What makes a tragedy by Sophocles so different from one written by Shakespeare? Comparative Literature investigates questions such as this, comparing and contrasting texts from different cultures. World Literature broadens the scope of study to offer a global perspective.

Our modules cover literature from the ancient classics of Greece and Rome to the modern age. Contemporary Literature focuses on the Western literary tradition, while World Literature also includes contemporary Arabic, African, Asian and Latin American works as part of its core programme. Both courses offer you the opportunity to develop an understanding of historical and cross-cultural literary traditions and the ways in which they interact, while broadening your critical knowledge of literature.

The genres you study include the novel, the short story, science fiction, tragedy and the epic, with a particular emphasis on how literary forms have evolved in different cultures and linguistic traditions. For example: what makes a tragedy from ancient Greece so different from one written in 20th-century Ireland? How does an English historical novel differ from a Russian one? How has the genre of science fiction developed in Europe? Themes explored in our modules include freedom and oppression, film adaptations of literary works, gender and sexuality, travel, the body, childhood and adolescence, and vampires in literature and film.

You do not need to be able to read a foreign language to take a degree in Comparative Literature or World Literature, as we study translations into English of a great range of works from other countries alongside literature originally written in English.

A year abroad/placement year

We offer you the opportunity to broaden your education by spending a year studying abroad at one of our partner institutions. This chance to immerse yourself in another culture not only enriches your literary studies but is also a fantastic opportunity for personal and career development. To find out more, see www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad

You also have the opportunity to spend a year on a work placement, gaining valuable experience and enhancing your employability. For more information, go to www.kent.ac.uk/humanities/studying/placement

Passionate teaching

Comparative Literature and World Literature at Kent are taught within the School of European Culture and Languages (SECL), one of the largest schools in the University. Within SECL, the Department of Comparative Literature (which also teaches the World Literature...
A successful future

As part of your learning experience at Kent, we help you to acquire key skills that will stand you in good stead for future employment. Our programmes teach you to think critically, analyse information, seek imaginative solutions to problems, demonstrate logical thinking and be sensitive to the values and interests of others.

To find out more about the careers help we provide at Kent, go to p8 or see: www.kent.ac.uk/employability or www.kent.ac.uk/secl/employability

World-leading research

In the most recent Research Excellence Framework, Kent was ranked 17th* for research intensity, outperforming 11 of the 24 Russell Group universities. Modern languages and linguistics at Kent was ranked 3rd in the UK for research quality and output. Our staff are all engaged in research that crosses national, linguistic and disciplinary borders.

A global outlook

Kent is known as the UK’s European university and has international partnerships with a number of prestigious institutions. Our students represent 158 different nationalities and 42% of our academic staff come from outside the UK.

Independent rankings

School of European Culture and Languages

National Student Survey (NSS) 2016
• Comparative Literature (which includes World Literature) ranked 3rd for overall satisfaction and quality of teaching

Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE)
• 2nd in the UK for the percentage of Comparative Literature students who found professional jobs after graduation in 2015

University of Kent

National Student Survey (NSS) 2016
• 1st in London and the south-east
• 4th highest score for overall student satisfaction

The Guardian University Guide 2018
• 22nd in the UK

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degree) is a research-intensive community committed to work of the highest quality. Our activities range from individual research projects to collaborative enterprises. Staff within the School regularly publish books and articles in their fields and this level of expertise allows us to create a stimulating environment for all our students.

Our research experience feeds into our teaching. As a result, you are taught by lecturers with international reputations, who work at the cutting-edge of their field. We also have a policy of one-on-one essay return, to ensure high-quality feedback on your work.

Supportive community

SECL also houses English Language and Linguistics, and Modern Languages (including French, German, Hispanic Studies, Italian and European Studies), so you become part of a community of students, sharing interests and experiences. The School is welcoming and friendly, which allows students and staff to get to know each other very quickly. The close working relationships you develop help you to succeed in your studies.

Within SECL, we have a dedicated student support team, who are able to provide pastoral care and help you with your academic needs. The University also offers a variety of support services. For details, see: www.kent.ac.uk/studentwellbeing or www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport

*of 122 universities, not including specialist institutions.
SUPERB STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Based on a scenic campus within easy reach of both London and mainland Europe, you have first-rate academic and social facilities, as well as good student support services.

Excellent study resources
The study resources on the Canterbury campus are excellent. The Templeman Library has extensive print and electronic collections to support the courses and subject areas taught at Kent.

