HISTORY
Canterbury
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND INSPIRATIONAL TEACHING

The School of History at the University of Kent is recognised as one of the best in the country. Based in the historic cathedral city of Canterbury, students can study a wide range of inspiring modules on our flexible History programmes. The University is one of the UK’s top universities with all of our academic schools producing world-class research.

World-leading research

History at Kent is well-known for its high-quality research. It was ranked second in the UK in the most recent Research Assessment Exercise and is a large and growing department with over 35 members of academic staff. Our undergraduates work alongside lecturers and tutors who are not just teachers, but researchers actively working at the forefront of their chosen field.

Academics within the School of History have a diverse range of expertise, ranging from the early Middle Ages to the 21st century, encompassing Europe, the United States, Africa and India, with disciplinary interests including archaeology, politics, science, warfare, medicine, literature and the history of art.

Excellent teaching

The School has a lively and engaging student body. For the past five years, our courses have consistently achieved over 90% for student satisfaction in the National Student Survey. You study within a challenging and inspiring academic environment and we encourage you to become an independent thinker.

Students are invited to attend regular talks from visiting speakers, and the passionate, student-led History Society organises lectures, social events and trips each year.

Students are encouraged to study widely and formulate their own opinions while being guided and taught by our world-class academics in a stimulating environment.

A global outlook

Kent is known as the UK’s European university because of our strong links with top-ranking continental European institutions, our UK locations close to the European mainland and our postgraduate centres in Paris, Brussels, Athens and Rome. This makes it an ideal starting point for exploring Europe. Kent also has a diverse international community, with students from 140 countries on campus.

The School of History has established links with institutions across Europe as well as in Canada, North America and South Africa allowing for a truly global outlook and opportunities to study abroad.
In the first year you are encouraged to broaden your horizons, choosing from a range of ‘Introduction to…’ modules to explore areas of history you may not have studied before. Our compulsory module, Making History, provides a solid foundation in historical study, developing key skills and examining interpretive issues that are required for study in years two and three. You are encouraged to discover new topics and explore different historical ideas and approaches.

In the second year there are no compulsory options, giving you the freedom to fully explore your own interests, before specialising for a dissertation in your final year, working closely with one of our academic experts on a topic of your choice.

Practical experience
The School has a comprehensive employability scheme for students who wish to gain practical experience during the course of their degree. Alongside careers workshops and visits from successful alumni, the School has strong links with English Heritage and the National Trust. Our undergraduates have also worked with organisations such as the Canterbury Cathedral Library and Archives, its stained glass studios and stonemasons’ workshop, the Beaney House of Art & Knowledge, Canterbury Archaeological Trust and other local museums.

Supportive academic community
We want you to feel part of the academic community at Kent. You are taught by top academics, your opinions are welcomed in class and as ‘student reps’, and you are invited to extra-curricular lectures and events throughout the year.

All academics within the School have dedicated office hours and our students are assigned a personal tutor; we have a policy of one-to-one feedback for the first essay on every module and a dedicated Student Support Officer who can provide academic support and help with pastoral issues.

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. During your studies, you develop key transferable skills that are considered essential for a successful career.

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

DID YOU KNOW?
Kent was ranked 20th in the UK in The Guardian University Guide 2014.
DID YOU KNOW?

Canterbury is consistently rated as one of the safest university cities in England and Wales in The Complete University Guide.
Our campus at Canterbury provides a stunning location for your studies and offers first-class academic and leisure facilities. The campus is within easy reach of London and mainland Europe.

Kent’s historic setting
The Romans called it Durovernum; today we call it Canterbury. Then, as now, it was Britain’s link with the continent. The city is steeped in history and makes a stimulating environment for anyone interested in how the past has shaped the present, with much of its medieval history still apparent in its ancient streets and buildings. Canterbury Cathedral, St Augustine’s Abbey and St Martin’s Church together are recognised as a World Heritage Site, with an ‘outstanding universal value for humanity’.

First-class primary sources
To develop your skills as a historian, it is vital to have access to a wide range of historical evidence and opinion. At Kent, we recognise the importance of good resources. You have access to an excellent library collection with a wealth of books, journals and other materials, plus privileged access to the Canterbury Cathedral Library and Archives. This represents an opportunity to work with a range of top-quality primary sources – such as a unique collection of medieval and early modern manuscripts and books.

In addition, the University of Kent is home to the British Cartoon Archive, whose 20th-century collection can illuminate many aspects of recent history. For historians with an interest in conflict, Kent is home to a rare and complete set of British official histories of both world wars.

Excellent study resources
The study resources on campus are excellent. The Templeman Library has over a million publications, films and images. There are also over a thousand PCs on campus and a range of support services for help or advice.

