

Countering Violent Extremism: Education and Training Initiatives

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In concert with START’s Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) research, START is heavily involved in CVE education and training.

- The Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate’s Office of University Programs funded a 2.5 year scholarship program, the Countering Violent Extremism Fellowship Program, focused on educating four undergraduates for five semesters and two summers in both domestic and international CVE efforts and best practices.
- START’s Education Director and Executive Director won funding from the University of Maryland to develop and co-teach an undergraduate course on *Innovation and CVE*, in which students use design thinking methodology to develop their own concepts for CVE programming.
- START is launching an innovative faculty-lead study abroad course to Singapore focused on deradicalization and disengagement, community engagement, and countering violent extremism.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Training and Education Division has funded START to develop and deliver CVE training on a national scale over the next three years. START’s CVE training curriculum will be based on data and findings from START research, which includes consistent engagement with CVE professionals currently implementing CVE programs around the country. For additional information regarding this initiative please contact training@start.umd.edu.

SPECIAL TOPICS IN TERRORISM STUDIES: INNOVATIONS IN COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM (BSST338V)

With support from the University of Maryland’s Academy for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, students develop their own CVE projects through dynamic, empathetic, and iterative problem solving processes known as Design Thinking. After spending the semester researching, developing, prototyping, and testing their ideas, students present their proposals to a panel of domestic and international CVE specialists drawn from the Washington, D.C., area.

Fall 2014 Student CVE Region Focused Projects
Northern Nigeria (Boko Haram)
Eugene, Oregon (Earth Liberation Front)
Lebanon (Sectarianism)
Caucasus Region (Chechen Extremists)
Syria (ISIL, Radicalization of Refugees)

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM FELLOWS (CVEF) CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Countering Violent Extremism Fellows (CVEF) is an innovative program funded by the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security. CVEF will provide its participating students with a comprehensive education on the concepts behind CVE, the ways in which those concepts can be implemented and evaluated, and the best ways to engage and train stakeholders in the CVE mission.

2015-2017 Summary of CVEF Program Requirements
Five Semester Internship on START CVE Research
Summer Research Assistantship on Domestic CVE Initiatives
14 Credits of CVE Related Coursework and Career Development Experience including BSST338V
Summer Research Assistantship on International CVE Initiatives
Attendance and Poster Presentation at START’s Annual Meeting
Participate in the P2P Challenging Extremism Initiative

CVEF will engage four students for two years and four months, during which time they will engage in coursework and research on radicalization, de-radicalization, and Countering Violent Extremism at the University of Maryland. START is approaching researchers and institutions in the START consortium to host CVEF fellows, adding to their experiential education. In addition, CVEF fellows will participate in a two-year internship on a FEMA funded START initiative to develop an online, rigorous CVE training curriculum intended for a national audience.

COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND DERADICALIZATION SUMMER STUDY ABROAD COURSE IN SINGAPORE

In coordination with START's partners at Nanyang Technical University and the International Center of Political Violence and Terrorism Research in Singapore, START will launch an innovative faculty-lead study abroad course focused on deradicalization and disengagement, community engagement, and countering violent extremism. Over six weeks, students will engage with the academic research surrounding radicalization and countering violent extremism. For 10 days, students will then travel to Singapore to engage with researchers and practitioners, and to explore Singapore to better understand the government's CVE programming.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY; COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM TRAINING DEVELOPMENT

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded START a three year grant to develop and administer a suite of training programs on CVE for law enforcement officers, community outreach professionals and fusion center analysts. Harnessing START's previous and ongoing research on radicalization and CVE, one training will focus on understanding radicalization and the second will explore community engagement. Within each training, the first module will raise students' awareness of the given topic, and the second module will help students apply theory and knowledge of the topic in a hands-on learning format.



The National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) is supported in part by the Science and Technology Directorate of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through a Center of Excellence program based at the University of Maryland. START uses state-of-the-art theories, methods and data from the social and behavioral sciences to improve understanding of the origins, dynamics and social and psychological impacts of terrorism. For more information, contact START at infostart@start.umd.edu or visit www.start.umd.edu.

