

CAL Undergraduate Research Scholarships Scheme 2017
Project Proposal Form

Project Proposer/s:	Dr Katherine E Brown
School/Dept:	PTR
Project Title:	Mapping Counter-Daesh Activities and Epistemic Communities in the UK
Project Summary	
<p>The project is a mapping exercise to establish what work is being done in the UK to challenge Daesh (so-called Islamic State) at the community and regional level. This is important because current research focuses on the national level or on individual non-governmental organisations. There is little consideration of the evolving 'epistemic community' in this area of UK civil society. This project will start that process by providing a platform for comparative analysis and identifying key trends and activities. The longer term policy impact of this project is to assist the Radicalisation Awareness Network (based in the Department of the Director General (Home) of the EU http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/index_en.htm) of which I am an academic advisor, in collating 'best practice' in this area where they can then disseminate it to practitioners.</p>	
What the researcher will do	
<p>The researcher will create a spread-sheet (or database depending on their skills) of the work being done by non-state actors to counter-Daesh. The information will be gathered from websites, newspaper reports, local and national government reports, and from getting relevant materials from the non-governmental actors themselves. The data gathered will focus on where they are operating, the nature of their projects, funding, key individuals and who they are targeting (schools, communities, internet, already 'at risk' groups etc). If time and funding permits the opportunity to interview providers of counter-Daesh activities/services with me will also be advantageous. At the end of the project the researcher will write a short report noting key trends and findings.</p>	
Skills required by the Scholarship holder	
<p>Investigative skills, competency using databases or spread-sheets, good written and oral communication skills. An interest in community and non-governmental work on countering extremism.</p>	
How will your Project benefit the Scholarship holder?	
<p>An opportunity to carry out in-depth research on an area of policy relevance and popular concern. Specifically it will provide an opportunity to develop further competency with spreadsheets or databases, to work with basic social statistics in identifying trends, and to collate large amounts of information into a usable and systematic form. These transferable skills are valuable beyond academia.</p>	
How will the Scholarship benefit your Project?	
<p>The scholarship will benefit my project by allowing me to focus on the conceptual framework and analytical development of the project at the macro level while the researcher focuses on gathering and generating relevant data at the micro level.</p>	