Cultural Studies and Media
Canterbury
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND INSPIRATIONAL TEACHING

Kent is one of the UK's leading universities, ranked 16th in The Guardian University Guide 2016. In the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014, Kent is ranked 17th* for research intensity, outperforming 11 of the 24 Russell Group universities.

The School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research – which includes Cultural Studies and Media – has an excellent reputation for both research and teaching.

World-leading research

The School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR) is one of the largest of its type in the UK. Based on our submission to the REF 2014, research in the School was ranked 2nd in the UK for research power. It was also ranked 3rd in the UK for research intensity by the Times Higher Education. 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.

Outstanding teaching

Our academics are leaders in their fields and their passion for their subject will inspire you. Those teaching on the Cultural Studies and Media degree have research interests ranging from new media and digital culture to gender and the body; from urban social change to the commodification of violence in video games; from the mediation of cultural memory to the transnational politics of emotion; and from the sociology of religion to photography and spectacles of war, torture and terrorism. Their research informs their teaching, which means that you are taught by experts in the field.

Our courses get excellent evaluations and feedback from our students, who appreciate the knowledge of our staff and value their dedication in assisting those they teach to achieve their full potential.

Stimulating programme

Cultural Studies and Media at Kent is an innovative subject exploring the complexity of contemporary media and culture in our rapidly changing global society. You have the opportunity to explore a host of exciting areas, from digital media and journalism, to the creative and cultural industries, to social identities and sub-cultures. We offer a wide range of joint honours degrees with Cultural Studies alongside the single honours Cultural Studies and Media programme, all of which draw on expertise from several disciplines in the Faculties of Social Sciences and Humanities.

*out of 122 universities, not including specialist institutions
A global outlook
Kent has a reputation as the UK’s European university and has international partnerships with over 100 universities throughout Europe and many more worldwide. We have an international community on campus, with 27% of our students coming from outside the UK, which gives you the opportunity to gain an international perspective on your studies.

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 study, you develop key transferable skills, considered 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

Analysing culture, media and society
You cannot be part of today’s society without being affected by the constant stream of mediated culture: from digital news, to billboard advertising, to government cultural policy, to high fashion and street style. We are all caught up in the network of communications, whether in face-to-face encounters, on Facebook or Twitter, or by way of email; it is something we all do, cope with, and make sense of. Cultural Studies and Media addresses contemporary media and culture in more theoretical and analytical ways, seeing them in a broader global and historical context and evaluating their impact on the ways we experience our lives and organise and govern our societies.

Why Cultural Studies and Media?
Choosing your course at university is a big decision. To help you decide whether this is the course for you, here are some interesting questions to consider.

• Are you interested in what is going on in contemporary culture?
• Do you follow what is happening in the media, popular culture and the cultural industries?
• Are you ever suspicious of the way that ethnicity, race, youth, gender and sexuality are represented in films, on TV or in advertising?
• Is ‘internet life’ (Facebook, Second Life, YouTube, Twitter, Tumblr and so on) part of your life and do you wonder how this 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 to what you have been doing up to now. Good thinking!
Our campus at Canterbury provides a stunning location for your studies and offers first-class academic and leisure facilities. The campus benefits from a multicultural learning environment and is within easy reach of both London and mainland Europe.

Culture on campus
Kent has a fully equipped theatre and cinema, which regularly host touring productions and screen the latest films. The students' union, Kent Union, is at the centre of student culture and hosts bands, club nights and parties.

If you want to produce media and culture as well as consume it – if you are a musician, budding actor or filmmaker, for instance – 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 University's sports centre, enjoy its gym, climbing wall and courts and join some of the many sports clubs which 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, banks, 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.

International community
Kent offers an incredibly diverse and cosmopolitan campus – 149 nationalities are represented here. We also have strong links with universities and research centres in Europe.
Luke Shoveller is in his third year, studying for a BA in Cultural Studies (now titled Cultural Studies and Media).

Why did you choose Kent?
I chose Kent because of its Cultural Studies programme, mainly because I am interested in empirical research as well as theoretical study, but also because it was convenient to my home, which is near Ashford.

