

The Royal Air Force Museum PhD Bursary in Air Power Studies

The Royal Air Force Museum PhD Bursary 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 doctoral research in the field of air power studies. It carries a monetary value of £1,500.

Area of research:

Air Power Studies

Eligibility requirements:

The bursary is open to doctoral candidates to help complete their PhD, and it is expected that the thesis would be submitted for examination within 12 months of receipt of the bursary. The bursary is open to all candidates without regard to nationality or academic affiliation. Students are required to submit a synopsis of their research project and a literature review for consideration by the selection panel. For this competition, 'air power studies' is to be understood in its broadest sense, encompassing not only the history of 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, Dr Ross Mahoney (ross.mahoney@rafmuseum.org).

Amount awarded: £1,500 (the prize will be awarded in sterling only)

Applications open: 1 July 2017 to 1 October 2017

Entries:

Entries for the bursary should consist of a synopsis of your thesis and a literature review related to your field of research. The synopsis should include a rationale for your research, your research questions, an outline of the structure of your thesis, and a discussion of methodology and sources. The synopsis and literature review should be written in English and be based on original research. The length for the synopsis and literature review must not exceed c.10,000 words (excluding footnotes and bibliography).

Assessment:

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 the knowledge and understanding of an aspect of air power studies; and
- originality.

The selection panel consists of the following members of the RAF Museum's Research Board:

- Chair: Ian Thirsk (Royal Air Force Museum)
- Dr Ross Mahoney (Royal Air Force Museum)

- Professor Richard Overy (University of Exeter)
- Air Commodore (ret'd) Dr Peter Gray (University of Birmingham)
- Sebastian Cox (Head, Air Historical Branch)
- Professor David Edgerton (King's College London)
- Professor Richard Morris (University of Huddersfield)

The selection panel will advise the bursary holder on possible routes for publishing their thesis. It is also expected that:

- a copy of the thesis will be deposited in the Archive and Library of the RAF Museum; and that
- the bursary holder will deliver a lecture as part of the RAF Museum's Research Programme.

Applications

Complete applications, consisting of the synopsis, example chapter, and CV, must be received by the RAF Museum no later than 1 October 2017. Incomplete applications or applications arriving after this date will not be considered. Two supporting letters of reference must be received by no later than 8 October 2017.

Please send applications, by post or email, to:

Dr Ross Mahoney

Historian

Royal Air Force Museum

Grahame Park Way

London

NW9 5LL

ross.mahoney@rafmuseum.org