ASIAN STUDIES

Canterbury
Asia is a fast-growing, large and diverse continent. On our programmes, you study the culture, religion and politics of Asian societies, and you can choose to learn or continue learning Japanese or Mandarin Chinese. Asian Studies is available only as a joint honours degree, enabling you to pursue your interest in a second subject.
WHY CHOOSE ASIAN STUDIES AT KENT?

**Inspirational teaching**
Great teachers inspire enthusiasm and provoke debate. Whether they’re lecturing on Buddhist traditions or leading a discussion on Japanese culture, or staff are skilled at bringing their subject to life and drawing you in to the conversation.

**Academic support**
University is different to school. You need to be self-motivated and well organised to succeed. We help by assigning you an academic tutor and organising peer mentoring. You can also get help with academic skills, such as essay writing, from the University’s dedicated service.

**Excellent resources**
Access more than 1 million books, ebooks, databases and journals at the University’s Templeman Library. Deepen your knowledge browsing our special collections and work at one of thousands of study spaces and networked PCs across the Canterbury campus.

**World-leading research**
You learn from leading experts. Our staff undertake research of international quality; write and contribute to journal articles and books and provide expert comment to the media. They put you in touch with the latest ideas.

**Friendly community**
Most of your Asian Studies modules are taught by the Department of Religious Studies, which is based within the School of European Culture and Languages (SECL). You are part of an international community of students with a wide range of interests.

**Language options**
If you enjoy learning languages, then Asian Studies is a good match for you. You can learn or continue learning Japanese or Mandarin Chinese. And you can take Asian Studies with French or German.

**Lively campus**
Kent is a campus university, so everything you need is within walking distance. You can watch a play or a film at the Gulbenkian arts centre; dance at The Venue nightclub; keep fit at our sports centre and meet friends at one of many campus cafes and restaurants.

**Study abroad**
Going abroad is an amazing experience and a chance to develop personally and academically. If you take Asian Studies with French or German, a year abroad is part of your degree. On other programmes, you can apply to do this. For more, see p9.

**Career success**
Employability is a priority at Kent. SECL has its own events programme to boost your job skills, from CV workshops to careers talks, and it offers work and voluntary opportunities. You can also get help from the University’s Careers and Employability Service.
Pursue two subject areas

Asian Studies at Kent is offered as part of a range of joint honours degrees. That makes it ideal for students who want to learn about this fascinating continent while continuing with a second subject, such as Classical & Archaeological Studies, Comparative Literature, French, German or Philosophy. You study a combination of compulsory and optional modules, giving you some ability to shape the degree to your interests. You may also be able to take ‘wild’ modules from other programmes, so you can explore other topics that interest you.

Independent rankings

University of Kent

Times Higher Education

• Kent is ranked 21st in the *Times Higher Education ‘Table of Tables’ 2017.*

Research Excellence Framework

• In the most recent research rankings, 97% of research at Kent was found to be of international quality.

Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education 2017

• Of Kent undergraduate students who graduated in 2017, over 95% of those who responded to a national survey were in work or further study within six months.

Teaching Excellence Framework

• Kent was awarded gold, the highest rating, in the UK government’s Teaching Excellence Framework*

*The University of Kent’s Statement of Findings can be found at www.kent.ac.uk/tef-statement
Vinay Joshi is in the final year of Asian Studies and French.

Why did you choose your programme?
I wanted to combine my knowledge of French from my A level with something a bit different. Asian Studies struck me as very interesting, and also gave me the chance to study another language – in my case, Mandarin.

What have been your favourite parts of the degree?
I’ve enjoyed French philosophy and learning about various forms of nationalism: Indian and Chinese.

Tell us about the other students on your course?
We get lots of different types of students for Asian Studies, because it’s offered as a joint honours. There are philosophy students, religious studies students, people studying languages. It’s a good mix, with diverse input during classes.

Where did you study in China?
I went to United International College in Zhuhai, which is in the south, close to Hong Kong. The culture was very different and the university culture was very regulated and disciplined – it was good for getting things done.

What was life like in China?
I travelled to different regions of China and saw how the country differed from region to region, with different cultures and languages depending on the area. The dialects of Mandarin differ according to the area. That was the one thing that really stood out for me. It made me want to explore more of the country.

