

### Funded Travelling Fellowships for Teachers

In 2015, [The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust](#) will be investing £1.2 million in British citizens, by awarding a record number of 150 Travelling Fellowships, in order to mark its 50th anniversary.

This will directly support British citizens who want to travel overseas to gain knowledge, experience and best practice to benefit others in their UK professions and communities, and society as a whole.

As part of our partnership with [The Mercers' Charitable Foundation](#), we will be awarding 10 Travelling Fellowships in the [Education](#) category, and the application process is now open.

We are looking for people who work in the Education System to improve the educational achievements of young people aged 5-19, and who would like to visit other countries to see for themselves how their education systems work. Those people who would like to research best practice of attainment levels in the four key academic areas of English, Maths, Science and Technology, are encouraged to [apply](#). We are particularly interested in applications that focus on primary education. They would then return to the UK to disseminate the new knowledge observed, for the wider benefit of their community and the UK.

[Professor Allison Littlejohn](#)'s Fellowship transformed her from a scientist to an educator, specialising in technology-enhanced learning for science education. She travelled to the USA to investigate the creation and ownership of learning resources and content, including the use of digital resources for learning. Since then she has held many senior positions within Universities. In 2007 Allison became Shell Learning Senior Researcher, leading a university team in the competition to win a prestigious research partnership with Shell, allowing unique exploration into aligning learning with work. She has also written books on Technology Enhanced Learning.

Amongst those travelling this year, in this category, is **Dr Anne Bailie**, a teacher from Belfast, travelling to Finland and Canada to look into ways of improving literacy skills among underprivileged boys.

Successful applicants must demonstrate the commitment, the character and the tenacity to travel globally in pursuit of new and better ways of tackling a wide range of current challenges facing the UK, and upon their return work to transform and improve aspects of today's society.

A travelling sabbatical for people with the drive, determination and desire to help others, can further their leadership and role model abilities.

Employers often also see great benefits with employees returning with new knowledge, skills and ideas to share with others within the organisation.

Applications are judged purely on project merit, and these opportunities are available to UK residents over the age of 18, of any ethnicity, religion, or gender.

Successful applicants will receive an average Fellowship grant of over £6000, covering return airfare, daily living costs, insurance and travel within the countries being visited, for approximately 6 weeks overseas.

### **Notes to Editors**

[The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust](#) was established shortly after Sir Winston's death in 1965, as his national memorial and living legacy. Since then it has awarded over 4820 Travelling Fellowships. The application process for travel in 2015 is now open, and there are 11 varied [categories](#) in which people can [apply](#).

Churchill's beliefs and passions are still living on through our Fellows – who are remarkable yet ordinary individuals, representing a wide range of backgrounds, qualifications, interests and professions, but sharing the desire to do something for the improvement of British life and their fellow man.

The deadline for the 2015 applications is 5pm on 23rd September 2014.

In total 137 Fellowships were awarded in the UK in 2014, with grant awards totaling £876,540. The Fellows are currently travelling to 52 countries between them, across 6 continents, carrying out a wide range of projects.

To maximise the impact of our Fellowships we have developed partnerships with other organisations, focused on specific areas of concern and relevance for the UK today. Lessons learnt from overseas travel are effectively coordinated and disseminated, and incorporated into best practice in the UK for the benefit of others in similar communities and professions.

[The Mercers' Charitable Foundation](#) is funded by the Mercers' Company, the Premier Livery Company of the City of London. The Company's origins date back beyond its first charter in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. It has been involved in education for over 500 years, since the foundation of St. Paul's School in 1509. The Company's activities include the ownership and management of a large portfolio of investments, mainly properties in the City and West End of London. It is Trustee of and manages charities which provide housing for the elderly, wide ranging support for education, welfare, heritage and the arts, and it has active links with many churches.

For further information about the Mercers' Company and its charitable activities, please visit [www.mercers.co.uk](http://www.mercers.co.uk)

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust: 020 7799 1660

[www.wcmt.org.uk](http://www.wcmt.org.uk)