UNDERSTANDING AUTISM

Do you support autistic children or adults in the home, community, hospital or at school? Would you like to improve your understanding of autism? Study with world-leading experts at Kent’s Tizard Centre and you will extend your knowledge of autism, develop practical skills and meet other people determined to improve the lives of those living with autism.

www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr
WHY CHOOSE AUTISM STUDIES AT KENT?

**Inspirational teaching**
Expert practitioners on best practice and the latest research teach and lead the programme. Whether discussing how to deal with challenging behaviour or the impacts of policy on support services, they listen to your views and are skilled at bringing the subject to life.

**World-leading research**
Tizard is home to world experts in learning and research in autism, intellectual disability and community care. The books and articles we write and the debates we are involved in help to shape your course and the topics you are studying.

**Blended learning programme**
You are taught by a mixture of workshops and interactive web-delivered materials, case studies and real-world assignments. Supported by the Tizard Centre tutors, you participate in group activities and discussions, sharing your experience with others.

**Professional links**
The Centre has excellent links with health and social care organisations, and other relevant establishments. As a graduate you can join the Tizard Practitioners’ Network, which gives you the chance to discuss changes in the field with fellow graduates in person or online.

**Targeted academic support**
At university you need to be self-motivated and well organised. If you are working alongside studying, you may feel added pressure. We help you by assigning you an academic adviser, and offering help with academic skills, such as essay writing.

**Excellent resources**
Access more than 1 million books, ebooks, databases and journals at the University's Templeman Library. Our expert subject librarians are on hand to help. Key resources are made available online for distance learners.

**Practical programme**
The programme focuses on real applications; you learn to evaluate the issues and to think about improvements. You develop the skills to influence policy and practice, improving the lives of individuals and opening up a rewarding career for yourself.

**Career success**
Employability is a priority at the University of Kent. By studying, you sharpen skills that are useful in working life, such as time management and developing an argument. We help you to develop a great CV and present yourself effectively to potential employers.
The Tizard Centre

The Tizard Centre is recognised as leading the field in deinstitutionalisation and community living, challenging behaviour, quality of staff support, and sexuality and autism, and has had a significant impact on national policies in these areas. We are a supportive community, keen to share our knowledge and expertise with the next generation of support workers. Our aim is to improve the lives of those with intellectual disabilities by enhancing the skills of those working with them. Our degrees are flexible, allowing students to combine workshops and web-based study with work-based learning.

Research Excellence Framework
- Based on our results in the most recent Research Excellence Framework, the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research was ranked 2nd in the UK for research power.

Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE)
- Over 95% of Kent graduates who responded to the most recent national survey of graduate destinations were in work or further study within six months. (DLHE, 2017)

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
Amtul Khan is in the first year of her Autism Studies degree.

Why did you choose Kent?
I wanted to return to studying but I was looking for a course that would allow me to study from home. I heard about the blended learning courses offered by the Tizard Centre at Kent, which were ideal for me because I only needed to attend university for an induction week.

How are your studies going?
I've really enjoyed my first year and am looking forward to the next two!

I think at first, it's hard to see how all the modules fit together but it soon falls into place. We take a module on social policy and law and I thought what has this got to do with a child or adult with autism? I soon realised though that an understanding of how government policy affects people with intellectual and developmental disabilities is invaluable. I feel that I am getting to grips with the whole subject, which helps me to put my own experience into context.

Do you have a favourite module?
I don't think so, but there are parts of each module where I think, 'wow, that's so interesting!' Two of my children have autism and I have done some research but in one of my introductory modules I learnt about how sensory impairment can affect a child. This has really helped me in my relationships with my own children, I am much calmer now because I understand better what they are going through. Discovering how to address challenging behaviours and learning about concepts such as monotropism has also been fascinating.

Do you feel supported in your studies?
Yes, I do. With every module, you are given a study guide which tells you how many hours you need to do, what to read, where the resources are on Moodle, etc. It's all set out for you, you don't have to struggle by yourself, you're well supported.

You can email your tutors with any queries and each term you have two hours of dedicated teaching support where you can talk to your tutor via video or telephone, whichever you prefer. The admin staff at Tizard are amazing, ready to help you every step of the way.

Is it easy to access the resources you need?
The online library service is excellent. I use it whenever I am doing my research; there are lots of online journals and if you do have any problems the library staff are happy to help. I think you get the same support as you would get if you were physically at the University, it's just done electronically.

What about your fellow students?
At the beginning of the year we set up a WhatsApp group so that we can all keep in touch. I was the student rep so used this to pass information on. In smaller groups, we keep in touch on a regular basis.

How do you manage to fit your university work around the rest of your life?
You have to be self-motivated, disciplined and organised. You have to make the most of the time you have. Sometimes when the children are doing their homework, I will do my work or, in the evening when it's quiet, I will do some research.

