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## **A review of the impact of women's military or wartime service in the aftermath of the First World War, based on IWM's journal collections**

### **AHRC PhD Studentship in collaboration with Imperial War Museums (IWM) and the University of Manchester**

Applications are invited for an AHRC-funded PhD at the University of Manchester: "A review of the impact of women's military or wartime service in the aftermath of the First World War, based on IWM's journal collections". This is offered under the AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership programme. The partner institutions are the University of Manchester and IWM. The studentship will be supervised by Professor Penny Summerfield and Dr Charlotte Wildman at the University of Manchester, and Sarah Paterson at IWM London. This full-time studentship, which is funded for three years at standard AHRC rates, will begin on 1 October 2016.

#### **The Studentship**

This project will study the long-term impact that working for the British war effort during the First World War had on the women involved. Although much work has been conducted on women's participation during the war years, we know little about how it affected them afterwards. This study will look at how women's wartime experiences changed them, how they reflected on their changed roles, and how the experience influenced their work and lives in the inter-war period and later during the Second World War.

The main primary source consists of the journals published by the Old Comrades Associations of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps (first issued in July 1920), Women's Royal Air Force (May 1920), and the Women's Royal Naval Service (February 1921). These run up to and beyond the Second World War, are very detailed and have not previously been researched. There is other relevant material in IWM's archives – notably in the library and Documents and Sound Section, which hold private papers, published materials and recordings made with women who served in the First World War.

The IWM Women's Work Sub-Committee acquired material from 1917 to the early 1920s. Established while women's war work was at its height, and as the war effort became more centrally-controlled, the Sub-Committee's purpose was to enable women's wartime activities to be recorded for posterity. Contributors interacted with the Committee about how they wanted their work to be remembered. This material enables exploration of the compilation of the vast Women's Work Collection, consisting of 189 boxes of documents and 20 albums of press cuttings, now digitised and available via the Cengage Gale website. It also provides an opportunity to study the way the Collection shaped the memory of women's wartime service.

Subject to AHRC eligibility criteria, the scholarships cover tuition fees and a grant (stipend) towards living expenses. The value of the stipend for 2016/17 is yet to be confirmed. However, it is likely to be £14,296 plus £550 additional stipend payment for Collaborative Doctoral Students. For more information visit: [www.ahrc.ac.uk/skills/phdstudents/fundingandtraining](http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/skills/phdstudents/fundingandtraining). In addition, the student is eligible to receive up to £1,000 a year from IWM towards research expenses. The student will also be able to apply for additional funding at the University of Manchester for conference attendance, archive trips and other related expenses, should the need arise.



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## 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 must be a resident of the UK or European Economic Area (EEA). In general, full studentships are available to students who are settled in the UK and have been ordinarily resident for a period of at least three years before the start of postgraduate studies. Fees-only awards are generally available to EU nationals resident in the EEA. International applicants are normally not eligible to apply for this studentship.

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 at IWM ([research@iwm.org.uk](mailto:research@iwm.org.uk)) **no later than 5pm on Thursday 3 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/Manchester 1 studentship.'

Interviews are scheduled to be held in London on **Tuesday 15 March 2016**. Shortlisted candidates will be asked to complete an application for a place to study for a History PhD in the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures at the University of Manchester. For further information please contact Emily Peirson-Webber ([EPeirson-Webber@iwm.org.uk](mailto:EPeirson-Webber@iwm.org.uk) | 020 7416 5461).