



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



University of Brighton

The IWM and Public Memory of the Second World War

AHRC PhD Studentship in collaboration with Imperial War Museums (IWM) and University of Brighton

Applications are invited for an AHRC-funded PhD at the University of Brighton: “The IWM and Public Memory of the Second World War”. This is offered under the AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership programme. The partner institutions are the University of Brighton and the IWM. The studentship will be supervised by Dr Lucy Noakes and Professor Graham Dawson, University of Brighton, and James Taylor of the IWM. This full-time studentship, which is funded for three years at standard AHRC rates, will begin on 1 October 2015.

The Studentship

This project will examine the politics of Second World War display and audience engagement and interpretation at IWM. Its overall aim is to explore the changing landscapes of remembrance, commemoration and memory of the Second World War in Britain in both a recent-historical and contemporary context. The project will trace the successive phases of permanent and temporary exhibitions that have taken place at IWM since the end of the conflict in 1945. It will deliver a critical analysis of the IWM’s programme of Second World War exhibitions, events and related public activities. In documenting the evolving process of Second World War display over the last 50 years, the project will uncover how memory and commemorative practices have changed alongside myriad cumulative cultural influences. This analysis draws from, and engages with, existing work both on the development of museological pedagogy, as well as debates concerning the heritage and commemoration of war. By analysing each decade of exhibition and audience- development activity, the project traces a history of public engagement with the Second World War. It is also provides an opportunity to explore the future direction and meaning of the landscape of remembrance and commemoration. As the national war museum and a leading commemorative site, the IWM continues to play a fundamental role in channelling and interpreting this emerging field of cultural memory. The project will, therefore, also undertake an examination both of the IWM’s own preparations of new, permanent Second World War galleries. This studentship follows on from the previous Collaborative Doctoral Award on ‘Remembrance, Commemoration and Memory: Negotiating the Imperial War Museum’s First World War Exhibitions, 1964 – 2014’, which began at IWM in 2011. This partnership with the University of Exeter contextually analysed the museum’s permanent and temporary First World War exhibitions over a fifty year period. It is intended that this studentship will follow a similar trajectory but with reference to the Second World War, and that the student will be able to support IWM’s future programming in a similar capacity.

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->



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



University of Brighton

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 University of Brighton towards research expenses.

How to Apply

Applicants should have a good undergraduate degree in History 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 Sara McCallum, Research Officer, IWM (research@iwm.org.uk) **no later than 5pm on Friday 10 April, 2015**. 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/Brighton studentship.'

Interviews are scheduled to be held in London on **the week commencing 27 April, 2015**. Shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete an application to the College of Art and Humanities Doctoral Programme at the University of Brighton. For further information please contact Sara McCallum (SMcCallum@iwm.org.uk | 020 7416 5461).