INTRODUCTION

The School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR) at Kent is one of the top four research departments in its field in the UK. Renowned for its collegial culture, it is one of the largest and most diverse centres for social science in Europe.

The School received top ratings in both the 2001 and 2008 Research Assessment Exercises. Our academics are recognised as world authorities, writing books and articles that define the fields in which they work, contributing to the formation and analysis of policy, and acting as leading commentators on contemporary social and cultural trends.

Staff work within a variety of intellectual and research traditions, employing a wide range of methods, and are committed to providing a supportive environment for postgraduate students in sociology.

Excellent research culture

Members of the School have attracted large research funds (in excess of £12 million over the last five years) and have an enviable track record in gaining funding for PhD students. School staff take part in international symposia and research projects, and staff act as consultants and advisers to a wide variety of government departments, professional organisations, research funding bodies and learned journals.

Every postgraduate student in the School benefits from an unparalleled research culture, first-class teaching and individually tailored supervision. Ranked as one of the best UK centres of excellence since research league tables began, we are part of the South East ESRC Doctoral Training Centre, and were, in 2011, awarded a prestigious EU Erasmus Mundus graduate programme. With academic and professional seminar series, workshops and a Global Skills Award on offer, plus the opportunity to work with dozens of world class academics, we welcome you to a unique academic environment dedicated to helping you realise your potential.

The atmosphere in the School is informal and friendly, helped by excellent staff-to-student ratios and frequent international visitors. The lively and diverse postgraduate community is reflected by a broad and flourishing range of staff/graduate seminars, workshops and study groups.

Research Seminar Series

The School hosts a weekly research seminar with invited speakers, which all postgraduate students are welcome to attend. Speakers are selected following suggestions from staff and students, and the seminars are usually followed by a social occasion. PhD and MPhil students attend a workshop series, where they present their work to each other and talk about various issues related to their research and their careers. There are also informal reading groups running in the School and across the University.

Flexible and innovative programmes

All our postgraduate programmes combine flexibility and coherence, and offer you a first-class, advanced-level learning experience. Our taught Master’s degrees combine taught modules and a dissertation. At least half of modules on taught programmes are options that allow you to construct your own specialist pathway on top of the disciplinary foundations we provide you with.

Our taught programmes are also offered on a two-year, part-time basis and as Postgraduate Diplomas – a nine-month, coursework-only programme – which allows you to choose the course most appropriate for your individual circumstances.

“The School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research is an amazing community to be part of. Here, you can meet the people who are making a difference to the issues in sociology and social policy, who are writing the books, and who are stimulating the debates worldwide.”

Jonathan Dean
PhD Social Policy
teaching has regularly been commended by external independent assessors.

Taught modules are based on lectures, seminars and individual work, and are each worth 20 credits. Students work closely with their supervisors on their dissertation, a piece of individual research worth 60 credits. Assessment is entirely by coursework, consisting typically of two essays, supplemented in some modules by seminar presentations, simulations and workshops.

Research programmes are also offered in three formats: the one-year MA by Research; the two-year MPhil; and the full doctoral programme leading to a PhD. Because we are a large and diverse school, we have the expertise to provide research supervision in a very wide range of topics across disciplinary and inter-disciplinary boundaries.

Dedicated and inspirational teaching
The School has a strong commitment to excellence in teaching. All lectures and seminars on postgraduate modules are informed by the latest research and scholarship, and are given by academic staff who are world leaders in their field. Our excellent staff-student ratio allows us to offer small classes that are highly interactive and respond to students’ interests. Our postgraduate teaching has regularly been commended by external independent assessors.

A supportive environment and a global outlook
Based at an idyllic campus in the historic city of Canterbury, the School prides itself on the support it provides to its postgraduate students. Favoured by its strategic location – in a beautiful, green setting, within easy reach of London, Brussels and Paris – the School is highly cosmopolitan in its outlook. We welcome a high proportion of international postgraduate students, conduct research across the world and challenge students to think globally in our classes.

Funding and teaching opportunities
The postgraduate programmes offered by the School enjoy recognition from all main funding bodies. International applicants can apply to a variety of funding schemes such as the ‘Entente Cordiale’ studentships, while for UK and EU applicants the School has sustained considerable success in attracting Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) studentship funding. In addition, each year the School offers doctoral students a number of teaching scholarships. Granted on a competitive basis, these awards not only provide significant financial support but also offer you the opportunity to acquire teaching experience – a crucial requirement if you are planning an academic career.

95% of SSPSSR’s research was judged ‘internationally significant’, according to the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).
How have you found the supervision process?
It’s excellent. My supervisor is very pragmatic, but quite laid back and that was an important fit for me. She offers advice but lets me write my own project. However, I’m always aware that she is the professor and I respect and value her opinion. She is also very supportive, especially in terms of encouraging me to attend conferences and putting forward opportunities for me. I think we have a very good working understanding – she thinks I’m a good student and I think she’s a good supervisor.

How would you describe your fellow research students?
Everyone has a really strong and diverse range of research interests which makes working in the School fascinating. SSPSSR students come from all over the world, they have different ideas and, intellectually, they are very high-level and on top of their game. We work in a high-profile School, so it carries that expectation.