How did your year abroad change you?
It made me grow up quickly, having to sort things out myself. Linguistically and socially, you’re dropped in at the deep end and have to adapt swiftly. So I’d say that I’m a bit more mature and better prepared for life after university.

What's the subject of your dissertation?
I chose to do a dissertation connected to Asian Studies.

It was really fun – I met lots of cool French people and Erasmus students. A lot of Kent students went there as well. I studied some great French literature and culture modules. In my spare time I travelled around France with friends.

Have you been involved in any clubs or societies?
I was the social secretary for the French society in my second year, and I played cricket. I’ve done some rock climbing and taken part in an investment society. There are lots of opportunities to join things.

What are your plans for the future?
I’m considering doing a Master’s, applying for graduate schemes and even just securing a job. I’m looking for temporary employment while I plan for the future.

What advice would you give someone coming to Kent?
Think about what you want to do at university other than just studying – the experience is not only academic. If you haven’t thought about what you want to do afterwards, then make sure you do so and plan your route towards that.

Choose which societies to join, so you’re not overwhelmed when you get here. Planning your workload, even in your first year, sets a good precedent for the rest of your time at university. Think about how to maximise your time because university doesn’t last that long.
CHOOSING YOUR DEGREE

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

Asian Studies is only available as a joint-honours programme, taken together with a second subject from the School of European Language and Culture (SECL) or the School of English.

Asian Studies and:
Classical & Archaeological Studies (TQ48)
You gain a broad insight into a human culture that spans continents and millennia, encompassing areas such as archaeology, art, literature, mythology and philosophy and how they connect.

Comparative Literature (TQ42)
You choose from modules covering literature from the classics to the modern age. We investigate literary movements, genres and themes such as Classical Literature, Romanticism, Realism, Modernism and Postmodernism.

English and American Literature (TQ44)
English and American Literature at Kent covers both traditional areas (such as Shakespeare or Dickens) and newer fields such as American literature, creative writing, postcolonial literature and recent developments in literary theory.

English Language and Linguistics (TQ43)
You explore the structure of language and its relationship with culture, society, and the mind. A broad choice of theoretical topics includes areas such as language acquisition, syntax, phonetics and phonology. Modules in language learning and teaching, creative and media writing, and language and media have a more vocational focus.

French (TR41)
French is one of the most beautiful and widely spoken Romance languages. One of the official languages of the United Nations, it is an important language within the institutions of the EU. Canterbury is an ideal place to study French: we are the closest British university to mainland Europe; we have many French-speaking students on campus and close links with institutions in French-speaking countries.

German (TR42)
German is one of Europe’s most important languages for business and culture. It is also frequently used as a second language in Eastern Europe. Our modules cover the German language as well as areas such as cinema, literature and politics.

Philosophy (TV45)
Philosophy is the study of knowledge, reality and how we construct the world and build up principles to guide us through life. As a student of Philosophy at Kent, you do not so much learn about philosophy as learn to do it yourself. This includes studying major philosophies and philosophers and contributing your own ideas to an ongoing dialogue.

Religious Studies (TV46)
Religion is a vital element in human culture, and today religious issues are everywhere – from current affairs and international events, to the history of ideas, art and literature. There is considerable scope for overlap with Asian Studies, as you study world religions including Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism and Islam.

Teaching and assessment
Teaching for all the non-language modules is through lectures and seminars. Assessment is by coursework (essays and presentations) and written examination. Language module assessment is through a combination of coursework, unseen written examinations, oral examinations, dissertation, extended essay, and computer-assisted language learning tests.

International students
If you need to extend your academic qualifications or English language ability in order to study at university level, Kent’s one-year International Foundation Programme gives you the opportunity to do so. For further information and a list of programmes you can progress to, see www.kent.ac.uk/ifp
At Kent, you have the opportunity to broaden your experience either by studying overseas or through a work placement.

Year abroad
Going abroad as part of your degree is an amazing opportunity and a chance for you to develop academically, personally and professionally.

You gain confidence and independence and further develop many of the transferable skills employers are looking for, such as the ability to communicate effectively and being able to plan and organise your time. You also demonstrate that you are flexible in your outlook and have the enthusiasm and drive to succeed in a new environment.

