

FACTSHEET

Smart Nation Fellowship Programme

Singapore is embarking on a journey to become a Smart Nation, with the aim of harnessing technology and data to improve the lives of citizens. As we build a Smart Nation, Singapore needs to develop a strong nucleus of innovative engineering and technology talent who are able to leverage cutting edge technology trends and build meaningful digital and data solutions that can help improve the lives of citizens.

Launched in March 2016, the Smart Nation Fellowship Programme aims to appoint top data scientists, technologists and engineers from academia and industry in Singapore and overseas to join the Singapore government for short stints of three to six months. They will work alongside data scientists and product developers from GovTech's Government Digital Services (GDS) team, as well as users and developers from different government agencies, to apply data science and technology for the public good.

What's in it for the Fellows?

Fellows will get the opportunity to work on projects that have potential impact on public policy decision-making and operations, or public service delivery. They can either choose to work on digital and data projects that the GDS team has pre-identified, or propose new projects. These will include building transformational digital services applications and data analytics platforms.

Fellows will also be able to collaborate across government agencies on projects as well as engage with senior decision makers across government on the intersection of technology and public policy.

The Fellowship will offer two areas of "focus" to appoint fellows with varied skillsets to work on a range of data and digital projects:

- Fellows who focus on "Data" will help enable evidence-based decision making in government. They will develop and apply quantitative methods to visualise and analyse data to derive insights that help inform government policies and operations.
- Fellows who focus on "Tech" will help deliver useful digital services and products to citizens. They will design, build and deploy digital platforms and applications that help enhance the digital experience of citizens.

tech.gov.sg

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Fellowship requirements

Fellows will be chosen primarily on their technical expertise and proven ability to produce data science or technology solutions that can be applied to real world problems.

<p>Prerequisites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expertise in computer and social sciences, software development, data science, UI/UX design or technology-related disciplines (wireless and sensor networks, ICT and cybersecurity, Internet of Things) • Previous experience leading or working on data or technology projects in academia; technology firms or private sector • Able to work in Singapore for at least 3 months 	
<p>Fellow Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academics: Advanced Ph.D. candidates, post-doctorates, or tenure-track faculty (less than 3 years on the job) <p style="text-align: center;"><u>OR</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry: Between 3 to 7 years of working experience 	<p>Senior Fellow Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academics: Tenure-track faculty (more than 3 years on the job) or tenured faculty <p style="text-align: center;"><u>OR</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry: At least 8 years of working experience

For more information on the Smart Nation Fellowship Programme, please visit <https://fellowships.data.gov.sg/>

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Smart Nation Fellows' Profiles

The first Smart Nation Fellows – chosen from nearly 300 applications – began their stints with the GDS team from July 2016.

The Smart Nation Fellows were:



Chua U-Zyn is a Principal Consultant with Zynesis, a Singapore-based full stack IT consulting firm providing system development and administration services, and blockchain consultation.

With over 10 years of experience in tech, U-Zyn has launched various sites and services, including Ping.sg, an award-winning blogger community. He also actively contributes to open source software and is an advocate of the open source and decentralisation movements.

Due to U-Zyn's interest in cybersecurity, he has been dabbling with bitcoin since as early as 2010. He founded one of the earliest bitcoin exchanges and several other bitcoin and blockchain services.

“It is visionary of Singapore to announce the Smart Nation initiative and be one of world leaders to drive technology innovations for public good. I knew I had to apply for the Smart Nation Fellowship as this is an opportunity for me to contribute to the Smart Nation initiative. I am honoured to be selected for the inaugural batch of Fellows, and hope to leverage on blockchain technology to work on projects for public good.”



Arun Kishore is a Product Analyst with YouTube's Data Science team based in San Bruno, California, where he works on analysing and understanding how consumers use YouTube. He is currently the lead analyst on YouTube's Music app, and also works on projects related to YouTube Red subscription service.

Arun has more than 11 years of work experience in technology and entertainment industries. He started his career as an R&D Engineer at GDC Technology, a start-up that pioneered the film industry's conversion from film to digital. Arun's key contributions at GDC included partnering with movie studios in

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	<p>defining industry standards for digital cinema, and launching the company's operations in Los Angeles.</p> <p>“Singapore is setting an example for the rest of the world with its Smart Nation initiative and bringing data-driven decision-making into government. As a member of the inaugural batch of Smart Nation Fellows, I am thrilled to be part of this vision. I see this as a unique opportunity to apply my data analysis skills towards helping the government make better decisions and solving problems that impact millions of Singaporeans.”</p>
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