CULTURAL STUDIES AND MEDIA

Canterbury
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND INSPIRATIONAL TEACHING

Do you follow what is happening in the media and popular culture? Are you ever suspicious of the way that ethnicity, race, youth, gender and sexuality are represented in films, TV and advertising? Do you wonder how life online (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram and so on) affects the way we relate to each other?

If you answered ‘yes’ to any of these questions, then Cultural Studies and Media might be for you. Clearly you want to do something at university that is a bit different from what you have been doing up until now.

You cannot be part of today’s society without being affected by the constant stream of mediated culture: from digital news to billboard advertising, government cultural policy, high fashion and street style. We are all caught up in a network of communications, whether it is in face-to-face encounters or online – it is something we all do, cope with and make sense of.

Stimulating programme

Our Cultural Studies and Media degree addresses contemporary media and culture in various theoretical and analytical ways, putting them in a global and historical context and evaluating their impact on the ways we experience our lives and organise and govern our societies.

You have the opportunity to explore a host of exciting areas, from digital media and journalism to the creative and cultural industries or social identities and sub-cultures. As well as the degree in Cultural Studies and Media, we also offer a range of joint honours degrees. These draw on expertise from other subjects in the social sciences and humanities.

Outstanding teaching

Our academics are leaders in their fields and their passion for their subjects makes your degree an inspiring experience. Their research interests range from new media and digital culture to gender and the body, urban social change, the commodification of violence in video games, the mediation of cultural memory, the sociology of religion, torture and terrorism, the transnational politics of emotion, and photography and spectacles of war.

World-leading research

The School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research has a very strong academic reputation. Based on our results in the Research Excellence Framework 2014, our research was ranked 2nd for research power in the UK and joint 3rd for research intensity. Of the research submitted, 99% was of international quality.
We also have an international community on campus, with 42% of academics coming from outside the UK and students representing 158 different nationalities.

A successful future
As well as providing a first-rate academic experience, we want you to be in a good position to face the demands of a challenging economic environment. During your studies, you develop the transferable skills that are essential for a successful career. For more information on the careers help we provide at Kent, please go to p8 or visit www.kent.ac.uk/employability

A global outlook
Kent is known as the UK’s European university and has partnerships with many prestigious institutions in Europe and around the world. We encourage our students to develop their studies in an international context and there are many opportunities to study or work abroad.

Independent rankings

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<th>School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Times Good University Guide 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Sociology ranked 7th overall; 8th for graduate prospects</td>
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<td>National Student Survey (NSS) 2016</td>
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<td>• Sociology ranked 14th for overall satisfaction</td>
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<td>Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE)</td>
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<td>• Of Sociology students who graduated from Kent in 2015, 90% were in work or further study within six months.</td>
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University of Kent

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<th>National Student Survey (NSS) 2016</th>
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<td>• 1st in London and the south-east</td>
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<td>• 4th highest score for overall student satisfaction</td>
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<th>The Guardian University Guide 2018</th>
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<td>• 22nd in the UK</td>
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The School is home to world experts in specialist areas across cultural studies, media and the social sciences, and we pride ourselves on having one of the most dynamic research and publishing cultures in Europe.
Our campus at Canterbury provides a stunning location for your studies and offers first-class academic and leisure facilities.

Kent offers an incredibly cosmopolitan campus – 158 nationalities are represented here and this provides you with a multicultural learning environment. We are also within easy reach of both London and mainland Europe.

Culture on campus
Kent has a fully equipped theatre and a cinema that screens the latest films. The students’ union, Kent Union, is at the centre of student culture and its student nightclub hosts bands, club nights and parties.

If you want to produce media and culture as well as consume it – for instance, if you are a musician, budding actor or filmmaker – there are student societies you can join to get involved. The Student Media Centre, run by Kent Union and staffed by student volunteers, is a purpose-built centre that houses Kent’s radio station, student newspaper and television station. It includes state-of-the-art radio studios, editing suites and a TV studio, enabling students to develop their skills in an industry-standard space.

If sport is more your thing, then you can join the sports centre and enjoy its gym, climbing wall and courts, or join some of the many sports clubs that thrive on campus.

Excellent study resources
The study resources on campus are excellent. The Templeman Library has extensive printed and electronic collections specifically aimed at supporting 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 and advice on all aspects of effective learning and study skills. See www.kent.ac.uk/learning for more information.

Beautiful green campus
Our campus has plenty of green and tranquil spaces, lawns and wooded areas, and is set on a hill with a view of the city and Canterbury Cathedral. Everything you need on campus is within walking distance, including restaurants, cafés and bars, a general store, a bank and cash machines, a bookshop, a medical centre and a pharmacy. From campus, it’s a 25-minute walk or a short bus ride into town.

