PHILOSOPHY

Canterbury
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND INSPIRATIONAL TEACHING

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

Philosophy at Kent is taught within the School of European Culture and Languages (SECL), one of the largest schools in the University. In the National Student Survey 2013, SECL scored 90% for student satisfaction, with many of its subject areas ranking in the top 10 among UK universities.

World-leading research
Philosophy at Kent is wide ranging, with expertise in areas as diverse as: moral and political philosophy, epistemology and metaphysics, philosophy of mind and language, formal theories of reasoning, and the great philosophical thinkers. We collaborate with other sections within SECL and with other schools of the University, notably the many philosophers working in the School of Arts. We run the interdisciplinary Centre for Reasoning and play a leading role in the Centre for the History of Medicine, Ethics and Medical Humanities, which co-ordinate University research relating to these subjects.

Philosophers at Kent publish original research in all major areas of the discipline. Continued investment in Philosophy at Kent continues to bring internationally renowned researchers into the Department, so you are taught by experts in their field whose research informs their teaching.

Excellent teaching
Philosophy teaching at Kent is excellent and this is reflected in the teaching prizes and awards received by members of staff, including the University’s 2013 Humanities Teaching Prize. Our teaching is stimulating at all levels, with informative lectures and the opportunity for lively debates in seminars or class discussions. If you are intellectually curious and like playing with ideas, you may already spend some of your time philosophising – in studying Philosophy at Kent, you learn to examine the questions and answers of the great philosophers, to assess them critically, and to formulate and defend your own responses.

What is philosophy? Why is it important? Is it relevant to today’s technology-based society? As a student of Philosophy at Kent, you do not so much learn about philosophy as learn to do it yourself. This includes not only studying major philosophies and philosophers, but also contributing your own ideas to an ongoing dialogue. You develop the ability to reflect on the most fascinating abstract ideas and connect them to real-life situations.

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 27% 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.

Wide-ranging degrees
At Kent, we offer you a range of degrees to suit your particular interests. You can take Philosophy on its own, or combine it with a wide range of subjects, including English and American Literature, Computing, Law, Politics, social science subjects, humanities subjects, or languages. For more details, see Choosing your programme on p10.

Choice of topics
The broad coverage of the subject offered by our staff leads to a very wide range of modules being offered. Topics include the nature of art, moral philosophy, political philosophy, social philosophy, ancient and modern philosophy, logic, paradoxes, the philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, artificial intelligence, philosophy of science, philosophy of religion, and the philosophy of medicine. You are encouraged to explore those aspects of the subject that interest you. You also have the opportunity to take modules from other schools in other subjects.
our partner university in Belgium, Ghent University, as well as other European destinations via the Erasmus exchange network, and universities in the United States, Canada and South Africa.

Supportive community
The Department is welcoming and friendly, so students and staff get to know each other very quickly. The close working relationships you develop with lecturers and seminar leaders help you to succeed in your studies.

Within SECL we have a dedicated student support team, who provide pastoral care and help you with your academic needs. The University also offers a variety of support services, for more details see: www.kent.ac.uk/studentwellbeing or www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport

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. Studying for a degree in Philosophy equips you with the skills to analyse arguments, to express yourself clearly, verbally and in writing, to present a case rigorously and also gives you a deep understanding of philosophical traditions. The skills of analysis and argument are highly valued by employers, so the study of philosophy – which often involves engagement with rather complex issues – equips you for a great variety of jobs. 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

Year abroad
Within the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Kent, all students can apply to spend a year abroad as part of their degree programme. If you pass all your modules abroad, you are awarded the degree Philosophy with a Year in Europe.

If you would like to spend a year in France, we offer a distinctive four-year Philosophy degree where you spend your third year studying philosophy in French at the Sorbonne in Paris. Or, if you choose to take a joint honours in European Studies or in a modern language, you spend a year studying or working in Europe. We also have exciting exchange links with Asia, including the opportunity to study for a year at the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Renmin University in Beijing. Other destinations include
Philosophy
SUPERB STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Our Canterbury campus 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.

