LIBERAL ARTS

Canterbury
CHARTING YOUR COURSE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Astrolabes served navigators, scientists and philosophers throughout the Classical World, the Middle Ages and the Renaissance as tools for orienting themselves in time and space.

As Kathryn Yatrakis, Dean of New York’s Columbia College, Columbia University wrote: ‘The University of Kent’s new Liberal Arts programme will be very attractive to those high achieving students who well understand that interdisciplinary study and thinking, combined with disciplinary training, is the way to best prepare for the professional world of the 21st century.’

If you are selected to join this small and ambitious programme, you will work with a vanguard of academics and students committed to developing the navigational devices of the future.

The devices were also used to predict the future through astrology. In time more sophisticated devices, such as the mechanical clock, developed out of and supplanted astrolabes while divination, at least in the mystical form, was abandoned by scientists and scholars.

Today, however, we still need to chart life courses through the complexities of time and space, and to do so must devise tools for accurately modelling our changing universe and our places in it, both now and in the future. Conventional discipline-focused degrees carve out domains to be investigated and teach methods for that specialised investigation; they work, in other words, by exclusion.

Kent’s Liberal Arts programme enables you to see the complexity of the world from a range of perspectives – political, cultural, historical, scientific and economic – and develops your critical understanding of how these impact on, and interact with, each other.

Indo-Persian brass astrolabe, 1666

The brass Islamic astrolabe, pictured left, was made by Jamal al-Din at Lahore, Pakistan. An astrolabe is in essence a model of the universe that an astronomer could hold in their hands. From its origins in the Ancient World, Islamic astronomers developed the astrolabe and its use spread. Popular in Medieval and Renaissance Europe, its many uses included timekeeping, astrology and surveying.

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ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND INSPIRATIONAL TEACHING

Kent is one of the UK’s leading universities and is ranked in the top 20 in the UK in The Guardian University Guide 2014.

Our Liberal Arts programme draws on lecturers from schools across all three faculties at Kent. Administratively, it is located in the School of Anthropology and Conservation, ranked 6th among UK anthropology departments according to The Guardian University Guide 2014 and earning a top (94%) National Student Survey rating in 2013 for overall student satisfaction.

World-leading research
Kent’s excellent performance in the latest Research Assessment Exercise (RAE, 2008) confirmed our position as one of the UK’s leading research-intensive universities; our academic schools were found to be engaged in research of international and world-class standing.

Centres of research excellence within the University include the Centre for Critical Thought, which is linked to the Liberal Arts programme and concerned with consolidating, sustaining and developing research in critical thought across the social sciences and humanities.

Kent encourages original ideas and independent thinking, and hosts regular research events including conferences, seminars and lectures which you are invited to attend.

Wide-ranging expertise
The academic staff who have chosen to launch the new Liberal Arts programme are leading scholars in the Humanities, Sciences and Social Sciences. They are committed not only to work in their specialist areas but also to the creativity that interdisciplinary engagement produces.

They include: a prize-winning DNA bioscientist; a scholar of poetry in its relation to politics and philosophy; an historian examining science’s relation to culture; a psychologist working on psychoanalysis and language; an anthropologist looking at violence and identity; a theorist of entrepreneurial marketing; a political scientist researching theories and practices of resistance; a philosopher of inductive logic and causal explanations; a film scholar working on avant-garde cinema; a digital arts scholar concerned with the social implications of new technologies; a sociologist evaluating qualitative and quantitative data analysis; and an art historian concerned with the aesthetics and politics of photography.

Inspirational teaching
Kent’s Liberal Arts degree enables you to see the complexity of the world from a range of perspectives – political, cultural, historical, scientific and economic – and develops your critical understanding of how these impact on, and interact with, each other. This is in contrast to conventional discipline-focused study.

The degree combines core Liberal Arts modules with student-selected modules in a programme structured to develop your particular interests and concerns, preparing you to intelligently and enthusiastically...
engage in future employment or research. The compulsory modules are taught in small group seminars (of 12 to 15 students and a convener), addressed by a number of expert guest lecturers. Throughout your degree, you engage with other students, bringing the group’s varied experiences into continuous debate and discussion.

