

## **Collaborative Doctoral Project Studentship**

De Montfort University and Rugby League Cares: Using Sports Heritage To Promote Diversity, Equality and Social Inclusion: A Case Study of Rugby League's Heritage Programmes'.

### **The Project:**

This will be the first comprehensive, longitudinal study of the development of a national sporting museum, the National Rugby League Museum (NRLM). Due to open in 2021 in Bradford's iconic town hall, the museum is a partnership between Rugby League Cares (the charitable arm of rugby league) and Bradford City Council.

The PhD studentship will use the lens of the NRLM to explore how sports heritage can be used to engage with sectors of society traditionally excluded or absent from heritage and related cultural programmes. Rugby league is based in the working-class communities of former industrial towns, making it an ideal testing ground to investigate how social inclusion can be promoted. The project will also examine and evaluate previous rugby league heritage projects, and draw conclusions for the NRLM and other similar projects.

The project will complement the heritage and historical work of Rugby League Cares by enhancing understanding of its social obligations and raising awareness of its work among rugby league and other sporting communities. The major output will be a thesis that charts the development of the NRLM, details new perspectives for heritage activity to sports organisations, and develops best practice guidelines for sport heritage projects in general.

The student will be a registered PhD student at De Montfort University's International Centre for Sports History and Culture, under the supervision of Professor Tony Collins and Dr Neil Carter. The student will be based at Rugby League Cares in Leeds as part of the National Rugby League Museum project team.

In addition to De Montfort's doctoral training programmes, the student will also be part of the UK-wide CDP development scheme, which provides training in a range of research skills needed by museums, archives, galleries and heritage organisations.

**Funding:**

The studentship is available for full-time study (or part-time equivalent). Applicants must be able to commence their studies on 1 October 2018.

The studentship is awarded for three years. The Doctoral Stipend in 2018/19 is £15,327 (£14,777 as standard plus an additional £550 awarded to Collaborative Doctoral Students).

Additional Student Development Funding, equivalent to an additional six months of funding, is available to support further training and skills development opportunities that are agreed as part of the PhD programme and may be used to extend the studentship accordingly. Rugby League Cares will also fund research-related costs of up to £1,000 a year.

**Eligibility:**

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

The studentship is available to Home and EU applicants only. 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.

**Application procedure:**

Closing date for applications is 22 June. Interviews will take place in the week commencing 2 July.

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 two supporting references.

For informal enquiries, please contact Professor Tony Collins at [tcollins@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:tcollins@dmu.ac.uk)