The UK's European university

BIOLOGY
Canterbury
Biology is the study of life in all its various forms, from simple viruses to complex organisms such as human beings. You explore the science that underpins developments in areas such as biotechnology, genetics and treatments for disease.
WHY STUDY BIOLOGY AT KENT?

Flexible programmes
You have the option to transfer on to a four-year sandwich, professional year or year abroad programme if you meet our criteria. In all years of your biology programme, you can choose some of your modules according to your interests.

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.

Inspirational teaching
Great teachers inspire enthusiasm and enhance understanding. Whether they’re lecturing on genetics, or helping you develop your lab skills, our staff are skilled at bringing their subject to life and putting you in touch with the latest research.

Professional accreditation
All of our Biology degrees are accredited by the Royal Society of Biology, and our four-year Biology with a Sandwich Year programme has Advanced Accreditation. Graduates from our Biology courses are eligible for Associate Membership of the Society.

Work in industry for a year
If you choose to do work experience as part of your degree, you spend a year in a research role (sandwich year) or a professional, non-research role (professional year). The skills you gain put you ahead in the job market and may even lead to a job offer.

Excellent resources
The School of Biosciences attracts a large research budget, allowing us to provide our students with access to the very latest equipment during their final year research projects. Excellent facilities on campus include the newly extended Templeman Library.

International links
Join us, and you’ll be part of a thriving global scientific community. We have a regular seminar programme, attracting internationally-renowned speakers, and we collaborate with research groups throughout the UK and mainland Europe.

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

Outstanding career success
Employability is a priority at Kent. By studying, you broaden your subject knowledge and sharpen the skills that are useful in working life. You have opportunities to gain work experience, and access to careers advice, workshops and employability events.
Benefit from our world-leading research

You learn from leading experts. In the most recent Research Excellence Framework, all of our research was judged to be of international quality. Our research feeds directly into our teaching – all final-year modules are research-led and taught by academic staff with research experience in the subject area. You also contribute directly to our research: through your final-year research project and through the opportunity to apply for one of our summer internships. You can also apply to be a lab apprentice for one of our research groups.

Independent rankings

The Complete University Guide 2020
- 21st out of 102 universities in the UK for Biological Sciences

The Times Good University Guide 2019
- 21st out of 101 universities in the UK for Biological Sciences

Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education
- Over 96% of biology graduates who responded to the most recent national survey of graduate destinations were in work or further study within six months (DLHE, 2017).

Research Excellence Framework
- Based on the most recent Research Excellence Framework, Kent was ranked in the top 20 for research intensity by the Times Higher Education, outperforming 11 of the 24 Russell Group universities

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
Georgina Hurle is in the final year of her Biology degree.

Why did you choose Kent?
I really loved all the green spaces and how nice everyone was to each other. I came to two open days, because I took my mum first and then my dad and they both really loved it. I liked that it was a campus uni; I was close enough to the town but far enough away to have its own little community. And I liked that it was close enough that I could still go home if it wanted to.

What do you think of Canterbury?
It’s small, but it’s bigger than home, I like it. There are so several universities in the city, so there’s lots of students and you get a good mix of cultures. There are also lots of tour groups coming around, plus the city looks really great especially from the top of the hill on campus. That’s a good view; that sold it to me I think!

How is your course going? What have you really enjoyed?
At first it was quite daunting, but I got into the swing of things quite quickly. Everyone was really calm, kind and very helpful. I’ve really enjoyed the animal and plant modules as they were straight biology and so it gave me a real sense of community with the lecturers and fellow students.

What do you think of the teaching and your lecturers?
They are very passionate about what they do and you can really tell because they are so enthusiastic and engaged in what they are teaching you. They are also very supportive, always respond to emails quickly.

What kind of support does the School offer?
The School is quite small but everyone is well connected. There is a really good wellbeing service and my academic adviser has been great, helping me think about what type of Master’s degree I would like to do.

