

Changing Character of War Programme

Research Assistant Position Michaelmas Term 2016



Understanding the actors, methods, environments, and wider context of contemporary and future armed conflict by exploring the responses of states and international organisations to these factors and tackling issues surrounding their legal and moral dimensions

The Changing Character of War Programme seeks a motivated and enthusiastic **research assistant** to join its Colombia project, *Towards Sustainable Peace in Colombia and the World: A Critical Perspective on Army Transformation*.

Background:

On 29 August 2016, the Colombian government and the insurgent group FARC initiated a ceasefire. The formal signing of the peace deal on 26 September triggers the demobilization of the FARC and ends 52 years of civil war. In this volatile security landscape, the Colombian National Army must comply with a triple effort: 1) to be one of the main guarantors of the implementation of the agreements signed between the Government and the FARC; 2) to prevent and control new threats; and 3) to increase participation in cooperation missions at an international level.

Dr Idler and her team have received funding to carry out a critical analysis of this process of transformation. Particular focus is on the role of the Colombian army in achieving sustainable peace in the country and contributing to international security. The project involves:

- applied research based on fieldwork, the review of policy documents and the secondary literature
- critical policy-oriented analysis of the process of Army Transformation in partnership with the CAEEF (the Centre for Strategic Analysis of the Colombian Transformation Command)
- educational courses for senior military personnel of the Colombian Army

Tasks of the research assistant are planned to include, but are not limited to:

- Drafting written inputs for academic articles and policy briefs on army transformation and the changing character of the Colombian conflict
- Supporting Dr Idler in carrying out research for a comparative study of the transformation of the British Army and of the Colombian Army
- Supporting Dr Idler in carrying out research on the security architecture in Colombia in the context of the demobilisation process of the FARC
- Supporting Dr Idler in the development and logistics of educational courses for members of the Colombian Army (partly virtually)
- Transcribing interviews in Spanish
- Translating sections of policy documents, meeting notes and interviews from Spanish into English and vice versa
- Other administrative support as required

Skills required:

- Excellent written and oral communication (essential)
- Ability to manage own research and administrative activities (essential)
- Excellent knowledge of Spanish language (essential)
- Experience of contributing to research publications
- Experience of developing online teaching materials

Application and dates:

The research assistant will work approximately 7 hours per week for 11 weeks from October 2016, with the exact working arrangement to be determined with the successful candidate. There will be payment of £12.50 per hour. **To apply, please submit your CV, covering letter, and details of two referees to ruth.murray@pmb.ox.ac.uk no later than midday on Wednesday 28 September.**