GO ABROAD!

Study or work abroad as part of your degree
“I would definitely recommend taking advantage of the Year Abroad programme. You have the opportunity to make some amazing friends, live in a new culture and learn skills to adapt to studying in a new environment.”

Emily Mitchell
Biomedical Science
WHY GO ABROAD?

We have many prestigious partners around the world, both in academia and in business. As a Kent student, why not tap into this global network by going abroad as part of your degree?

Going abroad as part of a Kent degree is an amazing opportunity and a chance for you to develop, academically, personally and professionally. The fact that you’ve spent time abroad is also a distinct advantage when you graduate and look for a job. You are likely to develop many skills and attributes that will enhance your CV.

For instance, being in a new environment allows you to develop your problem-solving and communication skills. You are also likely to make huge gains in terms of your self-awareness, independence and confidence. In addition, you develop the ability to adapt to new situations, have a chance to live in another country and possibly develop your language skills, all of which can give you a broader cultural awareness.

If you are thinking of studying abroad, the time spent in another university is a great way to broaden your view of your chosen subject and to gain a variety of new perspectives. Those who are aiming to work abroad will gain numerous professional skills and contacts.

Many of our undergraduate and postgraduate degrees offer an option to go abroad, either on a work placement or studying at a university. But even if you haven’t registered on one of those degrees, a placement abroad may still be possible. Please ask International Development for more details, email international@kent.ac.uk or visit www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad

DID YOU KNOW?
79% of employers say intercultural skills and knowledge of other cultures are more important than degree classification.
(Sir Martin Davidson, Chief Executive, British Council).
Source: thirdyearabroad.com

We make sure that you receive excellent assistance in finding the right place and support throughout your time abroad. For general details of what type of placements you can choose from, and where you can go, see pages 9-11.

There’s a whole world within your reach!
www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad
“Purdue University has given me the opportunity to expand my knowledge in both television production and sound design. The facilities here are incredible and I have already completed several projects that have made my portfolio a lot stronger. I am a member of The National Broadcasting Society and take trips around the States, networking with professionals and increasing my knowledge within broadcasting. With the scholarship from Santander, I have been able to take part in these field trips and have just returned from a weekend away in Washington DC. With the skills I have learnt at Purdue University I will definitely be composing music for theatre, film and radio shows when I return to Kent.”

Jenna Wild
Drama and Theatre Studies

“Hong Kong’s location in Asia is perfect for travel to see other countries in the continent. I have already been to Beijing, Shenzhen and Macau. As the world is becoming increasingly globalised, I felt that it would be beneficial to come to Hong Kong as it is such a global hub with a good mix of East and West. The Santander Scholarship has been a blessing and has given me financial assistance to prepare for my year abroad. My time in Hong Kong has opened my eyes to another way of life. It has made me more confident and allowed me to step out of the box and live and work abroad; there are so many opportunities available – all I need to do is find them.”

April-Louise Pennant
Sociology

“I spent my year in industry working in Thailand. I had not really travelled much apart from the occasional family holiday in Europe, so travelling across the world was a totally new experience and one that I will never forget. Learning the language was not always necessary, but I did. People really appreciated my efforts and always offered to help. I am sure working or studying abroad will be one of your most memorable experiences while at university, and maybe one of the most important. Don’t kick yourself for the rest of your life – everyone feels a small amount of fear at the beginning, but don’t end up missing what could be the time of your life.”

Stephanie Ashenden
Forensic Biology with a Year in Industry
Language assistant in Colombia

“To be honest, one of the reasons I chose my course at Kent was because it had a year abroad. I chose to apply for a language assistantship with the British Council as I really wanted to go to Colombia. It’s a great way to gain experience and integrate into a community. Colombia is such a wonderful country, full of amazingly friendly people and beautiful landscapes. I really enjoyed teaching, and I plan on applying to the British Council again once I graduate.

“My Spanish improved dramatically, and socially, I’m more of a contributing member of society. Who knows, you might just find a career path out of it.”