There are also over a thousand PCs on campus and a range of support services for help or advice. Kent’s Student Learning Advisory Service provides information on all aspects of effective learning and study skills. For more information, see www.kent.ac.uk/learning

Comparative Literature Society
Kent Union (the student union on campus) offers a wide choice of societies catering to a range of interests. The Comparative Literature Society hosts numerous socials, film nights, and various events with a poetry and prose theme. For more details, please see www.kentunion.co.uk

International community
Kent has a diverse, international student population. We have strong links with universities in Europe and around the world, and Kent is only two hours by train from Paris and Brussels.

Beautiful green campus
The Canterbury campus is set in a stunning location. It has plenty of green and tranquil spaces, both lawns and wooded areas, and is set on a hill with a view of the city and Canterbury Cathedral. The campus has its own cinema, theatre and student nightclub. Kent has a reputation for being a very friendly university with a cosmopolitan environment. There are many restaurants, cafés and bars on campus, as well as a sports centre and gym.

Everything else you need on campus is within walking distance, including a general store, cash machines, a bookshop, a medical centre and a pharmacy.

Attractive location
From campus, it is a 25-minute walk or a short bus ride into Canterbury, a lovely city with medieval buildings, lively bars and atmospheric pubs as well as a wide range of shops. The attractive coastal town of Whitstable is close by, and there are sandy beaches further down the coast. London is under an hour away by high-speed train.
Naomi Gilad is in the final year of her degree in Comparative Literature.

Why did you choose to come to Kent?
I was really keen to go to a university that got good scores for student satisfaction in the league tables and Kent was on my shortlist. When I visited, I met some incredible lecturers, there were really interesting topics I wanted to study, and when I saw the view over Canterbury that finally sold it! I visited other universities but none stuck in my mind as much as Kent. I think it was the atmosphere and the attitude towards learning that people have here.

Was it easy to settle in?
It was terrifying at first! After my mum dropped me off I just sat in my room and went to bed very early to get the day over! But my new housemates were great. I was in a house in Park Wood. It felt homely, living with a group of first-year students who were all in the same situation as me, and it made settling in much easier.

How is your course going?
I love my course. It’s so diverse. I could have picked modules around one theme, such as gender, but I went for a more holistic approach because it gave me more opportunities to find out what I wanted to study; it turns out that I like studying cultures. The texts we study open your eyes to different worlds and different cultures. Throughout history you’ve had things that shape society and to see that come out in the literature is fascinating. I also love the fact that after the first year most of the teaching is in seminars rather than through lectures. It’s an approach that has suited me very well.

Have you got any favourite modules?
Yes, the science fiction module, easily. And the one on vampires (yes, we did have to study Twilight!). I’m doing the module on Don Juan this year, and the lecturer is great. I also really enjoyed The Text, which is a compulsory module in the second year. In my seminar group there was a really good dynamic between me, my friend and the lecturer and it helped us to come up with lots of ideas. I love the fact that in our School we can choose ‘wild’ modules – I learned Japanese in my first two years, and now I’m doing Mandarin. I did some Psychology modules too.

Are your lecturers supportive?
Definitely! A lot of them go above and beyond for their students. They’re very passionate about what they do and the more passionate they are, the more they want you to be passionate about it too, so they’ll find a way to make you interested.

What about the social life at Kent?
I do a lot of sports. I’ve tried Aikido and mixed martial arts. I’ve also started rowing. I’ve done pole fitness, and classes at the gym, like yoga and Zumba. There are different classes of membership so you can choose the option that suits you best.

What do you think you gained from spending a year abroad?
So much! I went to Hong Kong and my course convenor was really supportive. The teaching was the equivalent of being at Kent. After the first few weeks I joined a dragon boat team. That shaped my whole experience. We took part in races abroad and I got to see some incredible places – we went to the Philippines, mainland China and South Korea. I really got to immerse myself in the culture through my local friends. It was honestly one of the best years I’ve had to date.

What do you want to do after graduation?
The variety on my course has made me adaptable and I think I’ve gained a lot of transferable skills, so I feel I have lots of options. I’m taking a wild module on writing in the media this year, and I think I’d like to go into editorial and publishing. I’m hoping to do an internship.

