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.

Kent’s School of Politics and International Relations is a dynamic and highly international school offering exciting and professionally valuable programmes of study. Our academic staff are engaged in cutting-edge research on a wide variety of political issues such as ethno-political conflict, human rights, social theories of justice, voting behaviour and electoral reform, to name but a few. Our School has an international group of students and staff and we also have excellent links with prestigious institutions in Europe and beyond.

World-leading research
In the most recent independent Research Assessment Exercise, the School did exceptionally well, with 75% of its work judged ‘internationally significant’, placing it in the top ranks of research departments in the country. Our lecturers are involved in research at the forefront of their fields and their research informs their teaching creating a dynamic school in which to learn. The strength of the School’s research culture is reflected in the numerous books and articles published and in the existence of its three research groups: Conflict, Security and Human Rights; Comparative Politics; and Political and Social Thought. In addition we have four research centres: the Conflict Analysis Research Centre (CARC), the Centre for Federal Studies (CFS), the Global Europe Centre (GEC), and the Centre for Critical Thought (CCT).

Spotlight on CARC
CARC builds on a long-standing tradition at Kent in international conflict analysis and mediation.

The Centre’s research addresses armed conflicts, mediation, conflict resolution, responses to terrorism, diasporas and the securitisation of migration, conflicts involving energy, climate change and environmental issues and international security issues surrounding contemporary conflicts. The Centre hosts regular conferences and visiting speakers and runs an active reading group.

Inspirational teaching
We are all involved in politics, and this makes it one of the most exciting and important subjects you can study. At Kent, you are taught by people who have advised government departments or have conducted international conflict mediation exercises. They bring this experience to their teaching, giving you the opportunity to see how theoretical ideas apply in the real world. Our lecturers have won teaching awards for their innovative teaching practices, which include simulation exercises and class debates, in order to inspire and challenge you.

The School embraces a wide range of interests, which means that you have the chance to explore the topics that interest you, while getting a solid grounding in politics and international relations. There are around 35 different countries represented by our staff and students, which brings a wealth of experiences and perspectives to the School and guarantees lively and stimulating discussions. We expect our students to think independently, learn how to present their views persuasively and with sensitivity, and produce the evidence to support their arguments from detailed research.

A global outlook
Kent offers you a unique international environment in which to study. Kent also has excellent links with prestigious institutions in Europe and around the world and many of our programmes offer you the opportunity to study abroad. The School of Politics and International Relations offers a range of modules to develop your understanding of today’s international politics. For example, we examine the impact of globalisation on national governments as well as the role played by international organisations such as the United Nations (UN), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).
You also have support from academic members of the School, in the form of academic advisers. They are there to help with any general academic queries in relation to your programme of study, or if you should require guidance, for instance, on module choices or graduate studies. The School also has a Study Skills Officer who provides subject-related guidance for students.

A year abroad

The School is one of the most international Politics departments in the country. We have excellent links with partner institutions in Europe and beyond. You can choose to spend a year studying at one of our partner institutions in Argentina, Belgium, Canada (Quebec), France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, and Spain where you study in the local language, as well as, Canada (Alberta and Ontario), China, the Czech Republic, Finland, Hong Kong, Japan, Norway, Poland, Russia (subject to approval), Turkey and the US, where the teaching is in English.

If you choose to study the Bidiplôme in Politics and International Relations, you spend two years at Sciences Po Lille in France. Another option is to spend a postgraduate year at our Brussels School of International Studies. Students who gain a 2.1 degree or above are eligible for a place on an MA programme – see p11 for more details.

A successful future

Our graduates are found all over the world, at the highest levels of government and are equally prominent in the media, civil service and business sectors. The study of politics and international relations informs you about the world around you, teaches you to analyse and evaluate information and trains you to present that information in a compelling and useful way. These skills have meant that our graduates are always in high demand.

For more information on the careers help we provide at Kent, please see p8 or visit www.kent.ac.uk/employability

DID YOU KNOW?

Kent was ranked 20th in the UK in The Guardian University Guide 2014.
SUPERB STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Our campus at Canterbury provides a stunning location for your studies and offers first-class academic and leisure facilities.

Excellent academic resources
You are encouraged to make the most of the excellent learning resources provided by the Templeman Library. The Library has extensive collections in politics and international relations, including over 35,000 books and 180 current journal subscriptions. Online resources in the subject include e-books, newspapers and access to over 600 online politics journals. All online resources are available both on and off campus. For more information, visit www.kent.ac.uk/library

Student societies
Our students make a significant contribution to the School’s research culture. Founded in 2001, the Current Affairs Society – our student society – is now one of the largest at Kent. The Society organises open lectures with invited speakers from politics, academia, business and journalism. The Society’s Think Tank is a discussion group that meets weekly to discuss contemporary world affairs. They also organise social events. More recently, our students have set up the Visions of Europe at Kent Society, which helps students to increase their knowledge of the European Union, its history and its future. There is also a Debating Society and Model Kent United Nations in which many of our students participate.

Public Speaker Programme
The School is committed to making studying politics and international relations as stimulating as possible. We are keen to bridge the gap between academic study and ‘real-life’ politics as experienced by practitioners in a wide range of demanding roles in different political systems. Central to these efforts is our regular Public Speaker Programme for which prominent academics and practitioners from all over the world are invited to Kent to give public lectures on key topics.

Beautiful green campus
Kent has a reputation for being a very friendly university with a cosmopolitan environment. The Canterbury 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. The campus has its own cinema, theatre, a brand new concert hall and a nightclub, as well as restaurants, cafés and bars, and a sports centre and gym.

Everything you need on campus is within walking distance including a general store, an off-licence, a bookshop, 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 train.
Emma Booth is in her first year studying Politics and International Relations.