Sam O’Dwyer
English and American Literature and Hispanic Studies

Studying in Turkey

“Although I had never been to Turkey or lived in a different country, my excitement overwhelmed any anxiousness. My expectations were met and bettered! After being immersed in the safe and easy Erasmus community during the first semester, I decided I wanted to get to know what life was like as a local student. I joined the Boğaziçi snowboarding team who were fantastic: very welcoming, friendly and, thankfully, very patient with my Turkish. I was lucky enough to join them on several excursions to mountain ranges in Turkey and even travelled to a neighbouring mountain in Bulgaria. I would recommend studying at Boğaziçi to any student. The university and city have something for everyone to enjoy. Every day became an education, broadening my mind academically, culturally and socially. It was one of the best years of my life.”

Anna Smith
Psychology (with studies in Europe)

Studying in Vienna, Austria

“It was really scary at first because it was such an ‘unknown’. But after a while curiosity and excitement far outweighed the initial uncertainty. It wasn’t long before I felt completely settled and knew my way around the city. I miss Vienna so much; I fell completely in love with it.

“I definitely got a lot out of the year academically. It gave me a thirst for legal knowledge and it improved my independent research skills on a much broader range of subjects. Socially, I’m much more confident talking to new people. Personally, I feel more mature, more balanced. It’s something different to put on your CV as well, as it broadens your practical skill set – and it’s a great talking point. My understanding of law as a whole is much more grounded now and I feel I can do better in my fourth year than if I’d gone straight into my third.”

Emily Perkins
European Legal Studies
WHICH DEGREES OFFER TIME ABROAD?

If you want to spend time abroad, we have a wide range of degrees for you to choose from. Some allow you to study abroad; others allow you to go on an international work placement. Within the Faculty of Humanities, all undergraduate programmes offer you the option to apply to study for a year/term abroad or a year’s work placement.

A year abroad
Degrees with a ‘Year Abroad’ in the title allow you to spend a full academic year at one of our partner universities. All the universities are chosen for their academic standards and for their courses, which complement your studies at Kent. Our partners include highly prestigious universities, several of which are ranked within the top 100 institutions in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. Our partners include École Normale Supérieure (Paris), Paris Sorbonne University, the University of Amsterdam, the University of Copenhagen, Heidelberg University, Waseda University (Japan), the University of Hong Kong, and the University of California, Berkeley.

A year in industry
Taking a degree that offers a year in industry means that you gain invaluable work experience for a year. This can often offer you the chance to apply for a placement outside the UK. Kent has good links with international businesses and Kent students who have taken a work placement outside of the UK have worked for companies such as IBM, Microsoft, Intel, HSBC and British Airways.

Study or work abroad in the Faculty of Humanities
Within the Faculty of Humanities, any undergraduate student may apply to spend time abroad and to graduate with a ‘Year Abroad’, a ‘Term Abroad’ or a ‘Placement Year.’ To be eligible, you need to have achieved an average of 60 or above in your first year of studies and be supported by two of your tutors. You usually spend your third year abroad and then return to Kent for the final year of your degree. For the term abroad, you may opt to spend either the spring term of your second year, or the autumn term of your third year abroad. Note that not all options may be available in every degree programme, and for some destinations only a full academic exchange year is possible. If you add a placement year to your degree you can choose to find a work placement overseas. Speak to your School International Study Co-ordinator for details.

Language degrees
Time spent in another country is an integral part of a degree course, for example, in French, German, Italian or Hispanic Studies (those taking Hispanic Studies have the option to go to Spain or South America). This time abroad allows you to develop fluency skills in the language you are studying and gain first-hand knowledge of the country’s people and culture. Some students choose to study at a partner university. Others choose to take a work placement; a popular option is to work as a language assistant, teaching English in a school.

Postgraduate programmes
There are a number of opportunities for study and research abroad within postgraduate programmes. These include international double award programmes and options under the Erasmus programme.

Further information
For details of degrees that offer the option to work or study abroad, see www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad

/ DID YOU KNOW? 
Another option open to some overseas students is to take a work placement in your home country. This allows you to work in your native language.
DO I NEED ANY LANGUAGE SKILLS?

Not necessarily... the language skills needed depend on the kind of study or work placement you choose. Some placements only require English; others develop language skills learnt during the first two years of your degree.

