



A Parents' and Carers' Guide to
Higher Education
2009/10

University of
Kent



Welcome to the University of Kent

We have created this guide in recognition of your need for information as parents and carers of our potential students. We hope you find it useful and that it helps to answer some of the questions you may have regarding your son or daughter's transition into higher education.

While it is no doubt an exciting time, the amount of information, documentation and choices that are involved in sending your child to university means it is easy to feel a little overwhelmed by it all.

This booklet will guide you through each step of the process: from choosing a course, making an application, receiving an offer of a place and starting at university. We also include a little of what Kent has to offer.

It is never too soon (or too late) to start thinking about university and we hope that this booklet will help you and your child make an informed and successful decision.

If, as a result of reading this, you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact us. We are always willing to help and have a dedicated team of Information and Guidance Officers who will be happy to assist you. Full contact details can be found in the 'Useful Contacts' section at the back of this guide.

We wish your son or daughter every success in their future studies.



Julia Goodfellow Vice Chancellor



Did you know...

KENT was rated **10th** in the UK in the **2009 Times Good University Guide** for student satisfaction and **1st** in the **South East and London area**

Did you know...

KENT departments including **Law, History, Drama, Social Policy, English and Sociology** have been rated as producing **4* (world class) research**



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The benefits of a degree

Earning a degree is a significant achievement that will benefit your son or daughter throughout their lives. Perhaps they have a particular vocation and a degree will enable them to pursue the career they are passionate about. Maybe they are looking to improve their career prospects and give themselves an opportunity to earn more money. Whatever their particular reasons, they will not only achieve an academic qualification, but develop as adults and learn many valuable life skills along the way.

Yes, there are costs involved and your son or daughter is unlikely to leave university without some form of debt. However, it is important to realise that the long term benefits far outweigh the short term costs. Here we highlight a few reasons why earning a degree is a worthwhile investment in your child's future.

A wider choice and better earning potential

Those with degrees are able to choose from a wider range of professions; 66% of graduate jobs advertised in the 2007/8 Prospects Directory* were open to graduates from any discipline. A graduate is more likely to start at a higher level or progress faster within a company than a non-graduate.

The average starting salary for 2008 graduates was £24,048 per annum and the average lifetime earnings of a graduate are £160,000 more than those who hold only two A levels.

*Prospects is the UK's official graduate careers directory and website www.prospects.ac.uk

A more competitive market

The University College and Admissions Service (UCAS) reported a 9.1% increase in university applications in 2008 which demonstrates the awareness of the value of higher education. With so many talented graduates to choose from, employers can afford to be more discerning. They are looking for talented, well educated individuals and are as interested in the quality of the degree as in the transferable skills students acquire while at university.

Transferable skills

Sometimes referred to as 'soft skills', these are skills your son or daughter develops while at university. Communication, organisation, problem solving, research, innovation, flexibility, commitment, initiative and independence are just some examples of the skills students develop as a result of studying at degree level.

Reaping the benefits

Top companies compete to attract and retain graduates who have transferable skills and offer competitive benefit packages such as pension schemes, private medical insurance, free or subsidised sport and leisure facilities, study leave or sponsorship, relocation packages, share options and even travel contributions.

Enjoyment of the subject

One of the main reasons your son or daughter may choose to go to university is because they are passionate about a certain subject. University will provide them the opportunity to develop advanced knowledge through lectures and seminars from internationally renowned experts. Studying for three or four years (more if they decide to earn a postgraduate qualification) is a significant commitment and they should be excited by and interested in their chosen subject.

The difference between university and school

Studying at degree level is vastly different from learning in school. Most degree programmes are made up of modules from which your son or daughter will choose. This enables them to have a greater level of control over the direction of their course. A degree programme also demands independent learning. Your son or daughter will have to set aside time to read course materials and prepare for lectures and seminars. They will be given deadlines, and will be expected to meet them. It is this independence and responsibility which develops many of their transferable skills.

The social life

University is a unique combination of culture and academic study. Your son or daughter will have the chance to meet people from all over the world and from a variety of different backgrounds. Many of the 'soft' skills are developed through the range of social opportunities available.

Each university has a Students' Union. They are usually part of the National Union of Students (NUS) which is a national voluntary organisation representing the needs of all students. The role of the Students' Union is to provide social and sporting activities as well as guidance and support for the student body. Each university holds elections where students are able to vote for the student representatives at the university.

You may be familiar with the phrase "the friends you make at university are the friends you make for life" and this is certainly the experience of many graduates. The independence, tolerance and openness learned while at university makes it an experience like no other.

Choosing a course

Research

Choosing a course could be one of the most important decisions you help your son or daughter make, therefore it is worth investing time to research this fully. With over 54,000 courses and 325 institutions listed on UCAS, the choices can be overwhelming. However, with the right advice and guidance, thousands of students make the right choice every year.

The best place to start is the UCAS website (www.ucas.ac.uk). The search function allows you to list every course and every institution in which your son or daughter may have expressed an interest.

Make sure you look at different university prospectuses. They give a feel for the university and provide detailed information about the facilities, the local area and courses on offer. Do be aware that they are marketing tools and make sure you send off for subject leaflets which will provide much more detail about course structure, content of modules and assessment methods.

There are a number of independent assessments that are worth considering when choosing a course:

- The National Student Survey (NSS) in which final year undergraduate students are asked to evaluate the quality of their course, from the teaching, to the facilities, to how much they feel they have learned. This is an excellent resource for assessing a university as it is compiled by students for students. It will probably predict your son or daughter's likely experience of the course and university.
- The Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Institutional Audit. The QAA safeguards and helps to improve the academic standards and quality of higher education in the UK. You should look for judgements of confidence in areas such as the quality of learning opportunities, support and advisory services. For more information and reports on individual universities, visit www.qaa.ac.uk/
- The RAE (Research Assessment Exercise) ensures that the department your son or daughter is applying to is contributing to its field by publishing new research and developing new theories. The highest score is 4*. The ratings are usually published in the prospectus and can be an important indicator in league tables.

Financial support

Every university offers some level of financial support to its students. Most will offer bursaries and academic scholarships; some also offer music and sport based scholarships. Each university is different, so it is worth spending time looking at their websites and reading their prospectuses to see exactly what is available. Many universities have specially trained Information and Guidance Officers who provide practical and impartial advice, often by telephone.

League Tables

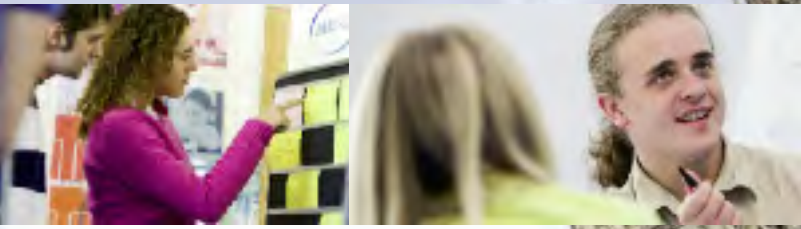
University league tables provide a way of comparing one university with another. There are a number of tables published by national newspapers including the Times, the Sunday Times, the Guardian and the Independent which are usually made up of the following criteria:

Student satisfaction	taken from the National Student Survey (NSS)
Quality of research	the average quality of the research undertaken at the university
Student: staff ratio	average staff levels at the university
Services and facilities spend	expenditure per student on services and facilities
Entry standards	the average UCAS tariff score for new first degree students under 21
Completion	the number of students completing their degree
Good honours	percentage of graduates gaining a first or upper second (2:1) class honours degree
Graduate prospects	percentage of graduates in further study or graduate employment six months after graduation

While league tables can give you an idea of how a university is performing, they all employ different weighting systems. They also use different sources of data which may or may not be supported by the universities.

The factors to consider are the quality of the course and whether a university meets your son or daughter's academic, social and cultural needs. League tables will measure certain criteria, but your son or daughter may be looking for other elements. Use the tables as a guide, but do not base final decisions on them.

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There is a wealth of online information on universities and courses. www.whatuni.com, www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk and www.thestudentroom.co.uk are just a few examples. There are also many web based questionnaires for students to help them decide which type of course might suit them. The Stamford test supplied by UCAS is a good example and you can find it at www.ucas.ac.uk/students

Enjoyment

Your son or daughter should first and foremost choose a subject they enjoy. They should be passionate about their chosen subject as they will be studying it for three or four years. They should choose a course for interest over specific future career plans – it is not necessarily the subject that will be relevant to employers but the skills developed whilst at university.

The choice of a variety of courses

It is important for your son or daughter to think about where their interests lie and whether there is a course to match those interests, rather than purely considering a course that relates to their current subjects.

If your son or daughter is interested in history but also has a passion for film, they can combine the two subjects in a joint honours degree. Subjects such as mathematics can be combined with business, computing or philosophy. There are many courses available which are not taught in schools: architecture, criminal justice studies, journalism, forensic sciences and sports rehabilitation are a few examples.

Remember to check the course content

You will discover that some courses despite having similar, if not identical, titles will vary in their content. An example of this is Drama. In some universities it will be entirely theoretical; others may offer a practical course or a combination of both. It is important to make sure your son or daughter's chosen course matches their specific requirements.

Assessment

If your son or daughter has a particular talent for exams they can choose an exam based course. However, if they tend not to perform well in examinations they can select a course that is examined mainly by essays.

Be realistic

When your son or daughter is applying to university, be realistic about what they can achieve in terms of entry requirements. Most universities will supply this information in the prospectus along with the course details, so you can find out in advance what they are expected to achieve. If they are enthusiastic

about a specific course but feel a bit daunted by the entry requirements, speak to their teachers and encourage them to aim high, but don't put too much pressure on them.

The different options in higher education

Your son or daughter will need to decide on the type of degree that would suit them, a traditional academic degree, or a vocational course.