Attractive location
Canterbury is 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.
Harriet Donovan is in her first year, studying for a BA in Cultural Studies and Media.

Why did you choose Kent?
I’m from California and my family told me that Canterbury was a really nice place. But the main reason I came to Kent was because the course was exactly what I was looking for. When I emailed the School, I always got a response to my questions and the course had good rankings. I also liked the fact that Kent is the ‘UK’s European university’.

How are your studies going?
The first year is good because it gets you into the swing of things. It’s different to school; you do need to become more independent. There’s a lot of essay writing, so we were given outlines of how to plan them and the lecturers give you plenty of feedback. I like the seminars; everyone wants to be there and talk about the issues. It makes the discussions easy because students here want to contribute their opinions.

What aspects of your course have you particularly enjoyed?
My favourite modules so far have been Modern Culture and Contemporary Culture and Media. We have such a good lecturer. The topics are really current and you can tell he’s very passionate about them. The lecturers always encourage you to question society and we include current events as well. We’ve talked a lot about Brexit and Donald Trump and immigration. For one of my essays, I wrote about popular music and whether it portrays fake happiness in society.

What about the level of support?
The lecturers are always there to help you. They give you so much feedback on your essays; they include positive feedback so you know what you’re doing well, as well as suggestions on what you can improve. My confidence levels have changed already. I can communicate much more easily and my writing is better too. I’m learning how to come up with an argument and express it. And I look at situations differently now.

How would you describe the facilities on campus?
I live in Park Wood and it’s a pretty place in the woods – I felt quite safe there and liked being a short distance from central campus. Everything’s nice on campus – it’s big with lots of trees and open spaces. When it’s sunny, everyone is outside, sitting on the grass.

The facilities are good too. In the beginning, I went to the Venue quite a bit. I also go to K-Bar a lot and the sports centre. The gym has lots of equipment and people around to help you. And the library is great. You have a quiet area if you need to get stuff done, but there’s also a social area where you can meet friends. So it’s a bit of a hangout too.

Can you describe the social life at Kent?
I met all my housemates on the first day. It was really exciting and everyone’s in the same boat so it’s really easy to make new friends. There are people here from all over the world. I’ve never been in such a diverse group of people, so that’s been really good. If I’d stayed in the States I wouldn’t have had the experience of so many different cultures. I feel that I’m doing the university experience to the full, because it’s been such a massive change.

What about any future career plans?
My ideas have been changing from when I first started. I’d like to do something related to current events and the media. When I first got here, I was thinking of public relations but now I’m thinking more of journalism. Kent has a Student Media Centre so I’m planning to get involved in that.

Any advice for potential students?
Leave plenty of time to write your essays: doing the research and finding sources can be more time consuming than you think. But get out there too! I’m in the volleyball team and it helps a lot if you join a society. If you see a club or a society that you’re interested in, you should definitely sign up for it.
A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

Kent equips you with essential skills to give you a competitive advantage when it comes to getting a job. Many career paths can benefit from the analytical and writing skills you will develop during your studies.

Your degree allows you to explore the complexity of media and culture in a rapidly changing global society. This means that, as a graduate, you can offer a highly developed critical perspective on many aspects of the world today. You leave with a broad knowledge of media and society and of the many critical debates surrounding culture.

Good career prospects
Cultural Studies and Media graduates do well in a wide range of positions and have gone on to work in areas including advertising and design, journalism, broadcasting, arts and arts management, public relations, the leisure industry and local government. Others may opt for postgraduate training in a related area – for instance, in the social services where the cultural dimensions of service provision in a multicultural society are valued.

Gain transferable skills
As part of your degree, we help you to gain skills such as communication and presentation, teamworking, IT and project-planning, which are all useful when seeking future employment. The ability to analyse complex ideas and offer your own innovative solutions, writing well, and gaining confidence in expressing your ideas coherently and with sensitivity are all important skills and ones you acquire during your degree.

There are also opportunities to register with Jobshop – Kent Union's job agency – or volunteering programmes, all of which give you plenty of opportunities to give your CV that added extra that employers are looking for.

Careers advice
Kent's award-winning Careers and Employability Service can give you advice on how to choose your future career, how to apply for jobs, how to write a good CV and how to perform well in interviews and aptitude tests. It also provides up-to-date information on job opportunities before and after you graduate.

For more information on the careers help we provide at Kent, please see www.kent.ac.uk/employability

“I’m looking to pursue a career in academia. But I want to teach as well as do research. I am really enthusiastic about my subject and I want to share that with other people.”

