Are you intellectually curious? Do you like playing with ideas and maybe already spend some of your time philosophising? By studying Philosophy at Kent, you can learn to examine the questions and answers of the great philosophers, assess them critically, and formulate and defend your own responses.
WHY STUDY PHILOSOPHY AT KENT?

Flexible programmes
You can take Philosophy on its own, as a four-year programme with a year abroad, or you can combine it with a range of subjects. These include English and American Literature, Law, Politics, humanities subjects, or languages.

Academic support
University is different to school. You need to be self-motivated and organised to succeed. We provide academic tutors and a peer mentoring programme, and you can also get help with academic skills, such as essay writing.

Excellent resources
Access more than 1 million books, ebooks, databases and journals at the University’s Templeman Library. These include our special collections and research databases such as British Humanities Index and Philosopher’s Index.

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 established ideas and the latest thinking.

Friendly community
The Department of Philosophy is based within the School of European Culture and Languages (SECL), which means you are part of an international community of students with a wide range of interests.

Lively campus
Kent is a campus university, so everything you need is within walking distance. You can watch a play or a 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 cafes and restaurants.

International links
SECL has long-standing links and exchange agreements with some of Europe’s most prestigious institutions, and there are many opportunities to study or work abroad.

Career success
Employability is a priority at Kent. SECL has its own events programme to boost your job skills, from CV workshops to careers talks, and it offers work and volunteer opportunities. You can also get help from the University’s Careers and Employability Service.

Historic location
Canterbury is a lovely city with a world-famous cathedral, medieval buildings and lively pubs and restaurants. There’s a vibrant cultural scene, and the coast and countryside are within easy reach. London is less than an hour away by high-speed train.

Inspirational teaching
Great teachers inspire enthusiasm and provoke debate. Whether they’re lecturing on moral philosophy, or leading a debate on logic, our staff are skilled at bringing their subject to life and drawing you into the conversation. We have expertise in areas as diverse as moral and political philosophy, epistemology and metaphysics, philosophy of mind and language, formal theories of reasoning, and modern European philosophy.

Independent rankings
The Times Good University Guide 2018
- Philosophy was ranked 19th overall

National Student Survey 2017
- More than 94% of Philosophy students who responded to the survey were satisfied with the overall quality of their course.

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

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
Kyle Lovell is in the final year of his degree in Philosophy.

What attracted you to this subject?
I wanted to understand people’s place in the world, and how we utilise language to navigate our place in the world, especially in relation to religion and faith. I was very interested in the idea of doubt, and how that affects our interactions with one another and society, especially how doubt can affect ethical questions and our decisions.

Why did you choose Kent?
Because, for me, one of the greatest strengths of the philosophy department is how broad it is, and how many different things you can study through the different modules. You can really focus on what you want, rather than having to go through a set schema that might not be right for you.

How is your course going?
The Department of Philosophy is one of the most approachable groups of people I’ve ever met.

It’s wonderful being able to carve out my own academic path and to have been supported in that. For instance, I’ve taken a module from the Department of Religious Studies on religion and sex, and I’m doing one on modern tragedy from Comparative Literature.

The course has made me much more aware of how I approach subjects and of how much I have to change – and how other people change – through dialogue. This is vital if you’re attempting to reach any kind of philosophical truth.

Then we have great things like the Philosophy Reading Weekend, where we stay by the coast for a few days, discuss philosophy and play Jenga. They also encourage students to give talks on topics they’re interested in. We’ve had wonderful discussions on everything from Milo Yiannopoulos to cannibalism.

What have been your favourite modules?
There was one called ‘Heidegger and Aesthetics’, where I was able to write about poetry, and how we can understand poetry as a form of philosophical discourse. We studied the development of Martin Heidegger’s philosophy of the 20th century through his writings on literature, and considered the moral issues that arise when studying philosophers – I mean, Heidegger was a Nazi sympathiser. So while we still read him, we have to be very careful about how we encounter him. That was a brilliant experience.

