



Kim Ostrum of Blackwood, NJ
Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar
sponsored by the Gloucester Township
Rotary

A little bit about myself and the scholarship: My name is Kim Ostrum. I am from Blackwood, New Jersey, and I am being sponsored for the Ambassadorial Scholarship by the Gloucester Township Rotary. Currently, I just began to work toward an MA in Dispute in Conflict Resolution at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. My host club is the Southgate Rotary Club of London.

I am very interested in conflict resolution and peace building, particularly in Africa and the Middle East. While I have already studied both US and African approaches to these two topics at an undergraduate level, I have little conception of how the UK and other European nations approach conflict resolution and peace building. Given that the European nations are some of the larger players in international diplomatic undertakings, and that the European nations (especially the UK) have a unique relationship with many Middle Eastern, African, and Southeast Asian nations, owing to their former colonial ties, I thought it especially important to understand European perspectives. Ultimately, I hope to one day become an international conflict mediator, working on the resolution of both interstate and intrastate conflicts. Being well versed in all aspects of the legal framework that governs conflict resolution processes, and the national narratives (whether American, European, African, etc.) which inform how these processes play out, is thus crucial.

Additionally, while I'm here in the UK, I also hope to learn a lot about British life in general - how British culture is different from American, how ordinary British citizens continue to think of the monarchy, how the sheer diversity of ethnic groups has coalesced so well (as opposed to other nations, where immigrants have not assimilated as well), etc. I plan to volunteer working in some capacity with either immigrants or refugees here in London. Finally, I just hope to serve as a good ambassador to the British about life in America.

I hope this helps! I know you only needed a few sentences, so please cut down as needed. If you need to know anything else, let me know.