HISPANIC STUDIES

Canterbury
Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the world, and at Kent you have the opportunity to become a fluent speaker even if you have never learnt Spanish before. You also explore the history, literature and film of Spain, Cuba and countries in Latin America, giving you a fascinating insight into the Spanish-speaking world.
WHY CHOOSE HISPANIC STUDIES AT KENT?

Inspirational teaching
Great teachers inspire enthusiasm and provoke debate. Whether leading a language class or introducing you to Catalan culture, our staff are skilled at bringing their subject to life. They share their research and challenge you to contribute your ideas.

Academic support
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.

Year abroad opportunities
We have partnerships with universities in Spain, Peru, Chile and Uruguay so you have plenty of exciting options for your year abroad. We can also help you to arrange a place as a language assistant or other work in a Spanish-speaking country.

World-leading research
Our staff have expertise in cultural, political and social issues in both Spain and Latin America. They write books, contribute to journals, present at international conferences and introduce you to the latest research.

Friendly community
You study Spanish alongside students studying French, German and Italian. You become part of a friendly community of language students with shared interests and experiences, and have the opportunity to learn from one another.

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

Spanish for business
Spanish is the official language of most countries in South and Central America, making it valuable for communicating across international borders. Fluency in Spanish opens up broader career options, whether you choose to work in the UK or elsewhere.

Flexible programme
Hispanic Studies at Kent isn’t just about learning languages – you also explore literature, film and history, too. Many of your modules are optional, allowing you to tailor your programme to your interests and immerse yourself in Hispanic culture.

Career success
Employability is a priority at Kent. Studying sharpens skills that are crucial in the workplace, 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.
Support for language fluency

At Kent we offer you excellent support to become a fluent Spanish speaker, whether the language is completely new to you or you have already been learning it for several years. The staff who teach our language modules are all native speakers, and by the time you return from your year abroad you should be proficient in the language of everyday Spanish life. Depending on whether you are a single or joint honours student, you also have the opportunity to study Catalan, the language of Barcelona and the Balearic Islands.

Independent rankings

The Guardian University Guide 2020
• Over 89% of final-year Modern Languages and Linguistics students were satisfied with the quality of teaching on their course.

National Student Survey 2018
• Over 87% of final-year Hispanic Studies students who completed the survey were satisfied with the overall quality of their course.

Research Excellence Framework
• Based on the most recent Research Excellence Framework, Modern Languages and Linguistics 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
Sonja von Hertwig is in the second year of her joint honours degree in Hispanic Studies and French. This is what she told us about life at Kent.

Why did you choose to study Hispanic Studies and French?
I’ve always been very intrigued by languages. I’m from Germany and I learned French, English and Latin at school there; then, in Year 12, I came to school in England and started learning Spanish in my own free time and got very passionate about it. So I decided I’d like to do French and Spanish for a degree.

Why did you choose Kent?
I wanted to do a degree that wasn’t only about learning languages; I wanted to be involved with literature or film, other aspects of learning a language. Kent seemed like a good option because the modules are so varied and you can also take elective modules if you’re interested in another subject area.

Can you describe what your course is like?
For our language module we have grammar lessons and workshops, which are like reading lessons. For the workshops, we are given a text to read before the class, then we either talk about it or translate it, and have a discussion about it together.

We also have speaking lessons where we do lots of practice, which has helped me a lot. It doesn’t matter if you make mistakes because everyone makes them.

I also take part in a scheme called the tandem programme, where you exchange languages. You let the department know what languages you speak and they match you up with someone who speaks the language you are learning. I met a girl from Panama who wanted to learn German. When we meet up we speak German for 30 minutes and then Spanish for 30 minutes. It’s really good.

What about the other aspects of your course?
I did a module on Spanish literature last term, which was very interesting. I thought Spanish literature would be too difficult for me but actually I enjoy it a lot! This term I’ve just started Spanish cinema and I love that too.

Are your lecturers helpful?
Definitely, yes. You can email them or go to see them during their office hours. If you’re not sure you’re going in the right direction in an essay, they will meet you to discuss it and offer advice.

