

Part 1 : Project Proposal Application

To be completed by the lead proposed supervisor(s) and non-HE partner organisation.



Arts and
Humanities
Research Council

SECTION 1: PROJECT PROPOSAL AND CASE FOR SUPPORT

Proposed Project Title:			
Project Summary: <i>(Maximum 100 words)</i>			
Name of Non-HE Partner Organisation:			
Name of Contact at non-HE Partner Organisation:		Email Address:	
Primary AHRC Subject Area:			
Secondary AHRC Subject Area (if Interdisciplinary):			
Does the project Include a creative practice component?		YES	NO
If you have listed two subject areas above, do you consider the project to be interdisciplinary?		YES	NO N/A

If Yes, please briefly state why:

(Maximum 100 words):

Please provide full details of the proposal and make your case for support below:
(Maximum 750 words)

Please provide details of any resources and facilities, including details of any high cost equipment, fieldwork, training, etc., that may be required to complete the project successfully, and where you will seek these resources (e.g. NBCDTP; partner resources; departmental/school funds). Please include estimated costs:

(Maximum 200 words)

Please outline the arrangements for communication between the partner organisation and academic host organisation in regard of the project management and the monitoring of academic progress:

(Maximum 150 words)

What benefits will accrue to the student and the partner organisation as a result of your collaboration?

(Maximum 300 words)

Please briefly state what financial (if any) or in-kind contribution the partner will be making over the duration of the award:

(Maximum 100 words)

Please describe the nature of the collaborative arrangement and the activities the student will be taking with the organisation:
(Maximum 300 words)

SECTION 2: SUPERVISION AND EXTERNAL ADVISORS

First Supervisor:		School/Department:	
		Email Address:	
Second Supervisor:		School/Department:	
		Email Address:	
Additional Advisor:		Organisation/Institution:	
		Email Address:	
Additional Advisor:		Organisation/Institution:	
		Email Address:	

Explain how the expertise of the supervisory team and external advisors will allow them to support the proposed project and the selected student:
(Maximum 500 words)

SECTION 3: RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

Please provide details about the research environment the selected student will be joining and its suitability:
(Maximum 500 words)

Newcastle University
Newcastle upon Tyne
Tyne and Wear
NE1 7RU

15 October 2021

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to confirm the support of the RAF Museum for Professor Andrew Newman's application to the Northern Bridge Consortium Doctoral Training Partnership. The proposed Collaborative Doctoral Award on 'Museum Exhibitions "in Flight": Displaying & Conserving Aircraft as Suspended Objects' will utilise the Museum's collection, exhibitions, expertise, knowledge, object records and archival holdings as well as building on existing collections strategies at the Museum. The research and outcomes at the core of the project will make a direct and demonstrable impact to a Collection of National Importance. The suggested dissemination methods of the CDA will promote strategies for monitoring suspended objects, and establish patterns of best practise in the Heritage sector.

The project will be based in the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) discipline of Cultural and Museum Studies with an interdisciplinary strand which will draw on compatible, and necessary, expertise from Engineering. The interdisciplinary nature of the project makes it ideal to tackle a problem of international significance, both with aerospace collections and the wider Museum sector. Importantly, the project — both in its subject and design — conforms to previous AHRC statements of liberality in defining and interpreting its domain, and which note the interfaces and many areas of overlap with other subject areas as well as establishing that projects which include aspects in another domain are AHRC eligible.

[\(https://ahrc.ukri.org/funding/research/subjectcoverage/about-subject-coverage-overlap/\)](https://ahrc.ukri.org/funding/research/subjectcoverage/about-subject-coverage-overlap/).

The CDA will make an important contribution to the Museum's conservation and exhibition strategy. Effective research in this area would offer the possibility of the Museum displaying suspended aircraft in dynamic positions which, because of a lack of certainty over structural loads, would permit exhibitions which produce an enhanced visitor experience. The Museum will encourage the student to critically assess its existing collections management strategy. To enable the student to conduct an independent research of both practice and policy in this area the Museum will provide the student with access to objects, collections and documentation. The development of collaborative projects with academic partners forms a key element of the Museum's Research Strategy. Whilst the proposed project would resolve an important collections and exhibition challenge, it would also offer the opportunity to allow the RAF Museum to play a leading role in a research project of international significance.

