The UK’s European university

ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL SCIENCES

Canterbury
If you want to contribute to a more sustainable future, study at Kent. You develop an understanding of what has led to the environmental and social crises of the 21st century. You gain the practical skills needed to bring about change, helping to secure a more sustainable future for humankind.
WHY STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL SCIENCES AT KENT?

Flexible programmes
You have choice and the opportunity to indulge your interests and passions. You choose from a large suite of optional modules and can pick others from across the University that give you new perspectives and insights into environmental sustainability.

Academic support
University is different to school. You need to be self-motivated and well organised to succeed. We help by assigning you an academic tutor and organising peer mentoring. You can also get help with academic skills, such as essay writing, from the University’s dedicated service.

Excellent resources
We are well equipped with teaching spaces, laboratories and field trials areas. The Templeman Library has more than 1 million books, ebooks, databases and journals. There are thousands of study spaces and networked PCs across campus.

Research community
You learn from leading experts in their field. As a School we engage with local, national and international partners to produce high-quality research that has a positive impact in the wider community.

Ideal location
Our Canterbury campus is close to the historical city with its cultural life and world-famous cathedral. Kent is culturally and economically diverse and our proximity to Europe enables us to maximise our strong research and business links.

Inspirational teaching
Great teachers inspire enthusiasm and provoke debate. Whether they’re lecturing on the human impact on the environment or sparking debate around the Anthropocene, our staff are skilled at bringing their subject to life.

Career success
Our emphasis is not on academic learning alone, but also on professional training. Over the past 25 years, our students have gone on to hold key roles in some of the world’s most innovative and successful sustainability initiatives.

Professional practice
You can choose to spend up to a year undertaking work placements with relevant organisations at home or abroad. You develop essential employability skills and add experience to your CV, giving you a head start in your career.

Field trips
Our field courses, in the UK and abroad, allow you to apply what you’ve learned to real-world situations, develop field skills, practice your research skills, and build friendships with staff and other students.
One-world thinking

We are at the centre of contemporary global debates and have a reputation for innovation and excellence in teaching and research. We believe that to make a significant impact on the sociological and environmental challenges facing our world, an interdisciplinary approach is required. In addition to expertise in geography, conservation, and anthropology, our programme draws on expertise in politics, economics, philosophy, law, history, literature and creative arts. This helps you to develop multidimensional and holistic one-world thinking.

Independent rankings

The Times Good University Guide 2019
• 5th in the UK for the related subject of Conservation (which is in the category of Agriculture and Forestry)

Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education
• 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)

Research Excellence Framework
• In the most recent research rankings, 97% of research at Kent was found to be of international quality

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
Eske Eilts is in the first year of her Environmental Social Sciences degree.

Why did you choose to study this subject at degree level?
I’ve always been into nature and there are a lot of threats to nature and the environment at the moment in the world. This is a global, urgent issue and it’s really necessary to have people in this area. I could have just studied environmental sciences but I’m also really interested in the social interactions with the environment, and different cultures.

What appealed to you about the programme at Kent?
I’m from Germany so originally I was looking for a course there but I couldn’t find anything like this there. There were a couple of similar courses elsewhere in the UK but not exactly like Kent. I came to an open day and had a chance to chat to the professors. It was great to talk to them and after that it was clear I should come to Kent.

What have been the highlights of the programme so far?
I really enjoyed the Contested Environments module in the first term because it was really broad. It looked at things like media coverage of the environment, how it was in the past compared to now, and issues like climate change consciousness and behaviour change.

We’ve also had field trips, for example to farms around Kent and to Folkestone, a coastal town, to see what’s happening there about eco-tourism. We’re not just sitting here reading; we’re also getting out there and getting people’s real opinions and a practical viewpoint.

I enjoy how broadly based the programme is because it’s interdisciplinary and it focuses on global problems, not just what’s in your own backyard. Everyone who wants to save the world should take this course.

Will you do a year of professional practice after your second year?
Yes, it’s a great opportunity and part of the reason I chose Kent. I’d like to go abroad, maybe to South America and work in the rainforest or something like that. The programme’s really flexible and you don’t have to decide until nearer the time.

What do you do outside of your studies?
I’ve joined societies like swing dance, yoga and the Conservation Society. Also in my free time I’m really into environmental activism. I’m really passionate about it, and there’s so much you can do, such as starting projects and going to strikes and protests.

What advice would you give a new student about settling in to university life?
Choose to study something you’re passionate about, not because you want to earn a lot of money afterwards. As long as you like it, you’ll enjoy studying.

