

ROTARY FOUNDATION

GLOBAL GRANT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



Global Grant Project Title: TOMMASO VIRGILI SCHOLARSHIP

Global Grant Status: Payment Requirements Submitted

Global Grant Tracking Number: 25695

Host and International Sponsor Information

Host Sponsor: Nanterre	International Sponsor: Pisa Galilei
Primary Contact: Chartron, Michel [6034251] District: 1660 Club: Nanterre	Primary Contact: Prescimone, Vittorio [5748704] District: 2070 Club: Pisa Galilei

Section A: Scholar Information

First Name: Tommaso

Last Name: Virgili

Institution Name: American University of Paris

Section B - Area of Focus

(1) With which area(s) of focus is this scholarship aligned?

Yes - Peace and Conflict prevention/resolution

No - Disease Prevention and Treatment

No - Water and Sanitation

No - Maternal and child health

No - Basic education and literacy

No - Economic and community development

(2) How will the scholar advance the goals of the selected area(s) of focus?

Since I totally share those values of peace and democracy promoted by the Rotary Foundation, I wish to deepen my research interest in the Middle East and Islam with a view to advancing a better comprehension of so a different culture, which is at the meantime so important in the present geopolitical scenario, and so hardly known by those who have the responsibility to further dialogue with the people of the Islamic world.

The Middle East has always been a particularly conflicting region (both at the internal and external level), because of the tensions related to different religious, social and political realities, and to opposite strategical interests. This is true all the more now that

the so-called "Arab Spring" has brought new factors on the scene, in a mixture of liberal, democratic and Islamist elements, whose complexity makes it of paramount importance to have a deep knowledge of the historical, cultural, social and political factors associated with the Middle East, as well as with Islam. A profound understanding of the Middle Eastern background, in all its intricacy, is the only way to go beyond the cultural barriers which prevent political actors inside and outside from having a real awareness of the events occurring in the region, thus making difficult an effective action intended to act concretely for peace.

The program I have been admitted to will enable me to acquire the specific knowledge I need in order to understand such a different cultural habitus and the aspects of violence present in the region, so as to address properly and with consciousness those factors bearing tensions. This way, a positive influence may then be exerted both by working for Western governments, that too often demonstrate a lack of cultural comprehension, and by collaborating with local local institutions, trying to build a bridge between the various actors on the scene, in order to promote peace and democracy.

Section C: Orientation and Activities

(1) Confirm the Scholar's Host Counselor

(2) The scholar will receive an outbound orientation

Yes

(3) Club and district activities in which the scholar will participate.

The Scholar will be involved in the Club meeting and District activities

Section D: Rotarian Participation

(1) Describe how the host and international sponsors worked together to plan this scholarship.

Information exchange about Research Center and University

(2) Explain how host sponsors will interact with the scholar during and after their scholarship period.

Involving Scholar in Club meetings and activities and requiring periodically reports

(3) Explain how international sponsors will interact with the scholar during and after their scholarship period.

Scholar will update the International sponsor sending a report every two months.