COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

How does the presentation of women in literature help to create or challenge stereotypes? How is literature responding to the refugee crises of the 21st century? In what ways has fiction been used to challenge political power? On this programme, you explore many different aspects of human experience, comparing and contrasting literature from a range of cultures and historical periods, as well as interpretations in film, art and music.
# Why Study Comparative Literature at Kent?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inspirational teaching</th>
<th>World-leading research</th>
<th>Academic support</th>
<th>Year abroad opportunities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great teachers inspire enthusiasm and provoke debate. Whether discussing gender in literature or exploring the art of film adaptation, our staff are skilled at bringing their subject to life. They share their research and challenge you to contribute your ideas.</td>
<td>Our staff collaborate with colleagues from other specialisms to carry out research in literature, film and critical thought. They write books, contribute to journals, present at conferences and introduce you to the latest research.</td>
<td>University is different from school. You need to be self-motivated and well organised to succeed. We help you by assigning you an academic adviser, running a peer mentoring programme and offering help with academic skills such as essay writing.</td>
<td>We have great contacts with other European universities as well as with universities in South Africa, South-east Asia and North America; teaching is in English. If you choose to spend a year abroad, lots of exciting opportunities are open to you.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Friendly community</th>
<th>Accessible world literature</th>
<th>Flexible course structure</th>
<th>Lively campus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>As a Comparative Literature student you become part of a friendly, supportive community with shared interests in language and literature and have the opportunity to learn from one another.</td>
<td>You don’t need to be fluent in a language other than English to study Comparative Literature. Reading literature in translation from many countries gives you an understanding of the common interests that bind cultures together as well as the differences that set them apart.</td>
<td>Enrich your studies and broaden your outlook by adding elective modules to your programme from other subject areas, or combine Comparative Literature with another subject – we offer a wide range of joint honours options.</td>
<td>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 cafés and restaurants.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Career success</th>
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<tr>
<td>Employability is a priority at Kent. By studying, you sharpen skills that are useful in working life, such as time management and team work. You have access to careers advice and opportunities to gain work experience, boosting your CV and your confidence.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Rich and varied programme

Your core modules introduce the study of comparative literature and literary theories, unlocking insights into a rich variety of works from the dramas of ancient Greece and Rome to Latin American fiction and prize-winning writers of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. You investigate aspects of the writing process and explore themes such as childhood and adolescence, guilt and redemption, oppression and freedom, humour and playfulness, as represented in different genres, historical periods and literary traditions.

Independent rankings

National Student Survey 2018
• Over 95% of final-year Comparative Literature students who responded to the survey were satisfied with the overall quality of their course

Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) 2017
• 100% of Comparative Literature graduates who responded to the most recent national survey of graduate destinations were in work or further study within six months

Research Excellence Framework
• Based on the most recent Research Excellence Framework, Modern Languages and Linguistics (which includes Comparative Literature) at Kent was ranked joint 3rd overall by the Times Higher Education

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
Julia Marquis is studying Comparative Literature and English and American Literature with a Year Abroad. This is what she told us about her course.

Why did you choose to study this degree programme at Kent?
I thought Comparative Literature sounded so different from any other literature I had studied at A level. Kent was one of the few universities that offered it, and when I came to the Open Day and talked to the lecturers they just lit up when they spoke about their subject. Also, as somebody who has immigrated from a different country [the US], being in an international environment like the University of Kent really appealed to me. I decided to do joint honours with English and American Literature because I felt the modules really complemented each other.

Tell us about your Comparative Literature studies.
One of the most interesting aspects is that you have this conversation between different cultures and disciplines. For instance, it’s not just limited to writing about literary texts – you can also write about films, about art. It enables you to look at themes in literature from a broader perspective. In one module we compared an opera with a couple of plays and a couple of books, all on the same theme.

It’s a small department so everybody knows everybody, and your lecturers really do care about how you’re doing. Teaching is mainly through seminars rather than lectures. In my first seminar I thought ‘Oh, this is going to be so scary’, but everybody is in the same boat. Once you get comfortable around your peers, everybody becomes a lot more talkative and they’re very supportive, even if your ideas differ from theirs.

