CAL Undergraduate Research Scholarships Scheme 2017
Project Proposal Form

Project Proposer/s:	**Margaret Small**
School/Dept:	**Department of History; School of History and Cultures**
Project Title:	**Monopoly Companies, Proprietary colonies and failed colonisation in North America**

Project Summary

The student will be creating a database of investors, settlers, investment, loss and profit in the earliest British North American colonies. He or she will review primary sources on the earliest British colonial projects in North America launched under the auspices of monopoly companies or proprietors granted proprietary rights and governance over the fledgling colonies. The database will allow a monetary analysis of the conflict of motives between settlers and investors in the earliest British North American colonies. The colonies involved will be in the Arctic, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Maine, Virginia and South Carolina.

This is part of a wider project on profit motives and settlement failure in the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, looking at the tensions between investors looking for return on their investments and the realities of life in the new settlements which will form part of a book on Failed Endeavours, examining the earliest English attempts to establish colonies, forts and factories throughout the world in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. This project will provide a significant part of the research into the failure (or near failure) of the best-documented of these colonies which will form a large component of the book.

What the researcher will do

The student will conduct primary research in existing digital and published resources, such as the four volumes of the Records of the Virginia Company of London edited and published by Susan Myra Kingsbury, *The Roanoke voyages, 1584-1590 : documents to illustrate the English voyages to North America under the patent granted to Walter Raleigh in 1584* compiled by David Quinn and *Newfoundland discovered : English attempts at colonisation, 1610-1630* edited by Gillian T. Cell.

The student will analyse the data for evidence of the difference between goals and achievements, in particular in terms of the profitability of products found.

The researcher will construct databases on profit, loss, investment, investors and colonists using excel.

Skills required by the Scholarship holder

The scholarship holder must be able to construct a database and perform database entry.

The student must have good analytical skills

The student must be able to read Early Modern English

How will your Project benefit the Scholarship holder?

The project holder will gain excellent transferable skills in analysis and database work.

The holder will also be responsible for the creation of a complete resource in terms of the database which will be a useful skillset to hold in the eyes of many employers

It will provide training and experience in resource development.

The student will gain a range of skills in early modern history alongside enviable technical skills that are evidently transferable and will increase employability.

How will the Scholarship benefit your Project?

This scholarship will be an invaluable part of the project.

The data base will enable the contextualising and structuring of a broad range of material from widely differing areas allowing comparative analysis.

It will provide a broad based data set for my analysis of the reasons behind the endemic problems in establishing overseas settlements and the consequent colonial failure in the New World.