Part B1 Section 2 – Impact

2. Impact

2.1 Enhancing the potential and future career prospects of the researcher

My career goal is to establish as an expert in academia in comparative charity law, asylum and refugee law, and the right to education. Via the fellowship, I will expand my expertise in these areas, I will improve my interview and analytical skills and my academic writing skills in English language. As a result of the fellowship, I will be able to send articles in English language to leading journals in the area (section 2.2). By meeting regularly and discussing research progress for the individual personalised project with my supervisor I will improve these core research skills greatly (training through research). By the end of the fellowship, I will have acquired skills and I will have strengthened my research profile and academic reputation to an extent which will allow me to apply for a position as a senior lecturer / assistant professor or equivalent within the European Research Area.

Pursuing the project will mean that the network I have built within the German and EU voluntary sector will be extended via the Irish voluntary sector. The involvement into DAAD will not only bring about transfer of knowledge between UCD, DAAD, its team and myself but it will also have beneficial effects for refugees both in Ireland and Germany. Moreover, there will be positive implications for refugees’ integration in Germany and Ireland as the Forum Theatre and its ramifications for private business entities have a multiplier function which will lead to a diversified student population in higher education within ERA in the future. This repercussion is caused by the involvement and bottom up approach provided by the problem-centred and narrative interviews and the Forum Theatre.

1. Having completed a PhD in Germany in the law of non-profit organisations and charity law and having taught modules in German Public and Private law, European and International law, my research profile will be greatly strengthened and my competencies will be diversified by taking a very focused research-based view on the issues of comparative charity law, the interplay of hard and soft law regimes within civil society and access to higher education for refugees. The supervision by Dr Breen and Ms Fourier will mean an enormous career step for me. During my time as acting chair and research assistant at the UNESCO Chair in International Relations at Technical University Dresden, I have started working on the three core areas within UNESCO - education, science and culture - from both an academic and NGO perspective. I will deepen and widen my theoretical knowledge and practical skills by enhancing my interview skills and the capability to analyse the data to then turn the outcome into a script for the Forum Theatre.

2. Gaining expertise in the nexus between comparative charity law, access to higher education and problem-based and narrative interviews, leading to Forum Theatre which will then enable me to disseminate that knowledge through seminars, conferences, workshops. Within year 1 and 2 of the fellowship, I will present my research to the host’s academic community, inviting colleagues and students from the law school and other departments. This expertise will be enriched by the practical experience during the secondment through my involvement in the day-to-day business within the programmes “Integra” and “Welcome” in consulting and supporting refugees who want to access university education and through working closely together with npos and volunteers who support refugees.

3. Whereas my past work focused on teaching (with high evaluation results of both lectures and tutorials), marking exam papers and huge administrative work loads, I will finally be able to concentrate on research, writing and publishing and improving my skills in that area. I will collaborate intensely with Oonagh and the other academics of Sutherland School of Law as mentioned in section 1.3 and will avail of their mentorship, feedback and other support. There will also be collaboration with the School of English, Drama and Film to recruit student actors at the very beginning of the project. Presenting my research regularly to a wider audience, will strengthen my presentation skills in English and improve my confidence to engage in the academic debate in English.

4. This fellowship will allow me to gain greater networking opportunities with both academic and non-academic actors such as the Irish Refugee Council and the Migrants’ Rights Centre Ireland and higher education administration such as admissions and student scholarship bodies. The fellowship will also allow me to build on the existing relations with the third sector and the academic community, but also create future collaborations within the third sector and the private sector. The private sector only uses Forum Theatre occasionally as a means of diversity training for management thus as such there is great scope for development and I will work closely with UCD Research and Innovation to identify possible partnerships.

5. Lastly, the experience in leading my own research agenda and managing the award, will enable me to apply for further funding successfully.