CRIMINAL JUSTICE & CRIMINOLOGY

Medway
Kent is one of the UK’s leading universities and the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR) – which includes Criminal Justice & Criminology – is rated highly for both research and teaching.

All of our academic schools produce world-class research, and Kent is rated as internationally excellent, leading the way in many fields of study.

World-leading research
In the most recent Research Assessment Exercise, the School was ranked 4th nationally for research quality, with 70% of the research rated ‘world-leading’ or ‘internationally excellent’. Our academics are engaged in research as well as teaching, giving our students the chance to study alongside influential thinkers who are at the forefront of their field.

Passionate teaching
In the latest independent assessment of our teaching, we were rated as ‘excellent’. Your studies take place within a challenging and inspiring academic environment where we encourage you to become an independent thinker.

A global outlook
Kent has a reputation as the UK’s European university and has developed international partnerships with a number of prestigious institutions. We have an international community on campus, with 25% of our students coming from outside the UK. We encourage our students to develop their studies in an international context and there are many opportunities to study or work abroad.

Supportive academic community
The Criminal Justice & Criminology programme prides itself on its ‘value-added’ approach to the student experience. Our lecturing staff are friendly and approachable, and always happy to meet with students to discuss any aspect of their studies. We operate a personal tutor system, in which every student is allocated their own academic member of staff who can advise on both intellectual and pastoral matters. We also have a dedicated student support officer and a specialist Student Learning Advisory Service.

DID YOU KNOW?
In the 2012 National Student Survey, Kent was ranked 3rd for student satisfaction out of all publicly-funded, multi-faculty universities in the UK.
A successful future

As well as providing a first-rate academic experience, we want you to be in a good position to face the demands of a tough economic environment.

The degree gives you the opportunity to study the growing vocational arena of criminal justice practices, as well as ‘crime policy’ development and implementation.

The demand for criminal justice practitioners is growing both nationally and internationally, leading to a wide range of career options. During your degree, you look at the key elements of contemporary crime policy: policing, the courts, punishment and prevention.

Graduates from our Criminal Justice & Criminology degree programme have excellent employment prospects and we ensure that they have all the transferable skills they might need. For more information on the careers help we provide at Kent, please go to p8 or see our employability webpage at www.kent.ac.uk/employability

“I highly recommend this course. I have learned so much about the way in which our criminal justice system works, the way it has developed and the direction in which it is headed now. You will learn so much more than just how courts are run or how our police force operates.”

Arjun Malkotia
Criminal Justice Studies

We use a variety of teaching methods, including lectures, case-study analysis, group projects and presentations and individual and group tutorials. Study groups are normally no more than 15-20 students and give you the opportunity to discuss a topic in detail.

Modules are usually assessed by a combination of coursework and written examinations. Some modules take the form of an extended dissertation or essay.
SUPERB STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Our modern, shared campus at Medway provides a stunning location for your studies. As well as outstanding teaching and learning facilities, the campus also has a real sense of community.

Good location
The Medway campus is near Chatham Historic Dockyard, which was built at the start of the 20th century. The campus has cafés, a student pub and Essentials, a shop run by the students’ union, which also has a mini off-licence. Five minutes’ walk from campus, the Dockside retail outlet offers a range of shops and restaurants. Nearby is the town of Rochester with its historic cathedral, which is the venue for Kent’s degree congregations. Bluewater shopping centre is also within easy driving distance.

The Medway campus is quick and easy to reach from central London. The high-speed train to London St Pancras from Ebbsfleet in Medway takes 17 minutes. Travel to London from stations at Gillingham or Chatham takes about 45 minutes.

Excellent study resources
The general resources on campus are excellent. The £8 million Drill Hall Library is well stocked with printed books and journals and provides access to a range of electronic information. We also provide a range of support services such as IT support, library support, and public PCs and printers.

Diverse environment
Our students come from a variety of backgrounds. There are always a number of mature students with work experience, as well as an increasing number of students from overseas. This mix means you not only learn from your lecturers, but from the experiences of your peers.

Live by the riverside
If you join Kent as a full-time student, you could be living in an attractive new ‘waterside village’ on the banks of the River Medway. Our student flats are part of a multimillion-pound investment and have modern, fully fitted kitchens and en-suite study bedrooms linked in to the University’s computer system. The development has its own social area, Tesco Express store, Subway and Domino’s Pizza.

www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr
Elliot Letts is in the final year of his Criminal Justice Studies degree.