Any advice for potential students?
Kent gives you a lot of opportunities – make the effort to find out what’s available for you. And if you’re not satisfied with what’s on offer, see if there’s a way to change it. The lecturers are approachable, so make the most of it.
A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

Kent equips you with essential skills to give you a competitive advantage when it comes to getting a job. Six months after graduation in 2016, over 96% of Kent graduates were in a job or pursuing further studies.

Many career paths can benefit from the analytical and writing skills you develop during your studies. Most of the University’s students are highly successful after graduation.

Comparative Literature graduates move into a variety of careers. The subject offers an excellent pathway into teaching. Other possibilities include publishing, journalism, education and the media. The broad, interdisciplinary approach to culture that the degree provides is highly valued by employers.

Gain transferable skills

Getting to grips with challenging ideas, analysing and organising information, writing well, and developing confidence and experience in expressing your ideas in front of others are all important skills. As part of your learning experience at Kent, we help you to acquire these key transferable skills, giving you the tools to be a strong candidate whatever your career plans.

Classroom modules

The School of European Culture and Languages (SECL) has developed classroom-based modules that allow you to gain work experience in a secondary school. These modules provide you with the opportunity to combine study with work experience, so you gain credit towards your degree while working. The modules offer an insight into teaching as a career option. Even if teaching is not your chosen career path, the module extends your experience, and so broadens your career options.

Please note that entry onto these modules is via a selection process that includes an interview and a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. The University currently pays for this check. Travel to the school where you are undertaking your work experience may involve additional expenses; these vary and you may apply for a bursary to help with these costs. Go to www.kent.ac.uk/ces/bursarykew.html for more details.

SECL employability

SECL also has its own employability programme of events to enhance your job skills and vocational awareness during your studies. A large number of our students develop professional skills and gain hands-on experience through our wide range of paid and voluntary work opportunities. For more information on the support available within the School, see www.kent.ac.uk/secl/employability

Careers advice

Kent’s award-winning Careers and Employability Service can give you advice on how to choose your future career, apply for jobs, write a good CV and perform well in interviews and aptitude tests. The Service also provides up-to-date information on graduate opportunities before and after you graduate. For more details on what the Service offers, go to: www.kent.ac.uk/employability

Year abroad/placement year

Spending a year abroad is a valuable opportunity to boost your employability. It demonstrates your ability to be independent and adapt to new situations, your sensitivity to other cultures and viewpoints, and your desire to stretch yourself and step outside your comfort zone. Although you might not actually study a language during your time overseas, the day-to-day experience of living and working alongside locals will allow you to pick up the basics. Even a low-level proficiency in a second language can help you stand out from other graduates. For more details, see www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad

Spending a year on a work placement is another great way to develop your confidence, your skills and your employability. You can find out more at: www.kent.ac.uk/humanities/studying/placement
Sofia Cumming graduated with a first-class BA (Hons) in Comparative Literature with a Year Abroad in 2015.

What made you choose to study at Kent?
At the time, Kent was one of only a few universities in the UK that offered Comparative Literature as an undergraduate degree. As a foreign student, I also appreciated the emphasis on Kent being an international institution.

What attracted you to the course?
The idea of being able to study texts from all over the world within the same course strongly appealed to me. I knew that I wanted to do a year abroad so the fact that the opportunity was available, and that the list of potential destinations was impressively varied, had me sold. I also thought it would be a great stepping stone to many different career paths.

What was your degree course like? And what about the lecturers?
The course was great in that you were given a lot of flexibility when it came to choosing modules. The modules in themselves were immensely varied and the reading lists gave you exposure to a lot of under-represented authors and texts. I also loved how the course was not too Eurocentric, and I got to read a lot of African writers. Seminars were always very laid back and felt like a safe space to voice any thoughts or questions. This was, of course, also due to the fact that all of the lecturers were very approachable and I definitely made the most of their office hours.

I guess the best thing about the course was that the SECL building felt very intimate, and you felt like an individual within an academic community and not just a blob in a sea of faces at a lecture theatre.

How has your degree helped you in your career?
My course definitely rewired the way I think about literature, culture and society in general. I think it has helped me see connections in unlikely places, which can be a useful skill in a lot of professional environments.

Could you describe your career path since leaving Kent?
Since graduating last year, I have completed a Master’s at Oxford University and moved to London. I work full-time in digital publishing alongside doing some freelance work for a magazine and reviewing manuscripts for publishing companies.

Could you describe a typical day in your current role?
My main responsibilities are marketing product, so most of my time is taken up with editing images and text snippets to be used in emails and press releases. And then I have a lot of tasks that vary day to day but some of them include sending invoices to clients, translating parts of the company website into French and assisting with the production side of things, so making sure that the magazines are ready to be published online.