Why did you come to Kent?
I wanted to go to a campus university and Kent has a very good reputation for international relations, which is my main area of interest. I came to a Kent Visita Day and instantly fell in love with it. I attended a Politics lecture and was fascinated – I was frantically scribbling notes while my mum fiddled with her phone!

How is your course going?
It’s good. In the first year there are a lot of compulsory modules but in the second and third years there is a very wide range of modules to choose from. I have just chosen my modules for the next two years and will be studying post-communist Russia and eastern European politics, among other areas.

Have you had a favourite module so far?
I enjoyed studying political thought – I had studied political philosophy at AS level, but found it so much more interesting here; I do the reading religiously and enjoy doing it. I enjoy the independence you have at university; you have more control over what you read, so I do a lot of reading around the subject and enjoy discovering new things.

What about your lecturers?
I have liked them all so far, they are easy to get hold of and always get back to you. Our seminar leaders know us best and are happy to give additional feedback on essays. You pick up your essays online and after I had got mine I received emails from the seminar leaders offering one-to-one feedback. I thought it was good that they had made the effort to get in touch.

How did you settle in to university life?
I took a gap year, which I think helped because the experiences I had gave me the confidence to chat with everyone I met. Kent is a friendly place; everybody is part of the community, if you smile at a stranger they will smile back at you.

What about the facilities on campus?
I like the Gulbenkian; they screen a lot of current movies. I love the library; the stand-up computers are good, especially if you just want to print something. It is divided into silent, quiet and social areas. Recently, a group of us working on a presentation met in the social area to sort it all out, it was ideal.

Do you live in University accommodation?
I live in Tyler Court B; the rooms are big with en-suite bathrooms and lots of bookshelves and the kitchens are a good size. I looked at the rooms in Keynes and they are almost too nice – it would be a downgrade to move anywhere else.

What about the social life?
It’s good. I am in quite a few societies. I am involved in Model Kent United Nations, where you choose a country and a topic and you represent that country’s view in a debate. I always choose countries that are controversial; I represented China in a session about cyber warfare and Pakistan in a session on nuclear disarmament. It is more fun debating something that you don’t approve of.

I have also volunteered to climb Mount Kilimanjaro for charity. I have to raise £2,650 as well as pay my way, which is a lot of money. Kent Labour Students have been very generous and I have sold things on ebay, I am about half way there. I have never done any fundraising before; so it has been a challenge to come up with new ideas so that people want to donate.

What do you want to do after graduation?
I think this degree gives me lots of options. I love doing research and analysis so anything that involves research would be interesting. I have thought about working as an analyst for the UN. Or perhaps something in foreign affairs, maybe MI6.

Any advice to other students?
Get involved in societies that interest you. I have had great fun doing all the extra things I have done and I think it is important to get the balance right between work and outside interests.
A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

Kent equips you with essential skills to give you a competitive advantage when it comes to getting a job. We are consistently in the top 20 of graduate starting salaries.

Good career prospects
Many career paths can benefit from the analytical and writing skills you develop during your studies. Our students have gone on to work in a wide range of challenging and rewarding positions including diplomacy, the civil service, European and International Organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the media and in the commercial sector.

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, go to www.kent.ac.uk/employability

The School has a specialist employability officer who organises an extensive range of employability events to help you on your way to securing your ideal job.

Gain transferable skills
As part of your learning experience at Kent, we help you to acquire key skills that are highly valued by employers. Through your Politics and International Relations programme, you will develop abilities in many areas – getting to grips with challenging ideas, writing well, and gaining confidence and experience in expressing your ideas to others. All of these are important skills and ones that we help you with during your degree.

Postgraduate degrees
Many of our undergraduate students continue to study with us after their BA degree. Students in the School who obtain a 2.1 honours degree or above are eligible for acceptance on to one of our MA programmes at Canterbury or at our Brussels School of International Studies.

“\nThe School prides itself on providing students with a solid grounding in the discipline, as well as important skills that prepare them for their professional life."

Professor Richard Sakwa
Professor of Russian and European Politics

EXCELLENT CAREER PROSPECTS
Six months after graduation in 2011, only 7% of Kent’s graduates were without a job or further study opportunity.
Matthew Partridge graduated in June 2012 with a degree in Politics and International Relations; he now works for the Trades Union Congress (TUC).

Why did you choose Kent?
I grew up near Canterbury and loved the city. I wanted to study politics and international relations because it combined subjects I studied at school and enjoyed, such as sociology, English, history and current affairs, and Kent had the best reputation in the south east.

Did Kent live up to your expectations?
Yes I loved my time at Kent – I could have stayed for another three years! The department was supportive and there was an incredible range of modules to choose from. I had planned to concentrate on the international relations side but, following my first year, it was political philosophy and UK domestic politics that caught my imagination.

Why was that?
Those modules were taught in such an interesting way. The lecturers would throw out ideas and concepts and ask us what the terms meant to us. I remember one module called, Introduction to Political Thought, which was brilliant; the lecturer was inspiring and made you think for yourself.

I enjoyed the way modules were taught, the people I met and the discussions I had around the material. At Kent, you have the freedom to explore your own ideas and develop your own politics and in my case that has sent my life in a completely different direction.

What about your fellow students?
It was interesting because there was a wide range of views represented on the course, conservatives, liberals, libertarians, environmentalists, communists, Marxists, anarchists, social democrats and quite a few democratic socialists like me.

Before I came to university, I was interested in politics but didn’t subscribe to a political party, but having the time to think about what I believed in and being involved in different campaigns, developed my interest. I joined Kent Labour Students, eventually running the club, which taught me a lot and definitely supported my studies.

How was the social life at Kent?
Canterbury is a brilliant city, but you don’t even need to go there – you could spend three years on campus because there is so much to do, lots of bars, cafés and The Venue [student nightclub]. I went to the Gulbenkian Cinema a lot and to the theatre, where they also host lots of interesting speakers.

