GO ABROAD!

Study or work abroad as part of your degree
CONTENTS

Why go abroad? 3
What our students say 4
Which degrees offer time abroad? 6
Do I need any language skills? 7
Where can I go? 9
What support do I get? 12
How to apply 14
Fees and funding 15

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WHY GO ABROAD?

Why not go abroad to study or work as part of your degree? Spending time abroad can benefit you in many ways, and there is a whole world of opportunities within your reach.

Whether you choose to study abroad or spend time on a work placement, you’ll develop personally, academically and professionally.

The skills and experience you gain are a great enhancement to your CV and a distinct advantage when you are looking for a job. For example, adapting to a new environment develops your problem-solving skills and boosts your confidence and self-reliance. Experiencing life in another country gives you greater cultural awareness and improves your communication skills; depending on where you spend your time abroad, you may also be able to improve your language skills.

A number of our undergraduate and postgraduate degrees offer an option to go abroad. But even if you haven’t registered on one of these specific programmes, going abroad may still be possible. Please contact our Go Abroad team for more details by emailing goabroad@kent.ac.uk

Studying abroad is a great way to broaden your view of your chosen subject and gain new perspectives. If your aim is to undertake a work placement abroad, you have an opportunity to develop a range of professional skills and make useful contacts.

“I wanted to study rather than work as a language assistant. I thought I’d be able to pick up the French that people of my age actually use, rather than textbook French. I went to the University of Montpellier, in the south of France. It’s a beautiful city, with a beach right there as well. It was a great opportunity to travel around.”

Gaby Emson
French
WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

**Studying in Montreal, Canada**

“I spent my year abroad at Concordia University in Montreal and I thoroughly enjoyed experiencing a different academic system. Some of the highlights include the wide variety of film modules available, from Cuban Cinema to Queer Cinema, film editing workshops and the film department facilities.

“Montreal is a bilingual city; you don’t need to speak French to live there or socialise, but it’s a good opportunity to practise without feeling too lost.

“I know that I feel more prepared for my final year at Kent, thanks to the experiences I’ve had. Going abroad helped me to see and understand another way of studying film while experiencing the excitement of being in a new place.”

**Juliana Heras-Reyes**
Film with an Approved Year Abroad

**Language assistant in Poitiers, France**

“My advice would be to enjoy every second that you are there because it goes by in a flash. Homesickness was something that I worried about before I arrived but, apart from my first day, I felt so at home and comfortable in Poitiers and around the people I met.

“Take every opportunity that comes your way and try to visit as many places as possible. As a language assistant, you get school holidays, which is great! Make the most of the free time and travel. There will always be someone around to help you if you are unsure of anything – don’t be afraid to ask! And have fun!”

**Maria Perry**
French and History

**Studying in France and China**

“I split my year abroad between France and China. It was challenging but fun and rewarding.

“In France, I studied some great French literature and culture modules and travelled around with friends. The culture in China is very different – very disciplined, which was good for getting things done. I saw how the culture and language differed from region to region; the dialects of Mandarin differ according to the area. It made me want to explore more of the country.

“My year abroad made me grow up quickly, I think. Socially and linguistically, you’re in at the deep end. So I’d say that I’m a bit more mature and better prepared for life after university.”

**Vinay Joshi**
Asian Studies and French
Studying in Hong Kong

“I studied at the University of Hong Kong. My year abroad challenged me to try new opportunities, try new food, and speak a new language (the University offers modules in basic Mandarin). I have embraced a new culture. I absolutely love Hong Kong – the city has an energy I can’t describe, the city never sleeps. And yet as little as 45 minutes away from the campus you can be at the beach or up in the hills, away from the hustle and bustle. I recommend studying abroad to anyone!”

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

Studying in Spain, working in Argentina

“Splitting my year abroad between studying in Spain and working in Argentina was the best decision I could have made. I met some amazing people in Oviedo and lived life like a true Spanish student. Choosing a smaller northern city also allowed me to explore parts of Spain I’d never seen before.

“Argentina introduced me to a whole new culture and variation of Spanish. I worked in Buenos Aires as a language assistant, teaching students English. I also got the chance to travel across the country. It was such a rewarding experience.

“Both places exceeded my expectations and helped me improve both my confidence and my level of Spanish.”

Amelia Carpenter
English Language & Linguistics and Hispanic Studies

Studying in Calgary, Canada

“I went to the University of Calgary for my year abroad and absolutely loved it! I’ve really enjoyed exploring the stunning Rocky Mountains, which are nearby, and meeting a wide variety of people. Befriending other international students was great as we would do all the touristy stuff, while local friends showed me places and taught me things (like curling and making perogies, a kind of dumpling) that I wouldn’t otherwise have tried.

“It really helps to say yes to everything you can, and seek out things to try – so many opportunities can spring up. It’s a strategy I’ll try to maintain in the UK as well.”