What has been your favourite module?
My absolute favourite is one I took on gender in my second year – it focuses on women’s writing and concepts of feminism and the body, and what it means to be a woman. You look at texts all the way from the Brontës to works written in the 2010s and it really sparked my passion for feminism. For my dissertation, I’m trying to do a feminist reinterpretation of female silences in male–female relationships in two texts and one film.

What are the facilities like?
I’m always in the Templeman Library! It’s really fantastic, there are always plenty of desks, plenty of sockets for charging, quiet spaces if you want to work in complete silence, social areas if you need a little bit more noise. Recently I’ve noticed that they have a chill-out zone with fairy lights and beanbags, and it’s really cool.

What did you do for your year abroad?
I studied literature at the Ca’Foscari University of Venice. It was the best year of my life. Being able to study in a different country was such an exciting experience because it really does broaden your mind – the language and cultural differences between Italy and England were so vast, but so wonderful. It was just incredible to be able to experience that and also to learn a second language. I did not speak any Italian before I arrived, but by the time I left I was working in an Italian office.

What are your plans for after graduation?
I’m looking for internships in marketing, hopefully in Italy because I would like to continue to improve my Italian, but I’m also looking in Spain and Portugal. At the moment I’m also working as a marketing and communications assistant in the University’s Centre for English and World Languages. I got the job through the work-study scheme Kent offers. I’m promoting the courses the Centre runs, primarily through social media marketing and digital campaigns.

What advice would you give to a prospective student?
Come to an Open Day or Applicant Day. You can really trust your gut when it comes to these things, and being able to walk around campus and picture what my life would look like here really sold it to me.
CHOOSING YOUR DEGREE

Not sure which programme to choose? Here’s a quick guide to the Comparative Literature degrees on offer.

Single honours
Comparative Literature
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/3

Studying single honours allows you to delve deep into the study of comparative literature. You develop your critical skills as you compare and contrast a wide range of literature from different genres, cultures and historical periods.

All the texts you study are written in or translated into English, meaning that you do not need a second language to be able to choose this degree.

However, many students find that their enjoyment and appreciation are enhanced if they are able to read some of the texts in the original language. If you would like to learn or improve your proficiency in a second language, you could choose joint honours with a language (see below), opt for language modules as electives or take a short course offered by the University’s Centre for English and World Languages.

You can also add a year studying or working abroad to this degree programme – you don’t have to study a second language to do this (see p11 for more details).

Joint honours
Taking a joint honours degree gives you the opportunity to broaden your knowledge by studying two subjects; study is normally divided on a 50:50 basis. To find out more about the following programmes, go to www.kent.ac.uk/ug and add the course code shown below:

- Asian Studies (/404)
- Classical and Archaeological Studies (/272)
- Drama (/265)
- English Literature (/266)
- English Language and Linguistics (/382)
- Film (/268)
- French (/269)
- German (/345)
- Hispanic Studies (/384)
- Italian (/223).

International students
If you are applying from outside the UK and don’t have the necessary English language qualifications, you could apply for the Kent International Foundation Programme (IFP). The IFP can provide progression to the first year of the Comparative Literature single honours degree. For more details, see www.kent.ac.uk/ifp

Part-time degrees
You can study Comparative Literature on a part-time basis. Some of the joint honours combinations available also allow part-time study, but you cannot study part-time if you combine Comparative Literature with a modern foreign language.
You study a combination of compulsory and optional modules that compare and contrast writings and other media from different cultures and literary traditions.

Your studies are divided into Stages 1, 2 and 3. If you choose to spend a year abroad, you do this between Stages 2 and 3.

Teaching and assessment
For most modules the typical teaching pattern is a mixture of lectures and seminars. Modules are mainly assessed by coursework although there are examinations for two modules in Stage 1. In Stage 3 you work on a dissertation, which is based entirely on your own independent research, but is supervised by a member of academic staff.

Module information
Please note that the module lists overleaf are not fixed as new modules are always in development and choices are updated yearly. The details given below 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 full description of any of the modules listed, go to www.kent.ac.uk/courses/modules and search for the module code shown overleaf.

“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. The texts we study open your eyes to different worlds and different cultures.”

Naomi Gilad
Comparative Literature with a Year Abroad

CONTINUED OVERLEAF
YOUR STUDY PROGRAMME (CONT)

Stage 1
Compulsory modules (single honours)
Students take:
• The Tale (CP311).