Kent’s Student Learning Advisory Service also provides information and advice on all aspects of effective learning and study skills, and is available to all students from the time they arrive at the University. See www.kent.ac.uk/learning for more information.

International community
Kent offers an incredibly diverse and cosmopolitan campus – 140 nationalities are represented here. We also have strong links with universities and research centres around the world.

Beautiful green campus
Our campus has plenty of green and tranquil spaces, both lawns and wooded areas, and is set on a hill with a view of the city and Canterbury Cathedral.

For entertainment, you’re spoilt for choice. The campus has its own cinema, theatre, and a student nightclub. It has a reputation for being a friendly university with a cosmopolitan environment. There are many restaurants, cafés and bars on campus and if you enjoy sport and keeping fit, a sports centre and gym.

Everything you need on campus is within walking distance, including a general store, an off-licence, a bookshop, a bank, a medical centre and a pharmacy. From campus, it’s a 20-minute walk or a short bus-ride into town.

Attractive location
Canterbury is a lovely city with medieval buildings, lively bars and atmospheric pubs, as well as a wide range of shops. The attractive coastal town of Whitstable is close by and there are sandy beaches further down the coast. London is under an hour away by high-speed train.

“I’ve found areas of history that I never knew existed and that’s fantastic. I love finding subjects that I really enjoy learning, reading about and looking into further – this degree has really brought out a spark for knowledge in me.”

Emily Dennis
History

www.kent.ac.uk/history
Byzantine Art
Robin Cormack

The city of Byzantium was one of the most important cultural centers in the world, and its art and architecture were among the most influential. The city's location on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea allowed it to become a crossroads of trade and culture, attracting artists from all over the empire. The city's art was characterized by its use of gold and silver, and its intricate designs and patterns. The city's importance as a cultural center continued throughout the Byzantine Empire, and its art and architecture continue to be studied and admired today.
Jonathan Brown is in his fourth year, studying European History with a Year Abroad.

What attracted you to Kent? I came to an Open Day and liked the fact that everything is well contained. Everyone was really friendly and enthusiastic. The facilities are great, especially the library, and my course had a lot of modules to choose from.

How is the course going? It’s going really well. For me, the highlight was my third year when I went to France – it was so much fun. My French is dramatically better as a result. It was a very different teaching method in France, and it was interesting learning history from a French perspective! I chose to study at Poitiers, just south of Paris, because it’s a really nice part of the country, quite central to medieval France, and has lots of interesting history.

What do you think of your lecturers? The one characteristic they all have in common is that you can talk to them. If you are struggling over something, you can email them and they respond very quickly.

What are the facilities like? The facilities are great, in particular the library. The gym has been expanded and there are loads of societies – the History Society organises trips abroad at reduced prices. There are great bars and cafés where you can meet up with friends and the new library café means that you don’t have to leave the building to take a break.

What do you think about the level of support in your studies? It’s very good. The admin team are very helpful, if you’ve been ill, for instance, and need an extension to get work in. The module outline is very helpful, you know what’s coming up each week, what to read and what to focus on.

What was the highlight of your year abroad in France? I loved exploring the culture, and the little things like going into the shops and asking for things. As an historian, finding out how other people look at things… you think, ‘That can’t be right!’ but it’s what they’ve been taught; getting along with new people and discovering a new perspective on things.

What sort of things do you do in your spare time? I enjoy music, go to concerts, and the cinema and the gym, especially after spending a year in France!

Have you any advice for other students? Don’t be scared. You may worry about not knowing anyone and being away from home but everyone’s in the same boat. Obviously, you come to university to learn but you should have fun while you’re doing it, explore a bit. Challenge yourself, take on something new, like a language or a subject you haven’t studied before, try something that pushes you that extra bit… it will be worth it in the end.
Kent equips you with essential skills to give you a competitive advantage when it comes to getting a job and the University is consistently in the top 20 for graduate starting salaries.

Good career prospects
Kent graduates are doing better than ever in the changeable job market, according to recent employment statistics. The latest National Student Survey found that 91% of our History students found employment or went on to further study within six months of graduating.

Career possibilities for History graduates are wide-ranging, due to the valuable, transferable analytical and writing skills gained throughout your degree course. Our graduates are ideally suited to careers in areas such as journalism and the media, management and administration, the civil service, local government, museum and heritage management, commerce and banking, teaching and research, and the law, as well as the armed services and defence analysis, among many others.

The empathetic nature of history means that our graduates are often suited to voluntary or charitable work, either in the UK or with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) overseas. Graduates may also find their skills useful in library and information work, in public, academic or specialist libraries, managing library collections and assisting library users. Many of our students find history so addictive they go on to postgraduate study.