Jessica Shaw
Classical & Archaeological Studies and English & American Literature with a Year Abroad
WHICH DEGREES OFFER TIME ABROAD?

If you want to spend time abroad, we have a wide range of degrees for you to choose from. Some offer you the opportunity to study abroad; others enable you to go on an international work placement.

The year abroad is usually taken between Stages 2 and 3, which are the second and final years of a full-time degree. You will need to meet certain criteria for attendance and academic progression in order to study or work abroad.

‘Year Abroad’ programmes

Degrees with a “Year Abroad” in the title allow you to spend a full academic year at one of our partner universities. All the universities are chosen for their academic standards and for their courses, which complement your studies at Kent. Our partners include highly prestigious universities, a number of which are ranked within the top 100 institutions in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

Language programmes

Spending time in another country is an integral part of some degree courses, such as French, German, Italian or Hispanic Studies. Your time abroad allows you to develop fluency in the language you are studying and gain first-hand knowledge of the country’s people and culture. Some students study at a partner university. Others choose to take a work placement: a popular option is to work as a language assistant, teaching English in a school.

Adding a ‘year abroad’

Many other programmes include an option to study abroad for a year or a term, or to spend a year on a work placement, and you can usually apply for the year abroad after starting at Kent.

Visit www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad/opportunities/az.html to find out if the degree you are interested in offers this option, and for details of the eligibility criteria.

If you are already a student at Kent and your degree programme is not described on our website as offering a year abroad, it may still be possible to arrange this option. Please email the Go Abroad team for further information: goabroad@kent.ac.uk

Postgraduate programmes

There are a number of opportunities for study and research abroad within postgraduate programmes. These include international double award programmes and options under our European exchange arrangements.

/ DID YOU KNOW?

Another option open to some overseas students is to take a work placement in their home country. This allows them to work in their native language.
DO I NEED ANY LANGUAGE SKILLS?

The language skills you need depend on the kind of study or work placement you choose. Some placements only require English; others provide an opportunity for you to develop the language skills you have learnt during the first two years of your degree.

Study or work in English

You don’t need to be able to speak another language to take advantage of the opportunity to go abroad. We have many study opportunities in English-speaking countries such as the USA or Canada, as well as destinations where tuition is in English, such as the Netherlands, China (including Hong Kong) or Japan.

English-speaking employees are in demand all over the world and some overseas employers offer work placements where English is the only language you will need.

Bear in mind that you often pick up quite a lot of the local language, even if you are studying or working in English. You may be able to take language classes at Kent before you take up the placement; alternatively, language classes may be available during the placement.

Work or study in another language

Degree programmes at Kent that include language studies allow you to reach a level of fluency that enables you to work or study abroad in the local language. The choice of destinations available to you may be wider than you think. For example, students taking French have the option to go to Canada, not just Europe.

Please bear in mind that to apply for such a degree at Kent, you need to have an A level, GCSE or equivalent in the chosen language or a related European language. Entry requirements vary; see www.kent.ac.uk/ug for details.

DID YOU KNOW?

More mobile students* than non mobile students were in graduate level jobs six months after graduating (77.7% compared with 70.5%).

Gone International: Expanding Opportunities report published by Universities UK, 2018

*those who study or work abroad as part of a degree
WHERE CAN I GO?

We have many prestigious partners, both commercial and academic. They are based in Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa and Australia.

Studying abroad
We already have links with many partner universities and are continually adding new partnerships. We only choose universities that have excellent reputations, with courses that can complement your studies at Kent. The destinations available depend on your particular degree and language skills. Some are linked to specific subjects, or may be only for undergraduate or only for postgraduate students.

See our map (overleaf) or check www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad for the latest details.

Working abroad
If you are taking a work placement – usually called a ‘Year in Industry’, a ‘Placement Year’ or a ‘Sandwich Year’ – you may be able to take this placement outside the UK. Many of our academic schools have links with well-known and highly respected international companies. For language students, we can help you to find a placement as a teaching assistant.

It is possible to take a work placement anywhere in the world, providing you can fulfil the visa requirements and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office approves travel to the region. For more details, please contact your academic school. Alternatively, speak to a member of staff in the Go Abroad team or email goabroad@kent.ac.uk

“I studied literature at the Ca’Foscari University of Venice. It was the best year of my life. Being able to study in a different country was such an exciting experience because it really does broaden your mind.”

Julia Marquis
Comparative Literature and English & American Literature with a Year Abroad

CONTINUED OVERLEAF
WHERE CAN I GO? (CONT)
Countries where we have student exchange arrangements with our partner universities

Subject to availability, work placements can be undertaken anywhere in the world.
WHAT SUPPORT DO I GET?

We offer lots of support to help you find a work or study placement. But our help doesn’t stop there. While you are away, you can stay in contact with your academic school at Kent and get practical support from the Go Abroad team.