Language learning
As a Liberal Arts student at Kent, you develop a high standard of capability in another language of your choice by taking two language training modules in each of your first and second years. This will be used during the year abroad (see below) in engaging another culture and developing research for your final-year dissertation.

A year abroad
An essential element of the degree is the year abroad, which you will either spend at one of Kent’s top-ranking partner universities across the world or on a work placement. Living and studying abroad is an exciting opportunity, which not only expands your academic horizons, but also provides you with a wonderful cultural experience. See www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad for more information.

Supportive academic community
We want you to feel part of the academic community at Kent and welcome the contributions you make. Liberal Arts students have a dedicated common room to promote communication between and across the varied academic disciplines you are studying. When you arrive, you are assigned a personal tutor who is available both as an academic guide and for general help with any pastoral issues.

A global outlook
Kent has a great international reputation, attracting students from around the world. Last year, 23% of our students came from countries outside the UK, creating a cosmopolitan atmosphere on campus and a global learning environment. We encourage all our students to develop their studies within an international perspective and many of our programmes, including Liberal Arts, tackle issues and topics of global significance.

The UK’s European university
Kent is known as the UK’s European university because of our strong partnerships across Europe, our UK locations close to the European mainland with excellent transport links, and our postgraduate centres in Brussels, Paris, Athens and Rome. There are students from some 30 European countries on campus – about 11% of the student population.

Who should apply
The Liberal Arts degree programme is for you if you:

• are academically ambitious
• actively enjoy encountering new subjects and approaches
• have a lively and critical curiosity which drives you to learn all you can about issues that interest you
• dislike traditional education’s push to specialise in a single subject
• are aware of the importance of knowledge of a second language as well as developed quantitative and qualitative skills for your future career
• care about the significance of your study and career for the global good.

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 considered essential for a successful career. For more information on the careers help we provide at Kent, please go to p6 or see our Employability page at www.kent.ac.uk/employability
SUPERB STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Our Canterbury campus provides a stunning location for your studies and offers first-class academic and leisure facilities. The campus benefits from a multicultural learning environment and is within easy reach of both London and mainland Europe.

Excellent study environment

All Liberal Arts students are housed together during their first year on campus and have access to a dedicated common room. You are also provided with tablet computers to support your studies.

The programme is affiliated to the School of Anthropology and Conservation and shares its resources, which include dedicated computing facilities and a state-of-the-art digital visual laboratory and analogue darkroom.

The general study resources on campus are excellent. The Templeman Library has extensive printed and electronic collections and 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. For more information, see www.kent.ac.uk/uel/learning

International community

Kent offers an incredibly diverse and cosmopolitan campus – 145 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 25-minute walk, or a short cycle or 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 from Canterbury by high-speed train while the Eurostar service from Ashford and Ebbsfleet can take you to Brussels and Paris in just over two hours.

DID YOU KNOW?
Canterbury is consistently rated as one of the safest university cities in England and Wales in The Complete University Guide.
A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

Kent equips you with essential skills to give you a competitive advantage when it comes to getting a job and is consistently ranked in the top 20 for graduate starting salaries.

Good career prospects

According to recent employment statistics, Kent graduates are doing better than ever in the changeable job market. Six months after graduation in 2012, only 6% of our students were without a job or further study opportunity. Liberal Arts will give you a strong edge in this competitive market.

Employers look for intelligence and adaptability, and the ability to think, make connections and engage with and master new knowledge. In our rapidly changing world, a Liberal Arts education prepares you to adapt to jobs that are just coming into being or to invent new ones, as well as finding a wide range of career opportunities within NGOs, international consultancy firms, business and the civil service, among others.

Agile creativity is what a Liberal Arts programme fosters, and such agility needs to be supported by a solid grounding in the skills of communication and of analytical and critical thinking.

Studying Liberal Arts at Kent gives you interdisciplinary experience, shaped around your particular interests, and teaches you to deal with both qualitative and quantitative data analysis, develops your communicative and reasoning skills to a high standard, and provides you with a solid grounding in a second (or third) language.