Gain transferable skills
Studying for a degree in history at Kent imparts many valuable skills demanded by today’s employers. Alongside developing precise and concise writing skills, students hone their verbal communication skills through in-class discussion and debate. They also become adept at research, analysing large quantities of information from often conflicting sources, assessing complex arguments and formulating their own ideas before expressing them clearly and concisely on paper.

Careers advice
The University’s Careers and Employability Service, open to all undergraduates, provides advice on choosing your future career, applying for jobs, writing a good CV and performing well in interviews and aptitude tests. It also provides up-to-date information on graduate opportunities before and after you graduate. In addition, the School of History runs workshops for undergraduates, which include input from highly successful alumni.

Further information
For more information on the careers help we provide at Kent, see our Employability webpage at www.kent.ac.uk/employability

“When I graduated, I found employers were very aware of the competencies that we historians develop during our studies. My job is to analyse information and data relating to serious crime. What impressed my employer was that I could easily adapt the skills I used at university.”

Lis West
History graduate, now working as a crime analyst
Will Butler, a War Studies graduate, stayed on at Kent to study for a PhD on Irish military history.

**What did you think of your first degree course?**
I absolutely loved the course, especially its range and flexibility. I could study the Cold War at the same time as Anglo-Saxon England – there’s such a broad range of subject areas because of the academics here. The School of History really does cater for every interest.

I particularly enjoyed the module, Churchill’s Army, which enabled me to broaden my knowledge of the British army during the Second World War. Another fantastic module was Divided Land: Divided History, covering Irish history from 1885-2005, which sparked an interest I continued into my Master’s degree in War, Media and Modernity and now my PhD study.

**What were your lecturers like?**
The lecturers’ enthusiasm comes across in their teaching – if an academic is passionate about a subject, it’s much easier to connect yourself to that area of study.

Staff in the School of History are very approachable. If you have a problem, it’s easy to contact them by email or see them in person. The lecturers are willing to offer that extra help if you need it.

There’s also the opportunity to socialise with lecturers here and it’s great to be able to meet them in an informal way. I don’t think you get that in many other departments or universities.

**What sort of extra-curricular activities did you enjoy?**
I was, and still am, a member of the History Society and it’s great to go along to lectures and film nights and learn something that perhaps you didn’t get a chance to as an undergraduate.

Because of Kent’s location, I was able to do some voluntary work in the archives at Dover Castle. I got to see lots of behind-the-scenes stuff and it really was an invaluable experience.

**Have you enjoyed your time at Kent?**
Absolutely. Coming to university can be a daunting experience to begin with, but I was able to settle in very quickly during my first year. I think this was partly because of the fantastic environment on campus – it’s self-contained but close enough to town if you want to go out.

I don’t think that I would have been given the same opportunity in any other place. The modules I was able to take and the knowledge I was able to gain have enabled me to move on to where I am now. Kent has provided a happy, welcoming environment for me to continue doing something that I have a passion for. I couldn’t think of doing anything else now.

**What do you plan to do next?**
I was lucky enough to be given a History Scholarship to fund my PhD study and that’s been indispensable. My dream is to go into academia – I love writing and hope to be able to publish something in the near future. I also love the research aspect of it. There’s nothing better than sitting in an archive, looking at a document nobody has looked at for, maybe, 100 years, and making a discovery. That gives me a massive buzz.
CHOOSING YOUR PROGRAMME

Not sure which programme to choose? Here’s a guide to the degrees offered within the School of History.

History
This single honours degree is a three-year programme. Within it, you can choose to specialise in a range of historical periods or subjects. Because of its modular structure, you can tailor your degree to your own interests. This may be incredibly broad, or more focused on specific themes within history.

For example, some students might wish to focus their studies on medieval history, taking the introductory modules in their first year, The Art of Death: Representations, Rituals and Records in England, 1300-1450 and Riders on the Storm: Pestilence, Famine and Death in 14th-century Europe in their second year and The Monster in Medieval Culture as their final-year special subject.

Other students might choose to explore war and history (allowing you to examine conflict in different periods of history), history in film (considering cinema as a document and a construction of the past) or early modern studies (drawing on Kent’s rich Tudor remains).

European History
This four-year programme follows the same structure as single honours history, but with students spending their third year of study in a French or German partner institution, such as Artois, France, or Regensburg, Germany.

Joint Honours
You can study history with a number of other subjects, including:

History and Archaeological Studies
This programme particularly suits students who want to combine archaeology with medieval, post-medieval or ancient, history. You can choose from a wide range of modules in archaeology, ancient and medieval history; some include work placements and visits. You are also encouraged to gain experience with the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, which is responsible for an ambitious programme of research in the city.

