



Role Title: Researcher

Project: The efficacy of the Prevent strategy in counter-terrorism efforts

Duration: 1 term

Open to: All students at Oxford University

Application process: Written

Time per week: approx. 3 hours (variable by week) + one weekly team meeting (1 hour)

Application Deadline: Sunday, 19th February, 2017

Who we are: OxPolicy is the Oxford University Student Think Tank. We aim to change the conversation around and influence policy by publishing reports based on original research, and giving recommendations for specific policy areas.

Project Description:

The Prevent Strategy is part of CONTEST, the government's counter-terrorism initiative. The Strategy has been a controversial policy since its public release in 2006. Controversy grew particularly in 2015, when measures were broadened to include more of the public sector, now encompassing the NHS, schools and universities. This led to discord within Muslim communities and beyond, some of which argue that not only is the policy's motivation unclear, but its aims and methods are at best ineffective, and at worst divisive and alienating.

The aim of this project is to highlight what, if any, the shortcomings of the Prevent Strategy are, to influence future counter-terrorism policies affecting the higher education sector in the UK. The Project will preliminarily look at two main elements of Prevent: first, a systematic review of those factors affecting the likelihood of terrorist attacks in the UK, to see whether Prevent's ideological impetus is justified, as opposed to competing reasons for such attacks. Second, the project will carry out a literature review on the Prevent Strategy amongst academic institutions and student communities, Muslim and otherwise, to see why its reception was so negative. This report should hopefully provide a salient and useful account of how strategies concerning terrorism in the UK might be improved in the future, in order to be less alienating, and more effective.

Role Description:

- Keen interest in issues regarding Islamic identity, counter-terrorism efforts and home security.
- Having some experience in research work and writing will be very helpful. Specific expertise in research methods (quantitative or qualitative) is particularly valued.
- There are no restrictions or preferences for students of any discipline but those with sociological, political or theological interests are encouraged

Application Documents (please merge into a single PDF)

- Cover Letter: Tell us why you are applying for the role of Researcher and what has attracted you to this specific project (max. 1 page).
- Skill overview: Tell us about any previous knowledge or methodological skills that you could bring to the team (max. 1 page).
- CV

Application Process:

1. Send your application structured according to the points listed above to contact@oxpolicy.co.uk, by 2359 on Sunday, February 19th, 2017.
2. Successful applicants will be requested to attend the first group meeting during 6th week of Hilary and the project will likely run on to 6th week Trinity.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to send an email to contact@oxpolicy.co.uk.