What are your future plans/aspirations?
I’m hoping I can get funding to start a PhD next year and plan to enter as many translation competitions as possible. Beyond that, I hope that I can eventually teach at a university and set up my own press for translated fiction.

Do you have any other happy memories of Kent that you would like to share with us?
I do miss the tremendous sense of accomplishment that I felt every day after walking or cycling up the hill to campus...

Finally, what advice would you give to someone thinking of coming to Kent?
Come to one of the Open Days! They are organised with military precision and will give you a taste of the environment on campus as well as offering you the opportunity to talk to students taking your course. Above all, make sure that the course is right for you and once you’ve decided that it is – go for it!
Not sure which degree programme to choose?
Here is a quick guide to the Comparative Literature and World Literature degrees on offer.

Single honours
The following degrees are available as single honours programmes:
- Comparative Literature (www.kent.ac.uk/ug/3)
- Comparative Literature with a Year Abroad (www.kent.ac.uk/ug/87)
- World Literature (www.kent.ac.uk/394).
On these programmes you also have the opportunity to choose ‘wild’ modules from other degree courses that the University offers.

Joint honours
You can combine Comparative Literature with another subject on a joint honours programme. Study is divided evenly between your two subjects. For a list of programmes available as joint honours, see p15. To download a leaflet for the other subject, go to www.kent.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/leaflets

Year abroad programmes
You have the option to spend a year abroad as part of your programme of study. Spending a year abroad gives you the opportunity to experience cultural diversity first hand and benefit from different approaches to the study of comparative or world literature.

A foreign language is not required, as the teaching is in English. You can choose the year abroad option when you first apply to study at Kent, or apply once your course has started.

To be eligible to study abroad, you need to meet certain requirements in relation to your attendance and academic achievement. The fees you pay to Kent are greatly reduced during your year abroad but there are a number of costs that you will need to pay, including your travel, accommodation and living expenses. You may be eligible to apply for financial assistance such as a scholarship. For more information, see www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad

Placement year
The placement year provides you with the opportunity to spend a year in the workplace as part of your degree. It takes place between your second and final years of study, giving you work experience and the chance to acquire new skills and develop your confidence. Previous students have found that the experience has enhanced their CV and provided a valuable insight into their career potential. Some even end up working for their placement provider after graduation. For more information, see www.kent.ac.uk/humanities/studying/placement

International students
If you are applying from outside the UK without the necessary English language qualifications, you may be able to take the Kent International Foundation Programme (IFP). The Kent IFP can provide progression to the Comparative Literature and World Literature degree programmes. 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 are spending a year abroad or on a work placement, you do this between Stages 2 and 3.

Teaching and assessment
For most modules, the typical teaching pattern is a two-hour discussion seminar each week. In Stage 1, there are also one-hour lectures.

Assessment is by coursework or a combination of examination and coursework, typically in the ratio 50:50. In Stage 3 you work on a dissertation, which is based entirely on your own independent research but is supervised by a member of the academic staff.

Module information
Please note that the module lists below 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 any of the modules listed, go to www.kent.ac.uk/courses/modules and search for the module codes given below.

Stage 1
Compulsory modules
All students study a compulsory module that deals with a wide range of selected international tales ranging from antiquity to the present day:
• The Tale (CP311).

Students on the World Literature programme also study the following compulsory module:
• World Literature: An Introduction (CP325).

Optional modules
You select further modules from the following:
• Childhood and Adolescence in Modern Fiction (CP317)
• Classical Literature (CP324)
• Freedom and Oppression in Modern Literature (CP305)
• Guilt and Redemption in Modern Literature (CP306)
• Introduction to Contemporary European and Hispanic Cinemas (CP318)
• Literature and Nationhood (CP321)
• The Romantic Movement (CP323).

Comparative Literature students may also select the following as an optional module:
• World Literature: An Introduction (CP325).

You may also choose from a wide range of ‘wild’ modules.

If you are on a joint honours programme, you take at least one module from the list above, in addition to the compulsory Comparative Literature module and the modules required for your other subject.
Stage 2

Compulsory modules
All students take:
• The Text: Approaches to Comparative Literature (CP510).

World Literature students also take:
• Latin American Fiction (CP532).

