**THE HENRY PROBERT BURSARY**

1. The Henry Probert Bursary is awarded by the Chair of the RAF Historical Society (RAFHS).

2. It consists of funding of up to £1000, normally over 2 years, to contribute towards the academic fees, and associated study costs, for those who intends to add to the historiography of the RAF through their full- or part-time postgraduate study.

3. You do not need to be a member of the RAFHS to apply for the Henry Probert Bursary. Successful candidates are, however, expected to apply for membership of the RAFHS before receiving the Henry Probert Bursary.

4. Recipients of the Henry Probert Bursary will be required to submit an article based on their thesis for the RAFHS Journal or *Air and Space Power Review* and, if appropriate, contribute to appropriate RAFHS seminars.

5. Applications should be made directly to the nominated Committee member of the RAF Historical Society (Harry Raffal), using the form below.

6. Applications will be passed to the Head of the Air Historical Branch, who sits on the RAFHS Committee, who will assist in shortlisting entries on behalf of the RAFHS.

7. Candidates will have to meet the entry requirements of their chosen academic institution and propose a field of study that is of interest to the RAFHS, who will then decide the actual amount of the award.

8. Applications for the Henry Probert bursary must be received between 1 January and 28 February to be considered.

9. You are warmly encouraged to email us to informally discuss an application for the Henry Probert Bursary.

**Application form for Henry Probert Bursary**

Please return by email and include in the subject line: ‘Henry Probert Bursary’ AND your name. Emails are for the attention of Dr Harry Raffal and should be sent to: [committee@rafhistoricalsociety.org.uk](mailto:committee@rafhistoricalsociety.org.uk)

For an informal conversation on the bursary please email Harry directly [harry.raffal@rafmuseum.org](mailto:harry.raffal@rafmuseum.org)

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| **PART 1 – PERSONAL DETAILS** | | | | | |
| **Surname** | |  | | **Forenames** |  |
| **If different to above, preferred name** | |  | | | |
| **Email** | |  | | **Telephone** |  |
| **Address** | |  | | | |
| **If you are a former or serving member of the RAF have you previously applied for a CAS Fellowship. If yes, please provide the date, subject proposed, and outcome of the application:** | | | | | |
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| **First Degree or Diploma** | | | | | |
| **Type (BA, MA etc),Subject & Grade** |  | | | | |
| **Institution** |  | | | | |
| **Year** |  | | | | |
| **Second/Further Degrees** | | | | | |
| **Type, Subject & Grade** |  | | | | |
| **Institution** |  | | | | |
| **Year** |  | | | | |
| **Published Academic Work:** | | | | | |
| **PART 2 – DETAILS OF CURRENT OR PROPOSED STUDY** | | | | | |
| **Place of Study** | | |  | | |
| **Postgraduate Course** | | |  | | |
| **Academic Supervisor (*if applicable)*** | | |  | | |
| **Title of Research Proposal** | | |  | | |
| **Relevant research and/or recent study related to proposal** | | |  | | |
| **Anticipated completion date** | | |  | | |
| **Synopsis: All applicants must provide a synopsis of their proposed research of a maximum length of 750 words. Guidance on the synopsis is included at the end of this form.**  **(750 words maximum)** | | | | | |

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| **PART 3 – PERSONAL STATEMENT AND REFEREES** | | |
| **Details of Academic Referee** | **Name**  **Post**  **Address** |  |

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| **Personal Statement, to include:**   * **Reasons for wanting to undertake postgraduate study.** * **Relevance of proposal to the RAF Historical Society.** * **Justification for choice of course and institution.** * **Intentions and ambitions post-study.**   **(500 words maximum)** | |
|  | **Signature:**  **Date:** |

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| **PART 4 - USE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION** |
| **How the information you have provided may be used.**  Personal information which you supply to us as part of your application, such as your education history; career aspirations; postal address, email address and/or telephone number may be used in a number of ways, such as:   * For the selection panel and supporting staff to process your application. This could include staff from the RAF Museum, the Air Historical Branch, the RAF Directorate of Defence Studies, and the RAF Historical Society selection board members. * To correspond with you about your application.   **By completing this application form you consent to your personal information being used in the ways listed above.**  **Retaining your information**  Personal information which you supply to us, will be retained for 3 years or until such time as you request removal.  **How we share your information**  We will not share your information with any third parties for marketing purposes.  It may on occasion be necessary for us to send your information to third-parties, such as academics with relevant expertise, for the purpose of assessing your application. If you consent to this, please indicate by ticking the box below. You do not have to provide this consent, although choosing not to may preclude or delay your application.  **I consent to my information being shared with third parties for the purposes outlined above**  **Name Date**  **More information**  You have the right to withdraw any consent given at any time. To do so, or for further information on how your information is used, how we maintain the security of your information, and your rights to access information we hold on you, please contact the RAFHS Membership Secretary (committee@rafhistoricalsociety.org.uk). The GDPR policy of the RAFHS is available on our website: <https://rafhistoricalsociety.org.uk/gdpr>  You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner’s Office [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk). |

**SYNOPSIS WRITING GUIDE**

1. **Selection Process**. The Henry Probert Bursary selection process is ultimately dependent on the views of the short-listing panel and then the RAF Historical Society Committee. In both instances your synopsis is generally the most important and influential aspect of their application.

2. **Selection of Research Topic**. Applicants for the Henry Probert Bursary are free to propose any research topic; however, a successful application is dependent on the proposal being found to be of value to the historiography of the RAF as well as it being realistic, achievable, and of academic importance.

While the proposal should be of value to the historiography of the RAF, we understand this to include a wide field of subjects and there will be many varied topics which can meet this requirement. We not only welcome these topics but encourage them.

You are warmly encouraged to discuss your application with the nominated RAF Historical Society Committee representative before applying.

3. **Synopsis**. Of key importance are:

a. **Style**. The synopsis is presented as an academic paper not a piece of general writing.

b. **Subject (What)**. The author’s argument is clear and there is no ambiguity about what they propose to study.

c. **Methodology (How)**. The author clearly explains how they plan to conduct their research and what sources they will use.

d. **Motivation (Why)**. The author makes it clear why this proposed research needs to be undertaken, engaging with the current academic debate.

e. **References**. Existing work in the proposed field of study is appropriately referenced.[[1]](#footnote-1) This demonstrates the author’s awareness of the contemporary academic debate on their chosen subject and conforms to standard academic practice.

f. **Bibliography**. The author’s familiarity with key work on their chosen subject is further demonstrated by their bibliography. However, applicants are strongly advised to resist the temptation to ‘pad’ their synopsis or bibliography with references to work with which they are not fully familiar. The synopsis will form the basis of an interview in which applicants will be examined directly on the depth of their knowledge and familiarity with their claimed references. The bibliography is separate to the 750 word count, but should be concise and reflect the essential works relevant to the proposed field of study.

Candidates with a strong academic background or good experience of academic essay writing should not be constrained by the examples given here but they offer reasonable guidance on the format and standard expected. Moreover, successful applicants will be those who are able to demonstrate that they have conducted some preliminary research into their proposed thesis and are familiar with the contemporary academic debate and Service thinking and developments in the chosen field. Candidates should note that it is rarely sufficient simply to have a ‘good idea’ for a research topic, no matter how compelling.

1. *Chicago Manual of Style 18th Edition* should be used as the baseline guidance for referencing, using the notes and bibliography (footnote) style rather than author-date (in-text). The Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide is available on-line via: <http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)