Welcome to the Churchill Fellowship Information Session
When Sir Winston Churchill resigned as British Prime Minister in 1955 at the age of 80, he had served under 5 reigning monarchs, survived three wars, had been a writer, historian, journalist, adventurer and painter – and he had also won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1953.

There was widespread desire to honour the great man and to capture the essence of his public service, inspiration, intellect and humour for generations to come.

He was a man who readily believed that anything was possible if you put your mind to it, and that the greatest figures in history were those who made a contribution to public service and their fellow countrymen.

There was already Churchill College for formal study in the UK, so discussions began about what could be done for the Commonwealth countries – and this discussion was dubbed OPERATION C – ‘C’ for Churchill.

Operation C rapidly grew beyond formal study to be ‘travelling fellowships’ – first in the USA and within a short period of time many Commonwealth countries expressed an interest in establishing a Churchill Trust in their own country.

In Australia there was enthusiastic support, with Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies close to Sir Winston and very passionate about a Churchill Trust in Australia.

Plans started for Australia’s national fundraising effort – which would occur after the death of Sir Winston and establish a Trust for travelling fellowships in this country. This was referred to as Operation G – ‘G’ for Gratitude.
• When Prime Minister Menzies announced the news of Sir Winston’s death to Australians in January 1965, he simultaneously announced the national fundraising event to establish The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.

• On Churchill Memorial Sunday – 28 February 1965 a door-to-door appeal was launched – there were so many volunteers that it was calculated that there was one collector for every 10 houses in urban areas and one for every 20 in regional areas. Over 220,000 Australians participated as collectors.

• More than 2.2 million pounds were raised – if you index that effort it still remains the largest public fundraising effort in Australian history.

• It is the only time in our history that the banks opened on a Sunday so the money could be deposited.

• Sir Robert Menzies referred to the Churchill Trust as the “people’s Trust” – saying that every Churchill Fellow carried the aspirations of millions of Australians – past, present and future. The past who donated, the present being the annual Fellowship recipients, and the future being those who benefit from the contribution the Fellowship can make.

• A Fellowship is not just an overseas trip – it is the start of a life long journey and contribution to make Australia better.

• If you have a passion for a subject you wish to investigate overseas, know what you are striving to achieve and a desire to make a difference in your industry or community within Australia, then a Churchill Fellowship could help you realise your aspirations.
• More than 4,200 Fellowships have been awarded since the Churchill Trust was established in 1965
• Up to 100 new Fellowships will be awarded this coming year worth a collective total of over $2.5M

• Here are some of our milestones – nearly 4,200 Fellowships have been awarded and each year there are 100 more.
• Churchill Fellows from Australia travel across the globe on the widest range and depth of topics and bring back to this country information, networks, projects, products, ideas and innovation which make this country even stronger.
Eligibility

PERSONAL
- Australian citizens only
- Applicants must be over 18 years of age

PROJECT
- Opportunity must not be available in Australia
- Must travel overseas for 4-8 weeks in one continuous journey
- Can not be part of another project such as a university qualification or partially funded by another organisation

If you want to apply for a Fellowship – first you must be eligible:
- You must be an Australian citizen and you must be over the age of 18 years.
- Your project must also be suitable for a Fellowship.
- Overseas travel is essential and you must have exhausted your research within Australia to be considered
- The project must be a self contained project of 4-8 weeks duration and be taken as one continuous overseas trip
- It cannot be part of a university degree, or partially funded by another organisation – it must be a stand alone Fellowship project.
Design your own project

• There is no set topic – design your own
• We also offer sponsored Fellowships that focus on particular topic areas
• The list of Sponsored Fellowships offered can be found at churchilltrust.com.au/sponsors
• Ask – what topic can I investigate that will be of the most benefit?