Studying abroad
If you want to study abroad as part of your degree, the Go Abroad team can provide information on partner universities and set up preparatory meetings. They can also advise you on how to apply for a place. You can email the team at goabroad@kent.ac.uk

Preparing to go
The Go Abroad team produces guidance that gives you basic information regarding your stay abroad. We can also advise you on practical matters, such as finance, accommodation and travel arrangements. We host briefings in the first and second years of your degree course to make sure you have detailed information and support as you make your plans. We also offer an online module to help prepare you culturally before your time abroad.

Working abroad
If you want to work abroad, the placement officer within your academic school can help you to find a placement. Their input can range from putting you in touch with Kent’s industry contacts to helping you with the application process or suggesting how to improve your interview techniques. Your placement officer can also advise on how to make the most of your placement and other practical and financial matters. There is a lot of demand for work opportunities abroad and the support of your placement officer can really boost your chances of success.

You often have the chance to meet and talk to students from your chosen destination before you travel. This gives you the chance to learn more about the country and, where relevant, to practise your language skills.

Visas and work permits
If you wish to study or work abroad, you may need a visa or a work permit. In order to apply for a visa, you may need to provide a financial guarantee. The requirements vary from country to country; contact the Go Abroad team for advice.
Employability skills
A study or work placement overseas is a great way of enhancing your personal development and boosting your employability skills. Take the time to prepare well for the overseas placement before you go, so that you can make the most of the opportunities that come along while you are there. If you use your time wisely, studying or working abroad will strengthen your CV and your employment prospects.

During your stay
Support is provided by staff at your host university, or by your supervisor if you are taking a work placement. You can also contact the Go Abroad team at Kent with any queries.

In addition, your academic school at Kent keeps in touch with you to ensure that you are gaining the maximum benefit from your time abroad, and that you have access to help and advice should you need it.

Assessment
The term/year abroad is currently assessed using a pass/fail system and does not count towards your final degree classification. For further information, contact your academic school.

If you are on a work placement, the way your year is assessed depends on your degree programme. The placement officer in your academic school can give you more details.

DID YOU KNOW?
You can watch video interviews with Go Abroad students at www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad/video.html
HOW TO APPLY

You can apply for direct entry to a four-year undergraduate degree course that includes study or work abroad. Alternatively, you may be able to arrange study or work abroad as an option once your course has started.

Undergraduate students
Some of our degrees include ‘with a Year Abroad’ in their title and they have their own UCAS code. You can apply via UCAS for these programmes before you come to Kent.

Alternatively, many degree programmes offer the chance to add a year or term abroad once your course has begun. Please contact your academic school to discuss your eligibility.

The Go Abroad team hosts information sessions for first-year students, giving guidance about potential destinations, finance and other practicalities for you to consider over the summer.

If you then decide you would like to study abroad, you submit an internal application to the Go Abroad team during the first term of your second year, in order to be allocated a place at a host university. Note that you have to make an application even if you are on a course that is designated ‘with a Year Abroad’.

Requirements
Students must meet the criteria for attendance and academic progression set by their school in order to study or work abroad. For more information, visit www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad

Postgraduate students
If you are a postgraduate student, please apply directly to Kent for the relevant degree programme. You should discuss appropriate study/research abroad activity with the Graduate School and the Go Abroad team.

Graduate School:
T: +44 (0)1227 824089
E: graduateschool@kent.ac.uk
www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool

Go Abroad team:
E: goabroad@kent.ac.uk
FEES AND FUNDING

There are several funding options, including our own scholarship scheme, to finance your time spent abroad.

Kent’s Study Abroad Scholarship
The University’s undergraduate Study Abroad Scholarship is open to all UK and EU undergraduate students applying to Kent for a full-time degree course starting in September 2020 that includes a year abroad. The Scholarship is worth £2,000 during the year abroad (or pro rata for the period of time spent abroad).

To qualify, you must make your university application through UCAS, gain a minimum of 136 tariff points (from three A levels) or equivalent, fulfil the normal entry requirements for your subject and submit an essay.

Tuition fees
If you are studying or working abroad for a full year, you pay tuition fees to Kent at a reduced rate. If you are spending a term abroad, you are expected to pay 100% of the normal fees to Kent. No tuition fees are payable to the host universities for any study placement, whether a full year or a term. Postgraduate students pay the normal tuition fee to Kent for the term or year abroad.

Further information
Please note that all funding arrangements are subject to change. Information is correct at the time of going to press; for the latest details, speak to a member of staff in the Go Abroad team, email goabroad@kent.ac.uk or visit www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad

This brochure was produced in July 2019. The University of Kent makes every effort to ensure that the information contained in its publicity materials is fair and accurate and to provide educational services as described. However, the courses, services and other matters may be subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, see www.kent.ac.uk/ug and for full details of our terms and conditions, see www.kent.ac.uk/termsandconditions

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, which is therefore a requirement before we can register you as a student.