How have you funded your studies?
I’m funded through the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), which held an internal competition at the time. As the School has a high research rating, several funded PhD positions were guaranteed and applications were...
invited from all over the UK – and I got one of those. For me, it was a straightforward process and the administration was very simple. I wrote an outline of my proposal and my supervisor completed the reference section – in many ways, it was a lot like filling out a job application.

What support do you receive?
Aside from the support I receive from my supervisor and the School more generally, the Graduate School offers many transferable skills training opportunities, which is fantastic. The courses and workshops are really wide-ranging and cover more than just academic skills, for example, media training as well as writing and presentation skills. Students should take advantage of the resources available and learn as much as they can.

What’s next for you?
I have friends who have completed their PhDs and have gone on to work in the public sector, for example, in local government. However, there’s not a strong relationship between their original research topics and the work they have gone on to do. For me, doing a PhD is, in essence, an apprenticeship for academic life. In an ideal word, I’d like to become a university lecturer, so the next step is, hopefully, to secure additional funding and get a postdoctoral fellowship.

Do you have any advice to offer potential research students?
It might seem obvious, but it’s really important to establish a good fit with your supervisor or supervisory team. Once you’ve identified a potential supervisor, get in touch with them before you begin the application process and try to establish a relationship and get them on side. Other than that, try to do as well as you can in your undergraduate studies – if you want to have a chance of securing funding, you need to have a good degree result. Explore all of the funding options too, as there are lots of opportunities. The ESRC has an open national competition and the University offers scholarships as well. I was determined to pursue my PhD even if I didn’t get the funding and I think that put me in a better position to write a successful funding proposal. I think that shows a high level of conviction, not only to the funding provider, but also to your supervisor.
EXCELLENT CAREER PROSPECTS

A postgraduate qualification from Kent opens up a wealth of career opportunities by providing an impressive portfolio of skills and specialist knowledge.

As well as providing a first-rate academic experience, we want you to be in a good position to face the demands of a tough economic environment. Employers recognise that a postgraduate qualification demonstrates a wide range of skills. At Kent, we provide a comprehensive package of skills development training programmes, careers advice, and volunteering and paid work opportunities to help enhance your career prospects.

Skills training
During your programme, you acquire a high level of academic knowledge and specialist practical skills. Kent also helps you to develop key transferable skills that are essential within the competitive world of postgraduate employment, such as the ability to adapt to challenges, analyse complex real-world problems and develop original ideas that can be applied to all aspects of employment.

The Graduate School
The Graduate School co-ordinates the Transferable Skills Training programme for research students, in which you can access a wide range of lectures and workshops.

These provide training, personal development planning and career development skills. The Graduate School also delivers the Global Skills Award programme for students following taught programmes of study, which is specifically designed to consolidate your awareness of current global issues and improve your employment prospects.

Exciting career options
Kent has an excellent record for postgraduate employment: over 90% of our postgraduate students who graduated in 2010 found a job or further study opportunity within six months. We constantly monitor how well our programmes meet the demands of today’s increasingly competitive and globalised job market.

Possessing a taught Master’s degree is now often a requirement in a wide range of challenging and rewarding positions. A Master’s in Sociology or in Social Research is a particularly valuable and flexible qualification. Postgraduate students in our programmes develop their skills in thinking and communicating about social issues that are relevant to a range of exciting careers in many professions such as the civil service, public sector organisations, European and international organisations, NGOs, journalism and broadcasting, and business and consultancy. Skills in the collection and analysis of, and reflection on, data of various kinds are especially valuable for careers in market research, marketing, survey research, evaluation and consultancy. Kent postgraduates have a strong track record in this respect, with many of them now occupying top positions with employers in the public and private sectors.

A Master’s in Political Sociology or Environmental Social Science allows postgraduate students to have greater specialisms, attaining skills, competence and knowledge to pursue a range of exciting careers in civil society, NGOs, public sector, research organisations and consultancy.

Careers Advisory Service
Our Careers Advisory Service can help you to plan for your future by providing one-to-one advice at any stage in your postgraduate studies. It also provides online advice on employability skills, career choices and applications, and interview skills.

Further information
For more information on the careers help we provide at Kent, visit our Employability web page at www.kent.ac.uk/employability
Sarah Evans was awarded a PhD from Kent and is now working as a curator for the British Library.

Why did you choose Kent?
Kent has a really good reputation for Sociology and for teaching at postgraduate level; the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research is known to engage critically with a range of subjects and approaches. The work of several of the academics connected well with my own research interests and the thought of learning from people with their knowledge, experience and outlook really appealed to me.

I also wanted to be close to London (my hometown) but to enjoy the benefits of living on campus and being able to easily access the resources I’d need for my research.

What did you research?
My PhD examined the aspirations of working-class girls with respect to higher education. It was an ethnography of progress through education and aimed to examine the intersections of gender, social class and ethnicity in affecting educational outcomes. My supervisor was extremely supportive and provided excellent suggestions, advice and feedback. I also had the opportunity to regularly attend conferences at other universities and present papers.

During the first year of my PhD, I also completed a Postgraduate Certificate in Social Research Methods. This course was very useful in preparing me for the empirical research component of my PhD project and helped me to explore different possible approaches.