Work or study in English
You don’t need to speak another language in order to go abroad. We have placements in English-speaking countries such as the USA and Finland, where English is widely spoken. Other courses allow you to study at universities in, for example, Canada, the Netherlands, China, Hong Kong or Japan, which all provide tuition in English.

English-speaking employees are in demand all over the world and some overseas employers offer work placements where English is the only language you will need.

Bear in mind that you often pick up quite a lot of the local language, even if you are studying or working in English. To help this process, you may be able to take classes in the local language (such as Japanese or Mandarin) before taking up the placement or while you are there.

Work or study in another language
Degrees which include language studies at Kent allow you to reach a level of fluency that enables you to work or study abroad in the local language. Please bear in mind that to apply for such a degree at Kent, you need to have an A level or a GCSE in the chosen language or a related European language. Entry requirements vary, see www.kent.ac.uk/ug for details.

And remember, the choice of destinations available to you may be wider than you think. For example, students taking French have the option to go to Canada, not just Europe.

“My time abroad gave me international experience, improved my languages and made me want to look outside of the UK for employment.”
Louise Wiseman
French and Italian

DID YOU KNOW?
A recent European Commission Report, EU Skills Panorama 2014, found that 58% of employers with international contacts indicate that foreign language skills are very important.
WHERE CAN I GO?

We have many prestigious partners, both commercial and academic. They are based in Europe, the Americas, Asia and Africa.

Studying abroad
We already have links with many partner universities and are continually adding new partnerships. We only choose universities that have excellent reputations, with courses that can complement your studies at Kent. See our map (overleaf) or check www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad for the latest details.

Working abroad
If you are taking a work placement – usually called a ‘Year in Industry’, a ‘Placement Year’ or a ‘Sandwich Year’ – you may be able to take this placement outside the UK. Many of our academic schools have links with international companies. For language students, we can also help you to find a placement as a teaching assistant. For details of which courses have study and work abroad opportunities, see www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad

It is possible to take a work placement anywhere in the world (providing you can fulfil the visa requirements). For more details, please contact your academic school or speak to a member of staff in International Development, email international@kent.ac.uk.

Erasmus + programme
The Erasmus + programme, funded by the European Union, can offer financial support to students participating in an Erasmus study or work placement. Kent students can choose to study or work in the Erasmus + countries marked on the map overleaf. See p14 for more details of the funding available.

The University of Kent is pleased to acknowledge the support of the European Commission under the Erasmus + programme for its Erasmus activities.
WHERE CAN I GO? (CONT)
Study destinations covered by the Erasmus + programme

Study destinations outside of the Erasmus + programme

*Subject to availability, work placements can be undertaken anywhere in the world
WHAT SUPPORT DO I GET?

We offer excellent support to help you find a work or study placement. But our help doesn’t stop there. While you are away, you can stay in contact with your academic school at Kent and get practical support from International Development staff.

Studying abroad
If you are intending to study abroad as part of your degree, our International Development staff can provide information on partner universities and set up preparatory meetings. They can also advise you on how to apply for a place. Email international@kent.ac.uk

Working abroad
If you are taking a work placement, the Placement Officer within your academic school provides support in finding you a placement. Placements abroad are highly sought after and this support gives you a greater chance of success. Support can range from putting you in touch with Kent’s industry contacts to helping you with the application process or by improving your interview technique.

Visas and work permits
Nationals of non-EU countries, or those wishing to work in a non-EU country, should investigate the visa and work permit requirements of the appropriate country. Our International Development staff can advise on this process.

Preparing to go
International Development at Kent produces guidance that gives you basic information regarding your stay abroad. We can also advise you on practical matters such as finance, accommodation and travel arrangements.

If you plan to work abroad, Placement Officers within your academic school can advise you on how to make the most of your placement and other practical and financial matters.

You often have the chance to meet and talk to students from your chosen destination before you travel. This gives you the chance to learn more about the country and to practise your language skills. You can also watch video interviews with Go Abroad students at www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad

During your stay
Support is provided by staff at your host university, or by your supervisor if you are taking a work placement. You are also able to contact the International Development team at Kent with any queries. In addition, your academic school at Kent will

“It’s only a year, so make the most of it. The time of your life flies.”
Dominic O’Neill
Physics with Astrophysics
Talking Cultures
Kent’s Talking Cultures initiative can also help you to get the most out of your time abroad. Workshops and questionnaires before, during and after your placement encourage you to draw and reflect on your experiences overseas and share them with other students to help foster and enhance intercultural awareness.