Jointhonours are also available with:
- Comparative Literature (QV21)
- Computing (VG14)
- Drama (VV14)
- English and American Literature (QV31)
- English, American and Postcolonial Literature (VQ13)
- Film Studies (VV16)
- French (RV11)
- German (RV21)
- Hispanic Studies (RV41)
- History & Philosophy of Art (VV31)
- Italian (RV31)
- Law (VM1C)
- Philosophy (VVC5)
- Politics (LV21)
- Religious Studies (VV61)
- Social Anthropology (LVP1)

War Studies
Our single honours programme in War Studies allows students to tackle one of the most significant aspects of human behaviour – conflict and organised aggression. The programme examines war from a historical perspective and seeks to understand the influence of war on the development of human societies. The programme allows you to explore the moral and philosophical judgements on war, its operational art and conduct, and its political, social and cultural implications. War Studies students may also choose many of the modules available on our standard History programmes, and vice versa.

Teaching and assessment
Most modules are taught via a weekly seminar, usually in groups of 12-18 students; many also have a programme of lectures, and some include museum and/or site visits.

During the first half of Stage 1, assessment is based on 100% coursework (essays and class participation). In the second half, it is 50% coursework and 50% examination. However, the marks from this year do not count towards your final degree.

Need more information?
See www.kent.ac.uk/ug for further details.

To order another leaflet, call the Information and Guidance Unit: 01227 827272.
STUDYING AT STAGE 1

Stage 1 is the first year of your degree programme.

In Stage 1, you are expected to take our compulsory module Making History and six modules of your own choice. While you are free to 'pick and mix' modules, you are required to take two two-part survey courses in your first year. These offer a broad overview and act as an introduction to areas of history you may not have studied before.

Survey courses may include:
- An Introduction to American History (Part 1 and 2)
- An Introduction to Early Modern History (Part 1 and 2)
- An Introduction to the Global History of Empire (Part 1 and 2)
- An Introduction to the History of Medicine (Part 1 and 2)
- An Introduction to Medieval History (Part 1 and 2)
- An Introduction to Military History (Part 1 and 2)
- An Introduction to Modern British History (Part 1 and 2)
- An Introduction to Modern European History (Part 1 and 2)
- An Introduction to the History of Science (Part 1 and 2).

Optional modules may include:
- The British Army and Society since 1660
- Cinema and Society
- Empire and Africa
- England in the Age of Chivalry: c1200-1400
- The English Renaissance c1400-1600
- War and Society in Europe, 1779-1990.

Modules: Stage 1

An Introduction to American History (Part 1 and 2)

Students examine the British colonies in North America, from initial European settlement and the interactions between Native American, African, African-American and European populations, before focusing on the first anti-colonial revolution in modern history and the creation of a new nation. Themes include the causes and consequences of the Revolution, the new political system, the development of mass democracy, reform movements, conflict between North and South, slavery and the Civil War.

In the second part of the module, the transformation of America into an urban industrial civilisation at the end of the 19th century is considered. This concludes with a review of the American position at the beginning of the 21st century. Themes include: the rise to world power by 1918, prosperity and the Depression, war, the Cold War, race relations, Vietnam, the supposed decline and resurgence from Nixon to Reagan, and the Clinton Administration.

An Introduction to Early Modern History (Part 1 and 2)

The major events, themes and historiographical debates in early modern history, from the Renaissance to religious wars of the early 17th century, are the focus of this module. This period in European history witnessed the cultural and social upheaval of the Reformation, the advent of print and the formation of recognisably 'modern' nation states, and the beginnings of Europe’s troubled engagement with the wider world. You study six key
STUDYING AT STAGE 1 (CONT)

themes: religion, intellectual and scholarly life, economy, society, politics and war, and culture.

The second part of the module centres on the Age of Enlightenment, in particular the religious wars of the first half of the 17th century. This period saw the rise of Absolutism, the expansion of European influence in the Americas and Asia, overseas expansion and the Enlightenment. The six main themes, as above, are studied through the examination of national histories, specific events, and historiographical controversies.

An Introduction to the Global History of Empire (Part 1 and 2)
You examine the structures, instruments and consequences of empires from c1500-1850. Themes include the expansion of European empires (Spanish, Portuguese, British, French, Dutch and Belgian) in the Americas and Asia, global rivalry for empires among European nations, the commercial expansion of the East India Companies in the Indian Ocean, British colonies in India, slavery and the Abolition movement. Students are encouraged to take Part 1 and 2 of this module.

The second part of the module, covering the period 1850-1960 covers the expansion of European empires during the age of decolonisation. Topics include the conquest of Africa in the age of the so-called ‘New Imperialism’, struggles for freedom in Asia and Africa and the legacy of Empire, such as the Commonwealth, immigration and multiculturalism.