What are you doing now?
I am currently a curator in social science at the British Library and work specifically with the collections in sociology. Part of my remit is to improve access to the sociology collections by researchers and academics and also to encourage collaborative research. I work closely with HEIs to organise conferences and seminars and to develop ideas for research proposals.

I have spent the last two and a half years learning about the social science collections here at the British Library, developing the resources in my area and promoting them to researchers. The work is very varied and has allowed me to maintain a high level of contact with my areas of interest – the knowledge gained during my PhD has been vitally important for this role.

What are you planning to do next?
I hope to continue to develop my research profile and to lead a collaborative research project which will bring benefits to both the British Library and the social science research community.

Finally, what advice would you give to someone thinking of coming to Kent?
It’s worthwhile visiting the campus during term-time to get a feel for the place. Canterbury is a lovely place to live as a student – do spend some time wandering through the city and trying the pretty (but steep!) walk up to campus!
There are four taught postgraduate programmes on offer. Below is an explanation of what each degree programme offers.

**Sociology MA**
The MA in Sociology provides a comprehensive overview and analysis of the foundational concerns and current debates in sociology, and offers a critical and inter-disciplinary perspective on contemporary issues. This includes a series of reflections on competing international visions and possible futures for the discipline. The programme also aims to investigate the ways in which global institutional transformations are reshaping the world of the 21st century, and the implications this holds for sociological thinking and research.

**Course content**

**Core modules**
- Contemporary Social Theory
- Foundations of Sociology
- Dissertation

**You then choose four from the following options:**
- Comparative Social Policy
- Cultural Criminology
- Design, Philosophy and Ethics of Social Enquiry
- Environmental Politics
- Gender, Crime and Criminal Justice
- Key Issues in Comparative Social Policy
- Qualitative Research
- Quantitative Analysis
- Organised Civil Society and the Third Sector
- Race, Difference and Belonging
- Religion and Social Theory
- Social and Political Movements
- Social Science Perspectives on Environmental Issues

- Social Suffering
- Sociology of Violence
- Techniques of Data Analysis
- Terrorism and Modern Society
- Theories of Crime and Deviance
- Worlds of Work
- Young People, Crime and Place.

**Assessment**
Assessment is by coursework and the dissertation.

**Methods of Social Research MA**
This programme aims to develop your skills in planning, carrying out, writing up and appraising research and to introduce you to the main techniques for qualitative and quantitative research, including conducting surveys, interviewing, running focus groups, using life history and observational techniques, and analysing data. The course also provides a base...
for students who are going on to do an MPhil or PhD by research. Similarly, it may be valuable if you commission or manage social research or use findings from research projects in your professional life.

**Course content**

**Core modules**
- Design, Philosophy and Ethics of Social Enquiry
- Qualitative Research
- Quantitative Analysis
- Techniques of Data Analysis
- Dissertation

You then choose two from the following options:
- Comparative Social Policy
- Contemporary Social Theory
- Cultural Criminology
- Environmental Politics
- Foundations of Sociology
- Fundraising and Philanthropy
- Organised Civil Society and the Third Sector
- Race, Difference and Belonging
- Religion and Social Theory
- Research Methods in Criminology
- Social and Political Movements
- Social Science Perspectives on Environmental Issues
- Social Suffering
- Sociology of Violence
- Terrorism and Modern Society
- Theories of Crime and Deviance
- Worlds of Work
- Young People, Crime and Place.

You then choose four from the following options:
- Comparative Social Policy
- Conflict and Violence
- Contemporary Social Theory
- Cultural Criminology
- Design, Philosophy and Ethics of Social Research
- Foundations of Sociology
- Human Rights in a World of States
- Qualitative Research
- Quantitative Analysis
- Organised Civil Society and the Third Sector
- Race, Difference and Belonging
- Religion and Social Theory
- Research Methods in Criminology
- Social Science Perspectives on Environmental Issues
- Social Suffering
- Sociology of Violence
- Terrorism and Modern Society
- Worlds of Work
- Young People, Crime and Place.

**Assessment**

Assessment is by coursework and the dissertation.

**Political Sociology MA**

The MA in Political Sociology combines sociology and political science to address key issues of social and political change in modern societies. It examines the interaction among social and political institutions, processes and collective action, and is distinctive in its focus on social and political movements, protest, and the less conventional and institutionalised forms of political action and participation, environmental politics and globalisation.

**Course content**

**Core modules**
- Environmental Politics
- Social and Political Movements
- Dissertation

You then choose two from the following options:
- Comparative Social Policy
- Contemporary Social Theory
- Cultural Criminology
- Environmental Politics
- Foundations of Sociology
- Fundraising and Philanthropy
- Organised Civil Society and the Third Sector
- Race, Difference and Belonging
- Religion and Social Theory
- Research Methods in Criminology
- Social Science Perspectives on Environmental Issues
- Social Suffering
- Sociology of Violence
- Terrorism and Modern Society
- Worlds of Work
- Young People, Crime and Place.

Most of above are modules available within the School.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF
TAUGHT PROGRAMMES (CONT)

You may also take options in Anthropology, Law, and International Relations and Politics, or other suitable courses depending on their interests, with the approval of the programme’s Director of Studies.

Assessment
Assessment is by coursework and the dissertation.