And don’t be afraid. Everyone is new to university life. I joined some group chats when I arrived and people would meet up and have a few drinks. There are people I met on the first night that I’m still friends with now. Speak to people on your course, join societies and you’ll meet people.
You can study Environmental Social Sciences with or without a year in professional practice.

You study the same compulsory modules, and have the same choice of optional modules, on each programme. The programme content emphasises understanding of the causes and consequences of environmental change from the perspective of social processes.

This includes consideration of consumer and economic behaviour, understanding processes of land management and technological innovation.

You explore the role of the state and political action in influencing environmental sustainability, and the management and planning of critical and scarce resources.

These programmes will be of particular interest if you have studied geography, environmental studies or social sciences.

Teaching and assessment

In addition to lectures, you have field trips and laboratory-based practicals. We make extensive use of small-group teaching formats, such as tutorials, seminars and problem-solving sessions.

Assessment is by a combination of coursework and examinations. You are required to pass Stage 1 in order to progress to Stage 2. Stage 1 marks, however, do not contribute towards your final degree result. Both Stage 2 and 3 marks count towards your final degree result.

Programme options

Environmental Social Sciences BA (Hons)
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/63

Environmental Social Sciences with a Year in Professional Practice BA (Hons)
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/391

Programme features

Both programmes:
- combine social sciences and humanities
- facilitate an interdisciplinary approach to learning, giving you access to elective modules from across the university
- include theoretical learning, supported by practical knowledge and field skills
- are taught by experts at the cutting edge of research on environmental sustainability
- enable you to develop your potential to find a job building a sustainable future for communities and businesses globally.

Field trips

There are opportunities to conduct research and deepen your studies abroad.

We have a long-standing research project based on a riverboat in the Peruvian Amazon and a two-week field expedition overseas to explore the relationship between environmental change and contemporary society.

There are also local excursions, and a first-year module on environmental sustainability that includes visits to sites such as an off-shore renewable energy facility in the Thames Estuary.

Trips are subject to availability and may require financial contributions from attendees.

Year in professional practice

If you take Environmental Social Sciences with a Year in Professional Practice, you spend a minimum of 24 weeks between Stages 2 and 3 gaining experience of work in a professional environment relevant to your degree, whether at home or abroad.

The University supports you as you look for your placement. This includes preparing your CV and interview training. For more information, please see p11.

Programme structure

Your studies are divided into three stages. At Stage 1, your modules give you an introduction to biological, social and environmental sciences. At Stages 2 and 3 (your second and final year) you develop specialised knowledge and skills.
Programme content

Please note: the module lists shown here are not fixed as new modules are always in development and choices are updated yearly. The details below are correct at the time of publication (June 2019). Please see www.kent.ac.uk/ug for the most up-to-date information.

In addition to the modules listed, you may also be able to choose elective modules from other programmes. To read a full description of any of the modules listed, go to www.kent.ac.uk/courses/modules and search using the module code.

Stage 1
You take the following compulsory modules:
• Academic Skills (ANTS3080)
• Contested Environments (GEOG3001)
• Environmental Sustainability: An Introduction (GEOG3004).

Optional modules may include:
• Animals, People and Plants: an introduction to Ethnobiology (SE306)
• Foundations of Biological Anthropology (SE302)
• Geographical Patterns and Process (GEOG3003)
• Geographies of People and Place (GEOG3002)
• How Humans Evolved (SE316)
• Introduction to Social Anthropology (SE301)
• Principles of Biogeography and Ecology (DI311).

Stage 2
You take the following compulsory modules:
• Creative Conservation (DI532)
• Geography and Environmental Management (GEOG5005)
• Methods and Field Work in Social Science (GEOG5005).

Optional modules may include:
• Cholera to Climate Change: Environment and Society in Modern Britain (HI5101)
• Conservation and Communities (DI520)
• History and Philosophy of Geography (GEOG5002)
• Spatial Analysis: Principles and Methods (GEOG5004)
• The Anthropocene: Planetary Crisis and the Age of Humans (SE558).

Stage 3
You take the following compulsory modules:
• Geography Overseas Residential Field Trip (GEOG6003)
• Research Project (DI522).

Optional modules may include:
• Climate Change and Conservation (DI501)
• Conservation and Communities (DI520)
• Environmental Law 1 (LAW5850)
• Environmental Law 2 (LAW5860)
• Environmental Politics (SO525)
• Geographies of Tourism and Development (GEOG6002)
• Medicinal Plants in Holistic Perspective (SE575)
• The Anthropology of Health, Illness and Medicine (ANTB5490)
• The Human-Environment Nexus: Contemporary Issues and Critical Approaches.