What social activities are you involved in?
I founded the Poetry Society in my first year and acted as president until third year. As part of that, I helped to organise the Full English Festival on campus alongside the Creative Writing Society. And now I’m currently in charge of a small poetry publishing house.

What are your plans for after graduation?
I’m sending off applications for a Master’s in literature, philosophy and criticism in culture. I’d like to become a professor of philosophy or literature, promoting diversity and different ways of encountering philosophy, rather than re-reading the same dead white men.

Any advice for future students?
Read widely, and read variously. And just prepare yourself to encounter something entirely different, that you’re probably not going to be prepared for – and honestly, no one else will be prepared for it either. So there’s absolutely no need to worry or stress if you feel like you’re not ready, because no one is ready.
CHOOSING YOUR DEGREE

Not sure which programme to choose? Here’s a guide to what’s available.

For more on each programme, go to www.kent.ac.uk/ug and search by the UCAS code shown in brackets.

Single honours
Philosophy (V500)
This is a three-year programme. The main focus is on the study of philosophy, although you may also take modules in other subject areas.

Philosophy with an Approved Year Abroad (V501)
This four-year degree follows the same structure as the Philosophy degree, but you spend an additional year studying philosophy, in French, at the Paris-Sorbonne University. On this programme, you must take language modules in your first and second years for your ‘wild’ modules. It is also possible to spend a year studying at other destinations. See p9 for more information.

Joint honours
Taking a joint honours degree means you split your studies between two subjects. Most joint honours are three-year degrees, but Philosophy taken with either French or German is a four-year programme with a year studying abroad at a European university.

Below is a list of the joint honours degrees currently available:
- Art History (V401)
- Asian Studies (TV45)
- Classical & Archaeological Studies (QV85)
- English Language and Linguistics (QVG4)
- English and American Literature (QVHS)
- Film (VW56)
- French (RVC5)
- German (RVF5)
- History (VVC5)
- Law (MV1S)
- Management (VN10)
- Politics (LV25)
- Religious Studies (V56S)
- Sociology (LVHS).

Teaching and assessment
Some modules have lectures, some have seminars, all have class discussions. Some incorporate group work and some promote ‘student-active’ learning techniques, which encourage you to work individually or in groups and to present your findings to the rest of the class. Assessment of philosophy modules is by essays or tests, or a combination of both.

Placement year
All students on a three-year programme are eligible to take a placement year between Stages 2 and 3. This is an opportunity for you to gain workplace experience as part of your programme of study. For more details, see p9.

International students
If you need to extend your existing academic qualifications or ability in English to be able to study at university level, Kent’s one-year International Foundation Programme (IFP) allows you to do so. From the IFP you can move on to our philosophy programmes. See www.kent.ac.uk/ifp for details.

YEAR ABROAD/PLACEMENT YEAR

At Kent, you have the opportunity to broaden your experience either by studying overseas or by taking a work placement.

When studying in Kent’s Faculty of Humanities, you can apply to spend a year studying abroad or on placement as part of your degree programme. The year usually takes place between the second and final years of study.

Year abroad
This is an amazing opportunity and a chance for you to develop academically, personally and professionally.

You gain confidence and independence, and further develop many of the transferable skills employers are looking for, such as being able to communicate effectively and to plan and organise your time. You also show that you have a flexible outlook and the enthusiasm and drive to succeed in a new environment.

Many students find that their year abroad is a life-changing and rewarding experience. Having risen to the challenge of living in another country, you have a renewed belief in your ability to succeed.

Or, if you’d rather take a joint honours with French or German, you can spend a year studying or working in Europe.

We have exciting exchange links with universities in Asia, the USA and Canada, as well as many European destinations via the Erasmus exchange network. Visit www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad/opportunities/az.html to see the A to Z course list.

