



## **AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) studentship – Tracing Perceptions of Winston Churchill from the First World War to 2020**

**Start date:** 1st October 2022

**Application deadline:** 1st June 2022

King's College London (KCL) and Imperial War Museums (IWM) are pleased to announce the availability of a fully funded Collaborative doctoral studentship from October 2022 under the AHRC's [Collaborative Doctoral Partnership Scheme](#).

This project examines perceptions of Winston Churchill from c. 1914 to c. 2020 and the reasons for them. It will be jointly supervised by Professor Ashley Jackson (KCL) and Kate Clements (Curator, IWM), and the student will be expected to spend time at both institutions, as well as becoming part of the wider cohort of CDP funded students across the UK. The studentship can be studied either full or part-time. Students should have an excellent academic record at undergraduate level. A master's degree in a relevant subject would be welcome, but it is not a requirement. Those able to demonstrate equivalent experience in a professional setting will also be considered.

### **Project Overview**

This project is about tracing perceptions of Winston Churchill over time. It will highlight how the public and the media, as well as Churchill's associates and opponents, have viewed him from the time of his involvement in the First World War, through to his role as Britain's wartime Prime Minister and up until 2020. It will document how both Churchill's reputation and role within modern British history have altered over time, often reflecting wider events. It will show that public opinion and media coverage of Churchill was never unanimous in its tone or outlook.

A key contribution to historical knowledge, this project will primarily address issues surrounding one of the most well-known personalities within British politics and 20th-century global history. It will also explore the legacy of the Second World War and how changing contemporaneous discourse has altered, affected and challenged established wartime narratives in the decades since it ended. The project will analyse representations of Churchill not only during the two world wars but also up to the near present, including the events of 2020, in which protesters vandalized Churchill's statue in Parliament Square.

### **Research questions**

Key research questions to be addressed include:

- How and why has public perception of Churchill vacillated?
- What was the public perception of Churchill during the First and Second World Wars?
- How was he portrayed by the media during and between the wars?
- How far did the events of his public and political life prior to the Second World War shape how he was viewed during the conflict?
- How far did Churchill's First World War service and reputation, as well as his years in the 'political wilderness' during the 1930s, shape how he was viewed after he became Prime Minister?
- How were Churchill's views on the British Empire and its independence movements received by the British public and press during the war and afterwards?
- How have these perceptions changed over time?

Likely research to be undertaken will include archival research at IWM, the Churchill Archives Centre, the National Archives and newspaper and media archives. Research trips will very likely include Chartwell, the Churchill War Rooms, the Churchill Museum in Missouri, USA, as well as other archives and media centres as necessary.

### **Details of Award**

CDP doctoral training grants fund full-time studentships for 45 months (3.75 years) or part-time equivalent. The studentship has the possibility of being extended for an additional 3 months to provide professional development opportunities, or up to 3 months of funding may be used to pay for the costs the student might incur in taking up professional development opportunities.

The award pays tuition fees up to the value of the full-time home UKRI rate for PhD degrees. **Research Councils UK Indicative Fee Level for 2022/2023 is £4596.**

The award pays full maintenance for all students both home and international. The UKRI National Minimum Doctoral Stipend for 2022/2023 is £16,062, plus a London Weighting of £2000/year, plus a CDP maintenance payment of £550/year.

Further details can be found on the UKRI website

<https://www.ukri.org/skills/funding-for-research-training/>

The student is eligible to receive an additional travel and related expenses grant during the course of the project courtesy of IWM worth up to £1000 per year for 3.75 years (45 months).

The project can be undertaken on a full-time or part-time basis.

## Eligibility

- This studentship is open to both Home and International applicants.
- To be classed as a home student, candidates must meet the following criteria:
  - Be a UK National (meeting residency requirements), or
  - Have settled status, or
  - Have pre-settled status (meeting residency requirements), or
  - Have indefinite leave to remain or enter

Further guidance can be found here - <https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/UKRI-030221-Guidance-International-Eligibility-Implementation-training-grant-holders-V2.pdf>

- We want to encourage the widest range of potential students to study for a CDP studentship and are committed to welcoming students from all backgrounds to apply. We particularly welcome applications from Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds as they are currently underrepresented at this level in this area.
- Applicants should have an excellent academic record at undergraduate level. They should ideally have or expect to receive a relevant Master's-level qualification, or be able to demonstrate equivalent experience in a professional setting.
- Applicants must be able to demonstrate an interest in the museum sector and potential and enthusiasm for developing skills more widely in related areas.
- As a collaborative award, students will be expected to spend time at both KCL and IWM.

NB. All applicants must meet UKRI terms and conditions for funding. See:

<https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/grant-terms-and-conditions/>

## How to apply

Applicants will be assessed on their academic record and research potential. The successful applicant will need to apply direct to KCL's School of Security Studies PhD programme and satisfy its admission requirements.

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, transcripts of undergraduate and master's qualifications, and two academic references to Fran Merrifield ([pgr-securitystudies@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:pgr-securitystudies@kcl.ac.uk)) in the KCL School of Security Studies by **no later than 5pm on 1 June 2022**. Please ensure the subject line of your email appears as 'surname, first name – IWM/KCL Jackson studentship.'

Please note it is the responsibility of applicants to request references from their referees and ensure that they have been received by this deadline. All documents should be submitted in either an MS Word or PDF format.

Interviews to be held **in late June or July**.

The successful candidate will be eligible to participate in [CDP Cohort Development events](#).