For many students, their year abroad is a life-changing and rewarding experience. Having risen to the challenge of living in another country, they have a renewed belief in their ability to succeed.

If you are taking an Asian Studies joint honours programme with French or German, you have a compulsory Year Abroad between Stages 2 and 3 studying or working in a relevant overseas country or countries. Please see the programme entry online for further details.

If you take Asian Studies in combination with a non-language subject, you can apply to spend time studying abroad in an Asian country of relevance to your studies, either for an entire year, or for a significant period of time. For instance, Kent currently has links with Kobe University in Japan, enabling you to spend a year studying in English while immersing yourself in Japanese culture.

For details of destinations, see the A to Z course list at: www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad/opportunities/az.html

Placement year
The placement year provides the opportunity for you to gain experience in the workplace as part of your degree. The placement can be either paid work or an internship.

It gives you the opportunity to increase your contacts and networks so that you can hit the ground running when you graduate. If taken, the year is assessed on a pass/fail basis through employer feedback and a written report that you submit.

Tuition fees for the placement year are greatly reduced and employers may offer expenses or a salary.

There are many benefits to taking a placement year: it gives you the chance to gain some knowledge of the work environment, acquire new skills and develop your confidence.

For more information, see: www.kent.ac.uk/humanities/studying/placement
At Stages 1 and 2, you take a compulsory module in Asian Studies and pick from a selection of optional modules. At Stage 3 you pick from a range of optional Asian Studies modules. At all stages, you also take modules from your joint honours subject area.

Module information
The module lists on these pages are not fixed as new modules are always in development and choices are updated yearly. Please see www.kent.ac.uk/ug for the most up-to-date information.

To read a full description of the modules listed, go to: www.kent.ac.uk/courses/modules and search using the module code.

Stage 1
This is the first year of your degree programme. All students take the following compulsory Asian Studies module:
• Introduction to East Asian Traditions (TH348)
• Introduction to Hinduism and Buddhism (TH331).

In addition, you choose from the following optional Asian Studies modules:
• Ethics, Society and the Good Life (TH349)
• Mandarin Chinese Beginners A1 (LA302)
• Mandarin Chinese Post-Beginners A2.1 (LA303)
• Japanese Beginners A1 (LA304)
• Japanese Post-Beginners A2.1 (LA305)
• The Global Search for Meaning (TH350)
• World Literature: An Introduction (CP325).

You also take compulsory and optional modules from your joint honours subject area. Please see the online course listing at www.kent.ac.uk/ug for an indication of the modules available.

Stage 2
Stage 2 is equivalent to the second year of full-time study. All students take the following compulsory module:
• Themes in the Study of Asia (TH640)

In addition, you choose from the following optional Asian Studies modules:
• Chinese Philosophy and Religion (TH650)
• Japanese Post-Beginners A2.2 (LA504)
• Japanese Lower Intermediate B1.1 (LA505)
• Mandarin Chinese Post-Beginners A2.2 (LA502)
• Mandarin Chinese Lower Intermediate B1.1 (LA503)
• Politics in East Asia (PO683)
• Religion and Japanese Culture (TH648)
• The Rise of China (PO658).

You also take modules from your joint honours subject area.

Stage 3
This is your final year of full-time study. You continue to take modules from your respective joint honours subject area, as well as modules in Asian Studies. The following Asian Studies options are available:
• Contemporary Development and Security Challenges in the Asia Pacific (PO684)
• Japanese 3A: Intermediate (LA506)
• Japanese 3B: Upper Intermediate (LA519)
• Mandarin Chinese 3A: Intermediate (LA518)
• Mandarin Chinese 3B: Upper Intermediate (LA519)
• Postcolonial Images of Africa and South Asia (CP652)
• Religion and Japanese Culture (TH649)
• Chinese Philosophy and Religion (TH651).
Superb Study Support

We’ll support you throughout your time at Kent, from helping you adjust to university study to discussing module choices and essay topics with you.

You are assigned an academic adviser in your first year, and they help you get the most from your degree programme. They meet with you regularly to discuss general academic issues or specific assignments. They will assist you in developing academic skills and refer you to other sources of help if you need it.

Peer Support
The best advice often comes from people who’ve been in your situation. On our Academic Peer Mentoring scheme, first-year students can request to be matched with second- or third-year students on a similar degree programme.