Placement year
The placement year provides the opportunity for you to get experience in the workplace as part of your degree. The placement can be either paid work or an internship.

It gives you the opportunity to increase your contacts and networks so you can hit the ground running when you graduate.

If taken, the year is assessed on a pass/fail basis as a result of employer feedback and your own written report.

Tuition fees for the placement year are greatly reduced and employers may offer expenses or a salary.

There are many benefits to taking a placement year, including giving you the chance to get a taste of the work environment, acquire new skills and develop your confidence.

See www.kent.ac.uk/humanities/studying/placement for more information.

International students
If you need to extend your existing academic qualifications or ability in English to be able to study at university level, Kent’s one-year International Foundation Programme (IFP) allows you to do so. From the IFP you can move on to our philosophy programmes. See www.kent.ac.uk/ifp for details.
YOUR STUDY PROGRAMME

Because it’s a study of the fundamental questions connected to reality, existence, the mind, language and thought, Philosophy at Kent is designed to develop your ideas, independent thought and problem-solving skills.

The module lists on this page are not fixed as new modules are always in development and choices updated yearly. Please see www.kent.ac.uk/ug for the most up-to-date information. To read a full description of the modules listed, visit www.kent.ac.uk/courses/modules and search by the module code.

Stage 1
Stage 1 covers the first year of your degree programme. It begins with an introduction to philosophy, including ethics, knowledge and metaphysics, logic and reasoning. You are also taught to read and write as a philosopher.

All students take the following four compulsory modules:
- Introduction to Philosophy: Ethics (PL303)
- Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Metaphysics (PL302)
- Introduction to Philosophy: Logic and Reasoning (PL310)
- Philosophical Reading and Writing (PL315)

Joint honours students also take modules in their joint subject area, while single honours students choose at least one of the following philosophy modules:
- Existentialism (PL305)
- Introduction to Philosophy (Rights) (PL300)

Your remaining modules may be chosen from any subjects within the Faculty of Humanities. Those taking an approved year abroad in Paris must take a language module.

Stages 2 and 3
Stages 2 and 3 are the second and final years of your degree. Now you can focus in greater depth on subjects such as the philosophy of language, medicine, religion, work, mind and action, feminist philosophy, logic, metaphysics, ethics and politics.

Single honours students take between 180 and 240 credits of philosophy modules, which are worth either 15 or 30 credits each. Joint honours students take between 90 and 150 credits of philosophy modules.

The modules currently available at Stages 2 and 3 are:
- Feminist Philosophy (PL642/PL643)
- Greek Philosophy: Plato and Aristotle (CL708/CL709)
- Logic (PL605/PL679)
- Meaning, Mind and Faith (PL599/PL573)
- Metaphysics (PL611/PL612)
- Normative Ethics (PL640/PL641)
- Philosophy and Film (PL622/PL623)
- Philosophy Dissertation (Stage 3 only) (PL507)
- Philosophy of Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence (PL609/PL583)
- Philosophy of Language (PL602/PL576)
- Philosophy of Medicine (PL596/PL570)
- Philosophy of Mind and Action (PL604/PL578)
- Political Emotions (PL667/PL668)
- Political Philosophy (PL618/PL619)
- Religious Studies and Philosophy in the Classroom (Stage 3 only) (TH643)
- The Myth of the State (PL626/PL627)
- The Tragedy of Human Reason: Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason (PL625/PL624)
- Topics in Reasoning (PL620/PL623)
- Understanding Causality and Probability (PL664/PL665).
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.

SECL support
The School of European Culture and Languages has a dedicated support team to provide students with confidential pastoral support, and provides a first point of contact for students requiring assistance.

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 can 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
A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

Experience work
Philosophy students have the opportunity to take a placement year as part of their degree, either as an integral part of their course or an option. This allows you to spend a year in the workplace, between Stages 2 and 3, giving you the chance to get work experience, acquire new skills and gain insight into your career options. For further details, see p8.