What would you like to do next?
My dream is to go into research. As a student at the Tizard Centre it's inspiring to see the kind of research they do. One thing I would love to be involved with is research into whether GCSEs could be made more autism friendly. For example, a young person with autism studying English literature won't be able to tell you what someone is feeling from the words or tone of voice used, they just don't understand those kinds of clues. So, to be a part of research that would result in a change would be amazing.

What advice would you give to prospective students?
There is a lot to learn but each module has its place and it all comes together in the end; it's like a jigsaw and until you put all the pieces in you won't see the bigger picture. Also, if anybody is thinking about doing this course because they have children with autism or work with children with autism, I would say definitely do it. I think my children appreciate that I am trying to find out more about their needs.
CHOOSING YOUR DEGREE

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

The Tizard Centre offers a range of qualifications to suit different requirements. Students may transfer between programmes and between levels (providing they can meet the entry or progression requirements). Please note that, since we are committed to revising, updating and expanding our teaching, the modules taught on our programmes may be subject to change.

**Autism Studies**

Our Autism Studies programmes attract parents, teachers and health professionals, social care specialists, support workers, team leaders and those eager to further both their knowledge and practice, and career opportunities.

**Autism Studies (Cert)**

[www.kent.ac.uk/ug/848](http://www.kent.ac.uk/ug/848)

If you work or live with children or adults with autism, the Certificate in Autism Studies delivers the knowledge and skills required to provide more person-centred, autism-friendly support.

You can discuss options to ‘upgrade’ from the Certificate in Autism Studies to the Diploma in Higher Education in Autism Studies or the BSc (Hons) in Autism Studies with your tutor during your studies.

**Autism Studies (DipHE)**

[www.kent.ac.uk/ug/239](http://www.kent.ac.uk/ug/239)

Our Diploma in Higher Education in Autism Studies has been designed for anyone who supports autistic children and adults, whether in the home, community, hospital or at school, or for anyone who would like to increase their understanding of autism. It explores current understandings of autism, ways of assessing needs and evidence-based approaches to support.

You can discuss options to ‘upgrade’ from the Diploma in Higher Education in Autism Studies to the BSc (Hons) in Autism Studies with your tutor during your studies.

**BSc (Hons) Autism Studies**

[www.kent.ac.uk/ug/142](http://www.kent.ac.uk/ug/142)

On our Autism Studies degree, you explore current understandings of autism, ways of assessing needs and evidence-based approaches to support. It also gives you the opportunity to complete a research project and explore autism culture.

**International students**

If you need to extend your existing academic qualifications or ability in English to be able to study at university level, Kent’s one-year International Foundation Programme (IFP) gives you the opportunity to do so. The IFP can provide progression to the Autism Studies programmes. For details, see: [www.kent.ac.uk/ifp](http://www.kent.ac.uk/ifp)

Knowledge is assessed throughout the programme via essays, examinations, case studies, forum discussions and presentations.

**Teaching and assessment**

Our Autism Studies programmes are blended learning programmes which means that they are delivered using a blend of campus-based workshops and web-based materials. Students are typically required to attend one four-day workshop at the beginning of the academic year and one two-day exam workshop in the spring term.

During each term there are weekly discussions/activities and online chats. Regular tutorials are available (either online or via the telephone). Students work independently and collaboratively with other students. Some modules also include an option for practice-based assignments. Some online sessions are compulsory and require students to participate online at a set time (9-5 during term time). For other elements, students can study the materials as they wish but we suggest which materials should be studied each week.

**Other Tizard programmes**

We also offer the following programmes in Positive Behaviour Support:

- **Positive Behaviour Support (Cert)**
  [www.kent.ac.uk/ug/2531](http://www.kent.ac.uk/ug/2531)
- **Positive Behaviour Support (DipHE)**
  [www.kent.ac.uk/ug/3108](http://www.kent.ac.uk/ug/3108)
- **Positive Behaviour Support BSc (Hons)**
  [www.kent.ac.uk/ug/2530](http://www.kent.ac.uk/ug/2530)
YOUR STUDY PROGRAMME

Whether you choose to study the Certificate, Diploma or BSc programme, you are supported to reach your full potential.

Please note that the module lists given here are not fixed as new modules are always in development and choices are updated yearly. The details are correct at the time of publication (June 2019). See www.kent.ac.uk/ug for the most up-to-date information.

To read a description of any of the modules listed, please go to www.kent.ac.uk/courses/modules and type in the module code.

If you are studying part-time, each Stage takes two years.

Stage 1 modules
Stage 1 is the first year of study for Certificate, Diploma and BSc students. Successful completion of these modules marks the end of the Certificate programme.

- Effective Support (TZ322)
- Introduction to Autism Spectrum Conditions (TZ326)
- Person Centred Approaches (TZ325)
- Policy, Legislation and Human Services (TZ324)

Stage 2 modules
Stage 2 is the second year of study for Diploma and BSc students. Successful completion of these modules marks the end of the Diploma programme.

- Assessment of Quality of Life (TZ532)
- Case Study in Autism/Positive Behaviour Support (TZ533)
- Intervention in Autism (TZ535)
- Theories, Diagnosis and Assessment of Autism (TZ534)

Stage 3 modules
Stage 3 is the final year of study for BSc students. Successful completion of these modules marks the end of the BSc (Hons) programme.

