

## **Collaborative Doctoral Project Studentship - De Montfort University and the World Rugby Museum, Twickenham: 'Women in Rugby Union: A Social and Cultural History, c. 1880-2016'.**

### **The Project:**

Basing itself on the extensive archives of the World Rugby Museum at Twickenham this project will be the first comprehensive study of the involvement of women in rugby union in Britain. Beginning by examining the reports of early women's 'football' teams of the early 1880s, the project will use archival, newspaper and other primary sources to trace the history of women's involvement in rugby union as players, administrators, spectators and providers of support to male players from the earliest times to the present day.

The research will also examine attitudes to women's involvement in what is seen traditionally as one of the most masculine of sports and explore how these have changed. Perhaps most significantly it will chart the rise of the modern women's game from its emergence in higher education in the 1960s and 1970s to the present day, when it has become of the fastest growing team sports for women.

The aim of the project will not only be the publication of a monograph on the subject but also to support the World Rugby Museum collect, catalogue and preserve the history of women's rugby, with particular focus on providing content for exhibitions and online display. The student will also be encouraged to present their findings at academic seminars and conferences, with the potential to organise a conference on the history of women's rugby around the world at the end of the research period.

The student will be registered as a doctoral candidate at De Montfort University under the supervision of Professor Tony Collins. Based in the International Centre for Sports History and Culture, the student will undertake the university's extensive doctoral training programme and be part of a vibrant post-graduate community. The curator of the World Rugby Museum, Phil McGowan, will also be part of the supervisory team.

### **Award amount:**

£14,553 tax-free bursary per annum, plus a waiver of UK/EU fees and £1,000 per annum for 3 years from the World Rugby Museum to cover additional expenses.

### **Eligibility:**

Candidates will be graduates with at least an upper second in History and a relevant Masters' degree or equivalent post-graduate qualification in History.

Please note that the award is subject to the AHRC's terms, to which applicants should refer before applying: <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/skills/phdstudents/fundingandtraining/>  
The studentship is available to Home and EU applicants only.

Details of current maintenance and fee rates can be found on the 'Current Research Awards' page on the AHRC website:

<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/skills/phdstudents/currentawardholders/>

If English is not a candidate's native language, he or she will also need to satisfy De Montfort University's English language entry requirements. Proof of English Language Qualification should be in the form of an IELTS certificate (6.5) or a copy of a degree from a majority English-speaking country dated within the last 5 years.

Application procedure:

For a more detailed description of the scholarship, the subject area at DMU and an application pack please visit: <http://www.dmu.ac.uk/research/graduate-school/phd-scholarships.aspx>

For administrative queries contact the Graduate School office email: [researchstudents@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:researchstudents@dmu.ac.uk), tel: 0116 250-6309. Completed applications should be returned together with research proposal, two supporting references and an academic transcript.

Timetable:

The deadline for applications is 1st June 2017.

Interviews will be held on 13 June at Twickenham Stadium.

Further information:

For more information please contact Professor Tony Collins at [tcollins@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:tcollins@dmu.ac.uk)