An Introduction to the History of Medicine (Part 1 and 2)
The first part of this module focuses on the history of medicine and covers a broad range of themes such as medical institutions, professional conduct, ethics and the role of Greek writers such as Hippocrates and the role of the Black Death. You also consider the historical links between disease, climate and environment, the asylum system, the development of psychiatry and the Welfare State.

An Introduction to Medieval History (Part 1 and 2)
What happened when the Roman Empire collapsed? When did England, France and Germany come into being? How violent were the Vikings? What happened at the Norman Conquest? The main political events and most significant changes that took place during this period are covered in this module and you get a sense of what life was like in particular communities in this period, and the types of evidence that survive for modern historians.

The second part of this module looks at Medieval Europe from c1000 to c1450, along with elements of political, institutional, religious, social and cultural history. This foundation in European history will equip you with a grounding in geography and chronology as well as a variety of approaches to the study of history. You get an overview of some of the period’s defining epochs such as the feudal system, kingship, the Crusades, warfare and chivalry, popes (and anti-popes), heresy, women and the family, and towns and trade.
An Introduction to Modern British History (Part 1 and 2)

This module examines the principal themes of the political, social and cultural history of Britain during the Victorian era (c1830 –1900). This period saw the building of one of the world’s greatest empires, the transformation of Britain from a rural society into the world’s first and leading industrial nation, and the development of a modern state and new forms of democratic participation.

An Introduction to Modern European History (Part 1 and 2)

The first part of the module focuses on the impact of the Enlightenment and revolutionary approaches to social change in France and Russia. Topics include: the French revolution, Jacobinism, the Napoleonic Empire, Russia under Peter the Great and Catherine the Great and nationalism in Europe.

The second part of the module, which is subject to approval includes topics such as: the Crimean War, the Franco-Prussian War and German unification, the origins of the First and Second World Wars, the Treaty of Versailles, the League of Nations, the Cold War, the origins of the European Union and the fall of communism.

An Introduction to the History of Science (Part 1 and 2)

Science has arguably been the greatest force for cultural change in the last 500 years. Scientists have changed the way we see the world and ourselves, and have equipped us with technologies that enable us to fly in the sky and shoot neutrinos under the ground. You look at some of the most important developments since the so-called ‘scientific revolution’ (c1700) and question key assumptions about what science is really like.

“I am thoroughly enjoying my course and all the varied aspects of studying History. It took me a while to adapt to the, mostly, independent style of learning as an undergraduate, yet the seminars and lectures are interesting, complex and challenging. My seminar leaders have constantly challenged us to question our own view of the world.”

Oscar Gibbon
History student
Other optional modules include:

**The British Army and Society since 1660**
You look at the political control of the army, recruitment and the army's role in promoting concepts of Britishness in this module. You also look at amateur military forces such as Special Reserve, Territorial Army and Home Guard, as well as conscription, discipline and morale, in peace and war. This provides a solid basis from which to study other modules, including Churchill's Army.

**Cinema and Society**
This module covers the period from 1914 to 1960 and introduces the ways historians use film as evidence. It draws on a wide range of films, stressing that they are to be understood in the context of the societies that produced them. Focusing on Britain, Europe and America, the module questions how much cinema, the most potent method of mass communication in this period, influenced hearts and minds by looking at commercially successful and popular films.

**Empire and Africa**
The nature of 'empire', and the origins of the European empires in Africa, is examined in this module. You look at the impact of the Second World War on the British Empire, the end of British imperial influence in Kenya and Egypt, Italian and Soviet involvement in Ethiopia, and compare the British and the French approach to decolonisation, using political speeches and cartoons as documentary evidence.

**England in the Age of Chivalry**
This module introduces English cultural history between 1200 and 1400, looking in particular at the relationship between patronage, piety and power. What were the chivalric ideals to which the proverbial knights in shining armour aspired to? How did a romantic courtly culture compare to the brutal realities of England at war with its neighbours? How did the use of ‘image’ by monarchs, or the thriving devotional culture, help literature and visual culture to flourish?

**The English Renaissance 1400-1600**
This module introduces you to the years 1400-1600 – a period that saw a transformation in political, literary, intellectual and religious culture in England. You look at the major political events: the Lancastrian Revolution, the Wars of the Roses, the Henrician Reformation, the Mid-Tudor Crisis, and the problems of female monarchy during the reign of Elizabeth I, in the context of longer term developments in the cultural, intellectual and social history of England.

**War and Society in Europe 1779-1990**
Wars in Europe, from the French Revolutionary Wars to the Cold War, is the focus of this module. You discuss these wars at the strategic and operational level and topics include: French Revolutionary Wars, Napoleonic Wars, Crimean War, Wars of Italian and German Unification, Balkan Wars, the First and Second World Wars, the Spanish Civil War and the Cold War. This offers an overview of wars that shaped modern Europe and an insight into political and economic change in this period.