Going to university no longer means having to do the traditional Bachelor's degree, often three or four year's full time. Students can also study part-time if they want to work during their degree. It does take twice as long (up to 6 years for a traditional Bachelor's degree) but they are able to earn money at the same time as gaining a qualification.

Students do not have to commit to a full three year course to achieve a higher education qualification. They can study for an HNC (Higher National Certificate) which takes one year, or an HND (Higher National Diploma) which takes two years. Often an HND can be 'topped up' with a final third year in order to earn a Bachelor's degree.

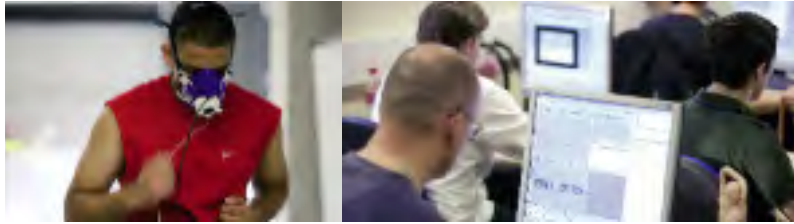
Year in Industry ('sandwich' course)

With a rising trend amongst employers to look for additional skills and experience, spending a year in industry can really give a graduate the edge when it comes to writing a CV and impressing potential employers.

A sandwich course is an excellent way to get involved in the working world. Students receive hands on experience, develop new skills and are able to put into practice what they have learned. Their department and the university Careers Advisory Service will provide support and guidance during the application process and this support continues throughout their placement. Academic work, usually a report, is undertaken during the placement and the marks will contribute to the final degree result.

Students who spend a year in industry earn a salary, which can be very useful for when they return for their final year at university! The salary will vary depending on the industry and the company, but typically students can earn between £14,000 and £25,000. They may even be offered a full-time job with their placement employer once they have completed their studies.

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If your son or daughter undertakes a sandwich course, they only pay a quarter of the Home fees rate for their year in industry (ie if they take their year out in 2009, they would pay £806.25 as opposed to £3,225)

Some of the companies that offer industrial placements include IBM, Intel, British Airways, Microsoft, NHS, Home Office, Ernst & Young, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, Schroders, Cancer Research, BT and Hewlett Packard (HP).

Summer Internships

Another way to boost a CV and earn some extra money is to undertake a Summer Internship. These are a shorter version of the year in industry, undertaken during the holiday period and can last from four to twelve weeks long.

Most internships are offered to students in their penultimate year of study, but there are some companies such as Accenture, Ernst & Young, HSBC and Goldman Sachs that offer internships to first year students.

Internships offer an opportunity to gain a real insight into a potential future profession and experience a different set of challenges in a new environment. Even if the job does not turn out to be 'the one', students gain valuable skills which increase their employability.

Year Abroad

Many universities offer students the opportunity to spend a year abroad in Europe as part of their studies. Experiencing the culture of another country, improving or developing language skills, personal development and the sense of achievement are just a few benefits that can be gained by undertaking study in another country.

Increased employability

The job market is an international arena and when your son or daughter leaves university they will not only be competing with UK graduates, but also graduates from other countries. By demonstrating that they have lived, worked and studied in another country, they will be able to compete more effectively at job interviews.

The ERASMUS programme

If your son or daughter is interested in studying abroad, they may be able to participate in the ERASMUS programme. The programme was set up in 1987 to encourage and increase student mobility within the European community. All UK universities and other UK institutions have some involvement, but not all universities offer the programme for all subjects. Your son or daughter should check with their chosen universities to find out what is available.

Students do not necessarily need prior knowledge of the language as some courses are taught in English. Other degree programmes allow students to learn the language from scratch or will require an A level qualification; it depends on the specific course and the university offering it. Try not to let a language barrier deter your son or daughter from considering study abroad; it is far easier to pick up a language while living and studying in the host country.

The year abroad may be recognised in the degree title (eg BA in European Economics with a Year in Europe) and may result in a degree from the host university.

Europe is an exciting and diverse region, full of culture and history. During their study, your son or daughter will have opportunities to experience everything that Europe has to offer; wonderful food, famous architecture, works of art, picturesque scenery plus a unique cosmopolitan atmosphere.

Funding a year abroad

Students from the European Union, including the UK, will not pay tuition fees for an academic year spent in Europe under the ERASMUS programme. Your son or daughter only pays fees for three years of study, as opposed to four.

Please see the 'Useful Contacts' section at the back of this booklet for further information on the ERASMUS programme.

Did you know...

According to the **2008 Association of Graduate Recruiters (AGR) Summer Review**, 80.5% of recruiters have stated that industrial placements or internships are **'very effective'** at developing soft skills.





Choosing a university

Campus or city university?

A campus university provides students with a self contained environment and a ready-made community; lectures, accommodation, libraries, social activities and catering are all located on the same site. Examples of these are the University of Kent, University of Surrey and University of East Anglia.

A city university will offer the same facilities as a campus university but they are often spread over a wider area. Students may have to take public transport from their accommodation to attend their lectures or to access the library. This type of experience may suit students who like the hustle and bustle of a city. In addition to the London universities, Cambridge, Portsmouth and Bristol have this type of campus.

Many universities have satellite campuses, where learning and teaching is carried out on a separate site to the main campus. These can be modern and have superb facilities – sometimes they have a particular subject/departmental focus. Ensure you know where your son or daughter will be taught before applying.

Academic facilities

As academia is the main reason your son or daughter is applying to university, they need to ensure the academic facilities are suitable for their chosen degree. Things to consider:

- is the library well stocked with up to date resources?
- how many computers per student are there?
- is modern, specific equipment relevant to their course (lab equipment etc) provided?

Social facilities

It is essential the social facilities at your son or daughter's chosen university cater for their interests. If they play a sport, is there a club or society they can join? If they enjoy the gym, find out if the university has one, what it costs to join

and what classes/facilities are available. If they like pubs and clubs, research the nightlife on campus and in the local area. Most student unions have their own websites which provide details on student societies, entertainment, sport and other social aspects of university life.

Distance from home

It is becoming popular for students to live in the family home during their degree, which can significantly reduce costs. Some students aim to get as far away from home as possible and you as a parent may fully support this! Whether your son or daughter lives at home or in halls of residence, you should encourage them to get fully involved in the activities at the start of term and during the year to make the most of their 'student experience'.

Local area, special interests and practicalities

Although the majority of students live in university accommodation during their first year their second and third years are generally spent off campus, usually in a shared house. You should find out about security services on and off campus, the crime rate in the local town, supermarket locations and local transport links.

Take into consideration any special interests your son or daughter may have and make sure the local area offers them everything they need, be that theatres, clubs, shopping, or great sporting facilities.

Visit the university

Choosing a university is more than choosing a degree programme, it is a lifestyle choice. Your son or daughter will spend a number of years studying and living there (if they are moving away from home) so it is important that you take the time to go and visit. You can get a certain amount of information from the prospectus, but visiting the university is the only way to get a true perspective.

Most universities hold open days where you can meet staff, speak to current students, look at the

facilities and view accommodation. Some even host a programme of events to give you an idea of what it is like to live and study at a particular university.

www.opendays.com is a useful website which lists all the UK university open days. Universities will also publish details of their open days on their individual websites and in their prospectuses.

During your visit, ensure you see everything you want to see and ask a lot of questions. Use the opportunity to talk to current students as they will give honest answers about student life at the university. Important things for your son or daughter to consider:

- Does the campus feel right?
- Does the course fulfil my expectations?
- Do the facilities meet my academic and social expectations?
- Could I see myself living here for three or four years?

Accommodation

Universities provide a range of accommodation including en-suite bedrooms, studio flats, shared houses and rooms with a shared kitchen and bathroom. It is a matter of personal preference, but as for most things in life, you get what you pay for. Visiting the university will give you a chance to see the accommodation and raise any questions with university staff.

Study bedrooms include a bed, a wardrobe, desk space and a chair. Some universities also provide rooms with internet access. When you view student accommodation, the room may be unoccupied (depending on when you visit) and feel a little impersonal. With posters, their own bedding and photos of friends and family, it will soon feel like home. You should encourage your son or daughter to view a study bedroom as a blank canvas that they can make their own.



Choosing the University of Kent

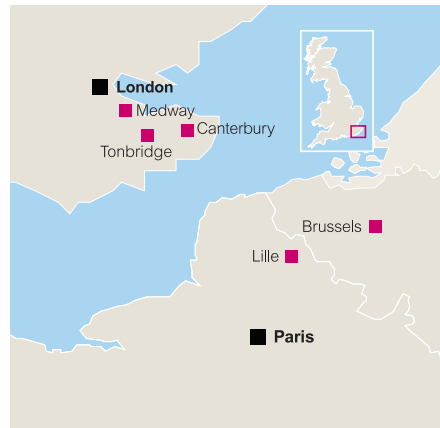
The University of Kent is the 'UK's European University' and boasts a cosmopolitan atmosphere where research excellence, first class teaching and state of the art facilities provide students with the ideal environment and the essential tools needed to achieve their full potential. Kent has approximately 17,000 students from over 120 different nationalities, creating a multicultural and vibrant atmosphere of which we are extremely proud.

Kent is very dynamic and is constantly developing; new courses, new buildings, new facilities and new campuses. As a testament to this, the University of Kent offers bachelor degree programmes on two main campuses. Your son or daughter will enjoy a unique student experience at either one of these superb locations; both socially and academically.

Canterbury campus

Surrounded by lush green countryside and with easy access to miles of beautiful coastline, the Canterbury campus is located in a thriving area of the country with fast transport links to London and mainland Europe. Founded in 1965, it is Kent's original site and is built on 500 acres of parkland overlooking the city centre. Modern buildings are surrounded by open green spaces, courtyards, gardens, ponds and woodland with stunning views of Canterbury and the Stour Valley.

Kent is one of only a handful of universities in the United Kingdom to boast a collegiate system. All students and academic staff belong to a college, whether or not they live on campus. Each college contains accommodation, teaching rooms, catering and bar facilities.