What do you do now?
I am a trade union organiser employed by the TUC to work with different unions; I am currently seconded to a teaching union. I also help to recruit activists and new members to the union movement. It is a very broad role and I am very fortunate to have found something so closely related to my course and to be doing a job that I feel passionate about.

Did your course change you?
I started my degree in my early 20s so had done a lot of life discovery before I went to university but it certainly changed my mindset. University is a melting pot of cultures and backgrounds and living in such a diverse atmosphere broadens everything about you. I think you become more intellectually responsible; you think for yourself and question those things you may have accepted in the past.

What advice would you give to someone coming to Kent?
University is a place where you have the freedom to choose who you are so throw yourself into everything in your first year and sign up for lots of societies, even those you don’t think you will be interested in.

What are your plans for the future?
I hope I will still be doing something similar around social justice. The great thing about studying a subject as broad as politics is that I have the training to work in many different areas, possibly the European parliament, an environmental group or a UK charity or even to enter politics. I haven’t got any specific plans but I am not worried because I know I have lots of options.
CHOOSING YOUR DEGREE PROGRAMME

There is a range of programmes on offer, so you can choose the degree that best reflects your interests. Below is an explanation of what the different degree programmes offer.

Politics
The BA in Politics is our most flexible degree programme. For example, only two of the 16 modules that you normally take in Stages 2 and 3 are compulsory. The others can be chosen from our extensive list of modules according to your interests. As with all our programmes, your flexibility of choice, as well as the specialisation of the modules, increases as you progress in your studies. The required modules ensure that you obtain a solid foundation in the subject.

Politics and International Relations
The single honours programme in Politics and International Relations is one of our most popular. In addition to providing you with a foundation in politics, the programme allows you to focus on the international and global dimension of contemporary world politics.

War and Conflict (subject to approval)
This is a multidisciplinary programme that is dedicated to the analysis of violent conflict and its management or resolution. You explore questions such as: what causes violent conflict? Is war legal? What can be done to reduce violent conflict? Is conflict always a bad thing? What is the role of international and civil society in managing and resolving wars?

Politics and International Relations with a Language (French, German, Italian, Portuguese or Spanish)
These four-year programmes include the study of a language in Stages 1 and 2, and a year abroad spent either at one of our partner universities in Grenoble, Lille, Brussels, Paris or Montreal (French), Berlin or Marburg (German), Siena or Turin (Italian), Coimbra (Portuguese) and Madrid or Buenos Aires (Spanish) or on an approved work placement.

Politics and International Relations with a Year in Continental Europe
This is a very attractive programme combining all the strengths of our three-year BA degree in Politics and International Relations with the opportunity to spend a year at one of our partner universities where modules are taught in English or on an approved work placement. This means you can take advantage of the year abroad experience without having to learn a language. Our partners on this programme are Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic; the University of Tampere in Finland, the University of Oslo in Norway, the University of Warsaw in Poland, and Bogaziçi University in Istanbul Turkey.
Politics and International Relations with a Year in North America

This programme enables you to spend a year abroad in North America, either studying at one of our partner universities or on an approved work placement. Our partners on this programme are the University of Ottawa, Ontario and the University of Calgary, Alberta in Canada, and the University of California (with campuses in Berkeley, Los Angeles, and seven other cities), the State University of New York at Buffalo, the University of Maryland at College Park, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in the USA.

Politics and International Relations with a Year in Russia (subject to approval)

This programme enables you to spend a year exploring life in Russia, either studying at our partner university, where the teaching is in English, or on an approved work placement. Our partner on this programme is Lomonosov Moscow State University.

Politics and International Relations with a Year in China/Hong Kong

This four-year programme is offered in co-operation with the University of Hong Kong, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU), China Foreign Affairs University, Beijing, and Renmin University of China, Beijing. You spend your first two years and your final year at Kent (Stages 1, 2 and 3) and your third year (year abroad) in China/Hong Kong. While in China/Hong Kong you follow an approved course of study drawn from the modules offered at our partner universities and are taught in English. You also have the option to take Japanese classes while studying in Japan.

Politics and International Relations with a Year in Japan

This four-year programme is offered in co-operation with Aoyama Gakuin University, Musashi University, and Waseda University in Tokyo and Nagoya University of Foreign Studies, Kyoto Sangyo University and Okayama University. You spend your first two years and your final year at Kent (Stages 1, 2 and 3) and your third year (year abroad) in Japan. While in Japan, you follow an approved course of study drawn from the modules offered at the respective universities and are taught in English. You also have the option to take Japanese classes while studying in Japan.

Politics and International Relations (Bidiplôme)

This is an innovative, five-year programme, alternating between the University of Kent and Sciences Po Lille. Your first and fourth years are spent at Sciences Po Lille, your second and third years at Kent. After four years of study, successful students gain their BA degree (from the University of Kent). You can then choose to spend your fifth year of study in either Canterbury or Lille. If you complete your studies in Lille, you graduate with a Science Po diplôme. If you complete your fifth year at Kent you graduate with an MA degree (from the University of Kent) and the Science Po diplôme.

Joint honours programmes

The joint honours degrees are very flexible in that they allow you to ‘mix and match’ modules from two subjects. Each subject requires certain compulsory modules; study is normally divided 50:50 between your two honours subjects. Please note that the Politics and Law joint honours programme can provide exemption from the Common Professional Examination, allowing you to proceed to the Legal Practice Course or the Bar Vocational Course.
STUDYING AT STAGE 1

This represents the first year of your programme. Modules are designed to appeal to those who have not formally studied politics before, and also to stimulate those students who are already familiar with the subject.

The teaching and assessment methods used in the School differ from module to module. Most modules offer a combination of weekly lectures (one hour) and weekly small-group seminars (one hour). On average, you will normally have a total of eight to ten hours of teaching per week across all modules.