“My favourite module was on the history of the British Army as it really encompassed what I enjoy about history. It delves into the relationship between the army and society, something I'd never really studied before. My lecturers are helpful, knowledgeable and passionate about their subject, a trait which rubs off on us students.”

Mario Draper
War Studies
STUDYING AT STAGES 2 AND 3

You are expected to take at least three History modules in both Stages 2 and 3. At Stage 3, you must undertake a dissertation either in the form of a Special Subject or an Independent Documentary Study.

Optional modules are drawn from a large range across the School, linking closely to areas of academic expertise. There are normally around 30 to choose from in a given year. Example modules include:

- African History since 1800
- The American Civil War Era, 1848-1877
- Anglo-Saxon Culture
- The Art of Death: Representations, Rituals and Records in England, 1300-1450
- Churchill’s Army: The British Army in the Second World War
- Europe and the Islamic World, 1450-1750
- How the West was Won (or Lost): The American West in the 19th Century
- Insurgencies and Counter Insurgencies
- Marvels, Monsters and Freaks, 1780-1920
- Military Revolutions: War and the Making of the Early Modern World
- Riders on the Storm: Pestilence, Famine and Death in 14th Century Europe
- Russia 1855-1945: Reform, Revolution and War
- Society and Culture in Early Modern Europe.

Special subjects
Options may include:

- California: The Golden State
- Food, Fights and Festivals: Street Life in Urban Europe 1600-1800
- The Great War, British Memory, History and Culture
- Kingdoms of the Savannah
- The Monster in Medieval Culture
- The Ocean Liner, 1840-1914
- The Rights Revolution: The Civil Rights Movement and the Law
- The Wars of the Roses
- Wolves, Walruses and the Wild: Animals and Environments in Modern Anglo-American Culture.

Independent Documentary Study
As an alternative to special subjects, students who wish to propose their own area of research may do so, working closely with a supervising academic/expert in the given field.

Modules: Stages 2 and 3

African History since 1800
This module looks at the dynamics of sub-Saharan African history during the past two centuries. You look at the changing nature of African slavery, the socio-cultural engineering brought about by European rule, African nationalisms and decolonisation and develop an understanding of the challenges faced by independent African nations.

The nature of the post-colonial African state is also explored, as well as more recent events such the Rwandan Genocide and the African Aids epidemic.

The American Civil War Era, 1848-1877
You look at a key era of US history, from the victory over Mexico to the final withdrawal of US troops from
the South and discover the interplay of forces and ideas that led to a conflict that few, if any, wanted – and which lasted longer than anyone expected. Historical and fictional depictions in art and film are evaluated to see how they shape perspectives.

You look at the rise of slavery as a public issue, attempts to find compromise within the Constitutional framework, the activities of extremists and the effects the war had on both sides. You can pursue topics of your choice alongside, and as part of, these themes.

**Anglo-Saxon Culture**

This module is designed to introduce you to the political, social and cultural history of England in the dramatic centuries between the departure of the Roman legions and the arrival of the Normans. During this period, the country was transformed from a province of the Roman Empire into several independent kingdoms.

Redefined by Christianity and invaded by Vikings, it was eventually unified into a single state, that was rich, sophisticated and ripe for conquest. A wide range of sources is used, including archaeology and poetry, letters and law codes.

**The Art of Death: Representations, Rituals and Records in England, 1300-1450**

The place of death within late medieval English culture is the topic of this module. You discover how ideas about death and the dead were expressed in works of art before the arrival of the Black Death to England in 1348 and the ways in which funerary sculpture, architecture and painting changed after, and perhaps because of, the devastation of the plague.

**Churchill’s Army: The British Army in the Second World War**

You look at the ways in which Britain reacted to the crushing defeats of 1940 in France and 1942 in the Far East, to transform itself into a war-winning force. This module takes a broad approach to military history, including the political, economic and cultural realities behind the military force.

**Europe and the Islamic World, 1450-1750**

Cultures do not develop in isolation; they are built on the values of past generations and are shaped and challenged in interaction with other cultures. This module explores the powerful interaction between Europe and the Islamic world in early modern times, including the rise and fall of three major Islamic states and empires. You assess the early modern European encounter with the Islamic world and the impact this had on European civilisation.

**Riders on the Storm: Pestilence, Famine and Death in 14th-Century Europe**

This watershed period in British and European history irrevocably altered the economic and social order. The havoc wrought by the ‘Four Riders of the Apocalypse’ – from the Black Death, which killed around 40 per cent of the British population, to the costly wars fought by England
against Scotland and France which led to increased taxation, high prices and low wages and a series of failed harvests that led to the ‘Great Famine’ and spread chaos and anarchy mostly among the lower echelons of society.