Environmental Social Science MSc

The MSc in Environmental Social Science provides you with an understanding of the perspectives and contributions of social science to the understanding and resolution of environmental issues. It draws upon expertise from several schools in the Faculty of Social Sciences, and the contributions of teachers who are international leaders in their fields, to provide a broad multi-disciplinary perspective accessible to students from a wide range of academic backgrounds.

Course content

Core modules
- Research module (Qualitative Research, Quantitative Analysis or Techniques of Data Analysis)
- Social Science Perspectives on Environmental Issues
- Dissertation

You then choose four from the following options:
- Climate Change and Renewable Energy Law
- Conflict and Violence
- Conservation and Natural Resources Law
- Contemporary Social Theory
- Environmental Anthropology
- Environmental Quality Law
- Environmental Politics
- Ethnobiological Knowledge Systems
- European Union Environmental Law and Policy
- Foundations of Sociology
- Human Rights in a World of States
- International Environmental Law – Legal Foundations
- International Trade Law and the Environment
- Land Development Law
- The Legal Foundations of Environmental Decision Making
- Organised Civil Society and the Third Sector
- Religion and Social Theory
- Resistance and Alternatives to Capitalism and Democracy
- Social and Political Movements
- Social Suffering
- Sociology of Violence.

The above are available from several schools (including Anthropology, Law, and International Relations and Politics) in the Faculty of Social Sciences. You may also take other options depending on your interests, with the approval of the programme’s Director of Studies.

“Political Sociology at Kent offers a rich diversity of options with a distinctive concentration on social and political movements, protests and resistance and provides students a distinctive perspective on the role of the social sciences in addressing some of the most urgent issues of our time.”

Professor Christopher Rootes
Professor of Environmental Politics and Political Sociology
Below is a selection of the modules currently offered on the taught postgraduate programmes.

**Contemporary Social Theory**
This module surveys key contributions to social theory in the past decades. We use texts from some of the most original scholars in sociology, anthropology, philosophy and literature to systematically reflect on the approaches and concepts we can use to understand how the social world works, how it changes and how we can know and study it.

**Cultural Criminology**
This module is concerned with highlighting debates and approaches to contemporary culture and popular culture, with a particular emphasis on issues of conflict and criminality, while examining the connections between crime and contemporary forms of communication systems using a framework provided by cultural criminology. Particularly, you examine how governments seek to control culture and popular pleasures, especially youth cultures.

**Design Philosophy and Ethics of Social Enquiry**
This module introduces key issues and problems in the process of philosophy, design and ethics of social enquiry. You are taught to think about the assumptions you are making when you do social research as well as a set of practical techniques for carrying out your own research. By the end of the module, you should be able to write good research proposals, carry out research projects and critique the research of others.

**Environmental Politics**
This module is particularly concerned with the forms and outcomes of the political contention and mobilisation around environmental issues, ranging from pressure groups, formal environmental movement organisations and Green parties to local environmental activism and radical environmental protest. It also considers the relationship between democracy and the environment: is democracy good for the environment? Would more deliberative forms of democracy improve matters? The approach is cross-nationally comparative and also considers issues of global environmental politics.

**Gender, Crime and Criminal Justice**
In this module, you explore theoretical approaches to criminology and their engagement with gender. You examine the feminist critique of mainstream criminology and patterns of offending and victimisation by gender, with a focus on subjects such as pornography, prostitution, violence (including homicide/femicide), masculinities, offending behaviour and media representations of women and crime. Issues relating to methodology and policy are discussed throughout.

**Qualitative Research**
This module focuses on the various aspects of using and collecting qualitative data. This module is divided into three sections, each dealing with a broad type of qualitative data collection. Each method will be discussed both in terms of ‘theory’ as well as more practical issues involved in collecting the data. Firstly, you focus on different types of ‘interviewing’ as a form of data collection, looking at surveys, interviews, focus groups and oral history methods. You are then presented with the foundations of ethnographic methods in theory and practice. Finally, you examine a selection of qualitative methods.
TAUGHT MODULES (CONT)

based on the hermeneutic tradition, including textual analysis, critical discourse analysis and visual methods.

Quantitative Analysis
This module provides a general introduction to statistical tools for social scientists: data collection; organising and presenting data; descriptive statistics; probability distributions: discrete probability distribution, continuous probability distribution; sampling methods and distributions; hypotheses testing; analysis of variance; correlation analysis; linear regression; multiple regression; non-parametric methods; and computer solutions using statistical software packages (Excel, R and Stata).

Social and Political Movements
This module focuses upon the development of social and political movements. It introduces theories of collective action and social movements and examines them in relation to case studies selected with students’ interests in mind.

Social Science Perspectives on Environmental Issues
This module aims to widen your knowledge of a variety of topical and/or scientifically important or controversial environmental issues, to encourage you to look at environmental studies from the perspectives of the several social science disciplines (anthropology, law, political science, social policy and sociology), to make connections between questions stimulated by your own disciplinary background and those raised in the module, and to reflect critically upon the advantages and limitations of the various perspectives. It covers a variety of topics, which are likely to include: the nature of environmental issues; the social construction of risk and the precautionary principle; global warming, climate change and energy policy; the rise of environmental consciousness and environmentalism; food and agriculture; environmental policy and regulation; environmental policy and law; ecotourism; ecology and development; traditional societies and sustainability.