The five colleges at Kent are named after distinguished British figures, Keynes, Eliot, Rutherford, Darwin and Woolf. The colleges provide a ready-made and welcoming community from the moment students arrive at Canterbury and are friendly and supportive places in which to study, socialise and live. Each college has a Master who is responsible for student welfare within their college. Many of the social activities are organised on a collegiate basis, and each undergraduate college has its own student committee which covers most aspects of student life. The student committee represents the students' interests and makes an active contribution to the way the colleges are run.

The new £36 million Woolf Postgraduate College opened at the start of the 2008/9 academic year and provides the very latest in student comfort and amenities including 544 en suite study bedrooms which are connected to the main University network, fully-equipped kitchens and social space. The building also boasts a 496-seater lecture theatre and 6 seminar rooms. Woolf College also has its own student committee.

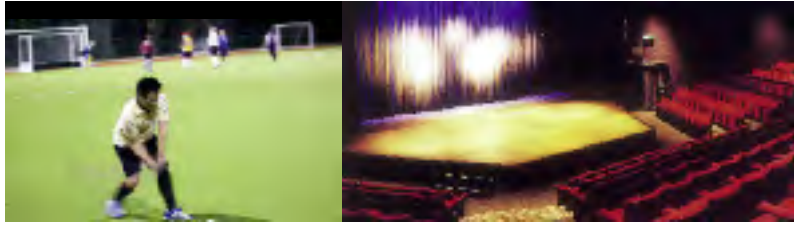
Medway campus

The University of Kent at Medway is part of a unique partnership that includes the University of Greenwich, Canterbury Christ Church University and Mid-Kent College, known collectively as the Universities at Medway. The site is made up of Grade II listed buildings originating from 1897-1903 when the area was the Naval Base, HMS Pembroke. In addition to the original buildings, the University of Kent has invested in a £50 million development including a number of state-of-the-art buildings, lecture theatres, cafés, an exhibition room and the Medway School of Pharmacy.

It is one of the most exciting developments in higher education in the United Kingdom; the site combines refurbished listed buildings with innovative modern architecture. As a testament to the success of the development project, a number of buildings on the Medway campus have been recognised for design excellence; the Medway Building, The Drill Hall Library and The Pilkington Building have won a number of prestigious industry awards for their renovation. Your son or daughter can expect outstanding teaching, learning and leisure opportunities with an exceptional level of personal support.

This significant investment in the University is part of a larger project to re-generate the Medway region. £120 million of public money has been invested and key sites including Chatham and Rochester will benefit from distinctive and exciting buildings, new homes, enterprise opportunities and excellent transport links including a high speed service which will reduce travelling time to London to less than 30 minutes. Medway is bidding for World Heritage Site status for a number of sites including Chatham Dockyard, Fort Amherst, Upnor Castle and the Pembroke site, where the University campus is located.

Continued overleaf



Kent's other campuses

The University of Kent has a strong European presence with a specialist postgraduate centre in International Studies based in Brussels; the 'Capital of Europe'. The city is home to many European Union institutions, and our students have a daily gateway to the 'real world' of international relations, policy making and international law. They have the opportunity to learn in one of the most picturesque and politically important cities in Europe, with first class academic and social facilities.

The University of Kent at Paris is a unique partnership which further strengthens Kent's position as the UK's European University. Students are offered the opportunity to study for a dual degree in partnership with a selection of French universities in Paris, Lille and Boulogne.

The Tonbridge Centre specialises in part-time study and offers a variety of courses from Archaeological Studies to English and Creative Writing. Courses are available from certificate to degree level, or students can choose to study purely for pleasure. It is a few minutes' walk from the railway station and provides a friendly and supportive environment in which to learn.

Accessibility

Canterbury is perfectly situated for easy access to both London and the Continent. It is 56 miles away from London, and a short distance from the M2 and M20 motorways. There are regular trains that run to and from London Victoria, Charing Cross, Waterloo East and London Bridge, all of which take approximately 90 minutes. The channel ports are less than 20 miles away providing easy access to ferries and the Channel Tunnel. The Eurostar leaves from Ashford which is a 30 minute drive away; you can be in Paris within 2 hours and Brussels within 90 minutes.

Medway has excellent road and rail links with the rest of Britain. It is well served by the M2, M20 and M25 motorways. There are direct rail links to London Victoria and Charing Cross with a journey time of approximately 55 minutes and Ebbsfleet International Station is close by, giving direct access to Paris and Brussels via the Eurostar services. From late 2009, Ebbsfleet will also offer a 17 minute journey time into London St Pancras as part of the new high speed rail link.

Studying at Kent

The University of Kent performs well in the national league tables on an institution wide level. Kent has an excellent reputation for the quality of its research and has been ranked 24th in the country in the recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). 97% of research staff work in departments of national and international excellence.

Our students have placed the University of Kent as one of the top Universities in the country, placing us 1st in the South East and London for the second year running in the National Student Survey 2008. The University is also proud to be ranked 10th in the country for student satisfaction for their overall university experience.

Kent has extremely high quality teaching staff. For three years running the National Teaching Fellowship has recognised the quality of Kent academics; most recently Dr Dan Lloyd, Lecturer in Pharmacology and a member of the Cancer Research Group in the Department of Biosciences. Dr Lloyd was one of only 50 winners from a total of 242 nominations submitted by higher education institutions across England and Northern Ireland. He is working with Kent's Partnership Development Office to support schools that have low student participation in science and higher education.

Many of our departments have been recognised for their excellence. The Complete University Guide, published in association with the Independent newspaper places Anthropology, Social Policy, American Studies and Drama in the top ten while Sociology, Accounting and Finance, Biological Sciences, Classics, Computer Science, English, Philosophy, Psychology and Social Work are all in the top thirty.

Academic facilities

The University of Kent boasts two great libraries, one at each of the main campuses, which are available to all students

- The Templeman Library, on the Canterbury campus, houses over 1 million books, periodicals and other essential resources, plus providing specialist collections in a number of areas. Over 15,000 new books and 30,000 new periodicals are added each year. First class support is provided by the dedicated library staff, and a subject librarian was awarded an MBE in 2008 for services to higher education.
- The Drill Hall Library is situated on the Medway campus and holds over 150,000 items. It is reportedly the longest library in Europe and has won a RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) award for its conversion. It was, as its name suggests, the old drill hall of the Naval base and has been converted into a light, airy, state-of-the-art learning resource centre for our students housing 370 new PCs and plenty of comfortable study areas.

Information Services

Information Services at Kent provide extensive computing and IT facilities to help students produce work, conduct research and communicate online. Services include a high-speed campus wide network and free wireless access on campus. Public PC rooms are open for long hours, some for 24 hours a day. There are approximately 700 student PCs on the Canterbury campus and 500 on the Medway campus. All study bedrooms are connected to the University network.



Did you know...

KENT was voted the **top university in London and the South-East** in the **2008 National Student Survey**

Open Days 2009

Canterbury
Saturday 4 July
Saturday 10 October

Medway
Saturday 20 June
Saturday 17 October

Learning support

At Kent we want to make sure your son or daughter has the best possible learning experience while they work for their degree. The Student Learning Advisory Service (SLAS) is a free and friendly resource for students from all campuses, subjects and levels of study. It provides information, one to one sessions and workshops to improve study skills. The workshops cover a variety of areas including grammar and writing style, essay writing, effective research techniques, identifying and using online sources, referencing and plagiarism.

Accommodation

We offer a range of accommodation on the Canterbury campus, both college and self catered, for over 4,000 students. Much of this accommodation is new and around a third of undergraduate rooms are en-suite. All postgraduate accommodation has en-suite facilities.

The five colleges are multi-purpose communities, which offer accommodation for living, learning and socialising.

If your son or daughter chooses to live in college, their residence fee includes breakfast each day, or they can use this allowance as a contribution towards an evening meal instead. College accommodation is available for 31 weeks per year not including the winter or spring vacation periods. Self-catered accommodation in houses and flats is available on central campus or at Park Wood (our student village, ten minutes walk from central campus). Houses consist of five or six bedrooms and flats of between four and nine bedrooms.

Self catered accommodation is available for 39 weeks including the winter and spring vacation periods. Your son or daughter can connect their own personal computer to the internet and the high speed university campus computer network from their study bedroom.

Full-time students choosing Medway in 2009 will be offered accommodation for their first year of study in our brand new facilities at Victory Pier; a stunning waterside village set on the banks of the beautiful River Medway. There will be 549 single study en-suite bedrooms, 55 studios and a caretaker's flat. Split between two main buildings, the larger block will comprise 406 rooms around a central courtyard and will include social space, a reception and laundry facilities.

The second building will contain 198 rooms and there are plans to include an express-style supermarket, a coffee house and a pharmacy. There will be recycling facilities, plenty of green landscaped areas and secure storage for students' bicycles to encourage greener travel.

Safety and Welfare

We understand you will be concerned for your son or daughter's welfare, especially if they are living away from home for the first time. The new accommodation at Medway will feature comprehensive CCTV coverage, 24 hour security and electronic entry systems.

Access to the Medway campus is monitored by the gatehouse staff and members of security patrol the site 24 hours a day. There is a Police Community Support Officer based in the Pilkington Building who regularly patrols the campus and all areas are covered by CCTV.

A recent report by The Independent newspaper highlighted Canterbury as one of the top three university cities for safety. Despite this reassuring statistic, we recognise that some people may feel vulnerable, particularly at night. Therefore we have a variety of preventative methods to keep our students safe. There are 24 hour patrols of the campus by our specially trained security officers, CCTV cameras, a 24 hour service in each college and our security centre, Campus Watch. We offer

an on-campus security service, which means your son or daughter can be accompanied, on foot, by a security guard, at any time of the day or night. We also offer a term-time, late night bus service to local towns.