What attracted you to Kent?
I was aware of Kent’s reputation and also it is not too far from London, which is where I am from.

Why Criminal Justice Studies?
Originally, I had intended to study law but I missed my offer by one grade so the University pointed me towards Criminal Justice Studies. I didn’t really know such a course existed but when I looked at it, it sounded interesting and the legal practice side appealed to me.

How is the course going?
As with any university course it has got progressively harder. The first year gives you a general introduction to the subject area, while in your second and final years you are able to focus on the areas that interest you and create a degree in tune with your needs. I chose modules in criminal and international law, which increased my interest in law and confirmed to me that law is the career I want to pursue.

The other modules I studied were also enjoyable; I took modules on prison and probation, methods of punishment and youth crime. I found the module on youth crime very interesting; we did a lot of work on media portrayals of youth crime and gangs that is very relevant to current debates. The course has widened my perspective on the whole area of criminal justice and has been an enriching experience.

What about your lecturers?
The lecturers have been brilliant. They are easily accessible via email and always happy to help. In our seminars we debate the issues we are studying, we get very engrossed in our discussions, which are often very lively; I really enjoy this way of learning. The seminars give you the opportunity to demonstrate what you have learnt in your lecture and to go over anything that is unclear.

What do you think of the social life at Kent?
I lived in Liberty Quays in my first year. It was a very memorable experience, if I could do it again I probably would! In the first year, everybody throws themselves into everything, Coopers on campus was fantastic, in the daytime they had barbecues and discos in the evening; it was great. As you move on to your second and third years though, you have less free time so things calm down a bit.

Does Medway provide a good study environment?
The Drill Hall Library is great it has everything you need and is a good environment to concentrate in.

There is lots of support available. In my first year, I used the Student Learning Advisory Service for advice about revision and they helped to create a revision plan that was tailored to my exam schedule, which was very helpful. They also held workshops showing us how to access IT sources such as historical databases.

Also, in February each year, there is an ‘employability month’ where there is a focus on careers. The Careers and Employability Service invite guest lecturers who are experts in their fields, to talk at the University. They offer advice on applications and on what qualities firms expect from their graduates. I went to a talk on law and found it very useful.

What are your future plans?
I applied to three law schools and was very lucky to be accepted at all of them. I chose City Law School in London, which has an excellent reputation and will study for a Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL). Following that I aim to qualify as a barrister.

If you could go back and study law, would you do it?
I think employers do appreciate people with different areas of expertise. Perhaps, when they compare my application to one from a law graduate they will see that I have something different to offer. If I were to move into criminal law, for example, having studied criminal justice would make a lot of sense.

What advice would you give to someone thinking of studying criminal justice?
I think criminal justice is a great degree to have; it covers a lot of subjects and will help whatever you decide to go into. I definitely recommend it.
A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

Kent equips you with essential skills to give you a competitive advantage when it comes to getting a job. We are consistently in the top 20 for graduate starting salaries and, six months after graduation in 2011, only 7% of Kent graduates were without a job or further study opportunity.

Wide-ranging career options
A degree in Criminal Justice & Criminology can lead to a wide range of careers within the criminal justice system, including crime prevention, the probation service, the prison service, courts, the police, community safety, youth justice, social services departments, and drug and alcohol services. Some of our students have gone on to postgraduate courses to become lawyers. Others have gone into postgraduate research or jobs with voluntary sector organisations.

Gain transferable skills
Nowadays, most employers are looking for a range of transferable skills which you develop within your studies. Through studying Criminal Justice & Criminology you acquire many of these skills, such as the ability to work independently and in a team, the ability to analyse and interpret complex information, and the confidence to present your arguments persuasively and with sensitivity. These skills are considered essential for a successful graduate career.

Careers advice
The Careers and Employability Service can give you advice on how to choose your future career, how to apply for jobs, how to write a good CV and how to perform well in interviews and aptitude tests. It also provides up-to-date information on graduate opportunities before and after you graduate.

For more information on the services Kent provides to improve your employment prospects, visit www.kent.ac.uk/employability

For those who wish to stay in Medway, there are many opportunities available locally – studies of regional employers show that there is an unmet demand for graduates in the Medway area.
How do you think your course has changed you?
I think my course has given me a better view on life and on a system that everyone has an opinion on. I think it has made me a more thoughtful person and given me the ability to consider different angles to any given situation.