Social Suffering
This module examines how the concept of ‘social suffering’ has been widely adopted in social science as a means to refer us to lived experiences of pain, damage, injury, deprivation and loss. Here it is generally understood that human afflictions are encountered in multiple forms and that their deleterious effects are manifold; but a particular emphasis is brought to bear upon the extent to which social processes and cultural conditions both constitute and moderate the ways in which human suffering is experienced and expressed.

Sociology of Violence
This module explores the ways in which violence is understood in social science research, and provides advanced discussion of the major theoretical and research themes involved in the analysis of violence. You critically examine data on the prevalence, nature and effects of violent crime, and consider issues of violence, aggression and masculinity, with...
particular reference to examples, such as racist crime, homophobic crime and domestic violence. The module approaches violence from both interpersonal and societal perspectives and includes consideration of collective violence and genocide. It further examines solutions to violence and conflict resolution, the effects of intervention strategies and non-juridical responses to violence.

Techniques of Data Analysis
This module introduces you to several basic, non-statistical techniques for analysing data. Example topics include grounded theory, content analysis, social network analysis and scale construction.

Terrorism and Modern Society
Following the events of September 11 2001, public concerns surrounding the related threats associated with terrorism have inevitably deepened. This module provides a general introduction to terrorism and poses a series of questions that rarely feature in mainstream criminological and sociological discourse. A central module is an examination of the actual risk posed by international terrorism and whether or not the threat is enhanced by the fears and anxieties generated by a risk-averse culture.

Worlds of Work
This module examines the way work shapes society and, in turn, how society shapes work. Incorporating concepts from sociology, cultural studies, social policy and other disciplines, the module explores work in a variety of competing and complementary ways. In so doing, it allows you to explore different themes, issues, methodologies and approaches. These include: the division of labour in society, work identity and meaning; bodies at work; age, generation and class; visual methods and approaches; the cultures of work; and the end of work.

Young People, Place and Crime
This module provides you with a sociological and criminological understanding of contemporary issues relating to youth crime. More specifically, it focuses on a critical understanding of young people’s involvement in crime and deviance and the various responses to youth crime, especially how young people are dealt with by the youth justice system. You look in depth at four key substantive themes: young people and gangs; young people and nightlife; young people and criminal damage; and the youth justice system in England and Wales. Throughout the module, attention is given to the importance of understanding the connections of youth crime with race, class and gender, and engages with theoretical ideas and debates that inform our understandings of youth crime.
We can offer high-quality supervision across a wide range of areas and we work very carefully to match you with a supervisor that suits your interests and ambitions. There are further details on the research activities and publications of individual members of staff and the School’s research units on the School’s website. In addition to regular meetings with individual supervisors, all research students take part in a research training programme.

Research areas
Academic staff at Kent share a number of interests, which have been grouped here for your guidance. However, there is often a degree of overlap between groups and your research project does not have to fall neatly within any one of them. The School also has several research centres which bring together experts in the field, co-ordinate research, organise talks and offer opportunities for postgraduate students to get involved in discussions and research projects.

The Analysis of Social Movements
Social and political changes have stimulated new forms of political participation and mobilisation, including waves of protest, new social movement organisations focused on old as well as new issues, new political parties, and global social movements. Staff interests include environmental movements, humanitarian NGOs, elite networks, and the ‘postmodern’ politics of anti-communist movements in Eastern Europe.

Crime, Control and Culture
Members of the crime, control and culture research cluster at Kent are primarily involved in projects and research centred activities connected with cultural criminology, for example in the areas of subcultures, drug-use and intoxication, the night time economy, the surveillance society, the photographic representation of crime, young people and crime, and the carnival of crime. In addition, work of a more traditional nature is also being undertaken, for example in the fields of: international drug policy, the history of crime and punishment, and violence.

Cross-national and European Social Policy
Cross-national study, both among staff and postgraduate students, is widespread throughout the School and relevant to all groupings. However, there is also research which takes cross-national comparison as its major focus. This includes analysing policy formation and policy impact on individuals, families and social groups within different states and within a global context.

Research in Sociology at Kent covers a range of areas including social and critical theory, social movements, globalisation and everyday life, cities and space, media and technology, class, race and ethnicity, gender, work, visual sociology, the welfare state, risk and society, violence, NGOs and organisations, and social aspects of the body.
Using the framework of studying different welfare regimes, academic staff research a wide range of topics, while graduate students conduct research projects in every part of the world. Many of these projects involve overseas students making comparative studies involving their own country and European or UK services. Recent cross-national work has included projects examining home care services for older people, formal and informal social care systems, institutional change and the future of welfare reform, gender and family, globalisation, housing, and community activism.

Gender
Research at Kent addresses how gender is constructed and how it operates in a variety of social realms. Some of our recent projects have focused on gender in prisons, on women working as door staff in nightclubs and on how women are addressed by advice concerning pregnancy. Our research on social policy also includes a focus on gender, examining how men, women and families are affected by legislation and service provision.

Globalisation
Research at Kent in this area includes the role of global civil society, critical analysis of terrorism and responses to it, globalisation and everyday life, migration, the role of communication technologies, and the global expansion of capitalism and responses to it in social movements.