How about your fellow students?
Everyone is lovely, honestly, everyone! I’m still friends with people I shared a house with in my first year as we all gelled together so well. Everyone is quite chilled; I could go up to a stranger in the lab and they would help me because we all know how hard things can be. It feels like a little community of biosciences people running around – stressed but happy!

What about the facilities on campus?
I’ve been to the student nightclub and I like the variety of restaurants on campus. They do good food – better than my cooking! I also like the fact that we have campus security, so there are people to look out for you. I’m not really sporty, but there is an excellent sports centre.

Have you used the Career and Employability Service?
Yes, I’ve been to a few of their sessions where they talk to you about companies and jobs that suit your chosen career. They offer advice and publications for free that can help with your applications.

What did you do for final-year project?
I worked at East Malling Research for eight weeks, so it was like a condensed period of work in industry. I worked on investigating a plant pathogen that’s come from Asia and is killing trees. We were trying to work out whether it would kill all the trees or whether some were resistant and why. Basically, I got the experience of working somewhere while still being at university and I made some good contacts.

What’s next for you?
I’m leaning towards doing a Master’s, something disease-related, perhaps microbtics. I would like to experience a city university next time.

Any advice for future students?
Take all the opportunities you can get. They offer so much, lots of enhancements to the course like extra lab stuff. Take advantage of it while you can because you’ll miss it when it’s gone and you don’t have the time. I wish I had done more of that in my first and second years!
Not sure which degree programme to choose? Here’s a quick guide to the degrees on offer within the School of Biosciences.

Biology
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/255
Biology is the study of living organisms and their interactions with the environment. The degree is studied over three years full-time, and you investigate a wide variety of life forms ranging from viruses and bacteria to complex animals and plants. The degree provides a broad survey of the various biological disciplines but with a focus on modern molecular techniques. It includes cell and molecular biology, evolution, genetics, infection and immunity, microbiology, anthropology, conservation and the physiology of animals and plants.

Biology with a Sandwich Year
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/257
This is a four-year programme with a paid work placement (sandwich year) between the second and final years of study. This can be in the UK or abroad. In previous years, students have studied in Germany, the Netherlands and Thailand.

The programme is available to students who have a good level of achievement in their first year of study: an overall average of 65% is required to progress onto the second year (see p18 for more details).

For international students, holding a student visa entitles you to work in the UK as long as you are still registered as a full-time student. Since the sandwich year is a fully registered part of your degree, this can provide an opportunity for international students to gain a year’s work experience in the UK.

The progression requirements for this programme are on p18. All our year abroad exchanges are with universities where the teaching is in English, so you do not need a foreign language qualification to take this option. For up-to-date information on possible destinations, see www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad

Biology with a Year Abroad
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/258
This four-year programme allows you to spend a year abroad between the second and final years of your degree – giving you a fantastic opportunity to immerse yourself in another culture. The subjects you study during your year abroad complements your programme at Kent and the extra year allows you to study a wider range of topics than is possible on a three-year degree programme.

Biology with a Professional Year

There are an increasing number of opportunities for students to acquire professional training in non-scientific areas, such as management. This four-year programme allows you to spend a year away from the University between your second and final years to take full advantage of such an opportunity. This programme does not have a separate UCAS code, but you can transfer to it during your second...
you are able to find a suitable placement. You also need to achieve an overall average of 65% in your first year, as required for the sandwich year option (see p18 for more details).

Other degree programmes

The following degrees are also available within the School of Biosciences, with options to study abroad or take a sandwich/professional year.

Biomedical Science
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/263

Biomedical Science at Kent explores the biochemical processes that occur in the human body, and human diseases like cancer and the body’s response to infection. Graduates are able to put their scientific knowledge into practice within medical health care, for example in the NHS, medical research or the pharmaceutical industry.

All our Biomedical Science programmes are accredited by the Institute of Biomedical Science (www.ibms.org) and the Royal Society of Biology (www.rsb.org), which provides support for a wide range of career opportunities.