There are reading assignments for each week, usually divided into essential reading, recommended reading and supplementary or further reading. Your work and progress is assessed continuously and your coursework marks (essays and presentations) combine with the results from your end-of-year examinations.

We offer the following modules:
• International History and International Relations
• Introduction to Comparative Politics
• Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Resolution
• Introduction to International Politics
• Introduction to Political Science
• Introduction to Political Thought
• Key Issues in British Politics Today
• Politics and Popular Culture in Modern Japan

Joint honours students take:
• Introduction to Comparative Politics
• Introduction to Political Science.

You can choose your remaining modules from a range offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Humanities.
Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Resolution
We begin by discussing the pervasiveness of conflict in human existence and engage with the key question, “what is conflict?” You study conflict management and conflict resolution approaches before engaging with conflict resolution processes such as negotiation and mediation. Through case studies and simulations you are able to engage directly and so better grasp the different theoretical approaches. Case studies will include an in-depth analysis of the Oslo process and a discussion of the specific difficulties linked to negotiations with ‘terrorists’. You acquire skills in negotiation and mediation, which increase your understanding of international politics but can also be used in your personal engagement with others.

Introduction to International Politics
The interaction between different political entities was studied in ancient civilisations and has been a subject of political thought in various historical and cultural contexts. But it was not until the early 20th century that international relations (IR) emerged as a separate academic discipline. This module introduces you to the most important ways in which international politics have been understood, from antiquity to the most recent developments in IR theory.

Introduction to Political Science
You are introduced to the different methodologies commonly employed in political science, including the scientific method and traditional and newer forms of research. In support of this, you are introduced to some of the fields of inquiry that dominate the study of politics, including public choice, social movements,
econ omic development and democracy. These two main components are integrated to create an awareness of the breadth of political science and its approaches, ultimately providing a foundation for further study in political science.

Introduction to Political Thought
You are introduced to the study of political concepts that are central to thinking about political life: justice, liberty, equality, rights, the state, multiculturalism, power and the nation. The module enables you to develop a set of conceptual tools with which to interrogate the political world in which we live.

Key Issues in British Politics Today
This module introduces you to some of the key issues facing the political system in Britain today. Critical questions are being asked about the role and effectiveness of such key institutions as the electoral system, political parties and parliament. Meanwhile, the nature of political authority in Britain is changing rapidly. Where does this leave the political system today? Who really holds power in Britain? Can government be said to be accountable? Or are Britain’s political institutions failing to provide for effective democracy at the start of the 21st century?

Politics and Popular Culture in Modern Japan
This module analyses the place of literature and film in the political marketplace of Japan. It discusses the various ways in which popular culture reflects and affects political beliefs, most notably pacifism and nationalism. It also examines how the recent disengagement from politics in Japan is reflected in popular fiction and film.
One of the highlights of the academic year in the School is the Student Conference, which is based on students’ Specialist Dissertations (see p25).

Although this is not a required module, we recommend it to all students who plan to continue with postgraduate studies after their BA. It is greatly valued by future employers as it shows that you can research, analyse and write independently.

In most MA programmes, you will have to write a dissertation of approximately 12,000 words. In the specialist dissertation, you learn how to produce a somewhat shorter (around 8,000 words) but similarly substantive piece of academic writing. The module includes a research training component, where you learn how to design appropriate and feasible research questions, structure and plan your work, choose your method in line with your questions, work with your supervisor, do online research and properly reference your sources.

Although you are expected to work on your project in a fairly independent manner, help is at hand throughout the academic year. The module convenor can advise you on research skills and general research questions; your supervisor, who will normally be an expert on your topic, will be able to help you with problems that are more specific to your research question.

Over the course of the year, the Specialist Dissertation experience also generates a strong group spirit among the students, especially among those working on similar topics. This becomes particularly evident at the Student Conference, held halfway through the spring term, where all students have to present the results of their work to an open audience.

The purpose of the Conference is to generate the kinds of discussions that normally take place at a professional politics and international relations conference. Each paper is part of a panel of four or five papers with related topics. The presentations last for 15 minutes, after which the students have a chance to respond to questions from the audience.

In order to prepare our students for this experience, the module includes mock panel sessions as well as lectures on how to give effective academic presentations.

This year’s Student Conference included almost 90 papers in about 20 panels on themes such as British society, politics, political theory, African politics, China and Japan, conflict analysis, EU politics, US foreign policy, terrorism and media, crisis and war.
This stage covers the second year of your degree.

You may have some compulsory modules: for example, International Organisations: The UN System is taken by all Politics and International Relations students. Your other modules can be chosen from the list below, and you may also wish to choose some specialised modules from the Stage 3 options (see p19). You also have the opportunity to choose one or two modules from other School’s each academic year.

Stage 2 modules include:
- Comparative European Politics
- Contemporary Politics and Government in the USA
- East Asian Political Systems
- Eastern European Politics
- European Union Politics and Policy
- International Conflict and Cooperation
- International Organisations: The UN System
- Introduction to Strategic Studies
- Key Debates in Comparative Politics
- Modern Political Thought
- Political Research and Analysis
- The Rise of China
- War and Peace in International Society

Example modules: Stage 2

Comparative European Politics
Here, you examine the main structures, actors and processes, and discuss some of the key issues facing contemporary European states, such as decentralisation, the transformation of social democracy, the rise of the far right and direct democracy. These topics are united by three underlying themes: the changing nature of the European states as political systems; the quality of government and democracy within them; and the impact of European integration. In your assignments, you tie your analyses to individual cases of your choice acquiring both an understanding of general European patterns and in-depth knowledge of countries of interest to you.

Contemporary Politics and Government in the USA
You examine the governmental structure and political processes of the United States, focusing on US politics today. Topics include the nature of presidential power; the fragmented character of Congress; the role of the unelected but potent Supreme Court; the tangled state of US federalism; the often chaotic nature of city politics; and the American electorate.