How is your course going?
It's going brilliantly! I really enjoy the interdisciplinary nature of the programme. By that I mean I'm allowed to pick modules from the arts, humanities and social sciences which is great because it means you get a wide range of challenges outside the core programme. For instance, I am studying history and philosophy as well as sociology modules.

What have you most enjoyed studying?
I particularly enjoyed the History module Science, Power and Politics in 20th Century Britain, because although it was a module in the humanities, it offered an alternative way of looking at empirical work. I also liked Popular Culture, Media and Society, which was a compulsory module in the second year. There's a great mix of topics, touching on mediation processes, emotion and the politics of consumption, but also cultural memory, heritage and narrative, which I am particularly interested in because I plan to develop these interests through a Master's degree in Methods of Social Research.

How would you describe your lecturers?
Generally they are very enthusiastic, engaging and give you a lot of time. They are very generous in that respect. The Sociology and Cultural Studies lecturers, in particular, are willing to give extra time to students who need or want it, sometimes offering separate out-of-hours discussion groups, which are really useful.

What about your fellow students?
On the Cultural Studies programme, you get to meet students from different schools, all ready with their own distinct ways tackling the same topic, and it's interesting to get different perspectives in class discussions.

Are your lecturers supportive?
I have been very impressed by the time lecturers take to help you; if they find relevant journals, videos or books, they put them on Moodle [Kent's Virtual Learning Environment] and if you have any difficulties with a reading or an essay, seminar leaders and lecturers always make time to help.

What are the facilities like on campus?
I didn’t live on campus in my first year so I probably haven’t made the most of all the facilities on offer but the library is good – it’s being expanded at the moment, so students who come to Kent after I’ve graduated will really reap the benefits.

What kind of career do you hope to follow when you leave, and why?
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. The Cultural Studies programme has proved great preparation for this. At the moment, I’m involved with a new module called Social Sciences in the Classroom, where I teach at Brompton Academy [one of the University’s partner schools] for a couple of sessions each week. It gives me experience in a live setting which is invaluable.

Any advice to somebody thinking of coming to Kent?
I would say read! I know that sounds like a command rather than advice but what I mean is really engage with your subject. Don't just do the bare minimum, go beyond what you need to do and see it as an opportunity rather than a burden because cultural studies can, and should, be fun, so enjoy it and embrace it. Always try and look further into the subject, because it's an intellectually stimulating, exciting and rewarding course to be involved with and, ultimately, you'll enjoy it more that way.
A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

Kent equips you with essential skills to give you a competitive advantage when it comes to getting a job.

Good career prospects
According to recent employment statistics, Kent graduates are doing extremely well in an ever-changing job market. Six months after graduation in 2014, less than 6% of the University’s students were without a job or further study opportunity.

As a Cultural Studies and Media graduate, you will have a highly developed critical perspective on many aspects of the world today. You will leave the University with a broad knowledge of culture, media and society and of the contemporary critical debates surrounding culture in the many senses of the term.

Our 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 learning experience at Kent, we help you to acquire key transferable skills such as communication and presentation, teamworking, IT and project-planning, that will be useful when you are seeking future employment. The ability to analyse complex ideas and offer your own innovative solutions, writing well, 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 the added extra that employers are looking for.

Careers advice
The award-winning Careers and Employability Service at Kent 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 graduate opportunities. For more information visit our website at www.kent.ac.uk/employability

DID YOU KNOW?
In the National Student Survey 2014, Kent gained the 3rd highest score in the UK for overall student satisfaction.
GRADUATE PROFILE

Fergus Knight graduated with a BA in Philosophy and Cultural Studies in 2013 and is now working 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 teachers and seminar leaders sometimes seemed rather nonchalant, but I soon learnt that what they were doing was giving me the freedom to take charge of my own learning. On the whole, the teachers 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 is 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 do the skills you gained at Kent help you in your present career?
In my current role I do a lot of heavily researched blogging. I would be far less prepared and possibly unable to do my job if I had not fully engaged with my research dissertation. Completing a project like that is an incredibly satisfying experience if 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 left Kent in 2013 I worked unpaid at start-up companies in London, which eventually led to a paid full-time contract. I know that I have the qualifications, skills and experience to do my 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.
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**

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**

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

- **Film and Cultural Studies (VW96)**
  Discussions of film arise across a wide range of topics in cultural studies. This programme gives you access to Film modules not available on other Cultural Studies joint honours programmes; this will widen your understanding of film, the history of cinema and the perspectives of specific directors and genres.