• The beauty of a Churchill Fellowship is that you can design your own project.
• If you can think of a suitable topic then there are no limits.
• To add focus, we offer sponsored Fellowships where generous individuals or organisations have agreed to fund a Fellowship on a particular topic.
• This doesn’t mean that they are always awarded but does mean that we are looking for applications in those specific topic areas.
• There is a list of the sponsored Fellowship opportunities on our website and the 2018 application form allows you to indicate up to two sponsored Fellowship/s you would like to be considered for
• However, do not feel constrained by the sponsored Fellowships, we also offer general Fellowships where your topic can be anything
• Your first step should be to ask yourself – what topic can I investigate that will be of the most benefit to some aspect of Australian Society.
• Applications open 1 February and close 27 April 2018
• All applications must be made online at churchilltrust.com.au/apply
• The latest version of our Application Guide can be downloaded from the Churchill Trust website

• Applications opened on 1 February and close 27 April – Apply online from the Churchill Trust website.
• Applications can only be made using the online application system
• Remember you are competing against all the other applicants so how are you going to convince the selectors that you are a better applicant than the next project or person.
• The application also requires two references – a project reference and a professional reference.
• You are encouraged to give this some thought – the better the references the more likely you are to stand above your competitors.
• Churchill Fellows have told the Trust many times that the process of completing the application form allowed them to fine-tune their project and its implementation upon their return.
• The online form is fully automated, allowing you to register your details and login to your application as required throughout the application process.
• Do not leave it to the last minute as it will not be your best application.
• You should also note that many Fellows have applied more than once before reaching interviews or receiving a Fellowship. It is common for candidates to realise why they were asked to try again - as a result their projects tend to be much stronger following additional time and thought.
References

• Two references are required to apply for a Churchill Fellowship
  • A Project Reference and a Professional Reference
• Identify your referees early
• Use the Reference Request Feature within the online application form to request your references by email and/or SMS
• Referees are required to complete your reference online and lodge it electronically into your online application form
• Applicants will receive an email notification once lodged

• We recommend that you identify your referees and make your requests for references early in the application process to allow sufficient time for your referees to write and lodge them online prior to the closing date.
• The online form contains a built-in Reference Request Feature which allows the applicant to request a reference via email within the application form.
• The email request will provide your referee with guidelines to complete the reference, a link to access a copy of your partially or fully complete online application form and advice on how to lodge the reference.
• You will receive advice via email when the reference has been completed by your referees and lodged within your application. The email provides a link for you to preview the reference within your application. No editing is permitted by the applicant.
• You should ensure you have entered the project specific information required within the form prior to making a request for a reference. This will provide referees with a clear understanding of the project you are proposing so they can cite or refer to accurate content when composing the reference.
• You will not be able to lodge your full online application until both references have been received within your application.
• References cannot be accepted in any other format than outlined above without the specific approval of the Trust's CEO.
Your Itinerary

Please consider the following when planning your itinerary:

• Limit your itinerary to destinations that will most benefit your project
• The high cost of air travel to some of the more remote countries and difficulty of internal travel
• Avoid high risk countries (visit www.smarttraveller.com.au) as the Trust cannot approve travel to these countries
• Your itinerary must be planned as one continuous journey
• If awarded you must depart Australia between 1 February 2019 and 31 January 2020

• Limit your itinerary to destinations that will be of most benefit to your project. Overcrowding an itinerary can lead to fatigue and may be of less benefit to project outcomes.
• It is important to put forward the most complete itinerary you can at the point of application so make sure you include the countries you wish to visit along with the major cities within those countries that require air travel (other forms of transport are easier to organise in-country) and the purpose for your visit at each e.g. meeting, interview, observation etc
• Please be specific as this information is used by the Churchill Trust to cost your itinerary and once it is approved no additions can be made.
Selection Criteria and Tips

PROJECT
• Need for the project
• Benefits of the project to Australia
• Itinerary and overseas destinations selected
• Achievability of the project

PERSONAL
• Ability to maximise the opportunity
• Commitment to disseminate findings
• Commitment to make a difference

• The applications are assessed by a team of selectors.
• It's a competitive process.
• The number of selectors differs from State to Territory and the volume of suitable applicants usually determines the number of interview rounds required eg. NSW and VIC have two rounds of interviews as the most populated States
• When completing the application form, consider the selection criteria – it is readily available on the Trust’s website and is what is used to assess all applications.
• It is important that your itinerary outline, as accurately as possible, the countries, cities and towns you wish to visit on your Fellowship. However meetings/bookings do not need to be confirmed until the selection process has been completed.

PROJECT:

Need for the project
• What is compelling about your project? Things you may like to consider include -
• What is the burning platform?
• What has made you come here tonight to do more than just read about how to apply via the website?
• Is the time right for this project?
• Benefits of the project to Australia
• Think specifically about how this will benefit others.... Beyond the generic of “it will benefit communities”
• Who will benefit and how will they benefit?
• What difference will this learning make to how we live, work or play?
• Part of your honest answer might be that your business will be more profitable. That’s OK if it will also enrich the wider community in some way. Maybe it’s a new product or
process development that has the potential to employ others or something that could be applied to other businesses.