What do you think of the facilities on campus?
I like to use the study hubs in the accommodation – in Darwin, or Keynes – rather than the library because they tend to be less busy, and I find it easier to focus there. I’ve been to yoga, Zumba and spinning classes at the sports centre but I prefer to do physical activity outside, so I like to do the park run here on a Saturday morning.

What are your plans for your year abroad?
I’ve decided to do a work placement, rather than a study placement, because I thought it would be a good chance to try out work opportunities and see if they are what I would like to do in the future.

As I’m doing joint honours I’ll spend part of my year in France as a tour leader and then next February I’m going to be working in Spain, in Bilbao, for Happy Erasmus, which looks after exchange students. We’ll be organising events, activities and trips and supporting them all the way through their Erasmus experience. I’m really looking forward to it. I’m thinking about becoming a tour leader when I graduate – I love showing people my own perspective of another country and culture, and I love working with young people.

Any advice for someone thinking of coming to Kent?
Come to the open days, ask lots of questions and have a look at the city of Canterbury itself, to see whether you would like it here. And then, if you have any questions, there’s a buddy scheme that allows you to email a current Hispanic Studies student to ask about the course and the student life. I think that would be very helpful.
CHOOSING YOUR DEGREE

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

Hispanic Studies
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/107
Hispanic Studies is a full-time four-year single honours degree. You learn Catalan as well as Spanish, and spend a year studying or working abroad.

Our range of literature, film and culture modules covers a wide variety of topics, from Spanish and Latin American film to race and ethnicity in Latin America.

Joint honours and other degree programmes
On a joint honours programme you can combine Hispanic Studies with a wide range of other subjects. Study is divided 50:50 between your two honours subjects. As on our single honours programmes, you spend a year working or studying abroad.

To find out more about the following programmes, go to www.kent.ac.uk/ug and add the course code shown below:

- Art History (/835)
- Comparative Literature (/384)
- English Literature (/311)
- English Language and Linguistics (/219)
- French (/338)
- German (/207)
- History (/361)
- Italian (/356)
- Management (/1913)

European Studies
As an alternative to studying for joint honours, you might be interested in European Studies. On a European Studies degree you explore a broad range of European history, politics, culture and society. For more information, search for European Studies at www.kent.ac.uk/ug
As well as compulsory Spanish language modules, you study modules on Hispanic literature, film, history and politics.

Your studies are divided into Stages 1, 2 and 3 and you take your year abroad between Stages 2 and 3.

Module information
Please note that the module lists below 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). 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 code shown below.

Stage 1
Compulsory modules (single honours)
Students who have studied Spanish at A level take:
• Spanish Lower Intermediate B1 (LS300).

Students who have not studied Spanish at A level take:

All students also take the following:
• Introduction to Hispanic Culture (LS312).

Optional and elective modules (singlehonours)
Students choose at least one Hispanic Studies optional module from the Department of Modern Languages and elective modules from other subject areas across the University.

Hispanic Studies optional modules include:
• Introduction to Contemporary European and Hispanic Cinemas (CP318)
• State-Building in Latin America (LS319).

Joint honours
Joint honours students take the appropriate Spanish language module and Introduction to Hispanic Culture (LS312). They choose an optional module from those offered by the Department of Modern Languages or an elective module from another subject area across the University. They also take the modules required for their other subject (see the course information at www.kent.ac.uk/ug for more details).

Stage 2
Compulsory modules (single honours)
At Stage 2 students continue their language learning based on their level of proficiency.

Those who took Spanish Lower Intermediate B1 at Stage 1 now take:
• Spanish Upper Intermediate B2 (LS505).

Those who took Spanish Beginners A1-A2 at Stage 1 now take:
Students also take modules in Catalan:
- Catalan Beginners A1 (LS310)
- Catalan Beginners A2 (LS311).