Developing employability skills
A study or work placement overseas offers a unique way in which to enhance your personal development and employability-related skills. Prepare for the overseas placement before you go so that you are able to make the most of it when you are there by fully understanding what it can bring you. Used and reflected upon wisely, it will allow you to enhance your CV.

“I had a lot of support from the International Development team on my year abroad. As an Erasmus student, they sorted out my accommodation before I went, by providing a list of available rooms to rent for the year. While I was in France they were very good at keeping in touch to ensure that I was not struggling.”

Jonathan Brown
European History with a Year Abroad
HOW TO APPLY, FEES AND FUNDING

There are several funding options, including our own scholarship scheme, to finance your time spent abroad.

How to apply
If your degree includes a year/term abroad or is a language degree, you are contacted by your academic school during your first or second year of study. You are then given guidance and support to help you choose a work or study placement.

If your degree includes a Year in Industry, a Placement Year or a Sandwich Year, you should contact the Placement Officer in your academic school during your first or second year. For more information, see www.kent.ac.uk/ces

Students within the Faculty of Humanities wishing to add a year/term abroad or a placement year to their degrees should speak with their School International Study Co-ordinator about the options available for their programme. Students who study for a cross-faculty degree where only one part is situated within the Faculty of Humanities should discuss the availability of options with their School International Study Co-ordinator.

Even if your degree title does not include a study or work abroad option, you are welcome to contact International Development to discuss your options. As long as you don’t want to change the subject of your degree, adding a work or study abroad option may be straightforward and you’ll get plenty of support. See www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad for contact details. Remember, this option is not possible on all programmes.

Postgraduate
Postgraduate students should discuss potential suitable study/research abroad activity with the Graduate School and International Development. Graduate School:
T: +44 (0)1227 827838
E: graduateschool@kent.ac.uk
www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool

Fees and funding
Kent’s Study Abroad Scholarship
The University’s undergraduate Study Abroad Scholarship is open to all UK and EU undergraduate students applying to Kent for a full-time degree course that includes a year abroad. The Scholarship is worth £2,000 during the year abroad (or pro-rata for the period of time spent abroad). To qualify, students must make their university application through UCAS and gain a minimum of AAB (from three A levels) or equivalent as well as the normal entry requirements for their subject. Applicants also submit an essay. For details, please see www.kent.ac.uk/scholarships/undergraduate/study-abroad.html
For information on our other university scholarships for undergraduates, please see www.kent.ac.uk/scholarships/undergraduate

**Tuition fees**

Students undertaking a full year abroad (study or work) are expected to pay 15% of the normal tuition fee to Kent. Those undertaking a term abroad are expected to pay 100% of the normal fees to Kent. No tuition fees are payable to the host universities for any study placement, whether a full year or a term/semester. Postgraduate students pay the normal tuition fee to Kent for the term/year abroad.

**Erasmus + programme**

Erasmus + is a programme funded by the European Union to promote student mobility across Europe. Eligible students spending a year or term abroad on a study or work placement may receive a top-up grant from the Erasmus programme, subject to availability.

**More information**

Please note that all funding arrangements are subject to change. Information is correct at the time of going to press; for the latest details, speak to a member of staff in International Development, email international@kent.ac.uk or see our website, www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad

Cover image: ‘Never get into a water fight with an elephant!’ Laos. Courtesy of Sophia Pope, studying Law with a Year in China.

**Terms and conditions:** the University of Kent reserves the right to make variations to the content and delivery of courses and other services, or to discontinue courses and other services, if such action is reasonably considered to be necessary. If the University discontinues any course, it will endeavour to provide a suitable alternative. To register for a programme of study, all students must agree to abide by the University Regulations (available online at: www.kent.ac.uk/regulations).

The information in this booklet is correct at time of going to press. The University reserves the right to modify or cancel any statement in it without notice and accepts no responsibility for the consequences of such changes.

**Data protection:** For administrative, academic and health and safety reasons, the University needs to process information about its students. Full registration as a student of the University is subject to your consent to process such information.