all due care and consideration will be given to the health and well-being of the students while in our care.

The application process is explained on our website and all the required documentation as well as the online Application Base Data Form are available from there. Applying students are requested to provide a letter from either you or your Principal, outlining the reasons for your support of their application. This letter forms part of their Application Package.

The completed Application Package, with all supporting documents, needs to be sent to the Forum Administrator by 24:00/midnight (NZST) on Friday **29 August 2025**. If students have not heard back from their nominating Rotary Club by the middle of September, they should contact the club to determine the status of their application.

For those of you who have been supporters of this programme, we believe you are aware of the wonderful opportunity the Forum provides the students who attend it and of the positive impact it has on them. It is your support, commitment and encouragement that enables Rotary to play its part in recognising, encouraging, and developing talented young people in our communities who will facilitate future advances and leadership in Science & Technology and associated fields in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Thank you for your support of this programme.

Yours sincerely,

Enrico

Dr Enrico Haemmerle
Forum Director

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BACKGROUND

The Rotary National Science & Technology Forum is a nationwide Rotary programme where every effort is made to ensure the widest possible distribution and representation of students from across New Zealand are awarded an opportunity to be considered for selection for one of the 168 places available at the Forum. The Forum, which has been held annually since 1990, is designed to encourage students in Year 12 to study and ultimately enter careers in the Science, Technology and Mathematics, or related fields.

One of the underlying goals of this programme is to promote awareness and understanding of the variety of scientific disciplines available to students as career options and to enable students to select courses for tertiary study that will facilitate New Zealand's future advances and leadership in the Science, Technology and/or Mathematics and associated fields. It is anticipated students who attend the Forum will be among the future leaders in these fields in New Zealand. In addition, the Forum aims to promote greater understanding of science in relation to the world in which we live and an awareness of the importance of science-based industries to the future economic growth of New Zealand.

High levels of academic performance are not the sole criteria for consideration. Today's society demands that high achieving individuals be well rounded, open-minded people who possess strong communication and interpersonal skills and the ability to also recognise the value of and embrace arts, culture, and recreation. All round ability and leadership potential are some factors you may wish to consider when identifying your students. For those students who are selected, the Forum provides the opportunity to facilitate their personal growth, develop their leadership skills and for them to establish a wider network of peers. Historically, the feedback from students who attend the Forum has indicated they develop a renewed motivation and determination to succeed.

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STUDENT SELECTION GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS

Students seeking selection for the Forum:

- 1) Must be Year 12 students intending to return after the Forum to Year 13. The guideline age should be between 16 years 3 months and 17 years 6 months on 1st January 2026.
- 2) Must either be New Zealand Citizens or have New Zealand permanent residency status.
- 3) Must be achieving good academic standards across their chosen subjects.
- 4) Should:
 - Be intending to pursue a career in the Sciences, Technology, and/or Mathematics fields;
 - Be intending to complete tertiary studies in the Sciences, Technology, and/or Mathematics fields in New Zealand;
 - Be well-rounded, capable students who possess strong interpersonal and communication skills;
 - Participate in a range of extra-curricular and cultural activities;
- 5) Should advise their nominating Rotary Club immediately, to facilitate Forum planning, of any impediments to being able to manage their daily personal care and/or the physical demands of the terrain that will be encountered under time constraints. The terrain includes steep hills to be climbed, and access to lecture theatres, and laboratories and other recreational facilities.

For schools to consider when selecting students:

- Neither Year 11 nor Year 13 students are eligible to apply to attend the Forum. It is our experience that Year 11 students with Year 12 passes in Science, Technology and Mathematics subjects have difficulty coping with the combined social and academic challenges of the Forum. Year 13 students are typically unable to take advantage of the opportunities the Forum presents.
- The Forum is a programme managed and run largely by a team of approved volunteers. While due care is taken with all students who attend the Forum, the Forum Management team is not fully resourced to manage students who possess physical or emotional challenges that would affect their ability to benefit from the Forum.
- We request the school consider granting a “leave pass” from Prefect training or any other school events, in which your students may be involved that occur when the Forum is taking place. This will ensure they are able to focus on and attend 100% of the two-week residential Forum programme without compromise. We believe these capable students will catch up quickly on anything they may have been unavailable to attend.