Postgraduate study

The versatility of Liberal Arts graduates not only makes them highly desirable to prospective employers but also qualifies them for postgraduate study. Having enjoyed the experience of researching and writing up your final-year dissertation on a topic of particular interest, you may wish to continue onto postgraduate study and a possible career as an academic or researcher. Most institutions are keen to accept postgraduate research students with the type of critical and analytical skills the Liberal Arts programme fosters. We can advise you on your module selection to prepare you for postgraduate study.

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.

Further information

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

“To be able to think as broadly and as deeply as you can is the key to success in this world, the world that’s coming into being.”

Jon Meacham
Executive Editor,
Random House publishing
Kent’s Liberal Arts degree is a four-year programme with an integrated year abroad.

Programme structure
You are taught to see the world from a range of perspectives – political, cultural, historical, scientific and economic – and are encouraged to be creative in developing alternative approaches to the challenges facing societies around the world.

Compulsory modules provide interdisciplinary skills for analysing and understanding how and why we think, and act, the way we do – and why society behaves as it does. They develop your expertise in the following areas:
- communication, language and reasoning
- numeracy and well-developed, highly functional quantitative skills
- information, literacy and research methods
- culture, civilisation and creativity
- social and behavioural sciences
- leadership, ethics and social responsibility.

Through collective discussion and debate around key readings, you engage with the social sciences, natural sciences, arts and humanities. You develop an understanding of the impediments to communication between different academic disciplines; of the technological and economic revolutions that configure human cultures; and of the wide range of forces shaping events.

You acquire a high standard of quantitative skills and competency in another language (European or non-European), which is enhanced during your year abroad, and choose further modules from a wide range offered across the University so as to foster individual interests and career trajectories.

You take 120 credits in each of Stages 1, 2 and 4, with a year abroad at Stage 3.

Stage 1
Stage 1 represents the first year of your programme.

All students take the following:
- Modes of Reasoning 1 and 2
- Roots of Transformation
- Understanding the Contemporary
- Two modules of beginner or intermediate-level language
- 30 credits of optional modules chosen, with the approval of your tutors, from across the University.

Stage 2
Stage 2 represents the second year of your programme.

All students take the following:
- Connections 1 and 2
- Two modules of intermediate or advanced-level language
- 60 credits of optional modules chosen, with the approval of your tutors, from across the University.

Stage 3
Stage 3 represents the third year of your programme, which you spend studying or working abroad.

Kent has strong links with top-ranking continental European institutions (Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish), as well as with institutions in Argentina, Canada, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Peru, Russia, Thailand, Turkey, Uruguay and the USA.
Students with pre-existing non-English language ability may continue that language at a more advanced level, or begin another language. Kent provides a wide range of European and non-European language modules, and students wishing to learn a language which is not formally taught may be accommodated.

You will not, after the second year, be required to study a language formally, although for most students their year abroad will function as language training on the ground. There is no required language training in the final year.

Language teaching is provided by both the School of European Culture and Languages (French, German, Italian, Spanish, Catalan and Portuguese) and the Centre for English and World Languages (Arabic, Danish, Greek, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian and others by arrangement).

Dissertation
Your final year of study includes a dissertation module, enabling you to focus on a topic related to your year abroad or on a research question of your choosing. You work under the guidance of at least one supervisor, developing the ability to carry out and communicate a sustained piece of research.

Teaching and assessment
You are taught by a combination of lectures, seminars and tutorials. You usually have ten to 12 hours of contact time with staff each week and are expected to spend additional time reading and researching to supplement your knowledge and understanding.

Compulsory modules are assessed by 100% coursework. Assessment of optional modules is either 100% coursework or a combination of examination and coursework.
PROGRAMME MODULES

Over the following pages, we have listed a selection of the modules currently available on the Liberal Arts degree programme.

In addition to the compulsory modules listed below, you must take modules in your chosen language at Stages 1 and 2 of your studies.

Optional modules can be drawn from departments and schools across the University and across all three faculties (Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities), and Liberal Arts tutors will help you to set up a ‘bespoke’ programme tailored to your interests and ambitions. In some cases, modules will be chosen from a single discipline while, in others, they will be chosen from a number of disciplines bridging faculties.

A number of higher-level second and final-year modules have first year prerequisites, and Liberal Arts students are advised to take these introductory modules in their first or second year. Some schools may demand A-level prerequisites of students wishing to take their modules, and you are advised to check to ensure you qualify for these if you wish to take them during your degree.