East Asian Political Systems
Japan’s current position, losing second largest economy status to the looming economic power of China, and George W Bush’s description in 2002, after 9/11, of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea as part of the ‘axis of evil’,
make an understanding of this region essential. In this module, you study the post-war political histories, political systems, economic structures, foreign policies and security issues of the People’s Republic of China, South Korea, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and Japan.

**Eastern European Politics**
In this module, you consider the political history of Eastern Europe in the 20th century, discussing the main features of the communist systems and the reasons for their failure in 1989. You go on to focus on contemporary issues such as the development of democracy, the changing role of women, the challenge of nationalism and finally look at Eastern Europe’s place in the world including issues relating to EU membership and NATO enlargement.

**European Union Politics and Policy**
In this module, you study the way the EU works and how its policy output and powers affect the lives of European citizens. You gain a solid grasp of the history, institutions, decision-making and major policies of the EU; and acquire the analytical tools that allow you to evaluate the impact and implications of participation in the process of European integration for EU member states and their citizens. At the end of the module, you will be able to conceptualise and contextualise developments in EU politics and analyse the kind of political and economic order that is emerging in Europe, and discuss where it should ultimately end.

**International Conflict and Cooperation**
This module exposes students of international conflict resolution to different theories and approaches within the field. It provides an overview and a basic framework for considering the evolving field of international conflict resolution. You have the opportunity to explore conflict resolution methods such as mediation, negotiation, arbitration, collaborative problem solving, peacekeeping operations, and other applications. The approach is interdisciplinary and juxtaposes traditional approaches in conflict management to the theory and practice of non-violent methods.

**International Organisations: The UN System**
You are introduced to the incredible growth of international organisations from 1815 until the present day. You look at the workings of the UN system through a political analysis of the Charter and at the UN’s role in global governance.

**Introduction to Strategic Studies**
In this module, you gain an understanding of contending and classical approaches in strategic studies. You learn how to apply these approaches to a wide range of conflicts. You also look at the nature and development of warfare and geopolitics. Key concepts in strategic studies are applied to current world events.

**Key Debates in Comparative Politics**
Building on knowledge gained in Stage 1, you engage with the conceptual, theoretical and empirical issues raised by some of the central debates concerning the implications of different ways of governing the state. You examine questions around the state’s functioning and development, the difference that democracy and authoritarian government make to political outcomes, the origins of democracy, how democracies differ and what explains who influences policy outcomes. You learn to develop and evaluate theoretical arguments, critically evaluate the research designs used by comparative scholars and increase your knowledge of political systems.

**Modern Political Thought**
You study the major developments in Western political thought from the 16th century onwards. We discuss the life, work and impact of key thinkers such as Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, John Stuart Mill, Karl Marx and Hannah Arendt and focus on the problems which ‘modernity’ poses for political theory in Western societies.
Political Research and Analysis
Data analysis is a very powerful tool for the exploration and description of data, as well as for the testing of hypotheses in political science. In this module, you are given a basic, non-technical introduction, using software packages such as Excel and SPSS for Windows, and learn basic statistical techniques.

The Rise of China
This module provides you with a critical introduction to China’s political development since the 1840s when it was forced to open up to the outside world and lays a solid foundation for a detailed study of present-day China. It examines not only the defining features of the Chinese traditional political system, but, more importantly, how the political system dealt with the threat and challenges from the West and Japan. Towards the end of the module, we discuss the abortive attempts at republicanism and constitutionalism between 1912 and 1949, the rise of communism, and major political events between 1949 and 1979.

War and Peace in International Society
In this module, you critically engage with the International Society (or ‘English School’) approach to International Relations (IR). Combining political theory, IR theory, philosophy, sociology and history, this approach seeks to understand the theory and practice of international politics by reference to the historical development of relations between large scale political entities (from empires, hordes, kingdoms, to the modern nation-state and beyond) and the discourses that have emerged (Machiavellian, Grotian, Kantian) in response to the development of first European international society and eventually world society. You focus on the central features of international society – war and peace as they have been conceived by the three traditions and members of the English School from Martin Wight to more contemporary figures.
STUDYING AT STAGE 3

This stage covers the final year of your degree. Our programmes offer more choice and more highly specialised modules as you progress in your studies.

Your Stage 3 modules are normally chosen from the following:
- Advanced Topics in International Relations
- Conflict Analysis and Northern Ireland: History, Politics and Culture
- Conflict and Security in Africa
- Conservatism: Politics and International Relations of the Right
- The Contemporary Politics of Japan
- Engendering Politics: Feminist Contributions to Political Theory
- Ethics in International Relations
- Europe and the World
- European Security Co-operation since 1945
- Foreign Policy Analysis and Management
- Governance and Politics of Contemporary China
- Humanitarian Communication
- Humans at War
- International Political Economy
- International Politics of Global Climate Change
- Japan in the World
- Market-States and Post-Democracy
- Marxism: Politics and International Relations
- Modern Classics of Comparative Politics
- Political Behaviour in Britain
- Political Research and Analysis
- Politics in the Classroom
- Politics of Deeply Divided Societies
- Politics of the Middle East
- The Politics of Trust (in the USA)
- Post-Communist Russia
- Presidents, Parliaments and Democracy
- Public Opinion and Polling
- Religion and International Politics
- Resistance, Suffering and Leadership
- Rights, Freedoms and Individualism: Contemporary Liberalism in Question
- Specialist Dissertation
- Understanding Federalism
- Understanding US Foreign Policy: War, Transformation and Terror.