What careers advice did you receive at Kent?
I personally don’t believe I made enough of the careers advice available at the University but there was a lot on offer.

What are your plans for the future?
I plan to pursue a career in psychotherapy with youth offenders, and while my degree hasn’t necessarily led me to a job in this field it has provided me with the qualifications I need to train within this field.
STUDYING AT STAGE 1

Stage 1 covers the first year of your degree and lays the foundations for the rest of your studies.

Teaching methods include lectures and small group seminars, each lasting an hour. On average, you have four lectures and four seminars a week if you are studying full-time, or two of each if you are studying part-time. Most modules are assessed by coursework (50%) and written examinations (50%); some take the form of an extended dissertation (100% coursework).

You take four compulsory modules:
- Introduction to Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Introduction to Sociology: Methods and Analysis
- Legal Process for Criminal Justice
- Reading Law.

You also select one module from:
- Introduction to Contemporary Britain: Economic and Social History
- Social Problems and Social Policy.

Modules: Stage 1

Introduction to Criminology and Criminal Justice
This module begins by considering the social construction, representation and measurement of crime; before progressing to the aims of the criminal justice system and of punishment, the functions of key criminal justice agencies and the processes involved in the pursuit of justice. You gain some understanding of criminological research methods and study the most important criminological theories. You then consider the differentiated experiences of women and black and minority ethnic peoples, and the case for special consideration for young offenders. You develop a comprehensive theoretical understanding of some of the central issues and debates in criminology and criminal justice.

Legal Process for Criminal Justice
Forensic science is science pertaining to the law, specifically courts of law. A grounding in the legal environment and in the ability to analyse and evaluate aspects of it are crucial to the subject. This module acquaints you with the basic principles, structures and procedures of the legal system in England and Wales. The module helps you to develop a range of skills and emphasises self-directed methods of learning. Tasks include visits to (criminal) courts and reporting back, interviewing role play, drafting legal papers and making oral submissions.

Reading Law
This introductory module prepares you for the study of criminal law. You acquire the technical skills necessary to read law, including an understanding of judicial precedent and statutory interpretation and are able to evaluate the impact of the operation of law upon the users of the criminal justice system.

Introduction to Contemporary Britain: Economic and Social History
You gain an understanding of the historical development of Britain’s society and economy from 1900. The period chosen facilitates discussion of some of the political and economic ideas and events that have influenced contemporary society and the approaches that historians have adopted towards them.

Social Problems and Social Policy
Current issues and social problems are analysed in a structured manner, taking into account the political, social and economic environments that influence and shape policy. You evaluate research findings and examine policy recommendations and the ideological debates of the different political parties and pressure groups.
STUDYING AT STAGE 2

Stage 2 covers the second year of your programme.

You take the following compulsory modules:
- Crime and Punishment in England
- Issues in Criminal Justice
- Research Methods in Sociology.

In addition, you choose 60 credits from the list of options below:
- Criminal Justice Practice (30 credits)
- Criminal Law (30 credits)
- Forensic Psychology (15 credits)
- History of the Police and Policing (15 credits)
- Principles and Practice of Social Policy (30 credits)
- Social Ethics (30 credits)
- Youth, Crime and Criminal Justice (15 credits).

Modules: Stage 2

Crime and Punishment in England
The module is intended to increase awareness of continuity and change in patterns and perceptions of crime and the responses to it by the legal system and other agencies over the period 1750-1900. You study historical perspectives on the history of crime and punishment – Whig, Marxist and revisionist. You have a chance to undertake critical evaluation of the sources of crime history and learn about change and continuity in the criminal justice system over the period covered. Policy case studies include juvenile delinquency, transportation, the campaign against capital punishment, the development of the prison, violent crime, and the treatment of victims.

Issues in Criminal Justice
You gain an overview of the contemporary rationale, powers, procedures and practices of the criminal justice system. The module provides a theoretical foundation to help you better understand the functions of the criminal justice system, before moving on to address the social dimensions which affect its operation.

Research Methods in Sociology
This module develops your awareness and critical understanding of methodological issues and practices within sociology. It includes both a theoretical and practical understanding of sociological approaches and techniques, with a particular emphasis on qualitative approaches. You tackle research design, undertake research using specific techniques, and analyse and present your findings. You make judgements about appropriate matches between research questions, design and techniques, and claims about the knowledge produced in your own and other research. The module also includes practical work so you learn first-hand about the research process.