Stages 2 and 3
Optional modules you may take at either stage may include:
• Environment and Culture (SE542)
• How the West Was Won (or Lost): The American West in the Nineteenth Century (HI7640)
• Inviting Doomsday: US Environmental (HI795)
• Kent Student Certificate for Volunteering (SO670)
• Social Sciences in the Classroom (SE556).

Entry requirements
Please see p18 for details of accepted qualifications and language requirements.

If you are applying from outside the UK without the necessary English language qualifications, you may be able to take the Kent International Foundation Programme to gain access to our programmes. For details see: www.kent.ac.uk/ifp
YEAR IN PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

If you want to stand out from other graduates in today’s highly competitive global job market, spending part of your degree gaining work experience can be invaluable.

The year in professional practice is a wonderful opportunity to spend up to a year, between the second and final years, undertaking work placements with organisations relevant to your degree programme. You spend a minimum of 24 weeks on placement at one or more organisations.

If taken, the year is assessed on a pass/fail basis through employer feedback and a written report that you submit. It contributes 10% towards your final degree classification.

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.

Placements can be at home or abroad and give you the opportunity to apply your academic skills in a practical context, offering you rare and unique experiences which will set you apart.

Life-changing experience

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.

Previous placements have included:
- sustainable livelihood options for poor farmers in Zambia (Afzelia Limited)
- forest impact surveying at the Danau Girang Field Centre, Borneo
- project co-ordination for the Uganda Conservation Foundation
- project work for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Germany
- wildlife crime mapping for Freeland India Consultants.

It is your responsibility to find a placement, but we offer you help and support along the way.

"On my year in professional practice, I got an opportunity with the environmental consultancy I was working with to do practical field work for two weeks in rural Zambia. I met locals and conducted questionnaires in the field. That was definitely one of the highlights."

Adele Makayi
Environmental Social Sciences with a Year in Professional Practice
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 in your first year, and they help you get the most from your degree programme. They meet with you regularly to discuss general academic issues or specific assignments. They assist you in developing academic skills and refer you to other sources of help if you need it.

Peer support
The best advice often comes from people who’ve been in your situation. On our Academic Peer Mentoring scheme, first-year students can request to be matched with second- or third-year students on a similar degree programme.

Peer mentors help you settle in to university life and find your feet. They can help you to discuss ideas and improve your study skills as you progress through your first year.

Study skills advice
Successful students take control of their own learning. Kent’s Student Learning Advisory Service (SLAS) can help you 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.

They are 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
- 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
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 independently and as part of a team. These transferable skills are valued by employers and will also be 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 within 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
- learn a new language or skill with Study Plus.

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
As part of your degree programme, you can find work placements with a range of employers from environmental consultancies and organic farms to NGOs dedicated to recycling and sustainable development.

We have strong links with organisations around the world, giving you a range of exciting placement opportunities.

Find a great job
Your degree can lead to a wide range of fascinating careers – our graduates work in environmental education, as environmental officers with private and public sector employers, and within community-based environmental projects.

You can also visit the University’s award-winning Careers and Employability Service for advice. Throughout the year, the service delivers events on the recruitment process (such as CVs, interviews and assessment centres), as well as talks on developing awareness of the opportunities available.

For more information, see: www.kent.ac.uk/ces
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
These 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
• 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 will be able to visit different types of accommodation, chat to current students and enjoy the stunning views over 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

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

CONTINUED OVERLEAF
FIND OUT MORE (CONT)

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

Explore online
If you can't come and see us, you can find out more about the academic team and the course at: www.kent.ac.uk/sac

Keep in touch with us via social media:
www.facebook.com/UniKentSAC
www.twitter.com/KentSAC

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

Location
Canterbury

Award
BA (Hons)

Degree programmes
Single honours (BA)
• Environmental Social Sciences (L9D4)
• Environmental Social Sciences with a Year in Professional Practice (11X5).

Offer levels
BBB at A level, IB Diploma 34 points overall or 15 points at HL.

Required subjects
GCSE Mathematics grade C (or grade 4), IB Mathematics 4 at HL or SL.

Access to HE Diploma
Candidates with these qualifications are assessed on an individual basis, please contact us for more information.

BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma (formerly BTEC National Diploma)
Distinction, Distinction, Merit.

Please note: we may consider candidates who do not have these entry requirements but have several years’ relevant experience or other qualifications in the subject area.

Year abroad/placement year
For more information, see p11.

Scholarships and bursaries
Please see www.kent.ac.uk/ugfunding for details of scholarships and bursaries.

Offer levels and entry requirements are subject to change. For the latest course 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, which 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