The modules on offer can vary from year to year; for an up-to-date list of modules please visit: www.kent.ac.uk/politics/undergraduates/modules or check the University’s online module catalogue: www.kent.ac.uk/courses/modulecatalogue

Example modules: Stage 3

Advanced Topics in International Relations
This module builds on the concepts, theories and methods you have studied so far. You are introduced to advanced readings and further develop your knowledge and understanding of the scholarship at the forefront of this discipline in a given area. You work closely with academic staff and benefit from their research expertise. By developing your critical and analytical skills you are able to understand the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge concerning your advanced topic in politics and/or international relations.

Conflict Analysis and Northern Ireland: History, Politics and Culture
You develop your understanding of one of the most complex regions within the United Kingdom. You study the issues that underpinned
STUDYING AT STAGE 3 (CONT)

Community conflict and discover why sectarian conflict broke out in the region in the late 1960s, why it continued for so long, and what political dynamics led to the ‘peace process’ of the 1990s. In addition to looking at the conventional historical and political development of Northern Ireland, you also focus on Irish poetry, music and sport, looking at the way in which these have mirrored political and cultural relationships within the region.

**Conflict and Security in Africa**

You are given a short history of sub-Saharan Africa, from the dying days of colonialism until today and gain an understanding of the main international, regional and domestic factors that have contributed to creating conflict and insecurity in Africa. The module contrasts economic and political explanations of the causes of conflict and looks at the problem of weak and failed states. Different theoretical approaches are applied to several empirical examples including: the Biafra war of secession; the Cold War superpower rivalry in Africa; the civil wars in Sierra Leone and Liberia; the Rwanda genocide; the ‘Great African War’ in the Democratic Republic of Congo; the role of South Africa in African politics, during Apartheid and today; and the wars and rebellions in Sudan. You also look at conflict resolution, especially the role of regional powers, former colonial powers and regional and international organisations.

**Conservatism: Politics and International Relations of the Right**

Through studying a range of key conservative thinkers, you develop an understanding of the diversity of the conservative tradition and consider what factors help to cohere it. Comparison within the tradition and across a variety of thinkers is achieved by examining these thinkers’ views on four basic categories of modern politics, namely the state, the market, society and international relations.

**The Contemporary Politics of Japan**

This module examines the domestic politics of Japan, from the changes made during the American occupation and covering the period of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) rule from 1955-1993 and the changes that have occurred since the 1993 election, where the LDP lost its majority. We go on to analyse the successes and failures of successive governments, ending with an assessment of the management of the Fukushima disaster and the current Prime Minister.

**Engendering Politics: Feminist Contributions to Political Theory**

In Western countries feminism has had a considerable impact on the conduct of practical politics. In this module, you consider the ways in which feminist thought has influenced political theory by examining a range of feminist approaches to politics. We ask how meaningful it is to speak of feminism in the singular and to what extent feminist approaches pose a fundamental challenge to traditional political theory. Do feminist approaches compel us to new or different methodologies, conceptual tools or even definitions of politics?

**Ethics in International Relations**

You look at the importance of ethics in world politics. You examine the reasons given for eschewing a concern with international ethics and study major traditions in thinking about international ethics. You also learn about the present-day political philosophers working in this area and the importance of the most recent theoretical innovations for practical day-to-day decision makers.

**Europe and the World**

This module focuses on the external dimension of European politics, exploring the interrelationship between Europe and the rest of the world. You examine the impact of global developments and issues on Europe, and the international significance of European integration and the role of Europe in the new world order.

**European Security Co-operation since 1945**

You gain an understanding of the development of security institutions and the policies of Western European states towards security cooperation and integration from 1945 to the present. We examine the re-evaluation of European security since the end of the Cold War and the new lease of life given to
institutions inherited from the Cold War. We also analyse the input of Eastern European states into this process.

**Foreign Policy Analysis and Management**
This module examines the difference between foreign policy analysis and foreign policy practice by exploring shifting approaches to making and examining foreign policy, including the contributions of international relations theory to foreign policy analysis. Historical antecedents of foreign policy as a practice are discussed and foreign policy decision-making and the process of foreign policy implementation are examined. The issue of motivation is tackled through analyses of the largely domestic impact of culture, interests and identity and broader effect of intra-state norms, ethics, and the issue of human rights. Case studies of key countries reinforce the practical implications of the issues discussed.

**Governance and Politics of Contemporary China**
This module provides you with a critical discussion and review of China’s political development since 1949, focusing on the country’s development in the post-Mao era. It starts with a historical review of how the Chinese political system has evolved since 1949. After that, this module is designed around two core blocks of study. First, we look at the principal political institutions of the party-state, viz the Communist Party, the government (State Council), the legislature (National People’s Congress) and the military force (People’s Liberation Army). Second, we examine the socio-political issues and challenges facing the country.

**Humanitarian Communication**
You study the changing patterns of foreign news coverage in the post-war period, with particular reference to the developing world, the issue of humanitarian crises and responses to them. Case studies, include: the Vietnam War, Biafra, the Ethiopian famines, the Rwandan and Cambodian genocides and aspects of the Arab Spring. You examine the role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and their use of the media. Other areas covered include citizen journalism and how the way the media frames foreign news stories affects understanding of complex emergencies.

**Humans at War**
This module investigates the different roles and experiences of human beings at and in war, examining the roles of combatants, civilians and third parties (peacekeepers, humanitarian workers, journalists, and academics). The module draws on academic literature, but also written, oral and video testimony and artwork to examine these categories and attempt to access some degree of experiential knowledge of war and peace.

“The course has given me an understanding of how people think and act. It has allowed me to see the world in a different light.”

Alex Ren
Politics and International Relations student
STUDYING AT STAGE 3 (CONT)

International Political Economy
Recent crises in international finance and indebtedness, deadlock in development trade negotiations, the rise of new economic powers such as China, Brazil and India, the economic decline of many Western powers, as well as the continuing influence of private and civil society actors has attracted the attention of policymakers and scholars alike. In this module, you explore the possibilities for effective and democratic governance of the global economy, critically reviewing and evaluating the major developments and looking at key contemporary issues in the global governance of trade, development, debt and finance.