How the West was Won (or Lost): The American West in the 19th Century

This module looks at the social and economic dynamics underlying western history, together with processes of environmental change. The module spans the period from 1803 (the Louisiana purchase) to 1893 (the date of the Chicago Exposition) and Turner’s famed ‘frontier thesis’. Key themes include the Lewis and Clark expedition, the Gold Rush, the Indian Wars, the construction of regional identities, protracted conflicts for resources and environmental changes.

Insurgencies and Counter Insurgencies

The British and French armies spent a considerable period of the 20th century involved in counter-insurgency operations. From the famed Foreign Legion to the notorious ‘Black and Tans’, formed for use in Ireland in 1920-21, you see how insurgencies have been tackled. More recent campaigns, in Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan, raise questions about the media portrayal and public accountability of the army, as does the recent release of records of the British involvement in Kenya.

You also look at the relationship between ecology and politics and the political changes created by the advancing frontiers of the slave and ivory trades. Different colonial encounters – violent and peaceful – are also studied.

Marvels, Monsters and Freaks, 1780-1920

Society has always been fascinated by those deemed different and over time, unusual people have been viewed and constructed in myriad ways. The changing nature of difference from the 1780s to the 1920s is covered in this module.

You consider the establishment of normality versus deviance; the changing conceptions of difference over time; relationships between unusual people and the wider society. Using a broad range of sources, from novels to film, you trace the shifting cultural constructions of difference.

DID YOU KNOW?

History at Kent was ranked 14th in the UK for overall student satisfaction in The Times University Guide 2013.
Military Revolutions: War and the Making of the Early Modern World

The ‘Military Revolution’ debate is one of the longest-running historiographical controversies in modern scholarship. It has important consequences and determines how historians have described and accounted for Europe’s expansion into the Americas and Asia in the early modern period. You examine the subject in the context of European case studies from 1450 to 1789, and consider the case for technological determinism and the sociological models for state formation advanced by scholars such as Charles Tilly, the American sociologist and historian.

Russia 1855-1945: Reform, Revolution and War

The continuities and differences between tsarism and Soviet communism are looked at in this module. Themes include: the reforms of Alexander II; populism and Marxism; the First World War; the February and October revolutions; the intelligentsia and revolution; revolutionary ideology; the building of socialism and the Stalin revolution.

Special subjects: Stage 3
Options may include:

California: The Golden State
A series of case studies illuminate key periods of the Golden State’s past and present. You explore the notion of the California Dream and look at the Gold Rush, the Great Depression and the life of the hobo. You also look at the effect of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, the rise of Hollywood as a state industry and the Los Angeles race riots as well as discussing ecological concerns such as the Santa Barbara oil spill and the Diablo Canyon nuclear protest.

Food, Fights and Festivals: Street Life in Urban Europe 1600-1800

Much of the lives of urban dwellers in early modern Europe was played out in city streets and squares. This is where people came together to work, shop and eat, but also to fight, celebrate, show their devotion and express their grievances. This module tackles key questions on how urban society was shaped and how it changed over time. The economy of the street, protests and riots, crime, poverty and entertainment are covered through various sub-disciplines such as cultural, social, art and economic history.

The Great War, British Memory, History and Culture

To what extent has the Great War infiltrated modern culture? What is the validity of Paul Fussell’s thesis that the Great War created Britain’s modern cultural atmosphere? This module explores how the war has influenced our lives and why we have certain images of it. Our investigations are based upon literature, poetry, art, architecture and film.

Kingdoms of the Savannah

The political history of Central Africa in the two centuries that preceded modern colonialism is the subject of
this module. The geographical area studied corresponds to present-day eastern Angola, southern and central Congo DR, Zambia, Malawi and western Mozambique. How did monarchs maintain significant influence over distant peripheral societies?

The Monster in Medieval Culture
This module explores the proposal that monsters are a defining feature of the Medieval millennium. It investigates categories, including demons and phantasms, the monstrous races, exotic and fantastical creatures, feral humans (especially wildmen) and sinners. The module draws on visual and literary sources, making use wherever possible of local resources, particularly those of Canterbury Cathedral.

The Ocean Liner, 1840-1914
Most histories of the British Empire – as well as textbooks on Victorian and Edwardian England – pay little more than lip-service to one of the more iconic features of the period: the ocean liner. Indeed, modern history is only just beginning to explore the significance of the sea for Britain’s role as a global player on the world stage. Using a series of in-depth case studies, this special subject offers a wholly new analysis of ‘the ocean liner’ as a microcosm of 19th- and early 20th-century life.

The Rights Revolution: The Civil Rights Movement and the Law
Focusing on the central theme of the Rights Era, this module examines competing views of what equality means and considers the numerous groups demanding equality since 1945. We examine various groups including African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, women, the disabled, religious groups and those who have faced discrimination based on grounds of sexual orientation, alongside environmentalists and others who move for greater guarantees of ‘rights’, particularly to property, free-speech and guns.