Top-class facilities
Throughout your degree, you are encouraged to make the most of the excellent learning resources provided by the University library. There is a large collection of books, hard copy journals and an extensive range of electronic resources including e-journals, e-books, databases, reference resources and newspaper archives. The library is well-equipped with hundreds of study spaces and PCs, wireless access and printing and photocopying facilities.

The subject librarian offers an introduction to library resources and services for all new students. Enquiry services are available seven days a week during term time. You have access to a number of relevant databases, including Academic Search Premier, British Humanities Index, The Philosopher’s Index, and Web of Science.

Philosophical events
The Philosophy Department runs an active events programme each year, with invited lecturers, reading groups, seminars and conferences, all of which combine to create a lively community among those with shared interests. For more details, please see www.kent.ac.uk/secl/philosophy/events

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, the campus has its own cinema, theatre, and a student nightclub. It has a reputation for being a very friendly university with a cosmopolitan environment. There are many restaurants, cafés and bars on campus, as well as a sports centre and gym.

Everything you need on campus is within walking distance, including a general store, an off-licence, a bookshop, banks, a medical centre and a pharmacy. From campus, it’s a 25-minute walk or a short bus-ride into the city.

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.

DID YOU KNOW?
Kent is a leading university and is ranked among the top 20 in the UK in The Guardian University Guide 2015.
Abdirahman Hassan is in the final year of his Philosophy degree.

Why did you choose Kent?
Kent was recommended to me as a good university. Also, I am from London and wanted to move away from home, but not too far.

How is the course going?
When I first arrived I felt a bit lost but I soon adapted. University study is a new way of learning, but I didn’t find the jump from A level to first year difficult, it was more from first to second year that was a big leap. There is a lot of independent study but also a lot of group work, which I find really helpful because you need to listen to other people’s perspectives and understand them – even if you don’t agree. The seminar groups at Kent are a good size – big enough to get discussions going but not intimidating at all.

Is there an area of philosophy or a module you have particularly enjoyed?
With philosophy it depends not just on what you are studying but who is teaching you – some lecturers can make any subject cool. My favourite module has probably been the one on Wittgenstein. I had studied him at A level and found it difficult so wasn’t sure about studying him again but Julia Tanney who taught it made it fun and very interesting.

Is the course as you expected it to be?
One thing I have discovered is that if you work hard you can do very well but you can’t blag your way in Philosophy, you have to do the reading and understand the terms otherwise you won’t progress. You have to take your time to understand a concept, you have to break it apart and analyse it and once you have grasped it, you have to criticise it. The criticism comes quite easily once you have the understanding. It’s an amazing feeling when you get to the point where you really understand an idea.

I was in a taxi once and they asked me what I did. I said, ‘Philosophy,’ and they said, ‘That’s just thinking isn’t it?’ I said, ‘No, it’s a degree man!’

What about the lecturers?
We are very lucky because they are very easy to get hold of and reply to emails very quickly as well. I can speak to my lecturers whenever I want to and if you tell them you are stuck they offer to help straightaway.

Did you live on campus in your first year?
I lived in Park Wood. It is weird living independently for the first time and with people you don’t know – I wasn’t sure that I wanted to come out of my shell but after a while I got used to the life and I did. I live off-campus now with friends and that is all working well. By the time you are in your third year you feel more relaxed about things and are able to accept things that might have bothered you in the past.

What do you want to do next?
If you had asked me that a year ago I would have said teaching but I have changed my mind. You develop good skills studying, such as how to present well, attention to detail, understanding and listening to other points of view and explaining ideas in a way that other people understand, all skills that are useful in a lot of careers.

What advice would you give to a potential student?
I would say have an open mind; if you don’t understand something just ask. Don’t be shy and don’t be intimidated by the other people – you are probably just as smart or even smarter than them.

Would you recommend university life?
I would say it depends on the university; Kent is a really good university and the people are great and the area is good, quiet but not too quiet. I think you have to be open-minded and be prepared to come out of your comfort zone. You will meet people with very different ideas to you and you need to be able to accept things that don’t match your own views.