Kent is 'Best Bar None'

The 'Best Bar None' is a national awards scheme developed to address alcohol related crime and to improve the night time environment.

The Universities at Medway Students Association (UMSA) won the 2008 'Best Bar None' award for maintaining the highest operational and safety standards at its bars. The award stays in Kent for the second year running after Kent Union won the award for the Canterbury campus in 2007. You can relax, knowing your son or daughter can have a great night out but their safety and welfare is never compromised.

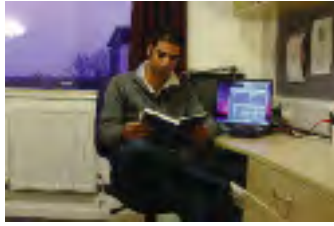
Students' Union and going out on campus

Kent Union and UMSA are run by students for students. They provide a wide variety of facilities; represent students' interests at the University and the wider world and offer help, support and advice when needed.

As well as the bars located in each of the colleges on the Canterbury campus, there is a pub in Park Wood (our self-catered student village) called Woody's and the campus nightclub, The Venue. It is one of the best purpose built student facilities in the country and regularly attracts top artists and DJ's. Students can enjoy anything from salsa to R&B, garage, drum and bass and cheese, as it has something to suit everyone.

There are two convenience stores situated on campus. Essentials and Parkwood Essentials sell everything that you would expect a convenience

Continued overleaf



store to sell, including fresh coffee and pastries. A new branch of UNiQue, a store selling University of Kent clothing and memorabilia, opened on the Canterbury campus in September 2008.

Extras is located next door to the main Essentials store on the Canterbury campus and offers a large range of wines and spirits, beers, soft drinks, snacks, greeting cards and stamps. They stock a large range of DVD rentals and offer free membership. A photo-booth, instant photo printing machine and a mobile phone top up machine are located inside the shop.

Medway also has an Essentials store located on campus and its own bar, Coopers. Coopers is at the heart of the Medway campus and serves quality pub food at student friendly prices. It has a welcoming and vibrant atmosphere and is equipped with comfy sofas, widescreen TVs (which show all the major sporting fixtures) a Nintendo Wii, an X-box and a separate pool room. There are regular themed nights and it has a late licence.

Kent Union and Societies

Getting involved in societies is an excellent way to meet new people and get immersed in student life. There are over 100 societies available across both campuses, reflecting the wide range of student interests at the University. Music, street dance, yoga, ballroom & latin, circus, current affairs, paintball, chess, nutrition and the environment are just a few examples. Different faiths and nationalities are also well represented, along with subject-related societies.

The list is continually expanding, but if your son or daughter cannot find something that reflects their interests, they can start a society with help and financial support from Kent Union and UMSA.

Student media

Students on both campuses are encouraged to get involved with the campus newspaper; contributing

articles and photographs as well as administrative support. The Canterbury campus has its own radio station which is run by student volunteers. It is an opportunity to gain hands-on experience working in any field, from presenting, news reading or promoting the station in the local community.

Volunteering

Kent Union and the University run the award-winning Kent Student Certificate for Volunteering (KSCV), formally acknowledging the efforts of student volunteers. We help to find placements for your son or daughter in the local area, and create a timetable to ensure any voluntary work fits in with their studies. There are many opportunities to get involved on the campuses, whether it be through student societies, being a course representative, or RAG Fundraising (Raise and Give).

Volunteering allows students to develop and practise the transferable skills learned whilst studying and provides a good start to their CV, exposing them to employment opportunities in the voluntary and charitable sector.

Student Ambassadors

The Student Ambassador programme provides students with the opportunity to represent the University promoting higher education to UCAS applicants, schools and colleges. It is good fun, builds confidence and it looks great on a CV. Many Student Ambassadors act in a voluntary capacity and use their hours towards the KSCV. There is also the possibility of being employed by the University as a paid Ambassador.

Sport

Sport is a great way for students to get involved in university life. Kent has a 'Sport for All' philosophy meaning the facilities of the Sports Centre are aimed at all our students, whether they are aspiring Olympians or simply spectators. The facilities on the Canterbury campus include

two sports halls, a sprung dance studio, a state of the art gym and cardio suite, climbing wall, floodlit all weather pitches for outdoor sports and a Sports Café.

The Centre provides over 30 different classes per week to suit all tastes and abilities. Currently there are more than 50 sports clubs from ski and snowboarding to cricket and our numerous football teams. With membership from only £115 per year, the Canterbury Sports Centre is one of the cheapest 'on-campus' sports facilities in the university sector.

There is a wide variety of sports available at Medway including rugby, football, tennis, netball, mixed hockey, athletics, snow sports and rowing. The Universities at Medway Boat Race is an annual contest between all the universities on the Medway campus and has become a major fixture in the sporting calendar. There is a fully equipped weights and cardio room in the Sports Hall on campus and the Student Fitness Suite offers student membership for £20 per year.

Medway students have the advantage of many off-campus sporting facilities. The Deansgate Ridge Sports Complex has an 18-hole golf course, athletics track and gym while the Arethusa Venture Centre offers a great climbing wall and sailing activities. Many students use the extensive facilities available at the local Black Lion Leisure Centre in Gillingham. Our students are entitled to a student pass, costing £120 per year (or £75 for six months) which allows access to the pools, sports halls, gym, squash courts, health suite and spa.

As part of the re-generation of the Medway region, The Black Lion site is undergoing massive redevelopment as part of an £11 million project to create Medway Park; a 'Centre of Sporting Excellence'. The University has pledged £3 million towards this redevelopment which has already been approved as a pre-Games training venue for



Come and visit Kent:

Canterbury

Sat 4 July & Sat 10 October 2009

Medway

Sat 20 June & Sat 17 October 2009

We look forward to meeting you!
www.kent.ac.uk/opendays/

A Parents' and Carers' Guide
www.kent.ac.uk

the 2012 Olympics. This will have a huge impact on our students as they will have full access to these state-of-the-art facilities.

Medway Park will fully open in January 2010 and will offer a new purpose-built 12 court sports hall, a new gymnastics centre, a new 8 lane athletics track, a dedicated martial arts centre, a 25 metre swimming pool, weights, strength and conditioning facilities plus a new sports science and sports therapy suite.

Arts and culture

The Gulbenkian Theatre is a professional touring theatre with a capacity of 340, situated on the Canterbury campus. The theatre attracts many top artists and performances ranging from stand up comedy to Shakespeare, classical concerts and conceptual dance. Students also have the opportunity to perform in this professional atmosphere and the Spring Theatre Festival features work from final year Drama and Theatre students. The Brook Theatre, based in Chatham High Street in Medway, is a beautiful 960 seat venue and the Central Theatre is located in Chatham Old Town Hall and has a capacity of 400. Both venues offer students top names in music and comedy, a wide variety of professional and community productions, plus exhibitions and arts workshops.

The Gulbenkian Cinema, based on the Canterbury campus is Kent's Regional Film Theatre. It shows everything from recent releases to independent sector and foreign language films at a discounted price for students. Medway students are five minutes walk from a nine screen multiplex cinema located at the Dockside Retail Outlet which also offers student discounts.

There is a wide range of music making activities at the University and students of all subjects have the opportunity to get involved in the flourishing

programme of extra-curricular music activities. The Medway campus houses specialist studios and rehearsal space for the Music Technology programme and these top of the range facilities are available to students on both campuses.

Local areas

Canterbury has a thriving cosmopolitan atmosphere, as befits Britain's closest city to continental Europe. The city centre today shows much of its medieval history in ancient streets and buildings; the world famous cathedral is a dramatic focal point and the venue for Canterbury students' graduation ceremonies.

There has been significant investment in recent years; the new multi-million pound Whitefriars development has transformed a substantial part of the area and is a fantastic shopping location. The city has a unique charm; past and present sit comfortably together and there are plenty of specialist shops to be found along with major high street names. The city centre is on a direct bus route, making it easy to venture off campus to sample the many restaurants, pubs and bars Canterbury has to offer.

The Medway towns of Chatham, Gillingham, Rochester and Strood boast a rich history and culture. Rochester Castle looks out over the River Medway and the beautiful Rochester Cathedral, the second oldest cathedral in England, is the venue for our graduation ceremonies. The region is fiercely proud of its naval and military heritage, but is equally committed to investing in its future.

The Historic Dockyard adjacent to the campus is home to 120 businesses and leisure facilities, including a multiplex cinema, a large retail outlet and the Historic Dockyard Museums. The local area features a range of sporting facilities including the Strand Outdoor Leisure Park, a dry ski slope and toboggan run, an ice rink and a go-karting circuit.

The Medway towns boast a wealth of entertainment including the traditional Dickens Festival, Chinese New Year celebrations and the popular summer 'Castle Concerts' which draw some of the biggest and varied names in music including Jools Holland, Status Quo and the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra.

Visiting the University

We hold a number of open days each year, on our main campuses. Please see the website for further details of dates (www.kent.ac.uk/opendays/). Open days at Kent give you a chance to see the campus, visit accommodation and talk to academic staff. A programme of sample lectures and workshops runs throughout the day, giving a taste of what it is like to be a student, and the opportunity to sample a range of subjects if you wish.

If you are unable to attend the dates publicised on the internet and in this guide, we may be able to accommodate you outside these times. The Canterbury and Medway sites are open campuses meaning you are welcome to come and visit at any time. If you visit the main receptions (the Registry at Canterbury and the Medway Building at Medway) between 9am and 5pm on weekdays, we can give you a Self Guided Tour leaflet which illustrate the major points of interest.

If you are a resident in a European Union country (except the UK) you can contact Stephanie Green (eurec@kent.ac.uk) to arrange an individual tour. If you are an international student then contact our International Office at international-office@kent.ac.uk



Kent graduates: A bright future

Reputation

Kent is an innovative, modern university with a successful enterprising culture. A strong performance in the national league tables, our position as the number one university in London and the South-East and our European and worldwide partnerships, combined with an emphasis on excellence ensures your son or daughter's future is in good hands.