- Autism Culture (TZ600)
- Current Research, Practice and Policy Developments (TZ601)
- Research Methods in Autism/Positive Behaviour Support (TZ602)
- Student Research Project in Autism/Positive Behaviour Support (TZ604)
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 assist you in developing academic skills and refer you to other sources of help if you need it.

Study skills advice
Successful students take control of their own learning. Kent’s Student Learning Advisory Service (SLAS) can help you to 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 is there to support you.

The team is 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 for you
• 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

DID YOU KNOW?
Kent has won the Times Higher Education (THE) Outstanding Student Support Award two years running (2017 and 2018).
A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

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

Build your CV
Your degree studies help you to develop skills such as analysing information, thinking critically, expressing yourself clearly, solving problems, and working independently and as part of a team. These transferable skills are widely valued by employers in all sectors.

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 in the 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.

Find a great job
Your degree can lead to a wide range of rewarding career paths in both the public and private sectors. The programmes provide you with the knowledge and skills that appeal to employers such as the NHS, local authority adults’ and children’s services, schools and the voluntary and private social and healthcare sector.

We support you with tailored employability events, from exploring career options to presenting your skills and experience to employers.

Visit our careers fair to talk to potential employers and use our award-winning Careers and Employability Service for advice on preparing your CV. Our track record speaks for itself: over 95% of Kent graduates who responded to the most recent national survey of graduate destinations were in work or further study within six months. (DLHE, 2017).
NEXT STEPS

Jen Phillips completed her BSc in Autism Studies in 2018; she is now studying for a Master’s in Autism Studies. Here she tells us why she chose to study autism and talks about the impact her studies have had on her and those around her.

‘I chose to study Autism Studies because I am a parent of an autistic child, so autism is an area of personal interest and one that is close to my heart. I wanted to expand my knowledge and learn how to support my son more effectively and I can honestly say I have loved every module!

‘The teaching staff at Kent have been brilliant. It was an emotional and educational journey at times and the support has been there whenever I’ve needed it. I was a distance learner so did not spend a lot of time on campus but when I did meet my fellow students, we all got on very well.

‘I found the course very interesting and diverse; alongside autism we covered areas such as psychology, sociology, and speech and language. The modules all relate to one another, so what you learn in one module paves the way for the next one.

‘I found studying different models of disability and the theories of autism particularly interesting; I learnt more about autism and developed my understanding of how autistic people might perceive the world, as well as how autistic people are perceived and treated by wider society.

‘I also enjoyed looking at how research into autism has developed over the years and examining the different research methods that have and can be used and why they’re appropriate. It’s a great course but it’s hard work so you need to be passionate about autism and the other areas covered.

‘Taking this course has changed my life for the better in every way possible. And not just my life, it has also improved my family life and, in particular, my son’s life. I have been able to support him so much more effectively and I feel as though my studies have opened my eyes to different ways of thinking, I am more confident and have developed a thirst for knowledge in this area as well as others, which has led me to enrol on the MA in Autism Studies.

‘When I began my BSc, I did not have a specific goal, however, as the course unfolded and I discovered more about what the Tizard Centre does, I realised that I wanted to be involved in research into autism. There are still many gaps in our knowledge and there has only been limited research involving autistic people, so to work on changing that would be fantastic.

‘I would definitely recommend this course, particularly if you are a professional working with autistic people, a parent of autistic people or an autistic person yourself. It is challenging but it really does change lives for the better.’

“Taking this course has changed my life for the better in every way possible. And not just my life, it has also improved my family life and, in particular, my son’s life.”
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
- experience our teaching at a taster lecture*
- find out about student finance, opportunities to study abroad and extra-curricular 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 the city of 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

* Programme of events varies according to subject.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Canterbury</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>Cert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DipHE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BSc (Hons)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree programme</td>
<td>• Autism Studies (L516)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme type</td>
<td>Full-time and part-time. Three years full-time, or up to six years part-time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry criteria</td>
<td>All students should have appropriate work, volunteering or personal experience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We have a long and successful tradition of admitting mature students. We always consider students with non-standard qualifications or with relevant work experience individually and we particularly welcome applicants who have experience in the field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BBB at A level; BTEC a typical offer would be DDM; IB 34 points overall or 15 points at Higher Level.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Access to HE Diploma: applications are considered on an individual basis. If an offer is made, candidates typically will be required to obtain/pass the overall Access to Higher Education Diploma with 50% of Level 3 credits at Merit.

Students lacking the appropriate qualifications but who have professional employment or familial experience of autism are encouraged to apply, but will be required to provide evidence of their ability to study at a Higher Education level through interview and the completion of an access task.

Kent also offers an International Foundation Programme, which can be used to gain the entry qualifications. For details, see www.kent.ac.uk/ifp.

Required subjects
GCSE mathematics grade 4/C.

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

This brochure was produced in June 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 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