

## **The Royal Air Force Museum PhD Bursary – Application Guidance**

The Royal Air Force Museum PhD Bursary is awarded annually by the RAF Museum, on the recommendation of a selection panel consisting of members of its Research Board, to reward original doctoral research for outstanding works in academic areas relevant to the interests of the Museum. It carries a monetary value of £1,500.

### **Area of research:**

Applications which consider the historiography of the RAF are particularly welcomed, however, the bursary 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 bursary 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 bursary is open to doctoral candidates to help complete their PhD and support the writing-up period of their thesis. The bursary is open to all candidates without regard to nationality or academic affiliation. Students are required to submit a completed application form (which includes a synopsis of their research project and bibliography), a one page academic CV and a sample chapter for consideration by the selection panel.

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 bursary is not confined to works focused on the RAF but includes those which help tell the Service's story.

If you are not sure of your eligibility, then please contact the RAF Museum Historian

**Amount awarded:** £1,500 (the bursary 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%20Prizes/RAF-Museum-PhD-Bursary\\_Application.docx](https://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/documents/Research/Academic%20Prizes/RAF-Museum-PhD-Bursary_Application.docx) ) which includes a synopsis and a brief bibliography;

- an example chapter based on original research which is not to exceed 10,000 words (excluding footnotes);
- a one page academic CV.

### **Assessment:**

A selection panel will decide the winner of the bursary 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**

A completed application form, including a synopsis and bibliography, sample chapter, and one page academic CV, 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 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 bursaries please contact Dr Raffal at the above address.