Luke Shoveller
BA in Cultural Studies
Fergus Knight graduated with a BA in Philosophy and Cultural Studies and went on to work as a marketing executive and copywriter for xRapid, a tech start-up for a malaria diagnostic app.

Why did you choose to study at Kent?
Kent offered a few courses that I was interested in and I was attracted to Canterbury’s relaxed atmosphere. The campus made a comfortable first impression and the facilities seemed accessible.

How would you describe the teaching at Kent?
I soon realised that you get out what you put in. The seminar leaders and lecturers gave me the freedom to take charge of my own learning. They struck a good balance in challenging those who were comfortable with the content, and helping those who found things more difficult.

What about the academic standards at Kent?
The expertise of the professors, seminar leaders and postgraduate students was plain to see, particularly when studying more complicated topics in Stage 3. All of the academics that I met at Kent were impeccably professional and passionate about their chosen field.

How did the skills you gained at Kent help you to get into your current career?
In my first job I did a lot of heavily researched blogging. I would have been far less prepared and possibly unable to do the job if I had not fully engaged with my research dissertation. Completing a project like that is an incredibly satisfying experience. You can be proud of what you have produced and the discipline it forces you to adopt is extremely valuable to any project work you will do in the future.

When I first left Kent I worked unpaid at start-up companies in London, which eventually led to a paid full-time contract. I knew that I had the qualifications, skills and experience to do the job because I engaged fully with my degree.

What are your future career plans?
I have always wanted to write, and despite having dreams of writing for television or film, possibly even for my own stand-up routine, I am taking a considered approach to my future. I have a cool job that has the potential to save a lot of lives and make a lot of money.

I’ve toyed with the idea of starting my own business, as I have learnt a lot about start-ups since graduating but I would also like to write copy for online media, food and culture journalism as well as political and cultural comment pieces for digital and print media.

What advice would you give to prospective students?
All prospective Cultural Studies and Media students should seriously consider writing an undergraduate dissertation in their third year. It’s worth giving it some serious thought in your second year, and not just because it’s worth a lot of module credits. It was such a valuable experience for my personal and professional development.

Preparing for seminars is really important if you want to get the most out of your university experience; there really is no point in wasting your own time by not being properly prepared. That said, it is also important to have fun and enjoy the freedom you get at university.

**DID YOU KNOW?**
Six months after graduation in 2016, more than 96% of Kent students had found a job or were going on to further studies.
Choosing Your Programme

Not sure which programme to choose? Here’s a guide to the Cultural Studies and Media degrees on offer.

Single honours
Cultural Studies and Media
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/1382

If you choose the single honours Cultural Studies and Media degree programme, you will have the opportunity to work across disciplinary boundaries and to choose modules from a wide range available from several subjects – all addressing ‘culture’, ‘media’ and ‘society’ as they are widely understood. In your final year of study, there is an option to take a dissertation module on a subject of your choice, which allows you to focus in detail on an area you are particularly passionate about.

Joint honours
By its very nature, cultural studies is an interdisciplinary activity and we offer a range of joint honours degrees with Cultural Studies.

Joint honours include:
- Criminology and Cultural Studies
- Cultural Studies and Art History
- Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature
- Cultural Studies and Film
- Cultural Studies and Media and Journalism
- Cultural Studies and Media with Journalism
- Cultural Studies and Social Anthropology
- Philosophy and Cultural Studies.

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

Teaching and assessment
During your degree, you will generally be studying four modules at any one time. Typically, you attend a one-hour lecture and a one-hour seminar a week for each module – though there are variations on this format. The weekly seminars are where you meet with your tutor in small groups to discuss the literature and other material relating to course subject matters and themes – often following reading or viewing assignments.

Broadly speaking, our degrees are assessed by 50% coursework and 50% examination. The coursework takes the form of essays, short presentations, portfolios and occasionally other practical exercises. The vast majority of examinations take place at the end of the academic year.
YOUR STUDY PROGRAMME

Your studies are divided into three stages, each equivalent to one year of full-time study or two years of part-time study.

Please note that our module lists are not fixed – new modules are always in development and choices are updated yearly. See www.kent.ac.uk/ug for the most up-to-date information.

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

Studying at Stage 1

Students on the single honours programme in Cultural Studies and Media take the following:
- Contemporary Culture and Media (SO335)
- Modern Culture (SO334).

You also choose one of the following:
- Fundamentals of Sociology (SO337)
- Sociological Theory: The Classics (SO408)
- Sociology of Everyday Life (SO336).

You take two further modules from a range of choices drawn from the lists offered by the Faculties of Social Sciences and Humanities.