Biochemistry
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/96

Biochemistry deals with the way living organisms function at the molecular level. How do living organisms work? How are they built, controlled, repaired and supplied with energy? Biochemistry is an excellent degree if you want to enter a research career in a life sciences area. Our Biochemistry programmes are all accredited by the Royal Society of Biology (www.rsb.org).

Bioengineering
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/389

This is a cross-disciplinary course between the Schools of Biosciences and Engineering and Digital Arts. The programme is designed to train the next generation of engineers who will be required to build increasingly complex and integrated systems for medical, commercial and research use. Approximately 30% of the programme is provided by the School of Biosciences.

International students

If you are applying from outside the UK and without the necessary English language qualifications for direct entry into the first year of an undergraduate degree, you may be able to take the Kent International Foundation Programme. We have a one-year Biosciences strand that leads on to our Biology, Biomedical Science or Biochemistry degrees if the progression criteria are reached.

You also need strong results in your national school-leaving qualifications in biology and, preferably, chemistry, which will be assessed on an individual basis.

For more details, see www.kent.ac.uk/ifp
YOUR STUDY PROGRAMME

Your studies are divided into three stages: Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3. If you take a sandwich year, professional year or spend a year abroad, you do this between Stages 2 and 3.

Teaching and assessment
Each module involves, on average, 22 hours of lectures and, where appropriate, is supported by practical lab sessions and regular group work. We also use some self-learning packages. All our students gain extensive practical training, and in the final year there is the opportunity to conduct an eight-week research project.

Most Stage 1 modules are assessed by 50% coursework and 50% end-of-year examination. You need to reach a satisfactory standard to proceed to the second year, but no Stage 1 marks are carried forward to your final degree result. From Stage 2 onwards, your marks contribute towards the grading of your final degree.

Module information
Please note: the module lists below are not fixed as new modules are always in development and choices are updated yearly. The details below are correct at the time of publication (June 2019). 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 for the module codes.

Stage 1
At Stage 1, your modules provide a broad survey of the various biological disciplines, including biochemistry, biodiversity, cell and molecular biology, and human physiology and disease.

You take the following compulsory modules:
- Biodiversity (BI323)
- Enzymes and Introduction to Metabolism (BI301)
- Genetics and Evolution (BI324)
- Human Physiology and Disease (BI307)
- Introduction to Biochemistry (BI300)
- Molecular and Cellular Biology (BI302)
- Skills for Bioscientists (BI308).

You also take one from:
- Biological Chemistry A (BI321)
- Survey and Monitoring for Biodiversity (DI303).

Stage 2
At this stage, the modules go into greater depth as you develop your knowledge of gene regulation, microbiology, physiology, and human health and disease.

You take the following compulsory modules:
- Animal Form and Function (BI546)
- Cell Biology (BI503)
- Human Physiology and Disease 2 (BI513)
- Infection and Immunity (BI505)
- Microbial Physiology and Genetics 1 (BI548)
- Plant Physiology and Adaptation (BI547)
- Skills for Bioscientists 2 (BI532).

You also take one from:
- Gene Expression and its Control (BI501)
- The Genome (BI549).

Year on placement/abroad
If you choose to do a sandwich year, the work placement provides practical experience that can be put to good use in your final year of study. It also allows you to evaluate a particular career path and gain knowledge of the working environment. If your placement is a success, you may even be offered a job with the same employer after graduation. In the past, our students have taken placements with employers such as GSK, Eli Lilly, MedImmune, Lonza Biologics, Public Health England and the NHS.

At the end of your sandwich year, your work is assessed by a written report, presentation and supervisor’s evaluation. This contributes 10% to your overall degree mark.

If you choose to do a year abroad or professional year, these also take place between Stages 2 and 3. Both these options are assessed on a pass/fail basis.

Stage 3
You take the following compulsory modules:
- The Cell Cycle (BI610)
- Microbial Physiology and Genetics 2 (BI628)
• Research Project (double module, BI600).