For me, university has opened my eyes and I am so much more confident now than I was – I used to hate giving presentations but now I don’t even think about it. I am an adult now.
A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

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

Good career prospects
According to employment statistics, Kent graduates are doing extremely well in an ever-changing job market. Six months after graduation in 2013, only 6% of Kent graduates were without a job or study opportunity. Philosophy students move into a variety of careers after graduating including teaching, publishing, journalism, marketing, the media and the legal profession.

Master key skills
The skills that a Philosophy degree gives you – thinking critically, expressing yourself clearly and logically, problem solving and teamwork – are all highly valued by employers. Our programmes are designed to encourage you in the development of these skills, which will serve you well whatever career you choose to go into.

Classroom modules
The School of European Culture and Languages (SECL) has developed unique classroom-based modules. These give you the opportunity to combine study with work experience in a school, so you gain credit towards your degree while working. The modules provide insight into a teaching career but even if that is not your chosen career path, the module extends your experiences and abilities, enhancing future work opportunities.

SECL employability
SECL has its own employability programme of events to enhance your job skills and vocational awareness during your study. A large number of our students develop professional skills and gain hands-on experience through our wide range of paid and voluntary work opportunities. For more information on the employability support available within the School, see www.kent.ac.uk/secl/employability

Kent’s Q-Step Centre
Kent has been selected as one of 15 prestigious Q-Step Centres in the UK, funded by, among others, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). The Q-Step initiative provides advanced training in quantitative skills in social sciences, skills which greatly enhance your employability.

Careers advice
Kent’s 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 what the Service offers go to: www.kent.ac.uk/employability
Nathan Sparkes graduated with a first-class degree in Philosophy in 2012 and now works in the non-profit sector.

Why did you choose Kent?
I liked that Kent was a campus university but still large and diverse. Kent’s greatest virtue is that its students come from such a mix of backgrounds, cultures and nationalities.

Why Philosophy?
I got interested in Philosophy while in sixth form – although I didn’t study it. I found philosophy to be relevant and useful in a way that, at least for me, wasn’t true of other subjects.

What was your course like? And the lecturers?
My degree and lecturers were excellent. The lecturers always had time for students and were ready to make time outside of office hours to help where necessary. The modules were well structured and, more importantly, they were interesting.

What social activities did you get involved with?
I played a lot of football and spent a decent amount of time in the gym. I also coached children’s football at weekends. Other than that, I wrote a fortnightly column for *InQuire*, the student newspaper, and did some political campaigning. The sports facilities are fantastic and writing for *InQuire* was a great platform for my misinformed opinions.

How did your degree lay the foundations for your career?
I think it’s tragic if the only reason people engage with a subject is because they think it will help them get a job or increase their ‘earning potential’. Studying Philosophy at Kent gives you a unique opportunity to grapple with the greatest thinkers in history, understand the most important debates, and develop your own positions in relation to those debates. For me, it was the best and most vitally useful way of spending three years.

Could you describe your career path since leaving Kent?
I spent a year living in London after I graduated, doing a few different things. I had an internship with an interfaith charity and acted as a researcher for the director of a campaign group, before I started as policy and participation officer at SUEDEP Action, the epilepsy bereavement charity. I have recently taken on a new role, as parliamentary and policy manager with a campaign group. In my spare time, I work with a political party, charities, non-profit organisations and a trade union with policy and public affairs support. I also try to make time to meet with and support people interested in a career in left-wing politics or the non-profit sector.

Could you describe a typical day in your current role?
My day starts with reading the papers and catching up on the news. But once I get into the office it becomes quite varied. The most exciting part of my work is meeting with politicians and putting forward the case for change, but in reality 90% of my time is spent doing research. It’s incredibly rewarding when you see something you have campaigned for come to fruition though, and it makes all those hours putting your case together and the long phone calls with parliamentary aides worthwhile.

What are your future plans?
I enjoy working in politics, and will always want to be in a policy or political environment. In the future, this could mean taking a senior policy position with a leading charity, working for a political party or even having a crack at standing for office. Wherever I am, I want to influence the agenda and instigate change according to my beliefs.