Excellent graduate employability record

The University of Kent is extremely proud of its excellent record of securing a large majority of our students into work or higher education. According to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) 5.6% of all graduates were unemployed six months after gaining their qualification in the 2006/7 academic year. In 2007, only 3.2% of Kent graduates were unemployed; demonstrating that an academic degree from Kent is a valuable asset to your son or daughter's CV.

According to The Times Good University Guide 2009, 70.5% of all Kent graduates were in what is termed graduate employment or further study, ie they are in posts or study they could not have gained without achieving a degree.

Kent graduates have gone on to work for companies such as BBC, IBM, Microsoft, Barclays Bank, PricewaterhouseCoopers, KPMG, Lloyds TSB, Tesco, London Stock Exchange, HSBC, Marks and Spencer, Sainsbury and British Telecom. All these companies are listed in the 2009 Top 100 Graduate Employers list.

Other leading alumni include Alan Davies (actor and comedian), Gavin Esler (journalist), Tom Wilkinson OBE (actor), Kazuo Ishiguro (Booker prize novelist), Shiulie Ghosh (ITV news presenter), Sarah Waters (novelist) and Paul Ackford (former England rugby player). Honorary degrees have been awarded to Dame Kelly Holmes, Jo Brand, Tracy Emin, Sir Michael Gambon and most recently, Sir David Frost.

Careers Advisory Service

Our outstanding employability record is undoubtedly supported by our excellent Careers Advisory Service, which has a base at both campuses and provides services to all our associate colleges. At any stage of your son or daughter's studies, from first to final year, the Careers Advisory Service is available for advice and information on graduate opportunities.

A considerable amount of information and advice is available both online and in paper form. Our Careers Advisors offer personal advice and guidance in any way which suits your son or daughter's personal needs.

Also see our website for information about what careers are open to which degrees, the destinations of some of our graduates and what skills will be learnt in specific degree disciplines.
www.kent.ac.uk/careers

Did you know...

KENT was ranked **1st** in the UK for **Social Policy** graduating students' employment prospects in **2009**
Guardian University Guide

Did you know..

Computer Science at KENT had an **88%** student satisfaction rating in the **NSS 2008**

"I never thought I would go to university but it is the best experience of my life"

Alison Small



UCAS

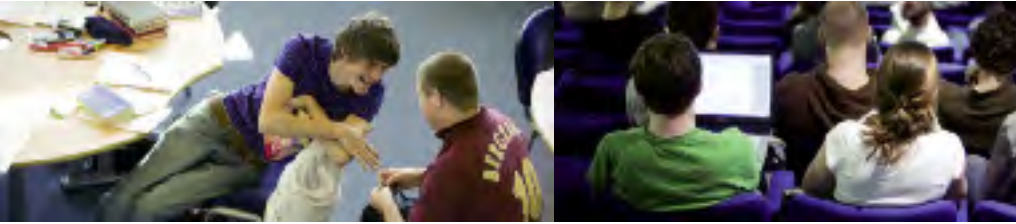
The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) is the central organisation that processes applications for full time undergraduate courses at UK universities and colleges; they process over two million applications per year. The system allows students to fill out one form to apply to up to five universities. The whole form is completed online allowing students to edit and re-edit their form prior to submission as often as they choose.

UCAS Tariff

The UCAS Tariff is a points system used to report achievement for entry into higher education in a numerical format. Some universities will continue to request specific grades (eg ABB at A Level), however most are now using this tariff system. Below is a basic breakdown of the points system, for a fuller version please refer to www.ucas.ac.uk

A Levels		UCAS Points	BTEC Nationals	
AS	A2		Certificate	Diploma
		360		DDD
		320		DDM
		280		DMM
		240	DD	MMM
		220		
		200	DM	MMP
		180		
		160	MM	MPP
		140		
	A	120	MP	PPP
	B	100		
	C	80	PP	
A		D	60	
B			50	
C		E	40	
D			30	
E			20	

International Baccalaureate Diploma	UCAS Points
45	768
44	744
43	722
42	698
41	675
40	652
39	628
38	605
37	582
36	559
35	535
34	512
33	489
32	466
31	442
30	419
29	396
28	373
27	350
26	326
25	303
24	280



The three sections of the UCAS form

Personal details and university choices

The personal details section is self explanatory; however it is easy to make silly mistakes, so make sure it is checked carefully. Your son or daughter can apply for up to five courses at up to five universities, although they can apply for fewer if they wish. Choices are put on the form in alphabetical order, so there is no need to express a preference at this stage.

Students may only apply for EITHER Oxford OR Cambridge, not both. They may also only make four applications to veterinary, medical and dentistry courses, but can use the other choice for a related course.

The Personal Statement

This is arguably both the most important and most challenging part of the UCAS form. It is where your son or daughter will have to make themselves stand out in just half a page of text. There are no points for modesty and this will undoubtedly be the part of the form where your help will be most valuable.

What are Admissions tutors looking for?

The only information a university will have about your son or daughter (prior to any interviews) is on their UCAS form. Within the Personal Statement, they will be looking for:

- Suitability for the course
- A genuine interest in the subject
- Commitment to further study
- Evidence of conscientiousness
- Communication skills
- Ability to cope with the demands of the course
- Adaptability

There is no magic formula for a Personal Statement but the following structure works quite well.

- Why they want to do the course and in what ways it excites them
- Specific elements of the course that interest them
- What their academic interests and studies are and what has particularly inspired them
- Examples of completed coursework and any practical work they have enjoyed
- Any work or volunteering experience which is relevant to their future studies. Even if it isn't, they should explain what it has taught them
- Demonstrating reliability and responsibility which could include a part-time job, Young Enterprise, Duke of Edinburgh award or involvement in a sports club or team
- Hobbies and interests: sport and leisure activities, whether they play a musical instrument or speak another language. They should include if they have won any prizes or achieved a certain level of proficiency
- If your son or daughter is planning a gap year, include why they want to do it, what they plan to do and how it may relate to their course. If they have already completed a gap year, explain what they did and what they learned from it
- Mention any future plans for after university, if they have any
- Finish with a strong concluding statement

Tutor's reference

The final section is the tutor's reference which will be considered along with the Personal Statement. This section includes predicted grades for any outstanding examinations.

Your role

Your support is most needed for the Personal Statement section. It is very hard to sell yourself and your help will allow your son or daughter to portray the best impression of themselves. It is important for applicants to appear focussed, enthusiastic and prepared. Be aware the Personal Statement may provide the basis for an interview so it is important to be honest.

You should read your son or daughter's personal statement, over and over until they are happy with it. The most important thing is that they come across as excited and passionate about the subject they would like to study at university.

Post application

Universities will receive a copy of your son or daughter's form and it will be sent to the Admissions Tutor for consideration. You can normally expect to hear from a university within about six weeks, however this depends on the institution and if your son or daughter has been called for interview. Your son or daughter can use the UCAS Track facility at wwwucas.co.uk/students/track/ to track their application status.

Once all of the institutions have made their decision, UCAS will write to your son or daughter, issuing a deadline by which they MUST reply to their offers. They can do this via UCAS Track or by calling 0870 1122211. They have four options when making their choices:

- UF – Firm acceptance of an Unconditional Offer (First choice)
- CF – Firm acceptance of a Conditional Offer (First choice)
- CI – Insurance acceptance of a Conditional Offer (Second choice)
- UI – Insurance acceptance of an Unconditional Offer (Second choice)



The Application Process

What to Do	When it happens
<p>Choose a course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research different universities and the courses they offer • Attend university open/visit days • Discuss with your son or daughter the universities and courses they will be applying for; they have up to five choices 	<p>Year 12 and beginning of Year 13.</p> <p>The UCAS application process opens from September</p>
<p>Choose a university</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at prospectuses and websites • Make sure the academic and social facilities meet their needs • Research the local area 	
<p>Complete application forms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure all information (especially contact details) is correct • Write a Personal Statement (see p.23) • The school or college will add a reference and submit the completed application to UCAS 	<p>Check www.ucas.com for specific application deadlines</p>
<p>After application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your son or daughter will receive a letter from UCAS to confirm that the application has been processed. This letter will contain their application and personal ID numbers • UCAS sends a copy to each of the choices stated on the application. The universities and colleges will then decide individually whether they wish to make an offer • Your son or daughter may be invited to visit or attend an interview 	<p>November to April</p>
<p>Visit the university</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View accommodation, facilities and talk to staff and students • Ask lots of questions • Try and see as much as possible to get a good 'feel' for the university 	

What to Do	When it happens
<p>Wait for decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCAS will send confirmations of offers • 'Unconditional offer' (UF) is the offer of a place with no conditions attached • 'Conditional offer' (CF) is the offer of a place, subject to meeting certain conditions (eg AAB or 340 points at A level, or equivalent) 	<p>November to April</p>
<p>Late Applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCAS accepts late applications throughout the remainder of the application year, which universities or colleges then consider at their discretion • Universities do not guarantee to give late applications the same level of consideration as applications received by the normal closing date. 	
<p>Accept/Decline offers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide on a firm choice (UF or CF) and an insurance choice (UI or CI). The firm acceptance should be your son or daughter's first choice; the insurance acceptance is a second choice in case they do not meet the requirements for their first choice • They will be given a deadline by which they have to accept or decline offers. They can use UCAS Track www.ucas.co.uk/students/track/ to complete this process • If all applications are declined or are unsuccessful, they can use UCAS Extra to continue looking for a place. See www.ucas.com/students/afteryouapply/extra for more information 	<p>April/May (dates may vary according to when your son or daughter receives their final offer)</p>