The programme director, Glenn Bowman (glb@kent.ac.uk) will be happy to discuss these issues with you before you apply.

Compulsory modules

Modes of Reasoning 1 and 2
A primary impediment to communication between different academic disciplines is their uses of different tools to make, and validate, arguments and proofs, often preventing cross fertilisation and creative thinking. This module examines the ways various discourses present data and set out arguments to enable you to understand and communicate across various modes of quantitative and qualitative reasoning.

You are introduced to basic themes in introductory logic and critical thinking before proceeding to study visual thinking, narratology, statistics and the issue of cognition and its unconscious shaping by both social and psychological forces. You use these skills in designing a research project to be carried out in Understanding the Contemporary.

Roots of Transformation
In this module, you examine the technological and economic revolutions that shape human cultures, focusing on the 19th and early 20th-century roots of modernity and the impacts of recent and developing technological innovations in science, communications and medicine.

You look at basic issues in scientific and technological developments impacting upon the contemporary world and investigate their ramifications in social practices and ideations, in philosophical discourse and in the fields of aesthetic (visual arts, film) and literary production. You are expected to think critically about the ways different disciplines respond to and are shaped by technological and social developments, and are encouraged to engage these from a cross-disciplinary perspective.
Understanding the Contemporary
This module enables you to think critically about your own period, and analyse the forces and events shaping contemporary culture and society. You consider texts from a range of disciplines and are introduced to key ideas in contemporary theory and philosophy. You apply insights drawn from your readings and discussions to practical analysis of contemporary situations, not only through developing awareness of current events but also through designing and carrying out field analysis of social and historical changes in local communities (linked both to the research plan designed in the Modes of Reasoning module and to Kent’s major grant from the Nuffield Foundation for teaching quantitative social sciences).

Focusing on the period since 2000, you are required to engage closely with current events, think critically about the ways different disciplines formulate representations of the contemporary period, and discuss themes and ideas that cross disciplines.

Connections 1 and 2
One of the core concepts behind the Liberal Arts degree is maintaining communication and debate between the diverse groups of students the programme attracts. Through collective discussion and debate around seminal readings, this module equips you with a broad-ranging grasp of the full field of social sciences, natural sciences, arts and humanities. The topics covered depend on the optional modules and particular knowledge streams chosen by that year’s cohort of students.

A concern with politics and current developments continues to influence debate and discussion throughout the second year.

Landscapes of the Future 1 and 2
What is the terrain of the world we are moving into and what does it demand? In the final year, students come together to think about how the multidisciplinary perspective developed over the previous years can be projected into the future. Not only does the module cover issues of what you might do with your training after graduation (which involves bringing in speakers from the various sectors you will be approaching) but it also looks into questions of environmental challenges and responses; politics, the state and the meaning of democracy; the potentialities of scientific development; the necessity of innovation and intervention; and the imagining of crises and responses to these. The module also provides a forum for discussion and preparation for your individual research projects.

Dissertation
Under the guidance of at least one supervisor, you focus on a topic related to your year abroad or on a research question of your choosing and produce an extended piece of writing based on this research.

Optional modules
The following options are listed under subject category and are indicative only, but should give you a sense of the range and ambitions of the programme. Many of the modules listed below do not have prerequisites:

(Anthropology)
Violence and Conflict in the Contemporary World
You focus on anthropological approaches to violence and conflict, drawing on discussions from other disciplines (such as philosophy and political theory) in relation to human nature, war and genocide, legitimacy and the state.

(Business)
Managers and Organisations
This module introduces you to theories of management, from classical management systems through to contemporary management concepts.

(Classics)
The Civilisations of Greece and Rome
Through literature and politics, you focus on 5th-century Athens and the development of democracy and Rome in its movement from Republic to empire.

(Comparative Literature)
Post-War European Cinemas
The module examines the principal production and aesthetic trends of cinema in Europe from 1945 to the late 1970s. Among the topics covered are: the notion of European
'art' cinema; the notion of the 'auteur'; European realism; and the relationship between European cinema and Hollywood. You also become familiar with basic film terminology as well as with basic tools for cultural analysis.

