ADVANCED CHILD PROTECTION MA

Canterbury/distance learning
ADVANCED CHILD PROTECTION MA (DISTANCE LEARNING)

Kent is one of the UK’s leading universities, ranked 20th in the The Guardian University Guide 2015. In the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014, Kent is ranked 17th* for research intensity, outperforming 11 of the 24 Russell Group universities.

Academic excellence
The Centre for Child Protection is part of the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR), which is ranked 5th for research quality and 2nd for research power in the REF. The Centre maximises this research network and has established itself as an independent centre of teaching and research excellence. We are proud to have won both the University of Kent Social Sciences Faculty Teaching Prize and the Kent Innovation & Enterprise Innovation Award in 2014. We aim to inspire and motivate staff to raise organisational standards through confident practice.

Highlights of the MA
With focus on the welfare of the child being paramount, the MA provides multi-agency practitioners with the knowledge, skills and confidence to take a child-centred approach to their practice. One of the defining features of the MA is the 360-degree perspective on the child protection system, integrating research, practice expertise and theoretical paradigms, such as:

- access to the Centre’s award-winning child protection simulations and innovative learning tools
- flexibility in how you study
- high-quality video lectures from experts/leading academics
- inter-professional teaching and learning
- online access to academic journal articles, book chapters and e-books
- thought-provoking activities, promoting reflective practice and critical thinking.

Modules
The modules cover an immense and rich range, spanning all aspects of child protection policy, research, theory and practice. You examine contemporary and significant areas of practice, including: the unconscious dimensions of organisational practice and new approaches of assessing risk through observing disorganised attachment in children.

The modules you study are:
1. Understanding Social Research and Consequences of Child Abuse and Neglect
2. Definitions, Prevalence, Causes
3. Contemporary Child Protection Practice and Policies
4. New Perspectives on Assessment and Observation
5. Support, Help and Intervention
6. The ‘Unconscious at Work’

Support and interaction
You receive one-to-one support from your tutor throughout your studies. Contact is flexible and can be facilitated face-to-face, via email, Skype or phone. You are offered the chance to meet your fellow students at the induction and on study days, and have the opportunity to take advantage of enhancing these multi-agency networking opportunities. The four-day induction is hosted at the start of Years 1 and 2, and study days take place once a term.

The MA is responsive to the realities of busy practice and the format offers flexible mobile learning. We have created an environment where you can access varied and relevant resources on the move or at home. Our forums add another dimension to the study of child protection, encouraging engagement and sharing of expertise and ideas. Discussions within the online forums demonstrate that this medium is viewed as a safe place within which to explore, reflect upon and change practice.

“Fascinating material and delivered in a variety of different mediums that keep the interest.”

Team Manager
Social services

* of 122 universities, not including specialist institutions
Our students

- Since its inception in 2013, the MA has attracted students from a variety of professions, both nationally and internationally, including students from Albania, Belgium and as far afield as Kenya and Thailand. This adds to the depth and richness of its content and provides insightful global perspectives on child protection.
- Student intake consists of a mixture of statutory and non-statutory agencies across the social care, health, education, probation and NGO spheres.
- Successful students are publishing their dissertation research in leading journals, some of which has gone on to inform teaching and learning.
- Completion rates are currently 100% with a good percentage of students achieving distinctions or merits.

Entry requirements

Applicants require a minimum of a second-class honours degree. However, relevant practice and professional experience will be considered, and these cases are assessed individually. In certain circumstances, the Centre will consider candidates who have not followed a conventional education path. For more details, contact i.l.drew@kent.ac.uk or visit www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/ccp

The Graduate School

As a postgraduate student, you also have the support of the Graduate School, which promotes your academic interests, co-ordinates the Researcher Development Programme and the Global Skills Award, and facilitates cross-disciplinary interaction.

How to apply

Apply online at www.kent.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/326/advanced-child-protection

Advanced Child Protection MA (distance learning)

Duration: two years (part-time)
Cost: £3,900 per year
For organisational discounts please email j.reeves@kent.ac.uk
Start date: January (Induction Week held in January).
Finish date: September the following year. The MA is awarded to participants successfully completing all seven modules.

“The modules enabled me to reflect on previous ‘failings’ regarding abuse of children. The course tutors were extremely knowledgeable, sharing that knowledge in creative and interactive ways that inspired and motivated me.”

Managing Director
Voluntary sector

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 the University discontinues any course, it will endeavour to provide a suitable alternative. 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: for administrative, academic and health and safety reasons, the University needs to process information about its students. Full registration as a student of the University is subject to your consent to process such information.