Criminal Justice Practice
In this module, you gain direct experience of the sector by working as a volunteer at a public or voluntary sector organisation that works with the criminal justice system. For example, you could volunteer as a Special Constable, a mentor for the Probation Service or a charity that works with offenders or you could opt to volunteer with Victim Support or the Witness Service. The Kent Union Volunteer Coordinator will help you to find volunteering opportunities. You
STUDYING AT STAGE 2 (CONT)

complete 100 hours of volunteering by the end of the spring term and are given the opportunity to reflect on your academic and practice learning.

Criminal Law
The study of Criminal Justice concerns itself with the rules that are applied in a courtroom to establish criminal liability. Criminal law is different to civil law – the aim of civil law is compensation whereas the aim of criminal law is punishment. The two systems have their own court structures, procedures and systems of enforcement.

This module provides you with a sound grounding in the concepts, principles and rules of criminal offences; in particular the law relating to murder/manslaughter, non-fatal offences, general defences, inchoate offences, and theft and fraud offences. You are encouraged to engage in the wider debate in respect of the place of criminal law in the social context, the definitions of ‘harm’ and the boundaries of criminal law, and the theories of punishment.

Forensic Psychology
This module concerns the application of psychological theory and research to topics relating to criminal behaviour and criminal justice. You consider the origins of criminal behaviour, approaches to crime prevention, offender profiling, jury decision making and eyewitness testimony. Recent psychological findings are emphasised. You are encouraged to take a critical approach to assessing the validity of theories and applications. Through your studies, you develop a sound understanding of the potential and the limitations of psychology’s contributions to criminal justice.

History of the Police and Policing
It has been said that ‘the development of modern policing and the evolution of a policed society are of fundamental importance to an understanding of the society in which we live.’ This module examines the historical development of police forces from the late 18th century to the present day with particular reference to the United Kingdom. The social and political context in which modern policing was introduced is examined, together with the conditions affecting policing practice in 19th and 20th-century Britain.

Principles and Practice of Social Policy
This module gives a broad dynamic perspective on the meaning and purpose of social policy, and how its practice impacts on social welfare, equality and social justice. It combines theoretical, political and historical perspectives in order to consider how social policy and social welfare are produced in Britain, and how they have changed through time. It also gives an introduction to international and global social policy issues, such as how social policy works in countries beyond the UK and Europe, or how the EU or UN might affect social policymaking.

Social Ethics
This module gives you a broad introduction to social ethics and gives you a framework of moral theory with which to address contemporary issues affecting practice in professional situations. You gain an understanding of key concepts and theories in moral philosophy and become familiar with competing ethical perspectives. This allows you to critically evaluate the relevance of ethical theory to understanding contemporary public life.

Youth, Crime and Criminal Justice
Youth crime is a field that frequently attracts much public, political and media attention. This module encourages you to critically assess the true prevalence and severity of crime committed by young people. You study the fascination with youth and crime in its historical context, demonstrating that youth crime is neither a new nor novel phenomenon. You then move on to examine the developing and competing theories which seek to explain why young people commit crime.
STUDYING AT STAGE 3

Stage 3 represents the final year of your degree.

You take one compulsory module:
• Dissertation.

In addition you choose 90 credits from the list of options below:
• Drugs and the Criminal Justice System (15 credits)
• Key Welfare Issues (30 credits)
• The Politics of Criminal Justice (30 credits)
• Prisons, Probation and Offender Rehabilitation (15 credits)
• Restorative Justice (15 credits)
• Women, Crime and Criminal Justice (15 credits).

Modules: Stage 3

Dissertation
The Dissertation enables you to undertake independent research. You propose a specific topic of interest after discussion with the relevant subject specialist(s). In undertaking your research, you deepen your critical understanding of research design and the application of specific techniques appropriate to your specialism. You develop both a theoretical and practical understanding of the approaches of the relevant discipline. The dissertation work builds on knowledge and skills developed in previous research methods modules.