  Other joint honours include:
  - Criminology and Cultural Studies (MV99)
  - Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature (QV29)
  - Cultural Studies and History & Philosophy of Art (VV93)
  - Cultural Studies and Philosophy (VV59)
  - Cultural Studies and Social Anthropology (LV69).

**Teaching and assessment**

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.

**International students**

It is possible to progress from the Kent International Foundation Programme (IFP) to Cultural Studies and Media or any of the joint honours degree programmes. For the most up-to-date information, see: www.kent.ac.uk/ifp
STUDYING AT STAGE 1

Stage 1 is the first year of full-time study and you are introduced to the field by the modules, Modern Culture and Contemporary Culture and Media.

Students on the single honours programme in Cultural Studies and Media also take the following:

- Sociology of Everyday Life
- Fundamentals of Sociology
- Sociological Theory: The Classics.

You take two further modules from a range of choices drawn from the lists offered by the Faculties of Social Sciences and Humanities, plus a ‘wild module’.

If you are taking a joint honours programme, you take:

- Modern Culture
- Contemporary Culture and Media
- One or two compulsory modules from your joint honours subject
- Two optional modules.

For details of the compulsory or optional modules offered within your joint subject, go to www.kent.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate

Modules: Stage 1

There isn’t room here to tell you about all of the optional modules on offer, so here is some detail on two modules taken by everyone on the Cultural Studies and Media programme, or the joint honours Cultural Studies programmes.

Modern Culture

This introduces you to debates surrounding modern culture, looking at why culture has always been such a contested sphere and why it has a decisive impact on society at large. You study culture in the widest sense, ranging from ‘the arts’ to the banalities of everyday life in our consumer society; at how culture has expressed and organised the way people think and live from the days of ‘protestantism’ to those of post-punk. Books, magazines, radio, TV, films, cartoons, fashion, graffiti, the cult of celebrity, youth subcultures and pop music are used to understand class, history, sexuality, colonialism, revolution, conflict and globalisation.

Contemporary Culture and Media

Contemporary culture is ‘now-time’ culture, but when did ‘now’ begin – and will it be over before the programme starts? The module seeks to understand the transformation of culture and media and everyday life we are living through and the way it changes who we are. It analyses contemporary culture and media, raising questions about how culture can be viewed from aesthetic, political, ethical and economic perspectives. What is culture for? Who owns it? Is it for fun or deadly serious? We take a case study approach to cultural products and objects, media and institutions to think through contemporary issues such as gender relations, sexuality and multiculturalism, and what they might imply about our perceptions of space, place and belonging.

Please note: 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.

Example options:

- Aesthetics
- Cinema and Society 1930-1960
- Crime, Culture and Control
- Existentialism
- Film Style
- Health, Care and Wellbeing
- Introduction to American Studies
- Introduction to Contemporary European and Hispanic Cinemas
- Introduction to Criminology
- Introduction to Philosophy (Ethics)
- Introduction to Political Thought
- Introduction to Psychology 1 and 2
- Modern Languages (French, German, Spanish, Italian)
- Readings in the 20th Century
- Religion and Sex
- The Shock of the Now: Themes in Contemporary Art
- Social Anthropology
- The Tale
- Thinking about Photography and its Histories.

DID YOU KNOW?

At Stage 2, you can take a one-term placement with the Social Sciences in the Classroom module. Presenting subject concepts in a classroom setting gives you valuable professional experience.
STUDYING AT STAGES 2 AND 3

During your second and third years of study, 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.

You build your programme around compulsory modules taken in Stages 2 and 3, which are taught by the Cultural Studies and Media team and, if you are on a joint honours programme, by the course team for your other discipline.

Please note: 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.

In either Stage 2 or Stage 3 of your programme, you take the following Cultural Studies and Media modules:
- Cultures of Embodiment
- Digital Culture
- Popular Culture, Media and Society.