(Computing)
Human Computer Interaction
This module introduces human-computer interaction, including fundamental aspects of human physiology and psychology, and key features of interaction and common interaction styles.

(Conservation)
Biodiversity
In this module, you explore definitions and applications of the term 'biodiversity' and acquire knowledge of animal and plant diversity, classification and biogeography. You also assess the importance of biodiversity in scientific, social and cultural terms, examining the necessity for conserving biodiversity and basic toolkits essential to its management.

(Economics)
Introduction to Economics
You are introduced to the ways economists think about problems and the important current economic issues in the UK, the EU and the world economy.

(Engineering and Digital Arts)
Digital Visual Narrative
You examine the practical techniques for making meaningful digital image sequences, both in terms of content and software.

Visual Communication
This module provides an introduction to the principles of visual communication. You explore examples from art history and graphic design to investigate ways in which we communicate visually.

(English)
Reading in the 20th Century
This module emphasises the links between literature, history and culture through examination of how the formative events, debates and struggles of the century have been addressed by different modes of creative and critical writing.

(Film)
Film Form
In this module, you are introduced to the language of film, from aspects of mise-en-scène (setting, performance, costumes, props, lighting, frame composition) to framing, sound and editing. You gain an understanding of temporal construction of films as well as the stylistic, expressive and/or dramatic functions of specific strategies.

(History)
Literature and Science in the 20th Century
You explore the ways in which science and literature have fed off one another in their 'remaking' of the human body.

Picturing the Past
You gain a broad-ranging introduction to the ways that historians use visual evidence to understand the past.

The History of Science
Science has arguably been the greatest force for cultural change in the last 500 years. This module visits some of the most important events and developments since the so-called 'scientific revolution' (c1700).
(Physical Sciences) Disasters
In this module, you examine actual and potential disasters, both natural and man-made, and form an understanding of how it is possible to plan for and/or mitigate the effects of such occurrences.

Introduction to Forensic Science
This module defines Forensic Science and the practices of chemistry, physics and biology that follow from forensic scientists attending at scenes of crime.

(IItalian) Catching the Tide: Cultural Renewal in 20th Century Italy
You focus on the connections between rapid socio-economic and sociopolitical change and the thrust for cultural modernity that made 20th-century Italy once more a key contributor to the literary and visual arts in Europe and beyond.

(Law) A Critical Introduction to Law
You acquire and develop the general skills required for critical thinking and analysis, and consider critically our own conception of law and of the institutional structures and concepts within it.

(Philosophy) Politics, Rights and Applied Ethics
Many contemporary moral issues are discussed in terms of rights, and this module offers both a theoretical investigation of the nature of rights and an account of how appeals to rights feature in moral debate and argument.

(Religious Studies) Religion in the Contemporary World
You are exposed to a range of key theories and debates in the social and cultural study of contemporary religion.

(Social Policy) Environmental Issues
You gain an understanding of a range of key environmental issues, the ways they have arisen and the means by which they might be addressed from the perspectives of sociology, anthropology, social policy, political science and law.

(Sociology) Doing Visual Sociology
This module engages you with the different ways of looking at the social world via the creation and analysis of images relevant to topics including place, space, landscape, home, work, youth, family and mobility.

Risk and Society
This module is concerned with the relatively new ideas of living in a ‘risk society’, which theoretically capture the heightened sensitivity within Western societies to the numerous ‘risks’ which shape our lives. You explore basic concepts of risk, hazard and probability and how risk is managed and communicated.
VISIT THE UNIVERSITY

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

Open Days
Canterbury Open Days are held in 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 current undergraduate 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. The University produces a leaflet that can take you on a self-guided tour and, in certain instances, you may be able to meet up with an academic member of staff. For more details, please contact the Information and Guidance Unit (see right).

Scholarships
For details of scholarships at Kent, see www.kent.ac.uk/scholarships

More information
If you would like more information on Kent's courses, facilities or services, or would like to order another subject leaflet, please contact the Information and Guidance Unit.

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E: information@kent.ac.uk
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. The information given in this booklet is correct at the time of going to press. The University reserves the right to modify or cancel any statement in it and accepts no responsibility for the consequences of any such changes.
COME AND VISIT US

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