You also choose four options from:
• Advanced Immunology (BI622)
• Bioinformatics and Genomics (BI638)
• Biological Membranes (BI604)
• Biology of Ageing (BI644)
• Cancer Biology (BI642)
• Cell Signalling (BI602)
• Climate Change and Conservation (DI501)
• Comparative Perspectives in Primate Biology (SE582)
• Frontiers in Oncology (BI639)
• Frontiers in Virology (BI620)
• Human Biology and Identity (SE561)
• Integrated Endocrinology and Metabolism (BI626)
• New Enterprise Start-up (CB612)
• Neuroscience (BI643)
• Pathogens and Pathogenicity (BI606).

Research Project
For your eight-week Research Project, you choose a topic that interests you from a wide range of options. You work independently but have regular meetings with a supervisor who guides you through the process and provides advice and support. Your supervisor will be an academic whose research interests are related to your topic. The three main types of project on offer are outlined below.

Laboratory-based project
Laboratory projects are offered in all the research areas of the School and involve techniques such as cell culture, gene cloning, PCR, electrophoresis, microscopy, recombinant protein expression and assay development among others. We also offer computing projects in areas such as structural biology, molecular modelling and bioinformatics. You have the possibility of seeing or discovering something for the very first time and having your work published in scientific literature.

Literature and data analysis project
A literature and data analysis project gives you the opportunity to dig deep into the scientific literature to fully understand an area of research, including the analysis of published (or in some cases unpublished) data. The topic will be one that is of interest to your supervisor, who will initially direct you to exciting papers and discuss your findings and ideas with you on a regular basis. In a business-focused project, the objective is to produce a five-year business plan for a proposed biotechnology company. You will explore how a scientific idea could be commercially exploited.

Communication project
One of the key challenges facing scientists is to make their work interesting, accessible and relevant to the public. A communication project can develop these key skills and broaden your employment opportunities. The topic chosen is a poorly understood or controversial area of bioscience, and you not only research the topic and write an up-to-date science report, but also think about how you can explain your findings to a non-scientific audience.
SUPERB STUDY SUPPORT

We’ll support you throughout your time at Kent, from helping you adjust to university study to discussing module and final year project choices 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 on a one-to-one basis to discuss academic progress and in small advisee groups to work on academic skills such as essay and scientific report writing, giving presentations and exam preparation. They can also 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 final-year students on a similar degree programme.

Peer mentors can 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.

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 is there to support you. They are committed to improving access to learning for all students at Kent and can assist with many things, including:
- 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?
We offer summer internships, giving you the possibility of a paid, eight-week research project in one of the School’s research labs.
A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

What do you hope to do once you have your degree? Whether you have a specific career path in mind or not, 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:

- 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 the opportunity to spend a year in industry so that you can evaluate a particular career and gain knowledge of the working environment. We have excellent links with local employers, such as the NHS, GlaxoSmithKline, Pfizer and Eli Lilly.

We also offer summer internships in the School, available during the summer after your second year. Financial support is available from Learned Societies, the Stacey Fund or the School.

Your programme includes laboratory-based practical sessions and training in skills such as essay and scientific report writing, problem solving and critical thinking, setting you up for your placement and future career.

Find a great job
From the School of Biosciences, about 30% of our graduates go straight into scientific jobs such as research and technical support in hospital or industrial labs, scientific writing, clinical trials and science communication.

About 40% of our graduates go on to take a higher degree and become senior scientists. The remaining 30% of our graduates go on to work in non-scientific areas, but benefit from the skills developed during their studies.

Kent’s Careers and Employability Service can give you guidance in areas such as choosing your future career and applying for jobs.
Carine Fixmer graduated from Kent in 2013 with a BSc in Biology, then studied for a Master’s in Cancer Biology. She is now a Clinical Trial Assistant, Oncology at the University Hospital Southampton.

Why did you choose to study at Kent?
I fell in love with the campus when visiting my sister, who also studied there. It’s just lovely – the open layout, the beautiful views across Canterbury, all the greenery – and it felt very homely. Also, my sister told me that everything was very well organised and the students had a good time. And, of course, I was very happy with the degree programme.