• Maybe it will change the face of how we do things or perhaps it will be a significant tweak of an existing program or business.

Itinerary and overseas destinations selected
• Do you need to travel overseas? Have you exhausted all avenues of learning in Australia?
• What is your focus - Don’t bite off more than you can chew. It’s got to be achievable.
• Why have you chosen these places? Who will you be speaking with and why? This is learning by speaking with, observing and doing with, questioning and looking very closely at others’ programs and processes and asking deeper probing questions that you might not be able to do if you were not face to face.
• Is this information available without having to travel?
• Achievability of the project
• We need to believe that you are in a position to achieve what you set out to do.

PERSONAL
• Why you… how can you convince us that you are the right person to undertake this project?
• How are you best placed to come back and implement change or influence others?
• An article in your professional journal is good but not usually worth $26,000!
Applications close 5pm AEST Friday 27 April 2018
Applicants will be shortlisted in May and June
Interviews will be held in June and July and can include weekends – Applicants are expected to attend an interview in person
Applicants will be notified of interview outcomes in August
Final selections are reviewed by the Board mid September with applicants advised the following day
New Churchill Fellows are announced publicly in the last week of September
Presentation ceremonies will be held at the Government House in each State/Territory between October and December
Fellows can depart on their Fellowship from 1 February 2019 through to 31 January 2020
Additional Advice

• Your employer

If what you want to do is connected to your employment, does your boss know and is she/he supportive? Find out if they are willing to pay you while you are away?
If this is so essential, why isn’t your company funding the trip overseas?

Referees

Help them to help you. They haven’t done the research you have about the Trust and what is required for the application. They are likely to be very busy people. So perhaps make a time to have a coffee or a phone conversation with them to succinctly and clearly explain what it’s all about and give them some ideas about the areas you think would be best covered in their reference.

Project referee

Someone who can authoritatively make the case for why this is an important project and worthy of the Trust’s consideration.
They should say something about why they are best placed to make such a judgement.
They must be someone who knows your work and values the direction you want to explore.

Professional referee

This is likely to be someone who knows your professional capacity and personal qualities. Can they talk about how others view you in your field, the length and quality of your service or expertise and the professional achievements you have had to date?
The Interview

This is not the time for modesty but also don’t oversell yourself either. If you’re a talker, watch your time management… you will be given 5-7 minutes to talk about your project. Then the rest of the time will be time for us to ask questions and there is no going over time. So as with your written application you need to make every word count.

If you’re a quieter person, despite your nerves, try to let your passion and drive for what you want to do come through.

Practise with someone who knows nothing or very little about your area of expertise. The Selection Committee members have diverse areas of knowledge and expertise on the panel. In your written application and at an interview you need to make sense to all of us.

Think about the lift test which is often used for networking. Can you explain your project in the time it takes to go up a couple of floors in the lift?

CONCLUSION

We encourage you to meet with and talk to any of the selection committee and the returned Fellows tonight and look forward to reading some of your exciting projects and meetings some of you at interview.
Remember

• It is a very competitive process
• Most applications will tick all the criteria – but we cannot fund everything
• Make your application stand out!

• Remember this is a competitive process – Churchill Fellowships are prestigious, well funded and highly contested.
• This is not a reason to be shy, it is a reason to put the most effort you can into your application.
• You will be competing against everyone else who lodges an application – no doubt most will satisfy the criteria but it is how well you satisfy the criteria that will ultimately decide whether you are successful. So make your application stand out!
• Around the room tonight we have a number of Churchill Fellows who can answer your questions and provide you with guidance.
• Following this, we encourage you to direct your enquiries to the National Office of the Trust for any additional information you require.
• Bev, Julia, Meg, Sally and Emma at National Office are available to provide relevant advice and information in a timely manner.
• Thank you to the Churchill Fellows Association for hosting tonight’s information session on behalf of the Churchill Trust.
• Thank you to you all for coming tonight and for listening to the presentations, we hope they have inspired you.
• If you decide applying this year is not right for you, I would encourage you to reconsider in future years.
• Equally, if you have a colleague, friend or relative who you think would be a great Churchill Fellow, please encourage them to consider applying this year.