Optional and elective modules (single honours)
Students choose from the following optional modules:
• 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)
• Transcultural East Asia (CP326)
• Upheaval of the Mind: European Romanticism in Context (CP327)
• World Literature: An Introduction (CP325).

They can also choose elective modules offered by other subject areas across the University.

Joint honours
Joint honours students take the compulsory module listed under single honours above and two optional modules. They also take the modules required by their other subject (see the course information at www.kent.ac.uk/ug for more details).

Stage 2
Compulsory modules (single honours)
Students take:
• The Text: Approaches to Comparative Literature (CP510).

Optional and elective modules (single honours)
Students choose optional modules from the following:
• Creatures of the Night: Vampires in Literature and Film (CP644)
• Fiction and Power (CP524)
• Latin American Fiction (CP532)
• Playfulness, Games and Literature (CP663)
• Prize Winners (CP646)
• Rethinking Gender: From the Bronté Sisters to Eimear McBride (CP629)
• Writing Literature: Creative and Analytical Approaches (CP662).

They can also choose elective modules offered by other subject areas across the University.

Joint honours
Students choose from the compulsory or optional modules listed for single honours above and also have the opportunity to take an elective module from other subject areas across the University. In addition, they take the modules required by their other subject.

Year abroad
Students who choose to add a year abroad take this between Stages 2 and 3 (see p11).

Stage 3
Compulsory modules (single honours)
Students take:
• Comparative Literature Dissertation (CP513).

Optional and elective modules (single honours)
Students choose optional modules from the following:
• Don Juan and Casanova: The Art of Seduction in Literature, Music and Film (CP655)
• Fiction and Power (CP502)
• In Search of Shelter: Refugee Narratives and the Politics of Displacement (CP666)
• Postcolonial Images of Africa, Asia and Latin America (CP652)
• Prize Winners (CP647)
• The Book and The Film: Adaptation and Interpretation (CP518)
• The Shoah in Literature, Film and Culture (CP624)
• Travel, Exile and the Ethnographic Gaze (CP665).

Students also have the opportunity to take elective modules from other subject areas across the University.

Joint honours
Students choose from the compulsory and optional modules listed above under single honours. They also have the opportunity to take an elective module from other subject areas across the University. In addition, they take the modules required by their other subject.
At Kent you have the opportunity to broaden your experience either by studying overseas or through a work placement.

Year abroad
The year abroad usually takes place between your second and final years of study. Going abroad as part of your degree is an amazing opportunity 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 to plan and organise your time. You demonstrate that you are flexible in your outlook and have the enthusiasm and drive to succeed in a new environment. You could also take the opportunity to improve your proficiency in a second language, or learn a new one – like our student Julia Marquis (p7), who learned Italian during her year abroad.

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.

You don’t generally have to decide to do a year abroad before you start your course, although if you choose to study Comparative Literature as a joint honours programme with French, Italian, German or Hispanic Studies, spending a year abroad is compulsory.

We have exciting exchange links with universities in Canada, China (Hong Kong), Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan and the USA, as well as many European destinations. See the A to Z course list at www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad/opportunities/az.html for details.

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 some 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
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 to help you get the most from your degree programme. You can arrange to meet them to discuss general academic issues or specific assignments, and they are able to refer you to other sources of help if you need it.

Peer support
Sometimes you might find an aspect of your course particularly challenging. If this happens, the best advice often comes from people who’ve been in your situation. On our academic peer mentoring scheme, we can match you with second- or third-year students who can help you to get to grips with specific modules on your programme.

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:

- 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

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.

DID YOU KNOW?
Kent won the Outstanding Support for Students award at the 2018 Times Higher Education (THE) Awards.
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 both independently and as part of a team. Employers look for people with transferable skills like these, which are also 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 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
- become an academic peer mentor.

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

By taking a part-time job alongside your degree studies, you gain skills and experience as well as earning money – you might even get inspiration for your future career. Kent Union’s JobShop posts vacancies within the University and local area on the Kent Union website and on social media; you can also drop into the office on campus for advice and information.

Another option is a longer-term work placement – see p11 for more details.

Find a great job

Many different career paths are available for graduates in Comparative Literature: teaching and other areas of education, publishing, journalism and the media are just some of the possibilities. The analytical and writing skills that you develop, together with the interdisciplinary approach that the degree provides are highly valued by employers.

