



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



The Open University

The impact of participating in British counterinsurgency campaigns on British armed forces personnel, 1945-1975

AHRC PhD Studentship in collaboration with Imperial War Museums (IWM) and The Open University

Applications are invited for an AHRC-funded PhD at The Open University: "The impact of participating in British counterinsurgency campaigns, 1945-1997, on British armed forces personnel". This is offered under the AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership programme. The partner institutions are The Open University and IWM.

The studentship will be supervised by Dr Karl Hack and Dr Alex Tickell of the Faculty of Arts, The Open University, and Dr Simon Innes-Robbins of the IWM. This full-time studentship, which is funded for three years at standard AHRC rates, will begin on 1 October 2016.

The Studentship

This project provides a unique opportunity to use the rich resources of the Imperial War Museums to understand the experience and impact of participation in postwar counterinsurgencies on British armed forces personnel. You could take a limited number of case-studies, or pursue one or two key questions across the period. You will have the opportunity to frame the project in consultation with your supervisors, but possible themes include attitudes towards foreign countries, insurgents and local populations; the experience of high-stress, low-intensity campaigns in often hostile terrain ranging from desert to jungle; perceptions of empire, decolonisation, 'race' and culture; the adaptation of doctrine and training to reflect troop experiences; and reactions to concepts such as 'minimum' and 'exemplary' force. There is scope to vary the approach according to your interests, for instance towards more military, social, literary or psychological approaches, providing the chosen approaches provide a historically rigorous insight into the museum's collections.

The award pays fees up to the value of the full time home/EU rate for PhD degrees as well as maintenance (the latter is available to UK citizens and residents only, for more information visit: <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Student-Funding-Guide.pdf>). In addition, the student is eligible to receive up to £1,000 a year from IWM and £1,000 a year from The Open University towards research expenses.

How to Apply

Applicants should have a good undergraduate degree in history, medicine or another relevant discipline, and will need to satisfy AHRC eligibility requirements including Masters-level advanced research training or equivalent.

Applicants should submit via email a curriculum vitae (no more than 2 pages), a sample of writing, a brief letter outlining their qualification for the studentship, and the names and contact details of two academic referees to Emily Peirson-Webber, Research Manager, IWM (research@iwm.org.uk) **no later than 5pm on 2 March 2016**. All documents should be submitted in either a MS Word or PDF format. Please ensure the subject line of your email appears as 'surname, first name – IWM/Open University studentship.'

Interviews are scheduled to be held in London on **30 March 2016**. Shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete an application for a place in History at The Open University. For further information please contact Emily Peirson-Webber (EPeirson-Webber@iwm.org.uk | 020 7416 5461).