Optional and elective modules (single honours)
Students choose at least two optional Hispanic Studies modules from the Department of Modern Languages. There is also an opportunity to take elective modules from other subject areas across the University. Hispanic Studies optional modules include:
- After Dictatorship: Spain and Latin America (LS571)
- Catalan Culture (LS515)
- Contemporary Spanish Cinema (LS548)
- Cultures of Sustainability (SCL505)
- Second-Year Extended Essay (LS568).

Joint honours
Students on a joint honours programme take the Spanish language module appropriate to their proficiency (LS504 or LS505), plus two optional Hispanic Studies modules. They also take the modules required for their other subject.

Year abroad
The year abroad takes place between Stages 2 and 3. Students studying two languages as a joint honours programme split their year abroad between two countries where those languages are spoken. For details, see p11.

Stage 3
Compulsory modules (single honours)
The final-year language module is:
- Spanish Advanced C1 (LS506).

Optional and elective modules (single honours)
Students choose at least one from:
- Catalan Lower Intermediate B1 (LS552)

Joint honours
Students on a joint honours programme take the Spanish language module (LS506) plus at least one Hispanic Studies optional module. They also take the modules required for their other subject. Depending on the combination of modules they select, they may also be able to choose elective modules.
YOUR YEAR ABROAD

The year you spend studying or working abroad enriches your university experience. Not only do you improve your language skills and develop your cultural awareness, you also improve your future employment prospects.

By studying abroad, 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 also demonstrate that you are flexible in your outlook and have the enthusiasm and drive to succeed in a new environment.

For many students, their year abroad is a life-changing and rewarding experience.

Many languages graduates choose to live and work abroad. If you are thinking of doing this, you can use your year abroad to discover more about your host country and its culture, as well as to research possible career opportunities.

Joint honours students

If you are studying Spanish as a joint honours degree with another European language, you spend half of your year in a Spanish-speaking country and half in a country where your other language is spoken.

Study abroad

Your year abroad takes place between Stages 2 and 3 of your degree. We have exchange agreements with several universities in Spanish-speaking countries. Academics from the department routinely visit students on study exchanges at our partner institutions to monitor their progress.

For up-to-date details of where you can study, see Kent’s A to Z course list at: www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad/opportunities

Work abroad

As an alternative to a study exchange, you might prefer to become a language assistant. The majority of language assistant positions are organised by the British Council and allow students to teach English (providing, for example, conversation classes) in secondary schools in Spanish-speaking countries. Work placements are another possibility: students find various types of employment in Spanish-speaking countries.

Assessment

Your time abroad contributes to your final degree. If you are on a study exchange, you are awarded marks for your studies; if you are working as a language assistant or elsewhere, you write an essay under the guidance of a staff member.

Advice and support

Our specialist staff provide advice and support to help you decide what you want to do and where you want to go during your year abroad. They offer advice on all the practical issues you have to consider – such as destinations and finance – before you go away, keep in touch with you while you are away and offer support when you return. They can also put you in touch with students who attended the university or location you are going to, so that you can get feedback from them.

All information is correct at the time of going to press. For the most up-to-date information, including related to Brexit, please see www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad

“Our students benefit greatly from the excellent relationships we have built up with our partners in Europe and further afield. It is always a pleasure to welcome them back from their year abroad and watch them put their new-found confidence to use.”

Dr Mathilde Poizat-Amar
Department of Modern Languages
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.

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.

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:

• talking to your lecturers about any help you need in lectures or seminars
• arranging note-takers, signers and other support workers for you
• discussing exam access arrangements
• helping you with emotional, psychological or mental health issues
• applying for relevant funding to support you.

Find out more at: www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport

“Peer mentoring is definitely a useful scheme. We meet whenever my mentee needs anything explained that she hasn’t quite understood in class. If she wants to go over language or grammar, we sit down and do exercises together.”

Orla Cura
Peer mentor
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. Additionally, the ability to speak Spanish is valuable in many professions. 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 the world of 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. Another option is a longer-term work placement – see p11 for more details.