Peer mentors will help you settle in to university life and find your feet. They can help you to discuss ideas and improve your study skills as you progress through your first year.

SECL Support
The School of European Culture and Languages (SECL) has a dedicated support team to provide students with confidential pastoral support, and provides a first point of contact for students requiring assistance.

Study Skills Advice
Successful students take control of their own learning. Kent’s Student Learning Advisory Service (SLAS) can help you increase your competence and confidence and fulfil your potential. You can request a one-to-one appointment or attend workshops on a diverse range of topics from making the most of lectures to writing well and avoiding plagiarism.

Student Support and Wellbeing
You might need extra help to get the most from university. If you have a medical condition, specific learning difficulty, mental health condition or disability, the Student Support and Wellbeing team can support you.

They are committed to improving access to learning for all students at Kent and can assist with many things, including:
- talking to your lecturers about any help you need in lectures or seminars
- arranging note-takers, signers and other support workers
- discussing exam access arrangements
- helping you with emotional, psychological or mental health issues
- applying for relevant funding to support you.

Find out more at: www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport
A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

What do you hope to do once you have your degree? Whether you have a specific career path in mind, or haven’t yet thought much beyond university, we can help you to plan for success in the future.

Build your CV
Your degree studies help you to develop skills such as thinking critically, expressing yourself clearly, solving problems and working independently and as part of a team. These transferable skills are valued by employers and will also be vital if you go on to further study.

At Kent, you have lots of other great opportunities to enhance your skills. For instance, you could:
- join a society or sports club (even better – get involved in running it)
- volunteer with a community
- work in a part-time job or take up a summer internship
- represent your fellow students as a student rep, or become a student ambassador
- learn a new language or skill with Study Plus.

Getting involved like this means that you can earn Employability Points, which you can exchange for employability rewards. The more points you earn, the more valuable the rewards: we work with local, national and international employers to offer internships, work experience and a range of other activities that prepare you for the world of work.

Experience work
Our programmes include opportunities to study or work abroad. See p9 for more information.

Find a great job
Your degree can lead to a wide range of fascinating careers – our graduates work in sectors including travel, advertising, HR, diplomacy, publishing, the media and teaching. Others go on to postgraduate study or professional training.

The School of European Culture and Languages (SECL) organises opportunities to help you prepare for your future career and enhance your skills. These include modules designed to give you work experience in the classroom, the chance to do ambassador work, or volunteer as a peer mentor (all of these are subject to selection process), as well as events organised throughout the year.

You can also visit the University’s award-winning Careers and Employability Service for careers advice. Throughout the year, the service delivers events on the recruitment process (such as CVs, interviews and assessment centres), as well as talks on developing awareness of the opportunities available.

For more information, see: www.kent.ac.uk/ces
Nathanael Kent graduated with a BA (Hons) in Asian Studies and Comparative Literature in 2017. He’s currently doing project work for two Chinese organisations.

Why did you choose Kent?
Firstly, I was really taken by the flexibility Kent offers – the ability to choose wild modules and really tailor your studies to your interests. Secondly, I really liked the fact that it’s a campus university yet so close to Canterbury, a lovely city with lots going on.

What attracted you to the course?
I studied Asian Studies as a joint honours with Comparative Literature, as I wanted to focus on postcolonial literature and the dialogue between continents. I also wanted to learn Mandarin, and this combination allowed me to do all of these things.

What was your degree course like? And what about the lecturers?
It is a very multi-disciplinary course, covering politics, religion, literature, sociology, language and so on. You can select which discipline or disciplines you want to focus on, so it’s not obligatory to learn a language, for example, though I would highly recommend it.

The School of European Culture and Languages (SECL) – where Asian Studies is based – is a friendly school and a nice size, so it’s easy to get to know people. Academic staff know you by name, and I found feedback to be prompt and comprehensive. I studied some brilliant modules including Images of Japan in French Culture, and South Asian Postcolonial Literature.

What extra-curricular activities did you get involved with at Kent?
I was vice president of the French Society and a student ambassador for Asian Studies. Kent has societies to suit every taste, and they’re a great way of meeting people from other departments.

How did your degree course lay the foundations for your chosen career path?
I only graduated in 2017, so have yet to embark on a proper ‘career’ as such, but nevertheless my degree course has instilled in me skills such as critical analysis and research which are invaluable in any field. Given I am currently doing quite a bit of work with China, the two years I spent studying Mandarin have come in very handy!