We have a programme of employability events to enhance your job skills and vocational awareness. You can also 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).
Harry Wilton graduated in 2017 with a degree in Comparative Literature with a Year Abroad. This is what he told us about his studies, and life after Kent.

The University of Kent was one of the few universities in the UK offering this course, which enabled me to examine texts outside of the traditional English literary canon. The opportunity to study abroad was also a factor that influenced my choice of Kent.

There was a wide range of modules on offer. The gender module was particularly appealing as I was able to gain an insight into different feminist viewpoints. It inspired me to write my dissertation on black feminism, where I examined the representation of race, displacement and gender.

Seminar groups are small and focused with up to around 12 students. There are lots of collaborative aspects to the modules on the course, including presentations and group discussions. I think the lecturers at Kent are the best in the business and they are actively researching the topics that they are leading. They had regular office hours when you could go and see them, and you could also contact them via email for support and feedback on ongoing projects.

On the Comparative Literature course you can choose elective modules from other subjects. I studied Spanish, which proved useful preparation for my year abroad. I spent my year abroad at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, where I met people from all over the world – open-minded individuals who, like me, were looking to explore and learn more about the host country and its culture. We travelled to other parts of the country including Granada, Malaga, Valencia, Segovia and Salamanca. The local Erasmus society also hosted trips, which were good opportunities for students to meet new people and discover new places.

During my final year of study, I began working part-time as a talent manager for television personalities. Using my initiative, I contacted talent agencies based in the US and UK. It was an excellent opportunity to network with individuals from the industry, including Dolly Parton’s management company in Nashville, which offered me work.

Choosing to progress within the talent management sector in the UK, I undertook two weeks’ work experience before being offered permanent part-time work which I completed alongside the final year of my degree, working one day from their office and one from home, I was able to work this around my studies and university commitments.

This gave me an advantage when looking for permanent work after graduation. The industry is heavily reliant on your contact database so the more you network, the better your chances of bagging your dream job!

I’m now a tour publicist at Live Nation UK. I secure coverage across television, radio, print and online announcing shows at theatres, academies, arenas and stadiums by major artists touring the UK and Europe. I hope to develop my career in this industry and become a leading decision maker in the business. I want to be the best I can be in my field of work.

Some of my best memories of Kent were the people that I met, educational activities as part of my modules, such as a trip to Cuba, and the support that was offered by my lecturers. In my spare time, I was part of the Athletics and Cross Country Club, completing half marathons each year in Rome, Berlin, Madrid and Lisbon as well as participating in the annual BUCS [British Universities and Colleges Sport] Championship.

To anyone thinking of studying at Kent, I would say be open-minded, meet new people and make the most of the resources available to you that will lay the foundations for your future endeavours.
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 extracurricular activities such as those run by 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 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

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

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

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

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

* Programme of events varies according to subject.
**Location**
Canterbury

**Award**
BA (Hons)

**Programme type**
Full-time or part-time

**Degree programme**

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<th>Single honours</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Comparative Literature (Q200)</td>
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<th>Joint honours</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Classical and Archaeological Studies (QQ28)</td>
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<td>• Drama (QW24)</td>
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<td>• English Literature (TBC)</td>
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<td>• English Language and Linguistics (QQ32)</td>
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<td>• Film (WQ62)</td>
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<td>• French (RQ12)</td>
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<td>• German (RQ22)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Hispanic Studies (QR24)</td>
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<td>• Italian (QR23)</td>
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**Typical offer levels**

**Single and joint honours**
BBB at A level; IB Diploma
34 points or 15 points at HL;
BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma
and Access to HE candidates are assessed on an individual basis.

**Required subjects**

**QQF3**
English Literature grade B or
English Language and Literature
grade B at A level; IB English HL
A1/A2/B at 5/6/6 or English
Literature A/English Language and
Literature A (or Language
A/Language and Literature A of
another country) 5 at HL or 6 at SL.

**RQ12, RQ22, QR24, QR23**
GCSE grade B or 6 in a second language; IB 4 at HL or 5 at SL
in a second language.

**Year abroad**
If you choose to spend a year abroad, you take this between Stages 2 and 3.

If you choose joint honours with French, German, Hispanic Studies
or Italian, spending a year abroad is compulsory.

See p11 for further details.

**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**

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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