

When a student may be susceptible to radicalisation

What should you look out for?

Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on specified authorities – including higher education institutions – to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. This is commonly referred to as the ‘Prevent duty’.

The Act makes clear that we must balance the duties under Prevent with our legal requirements in relation to freedom of speech and academic freedom, as enshrined in other legislation. Freedom of expression is itself an important means to challenge and prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

Experimenting with political, religious and philosophical ideas will be natural part of the University experience for many students and are not generally negative; after all, many great innovations were the result of ‘radical’ thought. However, when these thoughts are so far from the norm than an individual begins to see violence as a legitimate means to achieve political, religious or philosophical ends, then we are obliged to intervene.

Radicalisation can take place face-to-face, online, or there have been cases where individuals radicalise themselves. Whilst there is very low risk, a small number of students may be vulnerable to a range of radicalising causes, including religious radicalisation, far-right politics or animal rights extremism.

There is no set pattern to the occurrence of radicalisation but it would be helpful to look out for the following behaviours as single or combined signs for concern:

- **Noticeable changes in peer group or religious practices**
- **Sudden or increased isolation from family/social group**
- **Extremist political activism or the accessing, possession or distribution of materials advocating extremist views**
- **An undertone of grievance or ‘them and us’ language/behaviour**
- **Increased emotional instability, and/or cultural/social anxiety**
- **Possession of suspicious items** (large amounts of money, multiple passports, possession of unusually large amounts of everyday materials which could be used to make incendiary devices).

Please bear in mind that many of the above, rather than being a sign of potential radicalisation, may instead suggest other support needs. Our approach should therefore be considered on a case by case basis.

What should you do?

If you believe there to be an immediate threat to the safety of the student, or that actions of that student may lead to harm to members of the University community or the wider public	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact the police directly (dial 999) outlining your concerns• Report that you have done so to the Senior Tutor of the student’s College or the University Prevent Contact (prevent@admin.cam.ac.uk or 01223 332323). You may choose either at your discretion, depending on the circumstances.
If you have concerns about a student and their vulnerability to radicalisation but do not believe there to be an	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raise your concerns with the Senior Tutor of the student’s College or the University Prevent Contact (prevent@admin.cam.ac.uk or 01223 332323), outlining the circumstances• The Senior Tutor/University Prevent Contact will then consider these circumstances. They may consider gathering further information or insight from College or University staff to contextualise the information.

<p>immediate risk to the safety of the student or others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If appropriate, the Senior Tutor and University Prevent Contact will share information and liaise informally together and, if necessary, will liaise with the police and/or the BIS Regional Coordinator (without naming the individual unless appropriate), for advice or further contextual information. • On the rare occasion, where severity of concern warrants it, the student may be referred to external sources of support through the relevant channels. • Alternatively, a local package of support to the student may be delivered via the College, in line with its policies on welfare support and safeguarding. • If further investigation suggests that concerns are unfounded, no further action will be taken. • In all instances, whether action is taken or not, the College Prevent Lead will be informed of the name of the student and the facts of action taken (or not taken) to allow for confidentially recording.
<p>If you are asked for information about the Collegiate University's approach to the Prevent duty</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details can be found at the below websites: https://www.ois.cam.ac.uk/resources-for-colleges/prevent-duty-guidance-1 http://www.prevent.admin.cam.ac.uk/