Health, Social Care and Embodiment
Research in the areas of health, social care and embodiment represents a major focus of work within the School and comprises work in specialised research units (see below) and among numerous academic staff, working individually or in partnerships. This work is extremely diverse in terms of theoretical approaches, with a range of sociological, economic, historical and political science perspectives deployed, and equally so in relation to research methods and subject areas. This diversity offers a very wide range of opportunities and supports for those interested in post-graduate research and we are happy to consider any applications that fall within this broad field.

The Individual and the Social
Within this area, staff have worked on the ‘culture of anxiety’ and the ‘therapy culture’, the impact on individual lives and experiences of masculinity, gender, race and ethnicity, parenthood and nationality. Other interests include the social context in which attributions of mental illness are made and managed, the meaning and construction of pain in late modernity, and the sociology of crime and deviance.

Media
Staff share a research interest in the social role of the media, how media are used and how media are changing. Research at Kent has included work on the role of the media in constructing social problems and moral panics, media and crime, new media, media and subcultures, and the role of media in representing space and identity.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF
Philanthropy, Humanitarianism and Social Justice

Staff in this cluster seek to understand the social forces and cultural interests that move people to take moral responsibility for responding to/caring for the needs of others; document and explain the institutional organisation of charitable behaviour and its social impacts; the socio-cultural dynamics of philanthropic behaviour and its effects on society, contemporary humanitarianism and its powers of influence over social policy and political process; and to understand the character of the social ties and cultural values that structure the interrelationships between humanitarian action, charitable endeavour and philanthropic intervention; as well as the bearing of government policies and governmental processes upon the charitable sector and philanthropic activity.

Race, Ethnicity, Religion/ Belonging and Migration

The School has strong expertise in the areas of race, ethnicity, religion and migration. Our work includes projects on mixed race, immigrant communities and refugees, virtual patterns of belonging, and religious body pedagogics. Research at Kent has also addressed diasporas, undocumented migrants and the links between marriage and migration.

Risk and Society

The critical analysis of risk and perceptions of risk have become central issues in the sociology of the ‘risk society’ and this is a major focus of research activity in the School. Staff research includes work on health risks and their management, the implications of attitudes and behaviour concerning risk for the welfare state, the development of a culture of risk and anxiety, moral panics, risk and crime, risk and the life course, suffering, and the perceptions of new communications technology.

Sociological Theory and the Culture of Modernity

Staff working in this cluster of interests study issues such as classical social theory, the impact on social theory of the fall of communism, and the theoretical implications of the changing boundaries of social life. This has further entailed work on the integrity of auto/biography as a form of social information and its impact on diverse disciplines of feminist perspectives.

Sociology of the Body

Staff working in this cluster seek to understand the complex relationships between embodied subjects, and the social and cultural forms, relationships, institutions and structures that shape and are shaped by these factors. This includes research on clothing and fashion, the embodiment of age, and the body in health and social care. Thesis topics within this cluster have included Goth sub-cultures, female body builders, tattooing and piercing, and the embodied sociology of private spaces.
Visual Sociology
Staff share an interest in the visual dimension of social life. How is life seen, how are images created, stored and used? In various research projects, we also explore the use of images in innovative forms of research design and when sharing our findings.

Work, Employment and Economic life
This cluster represents a long-standing interest within SSPSSR at Kent. Currently, ten members of the School are researching and teaching in this broad field, representing staff in sociology, social policy, criminology and cultural studies. Themes studied include: age, generation and employment; deindustrialisation; gender, ethnicity and class at work; historiography of work sociology; moral economy; organisational sociology; policy effects on formal and informal labour; visual representation of work; work identity and meaning; work/life balance; workplace ethnography and oral histories.

Research centres
The School also has several research centres which bring together experts in the field, co-ordinate research, organise talks and which offer opportunities for postgraduate students to get involved in discussions and research projects. These are:
- Centre for Health Services Studies
- Centre for the Study of Philanthropy, Humanitarianism and Social Justice
- Centre for the Study of Social and Political Movements
- Kent Crime and Justice Centre
- Personal Social Services Research Unit
- Tizard Centre.

“Kent students are passionately engaged with the present yet also gain analytical skills that will serve them well in the future. They develop their knowledge of classical and contemporary theory, and use it to interrogate the mechanisms associated with issues such as globalisation, the ‘war on terror’, consumer culture and the significance of the body and emotions to social life.”

Professor Chris Shilling
Professor of Sociology
Staff in the School are leaders in their fields and have specialist interests that are constantly changing and developing. This research keeps us at the forefront of new developments and has been consistently rated as excellent in the Research Assessment Exercise.