Drugs and the Criminal Justice System
This module gives you an overview of drug-related offending and the rehabilitation of offenders in the context of wider society. It reviews the laws relating to drug offences and looks, in detail, at the development of government policy linking the criminal justice agenda with treatment. You consider the perspective of the illicit drug user and consider the importance of gender and ethnicity in relation to drug offences. The module includes opportunities for reflective practice, skills development workshops and structured work-based learning.

Key Welfare Issues
The module provides an introduction to key issues in welfare from a comparative and historical perspective. You explore the welfare needs of particular social groups – such as families, disabled and older people, women and ethnic minorities and address emerging issues and challenges that contemporary welfare states face today, exploring possibilities for change.

The Politics of Criminal Justice
This module traces the way in which criminal justice and criminal justice policy have become increasingly politicised in recent years. It utilises key examples, such as terrorism, dangerous offenders and capital punishment to highlight the
STUDYING AT STAGE 3 (CONT)

interaction between popular opinion, research, policy formation and the criminalisation of particular groups within society. You analyse how and why crime has become such an important issue on the political agenda, and examine the important role that pressure groups (such as Nacro and the Howard League for Penal Reform) have played in mediating political rhetoric and policy.

Prisons, Probation and Offender Rehabilitation
One of the biggest challenges facing the operation of the criminal justice system is the question of how to stop criminals from reoffending. This module provides a critical examination of the historical and contemporary role, use and work of prison and probation in England and Wales. You address controversial issues in imprisonment, the experience of imprisonment, models of offender rehabilitation and their use in prisons and probation, risk assessment and parole, the resettlement of former prisoners in the community, and serious offenders’ desistance from crime.

Restorative Justice
At a time of record prison populations, prison overcrowding and chronic rates of recidivism, there is growing criticism of conventional methods of punishing offenders. The restorative justice movement provides a sharp critique of the ineffectiveness of conventional criminal justice and prisons and has introduced new forms of disposal. You examine the critique and the claims for the alternatives, looking at the role of victims and what benefits they get from conventional and alternative forms of punishment, the role of emotions in affording closure and rehabilitation, and the significance of the community in reintegrating offenders. The module looks at models of punishment from around the world, and examines the claim that measures designed to reconcile conflicting parties can be found in different societies around the world.

Women, Crime and Criminal Justice
Women’s relationship to the criminal justice system has become a matter of increasing social and academic interest in recent years. This module examines the subject from both an historical and contemporary perspective, mainly concentrating on the system within England and Wales, but with some cross-national comparisons, eg, with the USA. You examine the paradox that, while historically women have constituted a minority of offenders, mainstream criminology has tended to ignore questions of gender. You look at the historical role of the media in perpetuating stereotypical images of female offenders.
VISIT THE UNIVERSITY

Come along for an Open Day or a UCAS Visit Day and see for yourself what it is like to be a student at Kent.

Open Days
Open Days are held in the summer and autumn for potential students, and their families and friends, to have a look round the campus. The day includes a wide range of subject displays, demonstrations and informal lectures and seminars, and the chance to tour the campus with current students to view accommodation and facilities. For more information, see www.kent.ac.uk/opendays

UCAS Visit Days
UCAS Visit Days take place between December and April and include a tour of the campus with a student guide and a talk about University life. You also have the chance to talk to one of the academics and discuss any queries about the course. For more details see www.kent.ac.uk/visitdays

Informal visits
You are welcome to visit the campus at any time. We produce a leaflet that can take you on a self-guided tour and you may be able to meet up with an academic member of staff. For more details, please contact the Information and Guidance Unit (see below).

More information
For more information about the University, or to order another subject leaflet, please contact the Information and Guidance Unit.

T: 01227 827272
Freephone (UK only): 0800 975 3777
E: information@kent.ac.uk

For the latest departmental information on studying Criminal Justice & Criminology at Kent, please see www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr

Location
Medway

Award
BA (Hons)

Degree programme
Single honours
- Criminal Justice & Criminology (M900:K)

Offer levels
BCC at A level, IB Diploma 34 points or IB Diploma with 13 points at Higher. BTEC National Diploma/Certificate with Distinction, Merit, Merit.


Mature students may be accepted on the basis of motivation and experience.

Required subjects
None

Offer levels and entry requirements are subject to change. For the latest course information, see www.kent.ac.uk/ug

Terms and conditions: the University 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).

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.
COME AND VISIT US

We hold Open Days at our Canterbury and Medway campuses.
For more information, see:
www.kent.ac.uk/opendays