What to Do	When it happens	What to Do	When it happens
<p>Results Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If your son or daughter has met their required grades, they should wait for confirmation of a place at their firm choice university from UCAS. This can also be viewed on UCAS Track, which is updated in real time They cannot choose between their firm and insurance offers once they receive their results. If they meet the conditions for their firm choice, their insurance choice is automatically declined and offered to someone else. If they cannot attend their firm choice for any reason, they should contact the institution directly to discuss their options. If your son or daughter has not achieved their required grades, they need to check with their firm choice university as they may still be offered a place. If not, they should contact their insurance university If they have not been accepted at either their firm choice or insurance choice, they should enter Clearing 	<p>UK results are published in August</p>	<p>Clearing (cont)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This can be a stressful time, but try not to panic. Be on hand to offer support and reassurance. More than 30,000 people successfully gain a place through clearing every year and, with the right advice and guidance, the experience often turns out to be a positive one 	
<p>Clearing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the process where students who do not meet the conditions of their offers may be offered places at other universities Your son or daughter should contact the universities they are interested in by telephone to find out if they can be offered a place. Vacancies can be viewed on the UCAS website and are listed in The Independent newspaper and online. Universities will usually have a Clearing section on their websites UCAS send confirmation of any offer to your son or daughter Ensure your son or daughter will be available to discuss their options. Due to the Data Protection Act, you will not be able to act on their behalf 	<p>Clearing is available from August.</p> <p>Many universities have dedicated teams to deal specifically with enquiries and applications. Details will be provided on individual websites.</p>	<p>Visit the university</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most universities hold Clearing Open Days where you can meet staff, speak to current students and view the facilities If you cannot attend one of these days, contact your university and they may be able to make other arrangements for you; some offer self guided tours which enable you to view the campus at a more convenient time 	
		<p>Once a place is confirmed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The university will start to send information. There may be specific processes to complete, so ensure they read all documentation carefully and adhere to any given deadlines 	<p>August/Early September</p>

Please note that the deadlines above are to be used for guidance purposes only. Please check the UCAS website for exact dates and a more detailed guide on the applications process at wwwucas.ac.uk or contact the customer service unit on +44 (0) 870 1122211

Money



In recent years the funding methods for higher education have changed significantly. There have been a range of financial schemes put in place to assist with the costs involved and to ensure that a university education remains accessible to all. Hopefully this section can put your mind at rest and give an indication of what outgoings there may be and what help is available from both the government and your son or daughter's chosen university.

Applying for student finance

Student Finance England (SFE) is a partnership set up between the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Student Loans Company Ltd to provide financial support on behalf of the government to students entering higher education in the UK.

It is a predominantly online service, providing a one-stop-shop for student finance and your son or daughter will be able to apply to a central location for their core financial support. This includes the tuition fee loan, the maintenance/student loan and the maintenance grant, as well as university bursaries.

Everything is processed centrally in a customer services centre which performs three primary functions; it is a customer contact centre supporting telephone, email and web chat; it processes applications and assessments and provides a telephone information and guidance channel. There are also dedicated teams to provide support and processing of applications for special, targeted support students and EU students.

These are the main facts:

- The SFE website launches in February 2009 and students will be able to register their details prior to this date. They will be sent an automated email when the website goes live and they are encouraged to make their application as early as possible.
- As a parent or carer, you can register online at www.studentfinanceengland.co.uk to assist in enabling your son or daughter's finance application. You will be asked to submit your income details so that SFE can assess how much support they are entitled to.
- Parental income details will be submitted for the previous tax year (ie a student applying to university for 2009 will submit parental income details for the tax year April 2007 – April 2008).
- If your circumstances change, your son or daughter will be able to request a more up to date assessment, preventing them from being disadvantaged.
- Students will have use of a number of enhanced features including a Student Finance Calculator which enables them to compare financial support options from different universities.
- From April 2009, students will be able to receive a calculation for both core support as well as institutionally funded support such as scholarships and bursaries.

How much does a degree cost?

Below is an estimate of what an average student year would cost. Bear in mind that these are estimations as prices of accommodation vary around the country and food and socialising costs vary from student to student.

Academic Costs (For academic year 2009)

Type of Cost	From	To
Tuition Fees	£3,225	£3,225
Books / Materials	£20	£585
Total	£3,245	£3,810

Living Costs*

Type of Cost	From	To
Accommodation	£3,000	£4,500
Food	£975	£1,950
Clothes / Laundry	£195	£785
Personal items (toiletries)	£195	£390
Socialising / Sport	£780	£1,950
Phone	£195	£585
Travel	£0	£390
Unexpected costs	£195	£585
Total	£5,535	£11,135

* based on 39 weeks in self catered university accommodation

Fees

For the academic year 2009/10 the government have set the upper limit of variable top up fees at £3,225 per year. Help and assistance is available in the form of loans and grant schemes.

Tuition Fee Loan

Both UK and EU students are entitled to the full Tuition Fees loan and it covers the entire cost of tuition fees. Nothing is payable upfront and the loan is paid directly to the university. Students apply via Student Finance England www.studentfinanceengland.co.uk

Student Loan for Maintenance

This loan will cover your son or daughter's living costs. It is paid directly into their bank account at the beginning of every term. On the next page is a table calculating loan amounts for 2009/10. The figures shown are per year.



Rate (means)	Max amount	72% (not means tested)	28% (tested)
London	£6,928	£4,988	£1,940
Elsewhere	£4,950	£3,564	£1,386
Home	£3,838	£2,763	£1,075

Every UK student is entitled to at least 72% of the student loan, and the additional 28% is means tested on household income. Your son or daughter can apply for the full loan, no loan, or a proportion of it, whatever best suits their needs.

Maintenance Grants

The Government offer a non-repayable Maintenance Grant of up to £2,906 per year for UK students starting university in September 2009. If your household earns less than £25,000 per year, your son or daughter may be eligible for the full grant. If your household income is below £50,020 per year they may be eligible for a proportion of the grant on a sliding scale.

If a student is eligible for more than £1,292 of the maintenance grant, the amount of student loan they may be entitled to will be reduced by £1,292:

Maximum student loan (elsewhere)	£4,950 (2009/10)
Maintenance grant	£1,292 (2009/10)

The student loan amount is reduced by £1,292
£4,950 – £1,292 = £3,658

So:	
Student loan	£3,658
Maintenance grant	£1,292
Total support	£4,950

Being eligible for a maintenance grant reduces the amount of student loan available. As the maintenance grant is non-repayable, your son or daughter has less student loan to pay back after graduation.

Special Support Grants

The Government offers a Special Support Grant which, like the Maintenance Grant is of up to £2,906 and is non-repayable. The Special Support Grant is available to those receiving means-tested benefits, such as income support. This grant is received in place of the maintenance grant, and has no effect on the amount of Student Loan for Maintenance a student can borrow.

Repayment

Parents are not responsible for repayment. It is up to your son or daughter to repay their loan after they have completed their studies.

Both the Student Loan for Maintenance and the Tuition Fees Loan are added together and paid off as one through the tax system. Repayment does not begin until the April following graduation and your son or daughter will not have to make any repayments until they are earning over £15,000 per year.

The repayments will be 9% of anything earned over £15,000. This is not the same as 9% of their total income; your son or daughter will only make repayments on what they earn above £15,000.

How repayments are made

- Employed: deductions are made automatically from their salary.
- Self employed: if they are self-employed, or a combination of employed and self-employed, they will be responsible for calculating and making their own repayments.
- Working overseas: if your son or daughter works or is planning to work abroad, they will be required to make a repayment arrangement with the Student Loans Company.

Students who take their loans from September 2009 also have the opportunity to have a five year break from repayment of their student loans should they choose to do so.

Repayment examples

A graduate earning £16,000 per year
£16,000 – £15,000 threshold = £1,000
9% of £1000 = £90
£90 per year = £7.50 per month

A graduate earning £20,000 per year
£20,000 – £15,000 threshold = £5,000
9% of £5000 = £450
£450 per year = £37.50 per month

Other help available

There is a wide variety of other support available for people wishing to attend university, ranging from NHS bursaries, disabled students allowances, to teacher training bursaries. These vary from £100 per year up to full fees, so it is worth taking the time to research and apply for any extra funds to which you may be entitled.

“I have changed, gained confidence. You learn here how to interact with people, to plan your life, manage your time and to budget”

Sarah Conway
Biological Anthropology

Kent's financial arrangements



Tuition fees

Tuition fees at Kent for 2009/10 are £3,225 per annum for our full-time undergraduate courses. This fee is reviewed annually and is likely to increase in line with inflation.

University of Kent Bursaries

The government has stipulated that if a university wishes to charge the full £3,225 tuition fees, they must provide a scheme of bursaries of at least £320 for lower income families.

Kent is committed to ensuring that students from lower income households have the opportunity to benefit from higher education and we have a range of bursaries at three times the rate required by the government, with a full award of up to £1,000 per year.

We know students from households on the borderline of receiving a full maintenance grant also need additional financial support. Therefore we provide a full bursary of up to £1,000 to students with a residual household income of up to £25,000 and significant support to students with a residual household income of less than £40,000 per year.

Up to £25,000	£1,000 per year
£25,001 – £28,500	£750 per year
£28,501 – £34,000	£500 per year
£34,001 – £40,000	£250 per year

These non-repayable bursaries are payable in cash and can be used either towards tuition fees or living costs. Students can estimate the amount they are entitled to using our finance calculator on our website at www.kent.ac.uk/finance-student/calculators/index.html

University of Kent Scholarships for academic excellence

There are 20 scholarships of up to £1,000 per year; one for each academic department at Kent. They are awarded for one year in the first instance, and are renewable for the duration of a student's degree programme (normally three or four years). The continuation of each scholarship is subject to successful academic progress.

These scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic attainment, submission of an essay on a selected topic and may require a satisfactory performance at interview.

University of Kent Sports Scholarships

Kent offers a number of scholarships for talented sports men and women of between £500 and £5,000. Scholarships are awarded to applicants who have significant sporting potential. They must have played at county level, be a current (or potential) International player and be committed to representing their chosen university in their sport. The University also offers a £2,500 cricket scholarship, in conjunction with Kent County Cricket Club, a £2,000 rugby scholarship, in partnership with Canterbury Rugby Club and Barretts of Canterbury and a £2,000 hockey scholarship, in partnership with Canterbury Ladies' Hockey Club.

