

ROTARY FOUNDATION

GLOBAL GRANT PROPOSAL



Proposal - Project Title : TOMMASO VIRGILI SCHOLARSHIP

Section A - 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 B - Community Needs

(1) Describe the benefiting community including its location using any relevant geographic and demographic information. If the activity is a scholarship, enter "N/A"

(2) What community needs have been identified? If the activity is a scholarship, enter "N/A"

(3) How are these needs currently being addressed with local resources and/or government agencies, NGOs, etc? Summarize the proposed activity(ies). If the activity is a scholarship, enter "N/A"

Section C - Activity Description

(1) Summarize the proposed activity(ies)

Master of Arts in Middle East and Islamic Studies with Arabic

(2) List any Cooperating Organization(s) or University(ies) involved in the proposed activity(ies).

American University of Paris

(3) Describe how the benefiting community(ies) will be involved in the activity(ies). If the activity is a scholarship, enter "N/A"

(4) Has the benefiting community(ies) confirmed that they would like this activity(ies) to take place?

Yes

(5) Proposed Start Date : 31 Aug 2012

(6) Proposed Completion Date : 30 Sep 2013

Section D - Area of Focus

(1) With which area(s) of focus is the proposed activity aligned?

Peace and Conflict prevention/resolution - Yes

Disease Prevention and Treatment - No

Water and Sanitation - No

Maternal and child health - No

Basic education and literacy - No

Economic and community development - No

(2) Describe how the activity(ies) will address the goal(s) of the Area of Focus

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.

A different, more attentive approach from educated analysts is a key factor in this sense, since it may play a dual role, both in the Middle Eastern field and in a Western framework. The program the scholar has been admitted to will enable him to acquire the specific knowledge he needs 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 institutions, trying to build a bridge between the various actors on the scene, in order to promote peace and democracy.

Section E - Project Outcomes

(1) What are the immediate and long term outcomes of the activity?

An immediate outcome of these studies will be the publication of the research, in order to contribute to the abovementioned better understanding of the Arab world.

Furthermore, the candidate intends to take an immediate advantage of the experience in Cairo by collaborating, for instance, with local NGOs committed to human rights and democratization (such as the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies), so as to put immediately in practice his theoretical knowledge.

As to the future plans, the specific competence acquired in the multiple fields will give him the instruments to get into the culture of the region in its entirety, so enabling him to work either for Western governments, or for local NGOs, or in the field of academic and independent research.

Thus, he will be able to work on two sides. On the one hand in the West, either by pursuing research independently or by working directly for governments, in any case exerting a positive influence on the latter: it is crucial for conflict prevention that Western governments be aware of the complexity of the Middle Eastern reality, since a lack of comprehension and oversimplified parallels - dealing with sensitive issues like Islam, politics, terrorism, Arab Spring and the "fall of the Berlin Wall", rebels and human rights fighters, etc. - risk to lead to decisions which fuel the tension or even to downright wars. On the other hand, a conscious mediator may effectively spend his expertise locally, for instance in the framework of an independent foundation working for peace between Israel and Palestine, or by collaborating with local NGOs committed to human rights and to the constitutional and democratization processes.

In sum, the candidate will be able this way to pursue a career as a cultural mediator between the two sides of the Mediterranean Sea, with a view to promoting enduring partnerships based on the values of peace, democracy and tolerance.

(2) Explain how all involved parties will act to ensure the sustainability of the activities and/or outcomes.

The candidate has already acquired a deep knowledge about the Middle Eastern situation, as at the University he took various academic courses on the matter, he is currently studying Arabic at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa, and he gained further hands-on experience in Israel.

His view has always been the promotion of cross-cultural understanding and human rights, as well as the contrast of political violence. That is why he took many courses in international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and he conducted a research about international counter-terrorism legislation and human rights at the Ecole Normale Superieure in Paris. Furthermore, he had the chance to work as an intern at the Italian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, in the framework of the Third Committee, which is just devoted to the protection of human rights throughout the world.

Then he graduated magna cum laude with a thesis based on the analysis of freedom of expression in a comparative approach between Western and Islamic Law.

During his studies he has always obtained brilliant results, and he will commit himself, and will expect, to do the same at the AUP.

The American University is one of the most eminent academic institutions in the world. The high quality of the courses and the high reputation of the faculty, recognized everywhere, combined with the contacts granted by the presence of the institution throughout both the Western the Middle Eastern world, are all factors which ensure the best outcomes for the students.

The semester in Paris will enable the candidate to acquire a strong theoretical knowledge, while the semester at the American University of Cairo well testifies the vocation of the institution for the concrete fieldwork.

The Rotary Club Pisa Galilei and the Rotary Club Paris Nanterre will supervise closely the candidate, so as to guarantee to the Rotary Foundation he will follow the path to which he has committed himself.

Section F - Budget

(1) Currency / Exchange Rate

Name of Local Currency : EURO

Current Exchange Rate : 0.7700

Date Exchange Rate Entered : 02 Apr 2012

(2) Budget Details

Budget Item	Supplier/Vendor	Amount in Local Currency	Amount in USD
ROOM AND BOARD	PARIS AND CAIRO LESSOR	6140.0000	7974.0000
TUITION FEE	AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PARIS	18500.0000	24026.0000

Budgeted Total in Local Currency : 24640.0000

Budgeted Total in USD : 32000.0000

Section G - Financing

(1) DDF Amount in USD : 13000.0000

(2) Rotarian Cash Amount in USD : 4000.0000

(3) Additional outside funding in USD :
Maximum Rotary Foundation : 15000.0000

(4) Requested Rotary Foundation (TRF) Match in USD : 15000.0000
Computed Total Financing in USD (Cash+DDF+Match) : 32000.0000