Find a great job

There are so many career options for a linguist. These include sales and export, international marketing, the travel industry, banking and financial services. Our graduates also work in translating and interpreting, journalism, publishing and teaching. We offer a module on languages in the classroom, which is a useful preparation for anyone interested in language teaching at primary, secondary or HE level.

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).
Amarah McKenzie-Lyle graduated in 2017 with a joint honours degree in Comparative Literature and Spanish. This is what she told us about her studies and life after Kent.

I was encouraged to study at Kent by my A Level English teacher, who had studied here previously and spoke highly of the outstanding quality of teaching. But it wouldn’t be a lie if I told you that one of the reasons I decided to study at Kent was due to falling in love with the beautiful city of Canterbury!

I decided to study a joint honours programme as I felt this offered me the chance to explore my interests and develop a broader set of skills. I chose Spanish because I enjoyed learning the language and exploring Latin American culture: I believe learning a language is invaluable.

I found joint honours challenging at first but quickly learnt how to organise myself and manage my time effectively. I often found that there was cross-over between my two subjects; for example, texts that I studied in Comparative Literature would crop up in Hispanic modules.

I thoroughly enjoyed the modules on Hispanic culture – the course content was interesting and the lecturers had a passion for their subject. My favourite module was on the impact of state-sponsored violence and transactional justice in Latin America, which I found really interesting. Modules are made up of seminars, lectures and workshops and they incorporate different media such as documentaries and films as well as texts; the variety suited my learning style really well.

During my time at Kent, lecturers operated an open door policy, so I always felt I could ask for support and guidance when needed. I received regular feedback and constructive criticism on essays and exams and had frequent progress check-ups with my academic adviser.

I spent my year abroad living and studying in the Spanish city of Toledo, where I made friends for life, got to travel and was immersed in Spanish culture. During this year not only did my Spanish speaking, listening and writing skills greatly improve but my confidence within myself. Living by yourself in a different country is a culture shock and you have to learn to adapt. Undertaking this year taught me how to manage and overcome unexpected challenges and gave me the resilience I needed to successfully complete the final year.

I would definitely recommend a year abroad and have found that it helps to make you stand out to employers and is an interesting talking point in interviews.

I made use of the careers advisers at Kent and found their advice really useful in the period after graduating when I was searching for a graduate job. It was reassuring to feel supported even after leaving the University.

I’m currently working as an Executive Officer in the People Development team within HR at the Government Legal Department. I have always wanted to work in the Civil Service as the opportunities for growth and professional development are second to none.

My role is extremely varied and my responsibilities range from helping to facilitate learning and development training events, to providing support for the legal and business apprenticeship programmes, to planning large-scale events such as Learning at Work Week for over 2,000 staff. I have had the opportunity to develop a variety of skills, from writing articles for the communications team to practising public speaking through to presenting at events. For me every day is different and this is what I enjoy the most about my role.

To anyone thinking of coming to Kent, I would say attend the open day, have a thorough look through the prospectus and on the website and take the time to research the course you are interested in studying. Make sure to look through the modules, the method of assessment and start the reading list early! Being organised is key. I would also recommend getting involved with societies and jumping at every opportunity that you can.
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 offered 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/unikentscel
- www.instagram.com/unikentscel
- www.youtube.com/unikentscel

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.
**COME AND FIND OUT MORE (CONT)**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Canterbury</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Awards</td>
<td>BA (Hons)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme type</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Degree programmes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Single honours</td>
<td>Hispanic Studies (R400)</td>
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<td>Joint honours</td>
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<td>• Art History (RV43)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Comparative Literature (QR24)</td>
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<td>• English Literature (TBC)</td>
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| Typical offer levels | BBB at A level; IB Diploma 34 points overall or 15 points at HL; applications from BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma and Access to HE candidates are assessed on an individual basis. |

| Required subjects | Single honours | GCSE grade B or 6 in a second language; IB Diploma 4 at HL or 5 at SL in a second language. |

| Year abroad | Single and joint honours students can study at one of our exchange universities in Spain, Chile, Peru or Uruguay. See p11 for 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 |

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