Remembering Sir Winston

When Winston Churchill resigned as British Prime Minister in 1955 aged 80, he had served under 5 reigning monarchs, survived three wars, had been a writer, historian, journalist, adventurer and painter – and 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.

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 and over 220,000 Australians participated as collectors.

More than 2.2 million pounds were raised – it still remains of one the largest public fundraising efforts 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.

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.
A Churchill Fellowship is a unique and prestigious opportunity open to Australians from all walks of life.

- It is not an academic scholarship or a funding grant.
- A Fellowship is not just an overseas trip – it is the start of a life-long journey and contribution to make Australia better.
- A Churchill Fellowship does not need to comprise formal research – you can learn new skills, build networks and observe best practice in your chosen field.
- The Fellowship is for overseas travel only and must be for between 4-8 weeks, taking in one continuous journey.
- Over 4,400 Fellowships have been awarded since 1965 and each year there are typically more than 100 awarded in Australia.
- Churchill Fellows 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.
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 by closing date of 30 April 2020
- The ability to travel overseas travel is essential (for people with disabilities we can provide additional support)
- A Churchill Fellowship is an individual project not a team project
- If you are undertaking tertiary studies that is okay, however your proposed project cannot directly form part of that study
Project Eligibility

- Must benefit the Australian community
- Opportunity must not be available in Australia
- Cannot be part of an externally funded project
- Does not need to be ‘work related’ but can be
- The topic, field or issue is not limited

- Your project must also be suitable for a Fellowship and benefit the Australian community in some way – bring back and share knowledge, ideas, practices or skills
- You must demonstrate that you have fully explored the topic with Australia to be considered
- The project must be a self-contained project – it cannot be part of a university degree, or partially funded by another organisation
- Does not need to relate to your employment but can
- We don’t set limits on the topics or issues - unique
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. We also offer some 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 this will be clear in the application form. Your first step should be to ask yourself – how will my project be of the most benefit to some aspect of Australian society?
Applications opened on 1 February and close 30 April – apply online from the Churchill Trust website
Applications can only be made using the online application system (please talk to us if this is a barrier for you)
Remember you are competing against all the other applicants so ‘how are you going to convince the selectors to invest in you and your project idea’
You are encouraged to give this some thought – the better the references the more likely you are to stand out
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
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 from the Trust.
Your Itinerary

- Limit your itinerary to destinations that will most benefit your project.
- Avoid high risk countries (visit smarttraveller.com.au) as the Trust cannot approve travel to these countries.
- Must be one continuous journey of 4-8 weeks.
- Depart Australia between 1 February 2021 and 31 January 2022.

- 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 and the purpose for your visit at each (eg. 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.
The Trust has panels and committees in each state and territory comprising people from across a range of fields and sectors.

Applications are shortlisted, taking into account referee comments.

Interviews are held to help determine who will be recommended for a Churchill Fellowship – we prefer people to attend in person but can accommodate video interviews by exception.

About half of those interviewed are likely to receive Fellowships – making it to an interview is a significant achievement.

The odds are good but it is a competitive process

Our recommendations are reviewed by a Board comprising many eminent people from across Australia. The Board make the final decision. I am on that Board and put forward our recommendations.

We are often asked for tips in the application process. The best tips I can give you is to read and address the selection criteria. Use as little jargon as possible. Be clear and succinct.
**Selection Criteria and Tips**

**PROJECT**
- Need for the project
- Benefits of your project to Australia
- Itinerary and locations proposed to visit
- Achievability of your 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.
• Why you... how can you convince us that you are the right person to undertake this project? This is often easier for people on paper.
• 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 $29,000!
Attributes of a Churchill Fellow

• Invariably talented they all have the ability to give that little bit extra

• They share similar traits, including passion, drive and determination – much like Churchill did

• Committed to making a real difference
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.

The Churchill Trust team in Canberra are available to provide relevant advice and information in a timely manner.
Contact Us

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