International Politics of Global Climate Change
Achieving meaningful cooperation on climate change is one of the greatest challenges for international society. This module introduces you to basic ideas about the science, economics, ethics and politics of climate change. You assess how various approaches to international relations can help us to understand the policies and institutions that have emerged over the past 20 years and discuss how successful these have been. We analyse the shortcomings of current provision and discuss options for improving policies and institutions.

Japan in the World
This module explores the place of Japan in today’s international system. You investigate Japan’s most important relationships, such as the Japan-US axis and look at Japan’s increasing role in multilateral bodies, such as the United Nations and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). You are also encouraged to develop an understanding of how the international system appears to Japan.

Market-States and Post-Democracy
In this module, you explore the complex links between democracy and capitalism in the period from 1848 to the present day. First, we examine the concept of the market-state, a discussion which includes analysis of Smithian, Marxist, Keynesian and neo-liberal accounts. The focus is on those who theorise the conditions for the convergence of state and market. We then look at the evolution of democracy in relation to capitalism, beginning with a survey of post-democracy literature, such as the conception of capitalism and democracy as ‘quasi religions’ (Walter Benjamin).

Marxism: Politics and International Relations
You are introduced to Marxist theory and learn to assess both the contemporary and historical significance of Marxism in world politics. You read some of the key texts of Karl Marx and Fredrick Engels and consider interpretations and critiques of Marxist methods, writings and theories. You also consider the political contexts in which these theories and debates emerged and their implications for political practice.
Modern Classics of Comparative Politics
Following a general introduction to comparative politics and the comparative method, we discuss three classical comparative studies, which have had a major impact on the development of the discipline in the past few decades.

Political Behaviour in Britain
In this module, you focus on two key issues: first, the way that citizens participate in politics and second voting behaviour. You explore the nature of political participation and how this has changed in the last few decades. You also examine the characteristics of people who participate and the factors that motivate them. To analyse voting behaviour, we consider how far electoral decisions are shaped by stable ‘sociological’ factors, and how far voters are influenced by particular policy messages, personalities and media images. Alongside this focus on citizens, we also consider the activities of key intermediary organisations, notably political parties and legislators.

Political Research and Analysis
You learn to read, interpret and critically assess arguments drawing on quantitative methods in politics and international relations. You are introduced to the logic of empirical research in the social sciences and to basic concepts and techniques of univariate, bivariate and multivariate data analysis. Then, in seminars and through group work, you critically engage with the application of quantitative methods to research problems.

Politics of the Classroom
This module gives you the opportunity to spend six weeks in a school working with pupils and ultimately leading a lesson. You are given training in the autumn term before going in to school, where initially you observe lessons, then work with pupils on a one-to-one basis or in small groups, before taking brief sessions with the whole class. You create resources to aid in the delivery of citizenship and politics within the curriculum and keep a weekly log of your activities.

Politics of Deeply Divided Societies
This module explores the links between mediation theory and the practice of conflict resolution in deeply divided societies. You study the theory and practice of negotiations, conflict escalation and peace mediations and assess the role of regional or international institutions in early conflict prevention. You become familiar with the core literature in negotiation theory and take part in a number of simulations to improve your negotiation skills. You also examine the role of citizens and community organisations in peace mediations focusing on case studies such as, Israel/Palestine, the former Yugoslavia, South Africa, Greece/Turkey (including Cyprus and the Kurdish issue), Rwanda and Northern Ireland.

Politics of the Middle East
You are introduced to the study of the Middle East as a region, a conflict and a security complex. By studying developments since the First World War, you develop an understanding of the imperial legacy, the emergence of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the origins of the Palestinian refugee problem and the impact of the sub-state loyalties. The module focuses mainly on the various dimensions of the modern Middle East. You examine the issue of Orientalism, the problematic aspects of the Western academic study of the Middle East and the Islamic world.

The Politics of Trust (in the USA)
Much recent academic and popular commentary has focused on citizen’s supposed mistrust of government, particularly in the USA. You uncover the possible reasons for Americans’ malaise including the crisis of government performance, ‘spin’, the internecine warfare between the Republicans and Democrats, declining social capital, ‘Students debate issues from the justness of the recent war in Iraq to the ethics of sweatshops in Asia. It is exciting to know that these students will go on to become our future journalists, human rights activists, diplomats and policymakers.’

Dr Andrea den Boer
Lecturer in International Relations
and the media. You also look at other Western democracies where trust has fallen to see if these countries’ experiences can inform our understanding of the US case.

Post-Communist Russia
This module examines some of the challenges facing post-communist Russia, in particular the development of democracy. You explore what post-communism is and the nature of the present leadership and discuss the main institutions and political processes: the presidency, parliament, federalism, elections, party development and foreign policy. You also evaluate issues such as the relationship of markets to democracy, civil society and its discontents, nationalism, political culture and democracy, and Russia’s place in the world.

Public Opinion and Polling
You are introduced to the theory and practice of public opinion and its measurement. First, we ask ‘what is public opinion?’ and look at how far people’s attitudes pre-exist and how far they are shaped by the way a question is asked. We look at how informed people’s responses are; if citizens know little about politics, can they form meaningful views on important public issues? Second, we look at how public opinion is measured and discuss the main features of social surveys including the ways different types of survey can affect people’s responses. We also look at the principles and practices of effective survey design.

Religion and International Politics
You explore the role of the categories of the religious and the secular in the emergence of the modern nation state and discuss how they shape the international system by informing our understanding of identity, security, and violence. In order to explore these questions, we study a range of theoretical approaches (constructivism, critical theory, post-structuralism), and key debates such as multiculturalism, ‘the clash of civilisations’ and religion in the public sphere. We look at case studies including the emergence of the Westphalian nation state, Muslim minorities and the securitisation of Islam, Christianity and European identity, and the question of ‘religious’ and ‘secular’ violence by looking at the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, among others.