Do you have any other happy memories of Kent?
There are really too many highlights to list, but I think the best times at Kent were probably on the football pitch. Finally winning the 5-aside league on the last day of our last season together was a highlight, as was our cup run with the 11-aside team – but, unfortunately, that ended in heartbreak on penalties in the semi-final. We (the team) are a good group of mates and still meet up every few months.

What advice would you give to someone coming to Kent?
You will not find many other places with the diversity and breadth of opportunities at Kent. I cannot recommend it highly enough.
CHOOSING YOUR PROGRAMME

Not sure which programme to choose? Here’s a guide to what’s available.

Single honours

Philosophy
This is a three-year programme. The main focus is on the study of philosophy, although you may also take modules in other subject areas.

Philosophy with a Year in Europe
This four-year degree follows the same structure as the Philosophy degree but you spend an additional year studying Philosophy, in French, at the Paris-Sorbonne University. On this programme, you must take language modules in your first and second years for your ‘wild’ modules. It is also possible to spend a year studying at other destinations. See p3.

Joint honours
Taking a joint honours degree means that you split your studies between two subjects. Most joint honours are three-year degrees, but Philosophy taken with a European language is a four-year programme with a year studying abroad at a European university.

Below is a list of the joint honours degrees currently available:
- Asian Studies (TV45)
- Business Administration (VN52)
- Classical & Archaeological Studies (QV85)
- Comparative Literature (VQ52)
- Computing (VG54)
- Cultural Studies (VV59)
- Drama and Theatre (VVW54)
- English Language and Linguistics (VQ5H)
- English and American Literature (QVH5)
- English, American and Postcolonial Literature (VQ53)
- Film (VVW56)
- French (RVC5)
- German (RVF5)
- Hispanic Studies (RVK5)
- History (VVC5)
- History & Philosophy of Art (VV35)
- Italian (RVH5)
- Law (MV15)
- Politics (LV25)
- Religious Studies (VV56)
- Social Anthropology (LVP5)
- Sociology (LVH5).

Teaching and assessment
Some modules have lectures, some have seminars, all have class discussions. Some incorporate group work and some promote ‘student-active’ learning techniques, which encourage you to work individually or in groups and to present your findings to the rest of the class. Assessment of philosophy modules is by essays or tests or a combination of both.

International students
If you need to extend your existing academic qualifications or ability in English to be able to study at university level, Kent’s one-year International Foundation Programme (IFP) allows you to do so. The IFP can provide progression to our philosophy programmes, for details, see www.kent.ac.uk/internationalpathways/ifp

Need more information
For information on the degrees on offer at Kent, see www.kent.ac.uk/ug
For more information on Philosophy, please email secl@kent.ac.uk
STUDYING AT STAGE 1

Stage 1 is equivalent to your first year of full-time study.

All students take the following four modules:
- Introduction to Philosophy: Ethics
- Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Metaphysics
- Philosophical Reading and Writing
- Introduction to Philosophy: Logic and Reasoning.

Joint honours students also take modules in their joint subject area, while single honours students choose at least one of the following philosophy modules:
- Existentialism
- Politics, Rights and Applied Ethics.

Your remaining modules may be chosen from any subjects within the Faculty of Humanities. Those taking an approved year abroad in Paris must take a language module.

Modules: Stage 1
Introduction to Philosophy: Ethics
In this introduction to ethics, you discuss the relation of morality to religion, whether there are any objective values and whether values are grounded in a universal human nature. You look at the work of Plato, Hume, Kant and Mill and topics include: ethics and the good life, ethics and religion, ethics and evolution, ethical and cultural relativism, emotivism, rationalism, utilitarianism and absolutism.

Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Metaphysics
We begin by discussing Descartes’ Meditations on First Philosophy. This leads us on to several of the core problems of philosophy: the problem of knowledge (what can I know, and how?), the mind-body problem (how are the two related?), and the problem of freedom and determinism (are human actions the inevitable effects of prior causes?).

Philosophical Reading and Writing
What do philosophers do? What do they typically think about? How do philosophers write? What sorts of writing are acceptable in philosophy? How should you write? How should philosophy best be read in order to be understood and assessed? In this module, we introduce you to some of the most interesting questions in philosophy, both from its history and from current debates. As we do this, we show you how to read and write as a philosopher.