From previous consultation with national and international aerospace museums, the RAF Museum has identified that this is an area which has been previously neglected. Further research has established that across the Heritage Sector, exhibition strategies for suspended objects have focused on the means of suspension, such as rigging, but not the structural integrity of objects displayed in suspension, and the consequence of continual marginal and residual loads. The Museum will facilitate the student with connections at relevant national and international organisations in order to conduct a number of secondary case studies. The Museum will support the student to disseminate their research, and best practice policies, to a network of international Museums.

Newcastle University is an ideal partner for the Museum with overlapping research interests and commitments to academic excellence. The supervisory team provides the essential expertise, subject knowledge and specialism to support the student in undertaking the project. The Newcastle University supervisors provide a wealth of expertise in Heritage and Engineering and experience of interdisciplinary research in this area. The RAF Museum's Conservation Centre Manager, Historian and Head of Collections Services will all be actively engaged in the project and offer subject

knowledge and specialism, practical experience, research advice, collections strategy expertise and feedback on work as appropriate. To ensure the student has coherent supervision Dr Raffal will be involved throughout the project and will hold regular supervision meetings with the student to ensure they are appropriately supported and provided with the means to develop the ideas emerging from their research. Dr Raffal will attend annual progress meetings as part of a commitment to be actively engaged throughout the CDA so that the student derives the full benefits of the collaborative aspect of the project. Furthermore, the interaction between Museum staff and academic researchers would also encourage the cross-dissemination of skills, knowledge and insights with benefits to both sides.

The successful student will receive desk space within the Museum's research department and Conservation Centre. The Museum's previous CDA experience will ensure that the student receives the benefit of active supervision, and access to the wider expertise held within the Museum. The student will be encouraged to deliver lectures at the Museum, present to relevant workshops and support the burgeoning research culture within the Museum. These engagement activities will provide the student with invaluable experience of communicating complex ideas to a range of audiences. As well as providing experience of working outside of the university environment, the Museum is committed to providing the CDA students it works with the opportunities to develop and improve their skills. This includes shadowing members of staff to gain knowledge and understanding of the museum sector as well as the opportunity to become involved in aspects of our work where appropriate. The student will have the opportunity to develop the collections policy, and by extension strategy, of the RAF Museum. As well as providing a contribution to top up the student annual stipend and making funds available to support the student during placements, the Museum will also offer travel support. The extent of the confirmed support the Museum will provide is detailed in the table below:

Supplement to student maintenance	£3,000
Cost of staff time	£5,600
Minimum hours of supervisory support	120 hours
Estate costs	£1,928
Confirmed travel and accommodation support	£750
Support for copies of archival material and object record documents	£3,400
Equipment, processing and storage	£750
Society memberships and related benefits	£300
Additional equipment and on-site NDT&E	£10,000

The RAF Museum will provide initial training in Heritage Engineering drawing on the existing award-winning training programmes which exist at the Conservation Centre. The student will have the opportunity to complete a placement at the Museum which will be of value to both their research and future employment opportunities. The Museum recognises that these opportunities may expose the student to additional costs which they are not able to cover through other available funds. Where this is the case the RAF Museum will seek to meet the student's additional costs. The financial support provided to the student will be agreed at the same time that the nature and length of the training and placement are agreed with the student and supervisory team. The above should therefore be seen as the minimum support the student can expect to receive.

When researching at the Museum the student will be treated as a member of Collections Services Team attending weekly team meetings. The student will also receive support as part of the Museum's research strategy and be an integrated member of the Museum's volunteering community which provides bespoke support, training, social activities, safeguarding and pastoral care. This additional support is an uncosted benefit provided by the Museum and is intended to

ensure the student feels part of the Museum community rather than an external researcher being given enhanced access to collections.

In closing, may we reiterate the Museum's strong commitment to being an active partner throughout the CDA as well as offering specific support during the student's time with us.

Yours faithfully,



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