Resistance, Suffering and Leadership
You look at the political lives and key writings of three of the icons of 20th-century world politics: Gandhi, Mandela and Wojtyla (John Paul II). Using the themes of resistance, suffering (sacrifice) and leadership, we discuss these three figures individually, assessing their impact on world politics and considering the meaning of resistance, suffering and leadership in each of their lives. The module concludes with a comparative discussion.

Rights, Freedoms and Individualism: Contemporary Liberalism in Question
Liberalism’s values, practices and institutions are now admired, emulated, invoked and desired in many parts of the world. In this module, we look at liberalism as a

“The Kent course has a really good mix of international relations, British politics and political philosophy. This mixture of subjects proved to be really valuable because it allowed me to get a comprehensive picture of the vast field of politics.”

Chris Henry
Politics and International Relations
philosophy of politics by studying the work of some of its major contemporary exponents and detractors. We examine the different approaches to liberalism advanced by figures such as John Rawls, Richard Rorty and Will Kymlicka. To complement our understanding of liberalism, we consider the communitarian criticisms from thinkers such as Charles Taylor and Michael Sandel, the feminist criticism of liberalism by Susan Moller Okin, and the post-structuralist criticisms from Michel Foucault.

Specialist Dissertation
This module gives you the chance to do research and to produce a substantive piece of academic writing (8,000 words) on a topic of your choice. It includes a series of lectures on how to formulate a research question, how to compose academic texts and how to use references. You also look at research methods, research ‘ethics’, and presenting papers at academic conferences. The lectures are accompanied by workshops where you can apply the skills and concepts developed in the lectures to your own dissertation project. You also have an academic adviser, who can give guidance on the relevant literature, help with the design of the project and offer subject-specific advice. You present your work at a special Student Conference (for more details see p15).

Understanding Federalism
This module looks at the fundamental characteristics of federal government from a comparative perspective. You examine how these features have been institutionalised in a number of key federal and confederal political systems. In particular, the module provides a theoretical discussion of the concept of federalism; an explanation of the adoption of federal institutions in a number of case studies, and an assessment of the issues raised by federalism within the wider context of the debate on democracy.

Understanding US Foreign Policy: War, Transformation, and Terror
You examine the various debates and theoretical explanations of the American state and its role in the construction of world order. The module applies these differing approaches to a number of case studies, and looks at areas where the US has intervened politically, economically and militarily.
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
If you are interested in visiting Kent, we run Open Days during the summer and autumn at the Canterbury campus.

These general Open Days provide an excellent opportunity for you to discover what it is like to live and study at the University. You can meet academic staff, find out about our courses and attend subject displays, workshops and informal lectures. We also offer guided tours around the campus, including University accommodation.

You can find further information about our Open Days, including dates and details of how to book your place, at 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. The Visit Day includes presentations in your subject area, guided tours of the campus, including University accommodation, and the opportunity to speak with academic staff about your chosen subject.

Informal visits
You are also welcome to make an informal visit to one of our campuses at any time. Our Information and Guidance Unit can provide you with a self-guided tour leaflet which includes the main points of interest. It may also be possible to arrange meetings with academic staff, although we cannot guarantee this. For more details and to download a self-guided tour, go to www.kent.ac.uk/informal

More information
For the latest departmental information on studying Politics and International Relations at Kent, please see www.kent.ac.uk/politics

If you have any other queries, the Information and Guidance Unit offers a friendly service with advice on choosing your degree, admissions procedures, how to prepare for your studies, and information about the University of Kent’s facilities and services.

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

You can also write to us at: Information and Guidance Unit, The Registry, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NZ
Location
Canterbury.

Award
BA (Hons).

Degree Programme

Single honours
- Politics (L242)
- Politics and International Relations (L258)
- Politics and International Relations (Bidiplôme) (L291)
- Politics and International Relations with a Year in China/Hong Kong (L254)
- Politics and International Relations with a Year in Continental Europe (L255)
- Politics and International Relations with a Year in Japan (L257)
- Politics and International Relations with a Year in North America (L253)
- Politics and International Relations with a Year in Russia (subject to approval)
- Politics and International Relations with a Language (TBC)
- War and Conflict (subject to approval)

Joint honours
Politics and...
- Economics (LL12)
- History (LV21)
- Law (LM21)
- Philosophy (LV25)
- Social Anthropology (LL62)
- Social Policy (LL42)
- Sociology (LL32)

Offer levels
ABB at A level, IB Diploma 34 points or IB Diploma with 16 points at Higher. Joint honours: ABB at A level, IB Diploma 34 points or IB Diploma with 16 points at Higher.
L291: ABB at A level, IB Diploma 34 points or IB Diploma with 16 points at Higher, plus a two-part written test and an interview in English and French.

Required Subjects
L291: A level French grade A or IB French HL A1/A2/B at 4/5/5 or SL A1/A2/B at 5/6/6
Politics and International Relations with a Language: good GCSE or AS level in a related modern language.

Year Abroad
You spend a year in one of our partner institutions. If you take a language, you can study in Brussels, Grenoble, Lille, Paris, and Montreal, (French); Berlin and Marburg (German); Turin and Siena (Italian); Coimbra (Portuguese); and Madrid and Buenos Aires (Spanish). If you do not take a language, you can study in Canada, China, Czech Republic, Finland, Hong Kong, Japan, Norway, Poland, Russia (subject to approval), Turkey and the US where courses are taught in English. L291 students spend two years in Lille.
Please note: EU students who study in another EU country as part of their degree can apply for Erasmus funding. For details, please email: goabroad@kent.ac.uk
For further information, see www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad

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

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

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

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