

What to expect from the application form

This guidance document is for information and practice only and gives you an idea of what to expect from our application form.

We use an online application system which opens on **Tuesday 1st September 2026** at 9.30am and closes on Tuesday 20th October at Midday.

If it will be difficult for you to apply online, please get in touch with us for further advice and support.

Eligibility for a Fellowship

Please read the [How to Apply](#) pages of our website for advice and support before you start an application.

To apply for a Fellowship, you must be:

- Living in the UK, including the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man
- A UK citizen or an Irish citizen born in Northern Ireland*
- Aged 18 or over or will be by 31st December 2026

If you do not meet all three criteria, you should not apply.

**You will need a UK passport, or other proof that you are a UK citizen.*

Please note we do not give Fellowships for:

- An idea that will only benefit the applicant, not wider UK society
- An application from more than one person or from a team
- A project that already has, or hopes to have, a large number of funders
- Academic studies, dissertations for undergraduate degrees, degree placements, medical electives, student grants, internships, or courses
- Postgraduate studies, unless they can show wider, practical benefits to others in the UK
- Gap year activities, unless the application is for a stand-alone project that satisfies our criteria
- Art projects that will result only in an exhibition and have no public benefit beyond raising the profile and expertise of the applicant
- Artists' residencies
- Research for fiction, unless it clearly has a wider public benefit
- Volunteering

Applying for a Fellowship

You must apply by 12.00pm on Tuesday 20th October 2026.

You can only apply once each year. If you do not get a Fellowship this year you can apply again in future years.

Once you have submitted your application form, you will next hear from us in mid-December 2026 when we will email you to let you know if you have been longlisted.

We will decide who has got through the second stage and is shortlisted by early February 2027. This is when we will ask for more detailed information and a budget.

About you

On the application we will ask for your legal names as they appear on your passport, date of birth and contact details.

We suggest avoiding Hotmail email addresses and you must let us know if you change your email address.

About your project

Project title - This should be a clear and simple summary that helps people who might not know much about your topic to understand what you are exploring. For example, *How neighbourhood bakeries can create sustainable local food systems*. It will need to be 100 characters or fewer.

Programme – We will ask [which programme](#) you think is the best fit for your project. Your choice will not affect your chances of success. If we think your idea fits better in a different programme we will get in touch to let you know. This year's programmes are listed below:

- Building a society that cares
- Building prosperous, resilient economies
- Caring for our natural environment
- Civic and democratic engagement
- Climate change
- Making space for the arts
- Open: Governance and public provision
- Open: All other projects
- Promoting lifelong health
- Supporting engagement in education: enabling all students to thrive
- Tech for all

Questions we will ask you about your project

1. **What change do you hope to make in the UK?** Why you think a change is needed and what difference it would make, including who you think will benefit most. *1500 characters or fewer.*
2. **Why are you the right person to carry out a Fellowship? We value all the different ways that knowledge is acquired, including from working, volunteering, studying or personal experience.** Here tell us about the lived and/or learned experience which you think would make you an effective Churchill Fellow? *1500 characters or fewer.*
3. **Why have you chosen your countries? What do you hope to learn from them?** Please tell us something about the people and places you would like to focus on. We understand your thinking will develop and your plans might change. *1500 characters or fewer.*
4. **How do you think you will share and use your learning to influence change in the UK?** Tell us something about what you hope to do next – with whom, how and when. We understand change takes time and your plans will evolve. *1500 characters or fewer.*

5. **Which countries and continents will you learn from?** Please note, if you travel, we will only fund you to visit **two** continents.
6. **How will you carry out your learning from other countries?** Think about whether you plan to travel to other countries, carry it out online from the UK or take a hybrid approach so travel to other countries and do it online from the UK.
7. **How many weeks will you spend learning from other countries?** This should be between 4 and 8 weeks. It doesn't have to be carried out in one block.

About your referees

We will ask for the details of two referees who can tell us more about you and your experience. Referees cannot be members of your family or just friends.

The referees must:

- have known you well for at least a year
- know about your interests and your work, either in your job or community

We will automatically contact your referees in February 2027 if you are shortlisted, so please contact your referees before you submit your application and make sure their details are correct.

Further application questions

We will then ask more questions about you, in line with our [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy](#), followed by how you heard about the Churchill Fellowship.

If you have any questions at any stage:

- You can find out more on our [Become a Fellow page](#)
- You can call us on 020 7799 1660.
- You can email applications@churchillfellowship.org.

Useful links

- Our current programmes: <https://churchillfellowship.org/become-a-fellow/our-current-programmes/>
- Our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy: <https://www.churchillfellowship.org/about-us/our-values/equity-diversity-and-inclusion/>
- Terms and conditions for Fellows: <https://www.churchillfellowship.org/fellows-resources/managing-your-fellowship/terms-and-conditions-for-fellows/>
- Become a Fellow: <https://www.churchillfellowship.org/become-a-fellow/>

How we use your information

We are committed to handling your personal data in accordance with the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. We do not sell or share your personal data with third parties. We may share anonymised versions of the application data with third parties, but we take steps to remove names and direct identifiers wherever possible. However, please be aware that if you include other information in your application that could indirectly identify you, this may still make the data identifiable to third parties. In such cases, it will be understood that this information is shared with your consent. If you are shortlisted for an interview or proceed to become a Fellow, we would share your data with our partners on the basis of legitimate interest.

We may contact you by post, email, or phone in relation to your application. For more information about how we use and protect your data, please see our full privacy notice [on our website](#).