Introduction to Philosophy: Logic and Reasoning
Since Plato, it has been part of philosophical enquiry to consider philosophical questions using logic and common sense alone. This module trains you in this tradition, introducing you to basic themes in introductory logic and critical thinking, and presenting you with philosophical puzzles for you to think about for yourself. The aim is for you to learn and practise basic logical vocabulary and techniques used in the evaluation of arguments.

Existentialism
Existentialism is a philosophical and literary tradition that emphasises subjectivity, choice and freedom. In this module, you study existentialist ideas expressed in both philosophical and literary forms. Texts include: Kierkegaard’s Fear and Trembling; Nietzsche’s Twilight of the Idols; Dostoevsky’s The Grand Inquisitor; Camus’ The Outsider and Sartre’s Existentialism and Humanism.

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. The main views of the nature of rights claims are explored and the idea that rights can be viewed as ‘natural’ is interrogated. Who or what can be the bearer of rights? How can conflicts between rights claims be resolved? These theoretical issues are illuminated by looking at rights in contemporary moral debate.
STUDYING AT STAGES 2 AND 3

Stages 2 and 3 are equivalent to the second and final year of full-time study.

Single honours students take between 180 and 240 credits of philosophy modules, which are worth either 15 or 30 credits each. Joint honours students take between 90 and 150 credits in philosophy modules.

There are a number of core themes in Philosophy that run through various modules. It is important to think about the balance of your module choices and to bear in mind that it is better to take some modules after others where this is possible. You are very strongly advised to make use of module information available online and to discuss your module choices with your tutor or another member of staff in the Department prior to registration.

Core themes

Metaphysics and Epistemology
- Continental Philosophy: Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason*
- Greek Philosophy: Plato and Aristotle
- Knowledge and Metaphysics: Descartes to Kant
- Schopenhauer and Nietzsche

Social, Political and Moral Philosophy, Aesthetics and Religion
- Aesthetics*
- Continental Philosophy: Subject, Identity and the Political
- Justice, Violence and the State
- Metaethics
- Normative Ethics
- Philosophy of Religion
- Political Philosophy

Reasoning, Language and Mind
- Advanced Topics in Mind and Language
- Logic
- Paradoxes
- Philosophy of Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence
- Philosophy of Language
- Philosophy of Medicine
- Philosophy of Science
- Wittgenstein

Non-themed modules (Stage 3 only)
- Philosophy Dissertation
- Philosophy Extended Essay*
- Religious Studies and Philosophy in the Classroom*

*15-credit module
Continental Philosophy: Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason

Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason (1781, 87) is the greatest work of modern philosophy, and one of the most important and influential books written in our subject. It sets the scope and limits of human knowledge, rejects the over-confident illusions of rationalists such as Leibniz and the all too modest ideas of empiricists such as Locke and Hume, and sketches a programme for metaphysics with a human face, devoid of shadows or obscurity. Or so it seems. This module investigates the official arguments Kant offers in favour of his metaphysical humility and speculates about its more hidden motives.

Greek Philosophy: Plato and Aristotle

You are introduced to the main themes in the philosophical works of Plato and Aristotle. We discuss the Socratic ethical concerns of Protagoras, the metaphysical claims of the theory of forms, and the philosophical system of Plato’s The Republic. Aristotle’s own criticisms of Plato lead to an examination of his rival metaphysical theories of substance and causation and how they can be applied to problems about the soul and God, ethics and politics.
Justice, Violence and the State

Under what circumstances might it be permissible to use violence to further political goals? What distinguishes different sorts of political violence? Ought the state to have a monopoly on political violence? Are there some methods that should never be used to further political goals? In this module, you look at the various forms of political violence and consider how political and legal theorists have tried to regulate violent interaction between states and within states.

Knowledge and Metaphysics: Descartes to Kant

This module is an introduction into the history of modern philosophy, without which much of contemporary philosophy, and indeed the modern world, cannot be understood. You are introduced to the principal thinkers of European philosophy: Descartes, Locke, Leibniz, Berkeley, Hume, Reid and Kant. Special attention is given to the scientific revolution and its metaphysical implications.