If you are taking a joint honours programme, you also take one or two compulsory modules from your joint honours subject.

Optional modules on offer may include:
- Analysing British Politics Today (PO304)
- Critical Thinking (SO341)
- Film Style (FI313)
- Introduction to Contemporary Art (HA314)
- Social Policy and Social Control (SA300).
YOUR STUDY PROGRAMME (CONT)

Studying at Stages 2 and 3

During your second and third years of study (Stages 2 and 3), you have the chance to take a diverse range of modules from various disciplines and faculties – all in the spirit of our commitment to interdisciplinary thinking.

In either Stage 2 or Stage 3 of your programme, you take the following module:

- Popular Culture, Media and Society (SO750).

If you are on a joint honours programme, there may also be compulsory modules in your other discipline.

In Stage 3 of your studies, you have the option to complete a Cultural Studies Research Dissertation (SO683). This allows you to embark on an original piece of research of your own choosing, carried out under the supervision of a member of the Cultural Studies and Media team. If you choose this option, you are assessed on the finished dissertation of around 12,000 words and it will count for one quarter of your final year’s marks.

In addition to these elements of study, you can choose from a wide range of optional modules.

Those on offer may include:

- Abstract Art (HA663)
- A Future for the Welfare State? Social Change, Challenge and Crisis (SA603)
- Age of Capital: From Realism to Decadence (CP636)
- Art in France: from 1785 to 1925 (HA695)
- Classicism and Baroque (HA680)
- Comparative Literature and English and Linguistics in the Classroom (CP659)
- Contemporary Sociological Theory (SO727)
- Costume and Fashion (ART502)
- Creatures of the Night: Vampires in Literature and Film (CP644)
- Criminal Justice in Modern Britain: Development, Issues and Politics (SO536)
- Cultures of Embodiment (SO676)
- Digital Culture (SO657)
- Digital Photography (EL536)
- Don Juan and Casanova: The Art of Seduction in Literature, Music and Film (CP655)
- Drawing on History (HA666)
- Drugs, Culture and Control (SO689)
- Emotion, Media and Culture (SO742)
- Environmental Politics (SO525)
- Fiction and Power (CP524)
- From Warhol to Whiterad: Postmodernity & Visual Art Practice (HA679)
- Kent Student Certificate for Volunteering, Platinum Award (SO670)
- Latin American Fiction (CP532)
- Mental Health (SO532)
- Migration and Belonging (SO755)

“I liked seeing things from a new angle and questioning ‘taken-for-granted’ knowledge that we might have. When we talk about popular culture there’s a lot of things we tend to assume, so it’s good to analyse it and criticise it from an academic perspective.”

Kezziah Moorhouse
BA Cultural Studies
“All Cultural Studies and Media students should seriously consider writing an undergraduate dissertation in their third year. It was such a valuable experience for my personal and professional development.”

Fergus Knight
BA in Philosophy and Cultural Studies
VISIT THE UNIVERSITY

Come to an Open Day or an Applicant Day and see for yourself what it’s 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 both 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 can hear from people who help make
Kent such an inspiring place to study – our staff and students. To get started, go to www.kent.ac.uk/courses/visit/informal/audio-tour.html

Alternatively, we can provide you with a self-guided tour leaflet, which includes the main points of interest. For more details and to download a self-guided tour, go to www.kent.ac.uk/informal

More information
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

To download another subject leaflet, go to www.kent.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate/leaflets

On the web
For updates and news stories from the School, please see: www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr www.facebook.com/KentSSPSSR www.twitter.com/sspssr www.youtube.com/sspssr

Location
Canterbury

Award
BA (Hons)

Degree programme
Single honours
• Cultural Studies and Media (V900)

Joint honours
• Philosophy and Cultural Studies (VV59)
• Criminology and Cultural Studies (MV99)
• Cultural Studies and Art History (VV93)
• Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature (QV29)
• Cultural Studies and Film (VV96)
• Cultural Studies and Media and Journalism (V9P5)
• Cultural Studies and Media with Journalism (V9P6)
• Cultural Studies and Social Anthropology (LV69)

Offer levels
BBB at A level, IB Diploma
34 points or IB Diploma with 15 points at Higher.

We are committed to widening participation and have a successful tradition of admitting mature students. We welcome applications from students on accredited Access courses.

Required subjects
None, but preferred A levels include one or more of the following: Sociology, English Literature, Media Studies, Philosophy, Geography, Politics, Film Studies, Economics, Art, natural sciences, languages, combined with any others.

For Cultural Studies with Comparative Literature: grade B or above in A level English Literature or English Language and Literature, if taken.

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

Entry requirements and offer levels are subject to change. For the latest 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