

Tips to help you plan your video pitch

- **Ponder your passion:** spend some time thinking about **why** your project is important to you, this is an opportunity to show your passion for your topic. Churchill Fellowships were created to benefit the community, be sure to address this in practical terms – who would benefit from your learnings? What difference would your project make to Australian society? A Churchill Fellowship is highly personal to the applicant and much more than a research grant.
- **Plan ahead:** You can write down some notes to help you plan your pitch, but please do not read to the camera – we want to hear it straight from you as you would tell a friend. Practice your pitch before filming to ensure you can deliver it smoothly and confidently.
- **Tech check:** Make sure to test your camera and microphone before you start, feel free to use a smartphone if that is easier for you.
- **Try, try again:** You can enter the platform, record and review as many times as you like before choosing to submit your pitch; there is no limit on re-takes so take your time and only submit once you are happy with it. **IMPORTANT:** when you finish your recording you can play it back immediately and if you don't like it just re-do it (don't submit it then come back later and record another one or you will have multiple recorded versions in our system).
- **Dress for success:** Please dress as you would for an in-person interview, but please don't feel the need to wear a dress suit or shirt and tie if this isn't normal for your occupation or field of interest.
- **Set the stage:** Consider filming in a well-lit, quiet location with a plain background, so the focus stays on you and your message. Recording outdoors can add context but be extremely mindful of wind and other intrusive noise (such as traffic or cockatoos!).
- **Try to relax:** The individuals watching your pitch are interested, supportive people from a range of industries and backgrounds, and excited to hear from you!
- **Convince us:** Use persuasive language to engage us, this may include storytelling, using powerful and emotional words, and making use of rhetorical questions. Be concise, engaging, and enthusiastic in your delivery – but try to avoid a stereo-typical 'TEDx style' (e.g. "close your eyes and imagine...") as this can sound too rehearsed and potentially lose authenticity.

- **Show and tell:** You may use props if they will greatly enhance your presentation, however, please be mindful of the time limit, we need to hear your responses to the two questions first and foremost.
- **Don't panic:** If you're having technical difficulties please read the advice on the next page, before calling the Trust so we can assist you: 02 6247 8333.

Technical advice

Here are some troubleshooting tips for users of the VideoAsk platform who are having trouble recording a video:

- Check that your device's camera and microphone are enabled and properly connected.
- Close other applications and tabs that might be using your device's camera or microphone.
- Make sure you have a stable internet connection. Slow or unstable connections can cause problems when recording videos.
- Clear your browser's cache and cookies, and try again.
- Try using a different browser or device to see if the problem persists.
- Make sure you have granted the necessary permissions to VideoAsk to access your camera and microphone. You can check this in your browser's settings.
- Test your camera and microphone in another application or website to make sure they are working properly.
- If you are still having trouble, reach out to the Trust for further assistance: 02 6247 8333.