

Media release

auDA Churchill Fellowships to support internet research and development

19 February 2025

auDA is pleased to announce a three-year funding commitment to The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust (**the Churchill Trust**) to support research and development that uplifts the utility of the internet for Australians.

This initiative will fund two new Churchill Fellowships per year in each of 2025, 2026 and 2027, to be delivered by the Churchill Trust. A Churchill Fellowship offers Australian citizens and permanent residents a life-changing opportunity to travel overseas for four to eight weeks to learn more about a topic or issue that they are passionate about. **The auDA Churchill Fellowships** will be open to individuals with a passion for delivering public benefit and will support research and development projects that explore the digital and internet landscape.

Chair of auDA's Public Benefit Program Committee Sandra Davey said, "auDA is pleased to sponsor fellowships with the Churchill Trust. The auDA Churchill Fellows will be awarded a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to research and connect with global experts and bring their newfound knowledge home to drive positive change for Australians through the internet and digital technologies."

auDA CEO Bruce Tonkin said, "For almost 20 years, auDA has provided grants for community projects to deliver positive social and economic outcomes for Australian internet users. Working with the Churchill Trust enables auDA to extend this support, and we look forward to the learnings that the auDA Churchill Fellows will share and the impact their research will deliver. We encourage individuals from the internet community to apply, including .au members and those from industry, not-for-profits, small business and education providers."

How to apply to be an auDA Churchill Fellow in 2025

Applications will be facilitated by the Churchill Trust as part of their annual Fellowship Program.

Applications for the 2025 Fellowships will open on 28 February and close 1 May 2025. Successful applicants will be announced in September 2025.

Applications are open to Australian citizens and permanent residents. Potential applicants can find [guidelines and further information on the Trust's website](#).



The auDA Churchill Fellowship program builds on auDA's annual Community Grant Program for research, education and community-based projects, and Research and Development Grant Program, which delivers multi-year funding for large-scale research and development projects.

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Note to media:

More information on [auDA's Public Benefit Program](#) can be found on the auDA website.

For further information:

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About auDA:

.au Domain Administration Limited (auDA) is the trusted administrator of the .au domain name system (DNS), which is Australian critical infrastructure, supporting more than 4 million .au domain names. auDA is a not-for-profit, endorsed by the Australian Government to innovate and invest in the Australian internet ecosystem to improve the utility of the .au domain for all Australians. Through its steady stewardship of the .au domain and support of multi-stakeholder internet governance, auDA strives to ensure the internet remains open, free, secure and global.

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About the Winston Churchill Trust

The Winston Churchill Trust is an Australian organisation established in 1965 following the death of Sir Winston Churchill. Referred to as the Churchill Trust, it was formed to honour Sir Winston's memory by awarding Memorial Fellowships, known as 'Churchill Fellowships'.

The Churchill Trust provides opportunities to Australians to travel overseas to conduct research in their chosen field. It also aims to reward individuals who possess passion and a commitment to make a difference in Australian society. The Churchill Trust has awarded over 4,500 Fellowships since 1965.

There are no prescribed qualifications to apply for the Churchill Fellowship award. Australian citizens from all walks of life can apply. Projects are intended to benefit to Australia and findings shared with the Australian community.