University of Kent Music Scholarships, Patron: Dame Anne Evans

Kent offers two types of music scholarships to talented instrumentalists and singers applying for any degree.

University Music Scholarships (worth £1,000 pa) are awarded by competitive auditions. These scholarships are awarded for one year in the first instance, renewable for the duration of the degree programme, ie normally a maximum of three or four years.

Music Lesson Scholarships provide funds (up to £400 of free vocal or instrumental tuition per year) to enable students to continue with their instrumental and vocal studies whilst at Kent.

Please note that a student can hold both a University Bursary AND a Scholarship.

Did you know...

According to the **National Student Survey 2008**, 90% of Kent's final year graduates were **satisfied** with the quality of their course

Did you know...

KENT 'can claim to be Britain's only international university' according to the **Sunday Times University guide 2007**

Budgeting

Whether your son or daughter is living in the family home or in halls of residence, they are going to be faced with a number of challenges, including how to manage their money over the course of the year.

Student bank accounts

These accounts are designed specifically for students and offer useful extras such as an interest-free overdraft. Many banks also offer incentives to entice new students. Some of these are better than others, so try not to be distracted by the array of freebies! Remember to check overdraft facilities carefully as going over the agreed limit can be costly.

Check if there is a branch of their bank on or near campus as this makes negotiations, accessing funds and getting advice much easier.

If they do get into difficulties, they should contact their branch as soon as possible; pretending the problem doesn't exist will not make it go away! The advisors in university branches are familiar with the challenges of student life and provide helpful and practical advice.

Get an NUS Extra card

Student discounts are a university student's best friend. Encourage your son or daughter to join the NUS (National Union of Students) and to invest in an NUS Extra card which offers discounts across a variety of areas including books, travel, music, toiletries, computer equipment, exhibitions, events, clothing and even top attractions.

Student employment

According to the Unite Student Experience Report 2007, two out of five students work an average of 14 hours per week and get paid significantly above the minimum wage. Many students take employment during university holidays, but many also continue working throughout term time. Your son or daughter's university or department will usually recommend maximum hours of paid work per week.

29% of the students interviewed in the Unite Student Experience Report 2007 worked in the retail sector; perhaps due to the ease of movement between branches. If your son or daughter has this type of job, enquire whether they can return to their home store during holidays or transfer to the store near their university during term time.

Student employment at Kent

Kent Union's Jobshop is one of the best ways to find employment as a student at Kent. It acts as a service to help your son or daughter to find a job to fund their time through university. Since September 2007, Kent Union Jobshop has registered nearly 3,800 students. In the same period, they have advertised just under 3,500 vacancies.

This past year, Jobshop advertised a range of positions including IT technicians, web developers, personal tutors, bar and waiting staff, child carers and publishing assistants. In addition to advertising vacancies for local employers, Jobshop also now places students in temporary roles through our agency service and utilises the students' language skills by employing translators.



Experience for the future

Students who had worked whilst at university had higher perceived abilities across all areas than those who had not worked (Grad Facts 2008). Having a job while studying helps financially, builds confidence and develops essential transferable skills.

5 budgeting tips for students

- Don't get a credit card!
- In shared accommodation, a house 'kitty' can be very useful for essentials – loo roll, cleaning products, bin bags and food items such as bread and tea bags.
- When shopping, ask "Do I need it?", "Can I afford it?" and "Can I get it cheaper elsewhere?" If the answer to any of these questions is no, they shouldn't be buying it!
- Do food shopping later in the day – supermarkets often reduce prices on certain items.
- Buy fruit and vegetables at a local market; usually they are better quality and cheaper.

5 budgeting tips for parents

- Set guidelines. If you are planning to help your son or daughter through their studies, let them know how much financial support you can offer.
- They will need to learn to budget and will make mistakes along the way. Encourage them to think about managing their money, rather than telling them what to do.
- If they have trouble budgeting, don't be tempted to bail them out straightaway. It's tough love but they soon learn that they cannot rely on the 'bank of mum and dad' forever. If things get really bad, you can always order groceries for them online.
- You can give book and food vouchers as opposed to cash.
- If they can't cook, teach them a few basics. Knowing how to whip up quick and tasty dishes will save them buying jars of sauce and ready meals – it's also an excellent way to make friends!



The first few weeks

Here are a few tips for your son or daughter's first few days and weeks at university and how to prepare for them.

Things to buy or bring

A few things you may not have thought of:

Air fresheners
Blu-tac and pins
Camera
Clothes airer
Coat hangers
Computer/laptop
Duvet
Extension lead with extra plug sockets
Home/Personal contents insurance
Hot water bottle
ID – Drivers licence or passport
Kettle
Laundry bag
Loads of tea, coffee and biscuits
Memory stick/blank CDs
Mugs and glasses
Passport photos
Photos of friends and family
Pillows
Plates and cutlery
Posters
Pots and pans
Qualification certificates
Rug
School uniform – for the School Disco!
Towels
TV licence if your son or daughter is taking their TV
Washing powder that smells like home
Young Person's Rail Card

Do...

Encourage your son or daughter to throw themselves into Freshers' week, taking part in the social events and attending introductory lectures. Even if they don't feel like it, this is one of the best ways to get to know the people in their corridor/house, on their course and everyone out and about on campus

Tell them to leave their door open for visitors

Encourage them to go to the Freshers' Fair and join societies and sports clubs. This is a fantastic opportunity to get to know people and to either improve their skills or try something new – snowboarding perhaps?

Advise them to say yes to all invites

Encourage them to spend time with people and give this new living experience a chance

Make sure you write plenty of letters and send parcels; there is nothing better than getting something from home

Don't...

Stay too long when you drop your son or daughter off at university, even though you may want to

Call too often. Email or text instead

Expect or encourage them to come home too much, especially in the first term. They need time to settle in, feel comfortable in their new environment and make friends

"I have made friends with people who are from different backgrounds and have different ideas about life to me; you grow up so much at university, you mature and accept people"

Emma Hicks
American Studies (History)

Did you know...

KENT was ranked **3rd** in the UK for **Finance & Accounting** and **9th** in the UK for **Management** in the **NSS 2008**

Did you know...

KENT was ranked **6th** in the UK for **Psychology** graduating students employment prospects in the **2009 Guardian University Guide**

Support services at Kent



University Medical Centre

The University Medical Centre is a GP practice on the Canterbury campus. It runs a same day appointment service and there is an on-site pharmacy next door. There are 68 practices in the Medway Primary Care Trust (PCT) area and students at the Medway campus should register themselves with a local GP. Please refer to the Useful Contacts section on p.36 for further information.

The University Nursing Service (UNS)

The University Nursing Service is available to students for support, advice, treatment of minor illness and injury and contraceptive advice (including supply of emergency contraception). The service provides a 'drop-in' facility, where no appointment is necessary, to discuss health problems with the nurse and receive treatment where appropriate.

Meningococcal Group C and MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella)

Young people attending higher education for the first time are potentially at risk of these diseases, especially in the first few weeks of term. To achieve maximum protection, your son or daughter should be immunised against Meningitis C and MMR before arriving at university (the Department of Health recommends TWO immunisations against MMR for those entering higher education). Your family doctor will be able to offer further advice.

Disability and Learning Support

The Disability and Dyslexia Support Service's core services include support for students with specific learning difficulties, support for students with physical or sensory impairments and medical conditions, and help with applications for the Disabled Student's Allowance.

We have a team of tutors who provide individual specialist tuition and support assistants who can help with note-taking and other learning support requirements.

Oaks Day Nursery and Leapfrog

The Oaks Day Nursery on the Canterbury campus provides a warm, caring, happy and stimulating environment in which children can develop. We have 20 qualified members of staff providing the highest standard of care for children between three months and five years old. The Leapfrog Nursery is a purpose built nursery that provides childcare for students at the Medway campus. A recent OFSTED inspection rated it as 'outstanding'.

The Students' Union offers a subsidy on any childcare costs for appropriately qualified students. The nurseries also accept The Early Learning Grant provided for children from government money that is given to children the term before their fourth birthday.

Chaplaincy

The Chaplaincy team is both ecumenical and multi-faith. Kent has two full-time chaplains (Anglican and Catholic) and several part-time members who serve all the main Christian denominations as well as the Buddhist, Islamic and Jewish faith communities.

There is an attractive small chapel in Eliot College on the Canterbury campus which is regularly used for worship and is open to everybody for quiet prayer and meditation.

Counselling Service

Going to university is a time of transition and personal development, and there may be times of difficulty when students feel they would benefit from some professional counselling. The goal of counselling is to empower, encourage and support your son or daughter to help themselves.

The University Counselling Service, offers students and staff a completely confidential service, and is open throughout the year. In addition to individual counselling sessions, there is the opportunity to take part in groups, workshops and courses.

Kent Union and UMSA Advice Centres

Kent Union and UMSA Advice Centres are here to help all University of Kent students, including part time as well as full time students and those students studying franchised courses at other colleges.

They provide advice on issues that may affect your son or daughter while they are a student. This includes the all important finance questions, legal advice, questions about their course, health matters and other issues.

Kent Union were awarded the Quality Mark which sets the standard for legal information and advice and is overseen by the Community Legal Service. It is designed to ensure that their service is well run and that the quality of their advice is monitored to maintain high standards.