This course gives you an in-depth historical understanding of the last decades of the Soviet regime. At a general level, you will gain an overview of Soviet history from the 20th Party Congress of 1956 to the collapse of the USSR in 1991. Attention is focused on attempts to reform the Soviet Union from Khrushchev to Gorbachev, and why they failed. In this context, the dissident movement and the contribution of dissent to the process of perestroika is explored. You are equipped to ask why the Soviet Union, so soon after gaining superpower status, suddenly collapsed from within.
The Wars of the Roses
This module explores the events and conflicts in 15th-century England known as the Wars of the Roses. Immortalised in Shakespeare’s plays, the period between 1450 and 1487 saw five violent changes of king, periods of intense civil war, popular unrest and political bloodletting on an unprecedented scale.

Among the topics covered are the end of the Hundred Years’ War and Cade’s Rebellion, the character and motives of Richard, Duke of York, military technology, Warwick ‘the Kingmaker’ and the restoration of Henry VI.

Wolves, Walruses and the Wild: Animals and Environments in Modern Anglo-American Culture
Animals have long been objects of fascination in human culture, yet have received scarce attention as historical subjects until recently. This module utilises innovative research in environmental history and animal studies and focuses on the modern age, 1800 to the present day – a period that arguably saw a fundamental shift in the way we see animals and nature. You explore cultures of collecting, display and preservation of animals, through field trips to museums, archives and zoos.

A year abroad
Students on the European History programme have the opportunity to spend a year between Stages 2 and 3 studying at a university in France or Germany. Students on the single honours History programme also have the opportunity to spend a term abroad in their third year. English-speaking destinations include Canada (Ottawa) and South Africa (Stellenbosch).

Further information
For more information on all of our modules, please visit www.kent.ac.uk/history/undergraduate

“Kent is a good choice because History is an excellent School. The choice of modules is phenomenal – there’s something like 70 to choose from, which helps you to find something you really want to specialise in...What better place is there to study history with the Cathedral, Dover Castle, London and France close by?”
Haig Smith
History student
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
Canterbury Open Days are held in the summer and the 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 student accommodation and facilities. For more information, see www.kent.ac.uk/opendays

UCAS Visit Days
UCAS Visit Days are held between December and April each year. They include a tour of the campus, a general talk on the University and a talk from a departmental representative. You have the chance to meet academic staff in your chosen subject and to discuss any queries you may have. If you are invited for an interview, it will usually be held on one of our Visit Days. If we make you an offer without an interview, it usually includes an invitation to a Visit Day, but this might not be possible if you have applied late. For more information, 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, although we cannot guarantee this. For more details, or to download a tour leaflet, please see www.kent.ac.uk/informal

More information
For more information about the University, or to order another subject leaflet, please contact our Recruitment and Admissions Office, The Registry, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NZ.

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

For the latest departmental information, please see: www.kent.ac.uk/history

DID YOU KNOW?
For details of scholarships and bursaries at Kent, see www.kent.ac.uk/ugfunding
Location  
Canterbury.

Award  
BA (Hons).

Degree programme  
Single honours  
- History (V100).

Joint honours  
See p10.

European programme  
- European History (V221) including a year studying in France or Germany.

Programme type  
Full-time and part-time.

Offer levels  
History  
ABB at A level; IB Diploma 34 points overall inc History 5 at HL or 6 at SL where taken or IB Diploma with 16 points at Higher inc History 5 at HL or 6 at SL, where taken.

European History  
ABB at A level; IB Diploma 34 points overall inc a modern European language other than English 4 at HL or 5 at SL or IB Diploma with 16 points at HL inc History 5 at HL or 6 at SL, where taken.

Joint honours  
AAB/ABB/BBB at A level, IB Diploma 34 points inc History 5 at HL or 6 at SL where taken, or IB Diploma with 16 points at Higher inc History 5 at HL or 6 at SL where taken.

Required subjects  
A level History/Archaeology/Classical Civilisation/Ancient History grade B where taken or History to at least GCSE grade B if an appropriate subject is not taken at A level.

European History: GCSE grade B in chosen language (French or German).

Year abroad  
A year studying in France or Germany on the European History programme. Students on the single honours History programme have the opportunity to spend a term abroad in their third year. English-speaking destinations include Canada (Ottawa) and South Africa (Stellenbosch).

Departmental scholarships  
For details of our departmental scholarships, go to www.kent.ac.uk/scholarships/undergraduate

Further information  
Admissions enquiries  
T: +44 (0)1227 827272  
E: information@kent.ac.uk  
www.kent.ac.uk/ug

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

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