Dr Ben Baumberg
Lecturer in Sociology and Social Policy
Disability; the workplace; inequality; the benefits system; addictions policy; corporate social responsibility; the relationship between evidence and policy. www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/baumberg.html

Dr Clare Birchall
Lecturer in Cultural Studies
Cultural studies; poststructuralist theory; popular knowledges, especially conspiracy theory and gossip; cultures of secrecy and revelation; youth media. www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/birchall.html

Dr Beth Breeze
Researcher
Philanthropy; giving; charity. www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/breeze.html

Dr David Boothroyd
Senior Lecturer in Cultural Studies
Cultural theory; cultural metaphysics and European thought (psychoanalysis; phenomenology; libidinal materialism; deconstruction) applied to drugs and drug cultures, everyday life, TV, film and new media and new technologies; ethics and hospitality; cultures of the extreme. www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/dave-boothroyd.html

Dr Heejung Chung
Lecturer in Sociology and Social Policy
The labour market; issues surrounding work-life balance and gender; the impact of national policies and gender norms on the level of work-family conflict of individuals and the gender gap in the conflict levels; labour market flexibility; employment insecurity. www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/heejung_chung.html

Professor Mike Calnan
Professor of Medical Sociology
Diffusion and innovation in health care and technology; trust and health care; dignity and the provision of health and social care for older people. www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/calnan.html

Professor Phil Hubbard
Professor of Urban Studies
Phil Hubbard is Professor of Urban Studies and author of books including The Entrepreneurial City (1998); Key Ideas in Geography – The City (2006); The Sage Companion to the City (2008); and Cities and Sexualities (2011). He has written widely on the social conditions of cities and the impact of neoliberal urban policy on public life. www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/hubbard.html
Dr Jeremy Kendall
Senior Lecturer in Social Policy
Civil society and the third sector: theories and policies; the mixed economy of welfare and international comparisons of national welfare systems; the EU, international institutions and their relationship to social policy, to civil society and to the third sector.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/kendall.html

Dr Dawn Lyon
Lecturer in Sociology
Ethnically privileged migration; citizenship, in particular the post-war evolution of German citizenship policy; the integration of migrants in host societies (including political participation); human trafficking; regional consultative processes; the interaction between formal and substantive citizenship and successful integration.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/lyon.html

Dr Vince Miller
Senior Lecturer in Sociology
Theories of urban social change and fragmentation, The information society, media and new media, Social theory of space.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/miller.html

Dr Lavinia Mitton
Lecturer in Social Policy
Government tax and social security policies, and how they affect people, particularly in relation to the family and income inequality; the history of social policy and long-term change in economic and social conditions.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/mitton.html

Professor Larry Ray
Professor of Sociology
Sociological theory; postcommunism, social memory and the emergence of new Jewish cultures in Europe; globalisation; race; ethnicity; violence.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/ray.html

Professor Chris Rootes
Professor of Environmental Politics and Political Sociology
Environmental protest; environmental movements; the interactions between environmental campaigners and industry, government and governmental agencies; cross-national comparative research on protest, social movements and political participation; the formation and implementation of environmental policy, particularly in respect of climate change.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/rootes.html

Dr Bahlhar Sanghera
Senior Lecturer in Sociology; Director of Graduate Studies (Taught)
Ethics, moral economy and sentiments; political economy; philanthropy; post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/sanghera.html

Professor Chris Shilling
Professor of Sociology; Director of Graduate Studies (Research)
The body; embodiment; body pedagogics; religion; social, sociological and cultural theory.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/shilling.html

CONTINUED OVERLEAF
Professor Miri Song
Professor of Sociology
Ethnic identity; race; racisms; immigrant adaptation; ‘mixed race’.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/song.html

Professor Tim Strangleman
Professor of Sociology
Work identity and meaning; nostalgia; heritage; industrial decline; masculinity and age; historical sociology; oral histories; life histories; visual methods and approaches.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/strangleman.html

Professor Peter Taylor-Gooby
Professor of Social Policy
Risk; comparative cross-national work on European social policy; theoretical developments in social policy.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/taylorgooby.html

Professor Julia Twigg
Professor of Social Policy and Sociology
The body, and temporal and spatial ordering; age and ageing; disability; medicine and health care; food, diet and health; home care; public and private space; carework and the care workforce; the sociology of food.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/twigg.html

Professor Sarah Vickerstaff
Professor of Work and Employment
The relationship between paid work and the life course; the employability of older workers; the apprentice model of vocational training and intermediate skills acquisition and the transition from school to work.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/vickerstaff.html

Dr Iain Wilkinson
Senior Lecturer in Sociology
Social theory; sociology of risk; sociology of health; sociology of mass media; the ways people experience and respond to their knowledge of risk, crisis and disaster.
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/staff/academic/wilkinson.html

LOOKING FOR FUNDING?
For information on postgraduate funding and scholarships available at Kent, see www.kent.ac.uk/pgfunding
Entry requirements

Sociology MA
A good honours degree in sociology or a related social science discipline, or substantial experience in social or political research or a relevant profession.

Methods of Social Research MA
A good honours degree in the social sciences and an interest in social issues.

Sociology MA, MPhil, PhD
A good honours degree or MA in Sociology or a related social science discipline.

Political Sociology MA
A good honours degree in sociology or a related social science discipline.

Environmental Social Science MSc
A good honours degree in sociology or a related social science discipline.

English language
The University requires all non-native speakers of English to reach a minimum standard of proficiency in written and spoken English before beginning a postgraduate degree.

You should provide us with either an IELTS certificate with a minimum score of 6.5, including 6.0 in reading and writing, a TOEFL certificate with a minimum of 90 including 22 reading, 21 writing, 21 listening and 23 speaking (internet-based) or, alternatively, you can provide us with the Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English grade C.

