LIBERAL ARTS
Canterbury
Do you want to understand the world from a range of perspectives – political, cultural, historical and economic? Study Liberal Arts, and you’ll learn about how different disciplines interact, examine the forces and events shaping contemporary society, and learn two new languages or improve your existing language skills.
WHY STUDY LIBERAL ARTS AT KENT?

Flexible programme
Alongside your core modules, you select optional modules from a wide range on offer across the University. This means you can tailor your programme to suit your interests and career plans.

Inspirational teaching
Great teachers inspire enthusiasm and provoke debate. Whether they’re lecturing on contemporary culture or helping you to learn a new language, our academics are skilled at bringing their subject to life and drawing you into the conversation.

Language learning
This is a programme for people who love languages. You learn two at Stages 1 and 2. Whether you want to learn Spanish, try Mandarin Chinese, or tackle Arabic, there’ll be options that appeal to you.

World-leading research
You learn from leading experts. Our staff undertake research of international quality; write and contribute to journal articles and books; and provide expert comment to the media. They put you in touch with the latest ideas.

Academic support
University is different to school. You need to be self-motivated and well organized to succeed. We help you make the leap by assigning you an academic adviser and running a peer mentoring programme. You can also get help with study skills, such as essay writing.

Excellent resources
Access more than 1 million books, ebooks, databases and journals at the University’s Templeman Library. Browse our special collections in areas such as history and politics. Work at one of hundreds of networked PCs across campus.

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.

Your year abroad
You can choose to spend a year, between Stages 2 and 3, studying at one of Kent’s partner universities, or on a work placement. You experience different ways of learning, and expand your cultural horizons. For more information, see p9.

Career success
Employability is a priority at Kent. By studying, you sharpen skills that are useful in working life, such as time management and developing an argument. You have access to careers advice and opportunities to gain work experience, boosting your CV and your confidence.
Learn across disciplines

Our programme is truly interdisciplinary. While the programme is run by the School of Politics and International Relations, you are taught by academics from across all three faculties at Kent. You develop your understanding of humanities subjects, such as culture, history and politics, and you gain skills in science, enabling you to discuss key scientific controversies. This broad knowledge helps you to succeed professionally in the 21st century.

Independent rankings

Research Excellence Framework
- In the most recent survey, 63% of the research submitted by the School of Politics and International Relations was found to be internationally excellent or world leading.

Teaching Excellence Framework
- Kent was awarded gold, the highest rating, in the UK government’s Teaching Excellence Framework*

Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education
- Of Kent undergraduate students who graduated in 2017 and responded to this national survey, over 95% were in work or further study within six months

*The University of Kent’s Statement of Findings can be found at www.kent.ac.uk/tef-statement
Judith Sponselee is in her final year studying Liberal Arts.

Why did you decide to study Liberal Arts?
Liberal Arts offers lots of subjects within one programme of study, so you can do a bit of law, some sociology, politics and psychology, for example. I feel like I’ve had a broader education this way.

Why did you choose to study it at Kent?
I went to an international study abroad fair. There was a guy there from the University of Kent – he told me about the programme and sold it so well that I decided to come to the open day. I met the course director that day and thought the course sounded great, the campus was amazing and the city beautiful.

What are the benefits of studying in the UK?
I’m from the Netherlands and when I was growing up we had lots of holidays to England and I love the people and language. I wanted to perfect my English as my dream is to work for an international organisation.

Tell me about a piece of work that you found particularly interesting?
In my first year, we had to do a research project. I did mine on the decline of the church in the Netherlands and interviewed a couple of priests over there. It was very challenging, because I had to do the research and write up the report myself.

What are the other students like?
We were the first intake on to the programme, so we’re a very tight group. It’s a small group but very international – we have six or seven nationalities represented, which keeps things interesting. Everyone brings their own country’s culture and perspective with them to seminars and discussions.

Where did you spend your year abroad?
In Madrid, at Universidad Complutense, studying politics and sociology. My year abroad was one of the best years of my life.

The modules were very interesting – they were all in Spanish, which was tough to follow, especially at the beginning. But it was such a good way to meet new people and get in touch with other cultures. I spent a lot of time in cafés, dancing salsa and travelling around Spain. It was an amazing year.

What clubs and societies have you been involved with?
In my first year I joined the hockey club and it’s one of the best decisions I’ve made here. I’ve found most of my friends through hockey. Joining a sports club is a good way to combine sports and social events and something I’d recommend, even if you haven’t played before.

What do you like most about Canterbury and the surrounding area?
Canterbury’s a compact city, which means that you run into people that you know from your course. It’s so pretty, with the cathedral and shops. I love England and think that Canterbury is one of the most English cities. I enjoy hiking and cycling, and there are lots of opportunities to do both here.

What are your future plans?
Next year, I want to do a Master’s in International Relations in France. I’m looking at Strasbourg, because that’s famous for politics. After that, I’d like to work for the United Nations.

What advice would you give to a new student?
Put yourself out there, go to the freshers fair and join as many clubs and societies as you want. It’s a great way to meet people to study with and go out with.
A fully liberal education prepares you to live a productive and creative life in a dramatically changing world.

