



PROGRAMME GUIDELINES

RTC-Pitzer Student Exchange Programme Academic Year 2017-2018

(Applications are due at the International Relations Office by 5pm, Tuesday, March 28, 2017)

As a conscious effort on the part of RTC to promote global-level learning and to build the intercultural capabilities of our students, RTC will be sending up to two students to Pitzer College, USA (www.pitzer.edu) on an academic exchange programme for the academic year 2017-18 (August 2017-May 2018). The International Relations Office would like to encourage all eligible students to avail this opportunity to further their personal and academic development. Students will earn academic credits at one of the most prestigious academic institutions in the world.

The Pitzer academic credits do not count towards RUB degree progression, and may be treated as supplemental study for a 4th year – it is anticipated that this would be immensely useful for students applying to higher education programmes in the future, and for those seeking to distinguish themselves in the job market after graduation. Applicants must be regular students currently in their 1st or 2nd year of study at RTC, be prepared to study for a year at Pitzer College, and return to the junior cohort of their programmes one year later. Students in programmes for which there is no junior cohort guaranteed are not eligible to apply. Because this is a tuition-neutral exchange, exchange students from both directions must continue to pay the full fees (tuition/room/food) at their home college, but will be given the opportunity to avail all the corresponding facilities at the host college without additional cost. **RTC students must therefore cover the Nu. 179,900 fees for the academic year 2017-18, but will be covered by the Pitzer Access Scholarship for the tuition/room/food at Pitzer, round-trip airfare, health insurance, books allowance, and visa processing expense allowance, valued at approx. USD \$70,000 total (Nu. 4,690,000).**

Selected students will be registered as international full-time exchange students at Pitzer College for the 2017-18 academic year (two semesters). As such, students must be prepared for a rigorous course of academic study. In addition, as the candidates will be the ambassadors not just of RTC but also for Bhutan, we are looking for well-rounded students with the right combination of academic ability, character, and participation in college-wide activities.

I. Application Guidelines

The deadline for the submission of applications is **28th March 2016 by 5pm** at the International Relations Office. Along with the application form and relevant supporting documents, students must submit a **Letter of Consent** signed by their parents/guardians in the prescribed form attached with the application. *Please refer to the Application Checklist for the full list of requirements.*

Eligibility

Regular full-time students with **65% average overall marks from completed semesters**, who are currently in their 1st or 2nd year in programmes for which there exist junior cohorts, will be eligible to apply for this scholarship. Second year students in Business, BA Soc-Pol, and BSc Env Mgt are eligible to apply (Caution to 2nd year business students: there is no guarantee your same major will be offered in the junior cohort). First year students in Business, BA Soc-Pol, BSc Env Mgt, BA English Studies, BA Dev Econ, and BA His-Dzo are eligible to apply.

What is covered by the **RTC-Pitzer Exchange Scholarship**?

- Pitzer tuition and student room/boardings for one year (approx. USD \$66,000/yr).

Students with demonstrated financial need will also be eligible for the **Pitzer Access Scholarship**:

- Round-trip airfare from Paro to Los Angeles (August 2017 departure - May 2018 return)
- Pitzer health insurance per year
- Modest books allowance – USD \$600/year
- Visa application fee assistance – USD \$500

Students will have to be responsible for financing the following on their own:

- Nu. 179,900 RTC tuition/room/food fees for the academic year 2017-18.
- Travel expenses for trip to Delhi in May or June for the USA visa interview – Est. Nu. 20,000.
- Any personal expenses while in the USA – USD \$100-200/month.
- Living expense for one month of winter break when Pitzer residence halls are closed – USD \$500 - \$1,500 depending on the living arrangements.

II. Selection Criteria

The Committee is looking for the following broad characteristics:

Academic Ability:

- **Academic study at Pitzer College will be highly rigorous and largely self-guided.** Candidates must be prepared to study hard, read heavily, and go to classes prepared to participate and discuss extensively. Candidates should have **excellent English language communication skills**. Candidates should have an overall average aggregate of at least **65%** and **must not** have any back papers at the time of application or any disciplinary sanctions against them. **A simulated class based on an assigned reading, as well as an interview, will be a part of the application process after shortlisting.**

Qualities of Character and Social Skills:

- Candidates must be conscientious and of good character, demonstrating a high degree of responsibility, problem-solving skill, adaptability and sensitivity to others and their culture.
- Candidates should be involved in college-wide activities as evidenced through participation as a member of the Student Government, an RA, a Club Coordinator, or having taken an active role in cultural programs (music, dance, song, etc.), games/sports, social/community work, or literary work, etc.
- Candidates must agree to adhere to the RTC Student Codes of Conduct in the Student Handbook as well as all Pitzer rules and regulations during the entire period of the exchange program as well as during preparation for the trip.

Specific evaluation criteria:

A. Short-list criteria:

1. Academics – 40% (Marks & Dean/President's List reflected as percentile rank in one's own programme, Attendance in current & previous semester, Participation in academic activities)
2. Leadership – 15% (Student Govt. Official, Residence Assistant, Club Coordinator, Class Representative, Other leadership roles, holding part-time job at RTC)
3. Social Services – 15% (Blood Drive, Volunteerism at RTC events, Community participation and engagement, Other social service activities)
4. Extra co-curricular activities – 15% (College Team; Organizing and participating in tournaments organized by College, Other sporting activities, Cultural activities, Other clubs)

5. International participation – 15% (International roommates, buddies for international students and visitors, other international participation/contributions such as SAESM, Y-Peer, paper presentations, representing RTC and Bhutan)

B. After shortlisting, the short-list score will be scaled and combined with the simulated class and interview to calculate the final candidate score as follows:

- Short-list score: 50%
- Simulated class: 25%
- Interview: 25%

III. Selection and pre-departure timeline

28 th Mar	- Last date for the submission of applications
30 th Mar	- Committee meeting to shortlist students; shortlist announced
31 st Mar	- Shortlisted students collect reading assignment for simulated class
3 rd – 4 th Apr	- Simulated class and interview (specific dates TBA)
5 th Apr	- Results declaration - Candidates will be given an Offer Letter
10 th Apr	- Submission of signed <i>Acceptance of Offer</i> - Candidates start processing for their Passports if they do not have one yet
17 th Apr	- Submission of passports
29 th Apr	- Submission of visa fees, SEVIS fees and airfare/other travel for Delhi visa interview to the International Relations Officer
May or Jun	- Visa interview in Delhi
Jul-early Aug	- Preparatory briefings, activities, and study
Mid-Aug	- Tentative date for travel

IV. Expectations upon Return:

In order to benefit those who were not able to participate in the program and to motivate the others to apply in the following years, upon their return to RTC, candidates must make a presentation/ organize photo exhibition highlighting their adventures, experience and the knowledge they gained from this academic exchange program. When required the candidate will also be expected to participate and assist the International Relations Office in any international program and events related to the exchange. The candidate should also be prepared to have an international roommate in future semesters.

V. Application Checklist:

- All candidates must submit a formal application, available at my.rtc.bt or at the reception desk in the administrative block, along with 1 recent passport size photograph.
- A written consent from parents/guardian for participation in this program; format available at my.rtc.bt.
- Copy of your CID.
- Name and signature of a current RTC faculty member as a reference (no letter required at this stage).
- Merit and other documents/certificate copies.
- A copy of your marks for all completed semesters.

For any further enquiries or assistance, please contact the Assistant International Relations Officer, Ms. Tshering Choden at Email: tsheringc@rtc.bt or Mobile: 17331485