How would you describe the teaching at Kent?
I really liked it. The staff were absolutely brilliant. The lecturers sought to improve things all the time and regularly asked for feedback, whether there was any way they could make it more interesting. It’s good to know how the body works and it’s a subject in which there’s always something being discovered. I can remember going to the first lectures, thinking to myself, ‘I’m doing biology!’ and then, a few days later, thinking, ‘I’m still doing biology!’ It was so exciting.

Were you pleased with the facilities?
Oh yes! The labs were well-equipped and very well organised, always clean and tidy. The lab staff were excellent and very helpful.

Why did you decide to do an MSc in Cancer Biology?
I thought it would help me find a job in the future. Cancer is constantly evolving and we always need something new to fight it – it’s a very interesting disease.

What kind of careers advice did you receive at Kent?
There’s a good advisory service and, in the third year of my BSc, I remember we were taught about creating your CV and preparing for interviews. Then for postgraduates there’s the excellent Global Skills Programme where there are workshops on writing CVs and improving your presentation skills.

Describe the work you do now.
What I love about it is that no two days are the same. I talk to patients, get their consent to take part in the trial, then collect blood and tissue samples from the surgeon or anaesthetist after the operation and process them – preparing them for the researchers. Every patient is different – some are jovial and others are worried – and you need to describe the research to them, and maybe to family members too. You have to be patient and tread very carefully. Going to university and meeting such a variety of people has helped with this. It gave me confidence in myself.

What do you think your next move will be?
In the immediate future, I’ve just been told that I might be the lead in a new study, which would mean making sure it goes smoothly and ensuring good communication between teams. But I’m not sure about my next career move. I love the area of clinical trials, because the trials and the patients vary. But there are so many different positions – some are lab-based, and some are more administrative. I’m not sure which way I’ll go yet.

Finally, any advice for prospective students?
I’d say remember that while the marks in first year don’t contribute to your final degree, you need a good foundation to build on for the next few years.
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
- visit our teaching labs and find out about some of the research going on in our research labs
- find out about student finance, opportunities to study abroad or gain work experience, and extra-curricular activities such as Kent Sport.

Explore the campus at your own pace on the self-guided walking tour. You can 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 the day 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 visit 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.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF
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/biosciences

Keep in touch with us
www.facebook.com/biounikent twitter.com/@biokent

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

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

Location
Canterbury

Award
BSc (Hons)

Programme type
Full-time

Degree programme
Single honours
• Biology (C103)
• Biology with a Sandwich Year (C105)
• Biology with a Year Abroad (C106)

Offer levels
BBC at A level; IB Diploma 34 points overall or 15 at HL inc Biology 5 at HL or 6 at SL and Mathematics 4 at HL or SL; DDD in BTEC extended diploma in applied science. We also welcome BTEC combined with other qualifications.

Required subjects
A level Biology or Human Biology at grade B or Double Award Applied Science at grade B including the practical endorsement of any science qualifications taken.
GCSE Mathematics at grade C (or grade 4).

Sandwich year
You have the opportunity to undertake a one-year placement working away from the University between Stages 2 and 3. See p8 and p10 for details.

Year abroad
You have the opportunity to spend a year studying abroad between Stages 2 and 3. See p8 and p10 for details.

Transfer from three- to four-year programmes
It is possible to transfer to a four-year programme at the start of Stage 2 if you achieve 65% or more as an overall average in Stage 1 (see p8).

Progression requirements for sandwich year and year abroad students
You are required to achieve 65% or more in Stage 1 to progress to Stage 2 of the programme. If you do not achieve this, you will transfer to the three-year programme. Year abroad students are also required to achieve 60% in Stage 2 before going on their exchange year.

Professional recognition
All our Biology degree programmes are accredited by the Royal Society of Biology (www.rsb.org). Our Biology with a Sandwich Year programme has Advanced Accreditation.

Scholarships and bursaries
For details of scholarships and bursaries at Kent, please see www.kent.ac.uk/ugfunding

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

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