If you do not reach the required standard, you can apply for one of our pre-sessional courses. For further information, please see www.kent.ac.uk/cewl

Making an application
You can apply for a Kent higher degree electronically via our website at www.kent.ac.uk/courses/postgrad/apply

If you do not have access to the web, please contact the Recruitment and Admissions Office at the address overleaf, for a paper copy of the application form.

If you are applying for a research degree, it is strongly recommended that you contact the School in the first instance so that you have an opportunity to discuss your study plans with the programme director.

How to complete the online application form
The online form will take up to 20 minutes to complete and can be saved and returned to at any time.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF
APPLYING TO KENT (CONT)

There are five sections to the online form:
• Choosing your course and giving us basic personal information
• Email verification
• Completing the form
• Checking and submitting the form
• Sending in additional paperwork by email or post.

A decision on your application cannot be made until all the additional paperwork has been received so it is important to send them in as soon as you can. In addition to filling in the application form, you also need to provide:
• evidence of your academic qualifications. Please ask the institution which awarded you your Bachelor’s or Master’s degree (or equivalent) to send us an interim or final transcript (a list of all the modules/courses you have taken with the mark achieved for each) or letter certifying your award
• references from two academic referees. All references must be in English. The University needs both references before it can make a decision whether or not to offer you a place. Email addresses of referees must be provided as referees will be asked to submit references via our secure website. References not submitted by the approved electronic route must be made in writing on official letterheaded paper
• evidence of language ability. All international students required to apply for a visa must ensure that they meet the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) eligibility requirements for English language
• if you are a research applicant, you must also submit an outline of approximately 1,500 words of the research project you wish to undertake
• any other materials or documents you would like to be considered in support of your application.

All application materials must be sent to the Recruitment and Admissions Office. You can send this information by fax to +44 (0)1227 827077, or by scanned attachment to admissionspg@kent.ac.uk or by post to:
Recruitment and Admissions Office,
The Registry, University of Kent,
Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NZ, UK.

Packages sent by registered post or by courier are normally the most secure. The Recruitment and Admissions Office will acknowledge receipt of all application materials as quickly as possible. If you have not received an acknowledgement within a reasonable amount of time, you should contact us again.

Application deadline

There is no fixed closing deadline for applications. However, we strongly recommend that you apply as soon as possible and no later than three months before the start of term. If you wish to apply for on-campus accommodation, an application must be made online by the end of July.

Tuition fees

For the most up-to-date information on tuition fees, please visit www.kent.ac.uk/finance-student/fees

Further information

Please contact:
Postgraduate Office, School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NY, UK
T: +44 (0)1227 827613
F: +44 (0)1227 827005
E: sspsrr-pg-admin@kent.ac.uk
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr

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.
Kent: the UK’s European university

Kent is known as the UK’s European university. Our two main UK campuses, Canterbury and Medway, are located in the south-east of England, close to London, and we have specialist postgraduate centres in Brussels and Paris.

We have a diverse, cosmopolitan population with 125 nationalities represented. We also have strong links with universities in Europe, and from Kent, you are around two hours away from Paris and Brussels by train.

World-leading research

A great deal of the University of Kent’s research has been ranked as world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour, according to the Government’s most recent Research Assessment Exercise. Kent staff were found to be engaged in research of international and world-class standing.

Strong academic community

Kent’s postgraduate students are part of a thriving intellectual community that includes staff and students from all our locations. In addition to lectures, seminars and one-to-one supervisions, you benefit from a rich and stimulating research culture. We have also recently invested in Woolf College, a modern facility on the Canterbury campus dedicated to postgraduates, which combines accommodation, and academic and social space.

A global outlook

Kent has a great international reputation, attracting academic staff and students from around the world. Our academic schools are engaged in collaborative research with universities worldwide and we offer a range of opportunities to study abroad and an approach that is truly global.

The Graduate School

As a postgraduate student, you also have the support of the Graduate School, which promotes your academic interests, co-ordinates transferable skills training programmes and facilitates cross-disciplinary interaction and social networking.

Funding

Kent provides a variety of financial support opportunities for postgraduate students. These range from research studentships, location-specific funding, sport and music scholarships, and funding specifically for overseas fee-paying students. For further information, see www.kent.ac.uk/pgfunding

Enhanced career prospects

At Kent, we want you to be in a good position to face the demands of a tough economic environment. During your studies, you acquire a high level of academic knowledge and specialist practical skills. We also help you to develop key transferable skills that are essential within the competitive world of work.

Location

Canterbury

Faculty

Faculty of Social Sciences

School

School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research

Contact

Postgraduate Office, School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NY, UK
T: +44 (0)1227 827613
F: +44 (0)1227 827005
E: sspssr-pg-admin@kent.ac.uk
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr

Applications

Online at www.kent.ac.uk/courses/postgrad/apply

Further information

For information about applying to Kent, or to order a copy of the Graduate Prospectus, please contact:
The Recruitment and Admissions Office, The Registry, University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NZ, UK
T: +44 (0)1227 827272
F: +44 (0)1227 827077
E: information@kent.ac.uk

The University also holds Open Days and postgraduate recruitment events throughout the year. Please see www.kent.ac.uk/opendays
COME AND MEET US

We hold Open Days and postgraduate events throughout the year.

For more information, see:
www.kent.ac.uk/opendays