Could you describe your career path since leaving Kent?
I am currently involved in two projects with China. One is assisting a Chinese State Television film crew organise their shoot schedule for a documentary they are making in the UK for the bicentenary of Karl Marx’s birth.

The other is reviewing English language documents for a Chinese organisation who run international conferences. At present, I’m working towards a conference to be held in Kenya next year, which is very exciting.

What are your future plans/aspirations?
I want to continue working internationally. At present, I’m concentrating on the two projects at hand so I have no great future plans as yet!

Do you have any other happy memories of Kent that you would like to share with us?
I’ve made some really close friends from all over the world at Kent. It’s such an international community, especially SECL, which makes seminars particularly interesting as one gets a real range of perspectives and new insights.

Finally, what advice would you give to someone thinking of coming to Kent?
Make sure you are genuinely interested in the course – university should be fun, and it’ll only be that way if you can actively engage in the subject you will be studying for three (or four) years. Visit the campus, speak to current students and staff, and perhaps attend a taster day. The approachability of the staff was one of the things that convinced me to come to Kent. I love Kent, hopefully you will too.
Choosing a university is a big step, so it’s important to find out as much as you can before you make your decision. Come and visit us to see what we can offer you.

Open Days
Open Days are a great way to find out what life as a student at Kent is like. For instance, you can:
• learn more about the course you are interested in at a subject presentation
• ask questions – talk to the academic teams at the information stands
• find out about student finance, opportunities to study abroad and extracurricular activities such as Kent Sport.

Explore the campus at your own pace on the self-guided walking tour. You will be able to visit different types of accommodation, chat to current students and enjoy the stunning views over Canterbury.

Open Days are held in the summer and autumn. Book your place at www.kent.ac.uk/opendays

Applicant Days
If you apply to Kent and we offer you a place (or ask you to come for an interview), you will usually be invited to an Applicant Day. Applicant Days run in the autumn and spring terms and are an opportunity to find out about the course in more detail. You spend time with your academic school meeting staff and current students, and take part in activities that give you a flavour of your prospective course and university life.

Informal visits
If you can’t make it to an Open Day or Applicant Day, you can still visit us. We run tours of the campus throughout the year.

If you live outside Europe, we appreciate that you might find it difficult to attend our scheduled events, so we can arrange a personal campus tour for you and your family.

Let us know you’re coming
Scheduled tours and personal campus tours (for international students) need to be booked in advance – you can do this via www.kent.ac.uk/informal

Meet us in your country
Our staff regularly travel overseas to meet with students who are interested in coming to Kent. We also have strong links with agents in your home country who can offer guidance and information on studying at Kent. Find out more at www.kent.ac.uk/courses/international
Self-guided tours
If you prefer to explore on your own, you can download a self-guided walking tour at www.kent.ac.uk/informal or pick up a copy from us.

A self-guided audio tour is available too, which allows you to learn about Kent without even leaving home. See www.kent.ac.uk/courses/visit/informal/audio-tour.html

Explore online
If you can’t come and see us, you can find out more about the academic team, the course and events in the department and School online at:
www.kent.ac.uk/secl/thrs

Keep in touch with us via social media:
www.facebook.com/unikentsecl
www.twitter.com/unikentsecl
www.youtube.com/unikentsecl

Contact us
If you would like more information on Kent’s courses, facilities or services, please contact us on:
T: +44 (0)1227 768896
www.kent.ac.uk/ug

Required subjects
GCSE grade C/4 in English Language for the English Language and Linguistics joint honours programme.
GCSE grade B/6 in a second language other than English for the French and German joint honours subjects. IB 4 at HL or 5 at SL in a second language.

Year abroad/placement year
For more information, see p9

Scholarships and bursaries
Please see www.kent.ac.uk/ugfunding for details of scholarships and bursaries.

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

This brochure was produced in June 2018. 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 we make to you is subject to your consent to process such information and is a requirement in order for you to be registered as a student. All students must agree to abide by the University rules and regulations at: www.kent.ac.uk/regulations
COME AND VISIT US

To find out more about visiting the University, see our website:
www.kent.ac.uk/visit