

## **The Royal Air Force Museum Masters Prize – Application Guidance**

The Royal Air Force Museum Masters Prize is awarded annually by the Royal Air Force Museum, on the recommendation of a selection panel consisting of members of its Research Board, to reward original research in academic areas relevant to the interests of the Museum. It carries a monetary value of £250.

### **Area of research:**

Applications which consider the historiography of the RAF are particularly welcomed, however, the prize is open to students whose studies will further the Museum's knowledge in relevant areas of archaeology, international relations, strategic studies, law and ethics, museology or air power.

The prize will not be confined to works focused on the RAF and works which help expand knowledge of operational conditions, adversaries or the context of the RAF's history will be considered.

### **Eligibility requirements:**

The prize is open to dissertations by Masters students, without regard to nationality or academic affiliation, which have been completed within 18 months of the opening date for applications. If the final submission for your academic course was not a dissertation you may still be eligible. You will, however, need to contact the Museum's historian to discuss your submission. The prize is open to all candidates without regard to nationality or academic affiliation.

For this competition, the academic areas relevant to the interests of the Museum should be understood in its broadest sense, encompassing not only the history of the RAF and air warfare broadly defined, but also related fields such as archaeology, international relations, strategic studies, law and ethics, and museology. The prize is not confined to works focused on the RAF but includes those which help tell the Service's story.

If you are uncertain of your eligibility please contact the RAF Museum Historian

**Amount awarded:** £250 (the prize will be awarded in sterling only)

**Applications open:** Tuesday 1 September 2020

**Applications Close:** Sunday 25 October 2020

**Entries.** All submissions must be in English. Candidates must provide the following:

- a completed application form (available from: [https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/documents/Research/Academic-Prizes/RAF-Museum-MA-Prize\\_Application.docx](https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/documents/Research/Academic-Prizes/RAF-Museum-MA-Prize_Application.docx) );
- a dissertation based on original research. The length must not exceed your organisation's standard length for a Masters level dissertation (excluding footnotes and bibliography).
- Entries should be provided as a Word document and not as a PDF.

### **Assessment:**

A selection panel will decide the winner of the prize on the basis of a majority vote. The selection panel consists of the following members of the RAF Museum's Research Board:

- Chair: Ian Thirsk (Royal Air Force Museum)
- Sebastian Cox (Head, Air Historical Branch)
- Air Commodore (ret'd) Dr Peter Gray (University of Wolverhampton)
- Professor David Edgerton (King's College London)
- Professor Richard Morris (University of Huddersfield)

The selection panel will make its decisions based on:

- skill and control in using sources;
- command of evidence;
- clarity and quality of writing;
- whether the entry makes a significant contribution to knowledge and/or understanding of an aspect of air power studies;
- originality.

### **Applications**

Complete applications, consisting of the application and dissertation must be received by the RAF Museum no later than 25 October 2020. Incomplete applications or applications arriving after this date will not be considered. One supporting letter of reference must be received by no later than 31 October 2020.

Please send completed applications to the Museum's historian, Dr Harry Raffal, by email:

[harry.raffal@rafmuseum.org](mailto:harry.raffal@rafmuseum.org)

If you would like to have an informal discussion regarding the prize please contact Dr Raffal at the above address.