In Stage 3 of your studies, you have the option 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. This project is the Cultural Studies and Media Dissertation option. 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 compulsory elements of study, in your second and final years of study you will, in line with your specific programme, be able to choose options from a list of modules, including such things as:
- Art and Film
- Beauty in Theory, Culture and Contemporary Art
- Creatures of the Night: Vampires in Literature and Film
- Crime, Media and Culture
- Drugs, Culture and Control
- Emotion, Media and Culture
- Fiction and Power
- From Warhol to Whiteread: Postmodernity and Visual Art Practice
- Literature and Medicine
- Literature and Society
- Race and Racism
- Religion and Film
- Science Fiction: History and Innovation
- Social Politics of Food.

DID YOU KNOW?
Kent is a top 20 University, ranked 16th in the UK in The Guardian University Guide 2016.
they pervade reality television programmes based on diet, exercise and ‘extreme’ makeovers. These trends have arisen at the same time that science, technology, genetic engineering and medicine have achieved unprecedented levels of control over the body. In this module, we explore how culture represents and shapes bodies, and also look at how embodied subjects are themselves able to act on and influence the culture in which they live. We will explore the relationship between the body and self-identity, embodiment and inequalities, and look at various theories of the body. In this cultural climate, the idea of the body as something ‘natural’ is open to debate.

Digital Culture
This module introduces some of the key issues surrounding the significance of information technology (and the internet in particular) in our society and culture. You start by looking at theories of the information society in relation to communications technology in contemporary capitalism, and the emerging disparities and conflicts which result. You then approach the so-called ‘information age’ from a cultural perspective, concentrating on how the internet challenges some of our more traditional notions of identity, relationships, community, space and culture. We consider how some components of traditional culture have been complicated by the rise of cyberspace and mobile technologies.

Popular Culture, Media and Society
The module explores a range of debates and issues surrounding media and popular culture focusing on such themes as power and control; the ethics of social media; popular music and the cultural industries; the formation of identities in relation to gender, race, class and nation; the politics of representation and misrepresentation; feminism, sexuality and digital culture; protest cultures and media activism; the mediation of heritage and cultural memory and emotions and cultural politics. It begins with a glance to the past and the old/new media dichotomy, but always with a view to contemporary concerns.

“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
VISIT THE UNIVERSITY

Come to 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 displays, 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

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, or would like to order another subject leaflet, please contact us on:
T: +44 (0)1227 827272
Freephone (UK only):
0800 975 3777
www.kent.ac.uk/ug

For more information on the School, please see www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES
For details of scholarships and bursaries at Kent, see www.kent.ac.uk/ugfunding
Location
Canterbury

Award
BA (Hons)

Degree programme

Single honours
• Cultural Studies and Media (V900)

Joint honours
• Criminology and Cultural Studies (MV99)
• Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature (QV29)
• Cultural Studies and Film (VW96)
• Cultural Studies and History & Philosophy of Art (VV93)
• Cultural Studies and Social Anthropology (LV69)
• Philosophy and Cultural Studies (V59)*

*This programme is run from the School of European Culture and Languages (SECL); for further information, see www.kent.ac.uk/secl

Offer levels
ABB at A level, IB Diploma
34 points or IB Diploma
with 16 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. Preferred A levels for all programmes 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.

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 2015.
The information contained within this brochure was correct at the time of going to press. For the most up-to-date information, please see www.kent.ac.uk/ug

Terms and conditions: the University reserves the right to make variations to the content and delivery of courses and other services, or to discontinue courses and other services, if such action is reasonably considered to be necessary. If a programme is discontinued, the University will make every effort to provide a suitable alternative, but cannot guarantee it will be able to do so. For full terms and conditions, please see www.kent.ac.uk/termsandconditions

To register for a programme of study, all students must agree to abide by the University Regulations (available online at: www.kent.ac.uk/regulations).

Data protection and consent to process: for the University to operate efficiently, it needs to process information about you for administrative, academic and health and safety reasons. Any offer this institution makes to you is subject to your consent to process such information and is therefore a requirement before we can register you as a student.

Cover image: www.flickr.com/photos/david_carroll/3793319614
COME AND VISIT US

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