Optional modules
You select further modules from the following:
• Age of Capital: From Realism to Decadence (CP636)
• Creatures of the Night: Vampires in Literature and Film (CP644)
• Fiction and Power (CP524)
• Prize Winners (CP646)
• Rethinking Gender: From the Brontë Sisters to Eimear McBride (CP629)
• Science Fiction: History and Innovation (CP627).

Comparative Literature students may choose Latin American Fiction (CP532) as an optional module.

You may also choose from a wide range of ‘wild’ modules.

Stage 3

Compulsory modules
All students take:
• Comparative Literature Dissertation (CP513).

Writing a dissertation in your final year gives you the opportunity to gain experience of independent research. You choose a topic on which to write a dissertation under the supervision of a member of staff. Topics may range from classical literature to the most recent work of living writers, from European, African, American, Latin American or Asian literature.

World Literature students also take:
• Postcolonial Images of Africa and South Asia: Identity, Gender, Empire (CP652).

Optional modules
You select further modules from the following:
• The Book and the Film: Adaptation and Interpretation (CP518)
• Comparative Literature and English & Linguistics in the Classroom (CP659) – subject to selection via an interview
• Don Juan and Casanova: The Art of Seduction in Literature, Music and Film (CP655)
• Fiction and Power (CP502)
• Modern Tragedy: From Strindberg to Mamet (CP654)
• Postmodernism (CP611)
• Prize Winners (CP647)
• Shakespeare’s Afterlives (CP656)
• The Shoah in Literature, Film and Culture (CP624)
• Transatlantic Modernism and the European Avant-Garde (CP609)
• Travel, Exile and Displacement (CP594).

Comparative Literature students may choose Postcolonial Images of Africa and South Asia: Identity, Gender, Empire (CP652) as an optional module.

You may also choose from a wide range of ‘wild’ modules.
VISIT THE UNIVERSITY

Come along for an Open Day or an Applicant Day and see for yourself what it is like to be a student at the University of Kent.

Open Days
Kent runs Open Days during the summer and autumn. These provide an excellent opportunity for you to discover what it is like to live and study at the University. You can meet academic staff and current students, find out about our courses and attend subject talks, workshops and informal lectures. We also offer tours around the campus to view our sports facilities, the library and University accommodation. For further information and details of how to book your place, see www.kent.ac.uk/opendays

Applicant Days
If you apply to study at Kent and we offer you a place (or invite you to attend an interview), you will usually be sent an invitation to one of our Applicant Days. You can book to attend through your online Kent Applicant Portal. The Applicant Day includes presentations in your subject area, guided tours of the campus, including University accommodation, and the opportunity to speak with academic staff and current students about your chosen subject. For further information, see: www.kent.ac.uk/visit

Informal visits
You are also welcome to make an informal visit to our campuses at any time. The University runs tours of the Canterbury and Medway campuses throughout the year for anyone who is unable to attend an Open Day or Applicant Day. It may also be possible to arrange meetings with academic staff, although we cannot guarantee this. For more details and to book your place, see www.kent.ac.uk/informal

Self-guided tours
You can explore the Canterbury campus in person or from the comfort of your home. Our self-guided audio tour gives you a real flavour of the campus and you will hear from the people who help to make Kent such an inspiring place to study – our staff and students. Go to www.kent.ac.uk/courses/visit/informal/audio-tour.html to get started.
Location
Canterbury

Award
BA (Hons)

Programme type
Full-time and part-time

Degree programmes

Single honours
• Comparative Literature (Q200)
• Comparative Literature with a Year Abroad (Q202)
• World Literature (Q203)

Joint honours
Comparative Literature and ...
• Asian Studies (TQ42)
• Classical & Archaeological Studies (QQ28)
• Cultural Studies (QV29)
• Drama (QW24)
• English, American and Postcolonial Literature (QQ2J)
• English and American Literature (QQF3)
• English Language and Linguistics (QQ32)
• Film (WQ62)
• French (RQ12)
• German (RQ22)
• Hispanic Studies (QR24)
• History (QV21)
• Italian (QR23)
• Philosophy (VQ52)
• Religious Studies (VQ62)

Offer levels
BBB at A level, IB Diploma 34 points or 15 points at Higher.
Joint honours: ABB–BBB at A level, IB Diploma 34 points or 15–16 points at Higher.

Required subjects
There may be other required subjects for joint honours programmes; please see www.kent.ac.uk/ug for details.

Year abroad
For details of year abroad options, see www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad

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

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 2017. 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