Student welfare

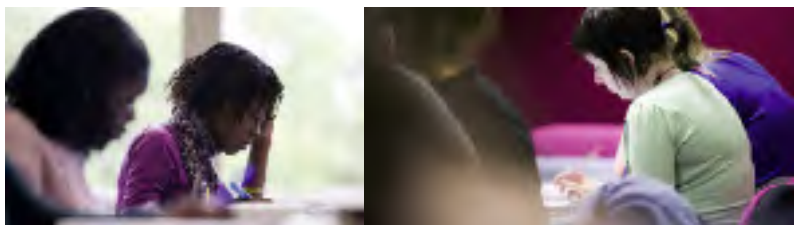
We recognise that our students come from a variety of backgrounds and, during the course of study, family circumstances may change. We take the welfare of our students extremely seriously and would ask you, in your role as parents and carers, to encourage your son or daughter to report any special circumstances to their departments so any factors that may affect their ability to study are taken into account in the earliest possible instance.

Student confidentiality

The University of Kent is aware of the need to maintain student confidentiality. With this in mind, we would only be able to discuss your son or daughter's progress with you if they have granted us permission to do so.

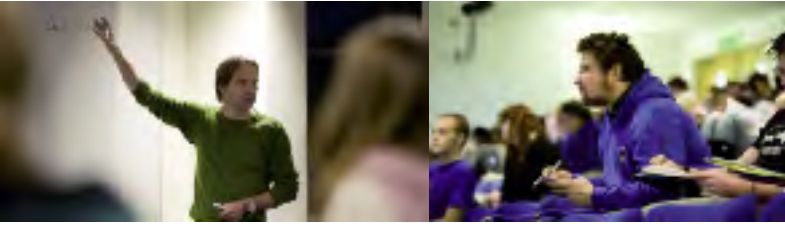


Glossary of commonly used terms



Term	Definition
Alumni	Former students
Application number	A nine-digit individual number assigned to an applicant who has completed a UCAS application; it is printed on every letter UCAS send and is displayed in the format 01-234567-8. Applicants will be asked to provide this number if they contact UCAS
Bachelor of... Arts, Science, Education, Engineering, etc	The degree most undergraduate students are studying for at English and Welsh universities
Bursary	Contributes towards student fees and/or living costs
BUCS	British Universities & Colleges Sport
Clearing	The process where students who do not meet the conditions of their offers may be offered places at other universities
Combined honours degree	An undergraduate degree course that involves several subject areas (usually three)
Conditional offer	An offer made to an applicant by a university or college, whereby the applicant must fulfil certain criteria before they can be accepted on the relevant course
Confirmation	When conditional offers that have been accepted by an applicant become unconditional or are declined. Confirmation is dependent on an applicant's qualification/exam results
Deferral	Holding an offer until the following year
Department	Most universities break down different subject areas into departments and students 'belong' to whatever department teaches their course. Some universities do not have departments; they have 'Schools or Centres' which may cover several subject areas

Dissertation	An essay or report usually of several thousand words on a specific subject that is completed during a course of study, often in the final year
Entry profiles	Comprehensive information about individual courses and institutions, including statistics and entry requirements
Faculty	Universities are usually divided into departments or schools. Schools and departments are grouped together into faculties
Firm offer	The offer that a student has accepted as their first choice
First	First class honours degree – the highest grade attainable
Foundation year	If a student's qualifications are not in the right subjects or at the right grades to meet the entry requirements for their chosen course (usually a science or engineering course), they may be able to do one year's foundation study. If they complete this to the required standard they will be guaranteed a place on the first year of their chosen course
Freshers'/Welcome Week	This is the first week of the first term of the first year of a student's university career. It is packed with events and entertainments designed to help them settle in, make friends and to tell them everything they need to know about how the university and students' union work
Graduate	Someone who has successfully completed a degree course and been awarded their degree
Graduation	The ceremony where a student is officially awarded their degree. Sometimes referred to as 'Congregation'
Halls	Accommodation blocks which traditionally provide catered meals (but increasingly are becoming self-catered), cleaners, heat, light and electricity and a variety of amenities such as launderettes, common rooms and TV lounges



HND	Higher National Diploma – based on vocational studies and generally aimed at preparing students for a particular career or industry. It can lead on to, or count towards, a degree course	Seminar	A teaching class, overseen by a lecturer. They are similar to tutorials but involve more students
Honours degree	Most degrees are honours degrees and are split into first class honours (or firsts), upper second class or 2.i (pronounced 'two-one'), lower-second class or 2.ii (a 'two-two') and third class honours, or a third. If a student does badly, but not quite badly enough to fail, they might not get an honours degree, but an ordinary degree instead	Single honours	An undergraduate degree involving one main subject
Institution	A university or college offering higher education courses	Student Loans	Low interest loans from the government to help university students pay their living and study costs
Insurance offer	The offer that a student has accepted as their second choice, in case they do not meet the requirements for their firm offer	Tuition fees	Tuition fees are set by the Government and paid to the university directly
Joint Honours	A course involving two subjects	Tutorial	A small group of students who meet up with a tutor to discuss their studies
Lecture	One of the main teaching mechanisms of universities. They tend to be larger than a regular school class and less interactive	UCAS	University Colleges and Admissions Service. They deal with university applications and provide general advice and guidance
Mature student	A mature student is anyone aged 21 or over when they start a university course	UCAS Extra	UCAS Extra is designed to provide additional choice if a student is not holding any offers through UCAS. It means that students will no longer have to wait until Clearing to seek a place
NUS	National Union of Students. Provides information about all aspects of university life	Unconditional offer	An offer given to a student by a university or college, whereby they have satisfied the criteria and can attend the course
Personal ID number	A 10-digit individual number assigned to an applicant. The number is displayed in the format 123-456-7890.	Undergraduate	A student at a university who has not yet received a degree
Point of entry	The applicant's year of entry to the course, for example, 2 refers to the second year of the course	Unsuccessful	The applicant has not been accepted by the university or college concerned.

Useful contacts at Kent



Accommodation

Information about and applying for accommodation
www.kent.ac.uk/accommodation

Careers Advisory Service

Information on graduate destinations, career prospects and employability skills
www.kent.ac.uk/careers

Disability and Dyslexia Support Service

Information for students with a disability, medical condition or specific learning difficulty
www.kent.ac.uk/ddss

Financial matters

Information about fees and financial arrangements
www.kent.ac.uk/studying/finance

Information, Recruitment and Admissions

All enquiries, processes, applications and admissions to the University
+44 (0) 1227 827272
information@kent.ac.uk

Information and Guidance Unit

Specially trained staff provide a confidential and impartial service to help anyone going through the process of choosing and applying for study
0800 975 3777

Kent Union

All the issues affecting students and activities available for Kent students
www.kentunion.co.uk

Kent Union Advice Centre

Available for advice on a huge range of student issues
www.kentunion.co.uk/pages/support/advice/

Medway Council

List of GPs in the local area
www.medwaypct.nhs.uk/Your_Care

Open Days

Download programmes and find out more about all of Kent's Open Days
www.kent.ac.uk/opendays

Student Learning Advisory Service

Information and advice on study skills
www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/learning/index.htm

The University of Kent

Your one stop shop for all information about the University
www.kent.ac.uk

Universities at Medway Students' Union (UMSA)

All the issues affecting students and activities available for Medway students
www.umsa.org.uk

Where you can study

Information about all of Kent's campus facilities
www.kent.ac.uk/studying/where

Useful websites for research and information

British Council

Information and advice on the ERASMUS programme
www.britishcouncil.org/erasmus

Connexions Direct

Information and Advice for Young People
www.connexions-direct.com

Fast Tomato

Interactive Careers Guidance and Education for Teenagers
www.fasttomato.com

Guardian Good University Guide

Provide league tables and general information
www.guardian.co.uk/education/universityguide

Higher Education and Research Opportunities in the UK (HERO)

Lots of information about UK universities
www.hero.ac.uk

National Bureau for Students with Disabilities

Full of information for students with disabilities
www.skill.org.uk

National Council for Work Experience

A good place to start looking for work experience for students applying for competitive courses
www.work-experience.org

University and College Open Days

Lists all university and college open days throughout the country
www.opendays.com

Prospects

The UK's official graduate careers website
www.prospects.ac.uk

Student Finance England

One stop shop for online applications for financial support and information on other finance matters
www.studentfinanceengland.co.uk

Student Loans Company

Provides easy access to key financial information
www.slc.co.uk

The Complete University Guide

In association with The Independent. Full of information on the university process
www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk

The Student Room

Help and advice on student life
www.thestudentroom.co.uk

Times Good University Guide

Provide league tables and general information
www.timesonline.co.uk

UCAS

Provide information on going to university and the application process
www.ucas.ac.uk

Unistats

Teaching Quality Information (TQI) and National Student Survey (NSS)
www.unistats.com

Whatuni.com

Find out about different universities and courses
www.whatuni.com

You go further

Provided by UCAS for students thinking of applying, at application stage or already at university
www.yougo.co.uk

The University will use all reasonable endeavours to deliver courses and other services in accordance with the descriptions set out in this publication. However the University does not provide education on a commercial basis. It is also largely dependent on charitable and public funds which the University has to manage in a way which is efficient and cost effective in the context of the provision of a wide range of courses and services to a large number of students. The University therefore reserves the right to make variations to the contents and method of delivery of courses and other services, to discontinue courses and other services and to

merge or combine courses, if such action is reasonably considered to be necessary by the University. If the University discontinues any course it will use its best endeavours to provide a suitable alternative course.

All students will be required as a condition of enrolment to agree to abide by and to submit to the procedures of the University's Regulations as amended from time to time. A copy of the current Regulations is available on request from the Information, Recruitment and Admissions Office. Data protection and consent to process For the University to

operate efficiently it needs to process information about you for administrative, academic and health and safety reasons. Any offer this institution makes to you is subject to your consent to process such information and therefore a requirement before we can register you as a student.

The information given in this leaflet is correct at the time of going to press. The University reserves the right to modify or cancel any statement in it and accepts no responsibility for the consequences of any such changes



Open Days in 2009

Canterbury

Saturday 4 July
Saturday 10 October

Medway

Saturday 20 June
Saturday 17 October

University of Kent

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University of
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