Logic

What makes a good argument? How can we tell whether an argument is valid? Logic aims to provide answers to questions such as these. In this module, you discuss arguments and argument structure; notions such as validity, soundness and consistency; and procedures for testing the validity of arguments in both propositional and predicate logic.

Metaethics

You look at some of the most exciting and interesting philosophical literature in recent years, which brings together ethics and metaphysics with a little epistemology and philosophy of language. In the first half of the module, you explore ‘metaethical’ questions. You then discuss debates concerning moral psychology and motivation. At the end, you see how these questions concerning psychology are integral to the earlier debates of metaphysics. Throughout, you examine these questions and issues by looking at work by authors from the start of the 20th century (including G E Moore) and by more recent writers (such as Simon Blackburn, Allan Gibbard, J L Mackie, John McDowell and Michael Smith).

Normative Ethics

You are introduced to a number of approaches in what is often referred to as ‘normative ethics’. We face and hear about moral problems every day, ranging from life and death matters such as abortion and euthanasia to other types of case such as whether to tell a lie to prevent hurting someone’s feelings. Normative ethics contains a number of theories that provide us with a set of principles to help us through these problems. In particular, different normative ethical theories are attempts to articulate reasons why a certain course of action is ethically best. In all of this, you examine these theories by starting with their historical roots, particularly focusing on the work of Mill, Kant and Aristotle.
Philosophy of Language
Most of us understand at least one language and can speak it effortlessly, so it is, perhaps, surprising that understanding how language works is not a simple matter. In this module, you look at questions such as: what are the ingredients of successful communication? How is the meaning of a sentence related to the meanings of its component parts? How do names differ from descriptions?

Philosophy of Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence
Are machines capable of intelligence? If so, how can one construct an intelligent machine? If not, what are AI researchers doing? The philosophy of artificial intelligence addresses such questions. This module examines proposals for building intelligent machines and the key philosophical arguments that bear on the prospects of machine intelligence.

Philosophy of Medicine
You find out about and discuss the application of central philosophical ideas – from ethics, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, to the field of medicine. The module addresses rival

Paradoxes
This module is an introduction to a range of philosophical issues surrounding the nature of paradoxes and their resolution. The Sorites, Liar and Surprise Examination paradoxes are examined in detail and the philosophical progress on the solution of these paradoxes assessed. This module is a natural complement to Logic or Philosophy of Language.

Philosophy Dissertation
You are provided with an opportunity to work independently within an area of philosophy of your choice. It is a final-year module and is normally only open to single honours Philosophy students.

Philosophy Extended Essay
This module allows you to produce a substantial piece of independent philosophical work and, at the same time, improve your skills in essay writing by getting one-to-one supervision and feedback.

“[quote]The lecturers are absolutely fantastic. They all seem to be so passionate about their subject and have such a wealth of knowledge that it’s quite inspiring just to go along and listen to them.”
Miranda Overett
Philosophy
conceptions of health, illness, and disease, the mind-body problem in the context of medicine, and discusses medicine as a science. You also consider a number of ethical problems faced by medical practitioners.

Philosophy of Religion
This branch of philosophy has two complementary aims: to examine the significance of religious concepts (such as the concept of God) and to study the rational foundations of religious beliefs (such as the belief that God exists).

Philosophy of Science
Why is science successful? To what extent should we believe what scientists say? Is science a mechanical process? The philosophy of science addresses such questions as these. Themes studied include the nature of scientific theory change, the status of scientific claims, the methodology of scientific reasoning, and the prospects for automating scientific reasoning.

Political Philosophy
Is it right that the talented profit from their (undeserved) talents? Should the government provide compensation for people who find it hard to meet that special someone? Is the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation a benevolent charity, or an unelected, unaccountable group wielding enormous political power? This module examines classic topics in political philosophy, such as the sources and scope of political authority, and the ideals of equality and freedom. It also explores issues within contemporary political philosophy, such as our obligations to those in the developing world, the circumstances under which one might legitimately employ civil disobedience, and the politics of immigration. We consider whether we can make sense of political obligation between states as well as within states. We look at these issues in the context of particular case studies, involving topical events.