It fosters well-grounded intellectual resilience, a disposition to lifelong learning and an acceptance of responsibility for your ideas and actions.

Our Liberal Arts programme teaches you to see the world from a range of perspectives – political, cultural, historical and economic – and develops your understanding of how each impacts on the other.

The programme will suit you if you're a high-achieving student who wants to study in an interdisciplinary way. Developing your understanding in a range of subject areas in the humanities and social sciences, you also gain skills in science, enabling you to discuss key scientific controversies. Liberal Arts gives you the critical and broad knowledge you need to prepare you for the professional world of the 21st century.

If you are academically ambitious and intellectually curious, aware of the importance of quantitative and qualitative skills, and care about the significance of your study and career for the global good, you will enjoy the challenge of Kent's Liberal Arts degree.

**Teaching and assessment**

Modules are taught through a combination of lectures, seminars and tutorials.

You usually have 10 to 12 hours of contact time with staff each week. Assessment on compulsory modules is 100% coursework; optional modules may have examinations. For assessment details for individual modules, see www.kent.ac.uk/ug

**Programme content**

At the heart of the programme is a core set of modules that students follow through the duration of the degree; these provide interdisciplinary means of analysing and understanding how and why we think, and act, the way we do today.

Through collective discussion and debate around seminal readings, you get a grasp of the full field of social sciences, physical sciences, arts and humanities.

You develop a high standard of capability in another language and choose optional modules from across the University to suit your interests and career plans. The knowledge gathered in these modules is brought into seminar discussions in the compulsory modules, making interdisciplinary communication an ongoing and engaged collective project.

**Language modules**

You take two language modules at Stage 1 and two in Stage 2 from a selection. Language teaching is provided by both the School of European Culture and Languages and the Centre for English and World Languages. There is no required language training in Stage 3.

**Dissertation**

Your final year of study includes a dissertation module, enabling you to focus on a topic related to your year abroad or on a research question of your choosing. You work under the guidance of at least one supervisor, developing the ability to carry out and communicate a sustained piece of research.

**Programme structure**

Please note: the modules listed below are not fixed as new modules are always in development and choices are updated yearly. Please see www.kent.ac.uk/ug and search for 'Liberal Arts' for the most up-to-date information.

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

**Stage 1**

You take the following compulsory modules:

- Modes of Reasoning (SE310)
- Roots of Transformation (SE312)
- Understanding the Contemporary (SE311)
Your year abroad
You have the option of spending the third year of your Liberal Arts programme studying or working abroad.
Going abroad as part of your degree is an amazing opportunity and a chance for you to develop academically, personally and professionally.
For more information, see: https://www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad/opportunities/az.html
Transferable skills
You gain confidence and independence and further develop many of the transferable skills employers are looking for, such as the ability to communicate effectively, the ability to speak more than one language, and being able 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.
Strong links
Kent has strong links with top-ranking academic institutions in continental Europe as well as with institutions in non-European countries. Alternatively, you may find an internship with a non-governmental organisation (NGO), research centre, business or industry.

Assessment and support
Your year abroad is a rewarding addition to your programme and is assessed by the Kent Liberal Arts team. While abroad, you have contact by Skype and/or email with an assigned supervisor and will, when appropriate, be visited on site.

Year abroad
You can spend the third year of your programme studying or working abroad (see box for more details).

Stage 2
You take the following compulsory modules:
• Connections (SE606)
• two language modules at intermediate or advanced level.
You also take four optional modules, with the approval of your tutors, from across the University.

Stage 3
You take the following compulsory modules:
• Dissertation (PO679)
• Landscapes of the Future (PO681)
You complete your dissertation, focusing on a research question addressing issues that concern you. You also take four optional modules, with the approval of your tutors, from across the University.

“...was one of the best years of my life. It was such a good way to get to know other people and get in touch with other cultures.”
Judith Sponselee
BA Liberal Arts
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 will 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 will 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 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
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
You have the option of working abroad and gaining valuable skills between Stages 2 and 3 of your programme.

Find a great job
Your degree can lead to a wide range of fascinating careers. Graduates from the School have gone on to work in fields such as diplomacy, the civil service, European and international organisations, NGOs, the media, banking and teaching.

The School has a comprehensive internship, placements and work experience portfolio. Our dedicated member of staff runs an Employability Programme, which provides you with skills and insights to help you plan your future career.

You can book one-to-one sessions for help with employability, skills development and applying for opportunities.

You can also access the University’s award-winning Careers and Employability Service for one-to-one advice, workshops and placement opportunities. And there’s an annual careers fair for students of all disciplines.

Kent’s track record speaks for itself: of our students who graduated in 2017 and responded to a national survey, more than 95% were in work or further study within six months (Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education).
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 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 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.

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

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* Programme of events varies according to subject.
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, the course and events in the School online at: www.kent.ac.uk/politics

Keep in touch with us via social media:
Twitter @UniKentPolitics

Instagram: @kentpolir

Facebook: facebook.com/UnioKentPoliticsIR

School of Politics and International Relations
For more information about our School, please contact us on:
T: +44 (0)1227 827122
E: polirugadmissions@kent.ac.uk

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

This brochure was produced in June 2018. 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