DID YOU KNOW?
Kent was ranked 3rd in London and the south-east for student satisfaction in the 2013 National Student Survey.
Religious Studies and Philosophy in the Classroom

This module offers you the opportunity to gain teaching experience in a secondary school classroom. For one term in your final year, you spend half a day each week in a local school under the supervision of a teacher who acts as your mentor. Not only does this provide invaluable work experience, but the teaching also informs and shapes your written work.

Schopenhauer and Nietzsche

Both Arthur Schopenhauer and Friedrich Nietzsche developed ideas that transformed much of the intellectual landscape of the 20th century, writing books that have proved fruitful for successive generations. They are interesting to compare as they have widely different views on philosophical thought. In particular, Nietzsche's ideas are framed explicitly in opposition to Schopenhauer's, with the former casting the latter as the great pessimist. An appreciation of their ideas is an important part of the education of many students of philosophy. This module introduces you to their ideas and develops your appreciation of them, so that you can discuss them with confidence and critical insight.

Wittgenstein

Wittgenstein is widely thought to have been the greatest philosopher of the 20th century. This module looks at some of his texts in depth, including his *Philosophical Investigations* – a compelling journey through a labyrinth of philosophical problems concerning language and meaning.
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
Kent runs Open Days during the summer and autumn. These provide an excellent opportunity for you to discover what it is like to live and study at the University. You can meet academic staff and current students, find out about our courses and attend subject displays, workshops and informal lectures. We also offer tours around the campus to view our sports facilities, the library, and University accommodation.

For further information and details of how to book your place, see www.kent.ac.uk/opendays

UCAS Visit Days
If you apply to study at Kent and we offer you a place (or invite you to attend an interview), you will usually be sent an invitation to one of our UCAS Visit Days. You can book to attend through your online Kent Applicant Portal. The Visit Day includes presentations in your subject area, guided tours of the campus, including University accommodation, and the opportunity to speak with both academic staff and with current students about your chosen subject.

For further information, see www.kent.ac.uk/visitdays

Informal visits
You are also welcome to make an informal visit to our campuses at any time. The University runs tours of the Canterbury and Medway campuses throughout the year for anyone who is unable to attend an Open Day or UCAS Visit Day. It may also be possible to arrange meetings with academic staff, although we cannot guarantee this. For more details and to book your place, see www.kent.ac.uk/informal

Alternatively, we can provide you with a self-guided tour leaflet, which includes the main points of interest. For more details and to download a self-guided tour, go to www.kent.ac.uk/informal
Location
Canterbury.

Award
BA (Hons).

Degree programmes

Single honours
• Philosophy (V500)
• Philosophy with a Year in Europe (V501)

Joint honours
See p10 for details.

Offer levels
V500, V501: ABB at A level, IB Diploma 34 points or IB Diploma with 16 points at Higher.

Required subjects
For the Year in Europe option, GCSE grade B in a modern European language other than English; for the variant with a year in the Sorbonne A level French grade B. Joint honours subjects may have special requirements.

Year abroad
If you take Philosophy with a Year in Europe, you spend your third year at the Paris-Sorbonne University. There are also opportunities to spend a year at other destinations. Those taking a joint honours with a European language also spend a year in Europe. These degrees are four-year programmes.

More information
If you have any further queries on how to choose your degree, our admissions procedures, how to prepare for your studies or would like information about the University of Kent’s facilities and services, please contact us.

T: +44 (0)1227 827272
Freephone (UK only): 0800 975 3777
www.kent.ac.uk

On the web
For updates and news stories from the School, please see our website and social media sites:
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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.

Location
Canterbury.

Award
BA (Hons).

Degree programmes

Single honours
• Philosophy (V500)
• Philosophy with a Year in Europe (V501)

Joint honours
See p10 for details.

Offer levels
V500, V501: ABB at A level, IB Diploma 34 points or IB Diploma with 16 points at Higher.

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