Find a great job
The School of European Culture and Languages (SECL) organises opportunities to help you prepare for your future career and enhance your skills. These include modules, volunteering opportunities and a number of events organised throughout the year.

At Kent, you have many other great opportunities to enhance your skills. For instance, you can:
- join a society or sports club (even better – get involved in running it)
- volunteer with a 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.

What you have to say
Michael Jones
Philosophy student, Stage 3

What do you hope to do once you have your degree? Whether you have a specific career 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.

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NEXT STEPS

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NEXT STEPS

Ben Gilfillan graduated from Kent in 2017 with a Philosophy BA (Hons) degree. He is now working as a paralegal at an international law firm.

Why did you choose Kent?
Kent was my first university choice, because of the ratings for student satisfaction, along with its position in the league tables for Philosophy, and for its all-round performance as a university. Then the impact the campus and location made on me and my family on the Open Day and how the lecturers came across as well, sealed the deal.

What attracted you to the course?
I’d known since taking my GCSEs that I wanted to take my Philosophy studies further. Finding out the entry requirements, the modules I’d be undertaking and the way we’d be marked at Kent cemented my choice of subject.

What was the degree course like?
And what about the lecturers?
The course was fascinating, and introduced me to so many different theories and ways of thinking that I hadn’t even been aware of. The lectures and seminars were engaging and thought-provoking, and I really enjoyed studying something I was, and still am, passionate about.

My lecturers were approachable, reliable, funny and, above all, so smart. It was evident that they were passionate about what they were teaching, and were some of the best in their chosen fields. To see some of them on graduation day, sharing the celebrations with us, made me feel they actually cared about our studies, too.

What extra-curricular activities did you get involved with?
I took advantage of the gym and the climbing club, and went to my college bar, Origins, for quizzes and the Christian Society to further my debating skills – they were welcoming to an atheist. The Philosophy Society student-led lectures in my final year were interesting, as they often touched on niche topics we wouldn’t necessarily cover in our lectures. I went to The Venue nightclub on campus as much as possible too.

What does your current job involve?
I’m now working for a huge law firm. I started as a temp in the Real Estate department and was made permanent a few months later. I’ve had a variety of roles, including writing reports on property purchases for corporate clients, taking part in document disclosure for a litigation case and ordering property searches. The work is engaging, and I’m learning a lot.

How does your degree help you at work?
My degree helped in many ways, from improving my time management to building my public speaking and interview skills through class presentations. The essays, along with the research and analysis of vast amounts of data, have helped improve my writing. It’s also all helped me create balanced arguments, and assisted my reasoning when communicating with clients.

What are your future plans?
I want to remain in commercial conveyancing as I feel I’m just finding my feet. I’d like to find financing sponsorship to study for formal qualifications, and maybe even one day get a training contract to become a solicitor. This is an industry I never thought I would get the opportunity to work in, and I want to do as well as possible.

Do you have a memory you would like to share?
I miss the place, the people I met and the experiences we shared. One afternoon in my first week at Kent, we sat on Eliot Hill and watched the sunset with some beers, and I just thought, ‘So, this is it, I’m at uni.’ Fast forward to the last week of my last year and I sat on that same hill watching the sunset with the same friends, thinking, ‘So, this is it, it’s all over.’ If you’re thinking of going to Kent, do it, and make the most of it, because you’ll never get the chance to do it again.
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
- 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.

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
Location
Canterbury

Award
BA (Hons)

Degree programs
Single honours
• Philosophy (V500)
• Philosophy with an Approved Year Abroad (V501)

Joint honours
See p8 for details.

Offer levels
V500, V501: ABB at A level. IB Diploma 34 points or IB Diploma with 16 points at Higher, including IB Philosophy 5 at SL or 4 at HL.

Required subjects
For the Year in Europe option, GCSE grade 6/B in a modern second language other than English; for the variant with a year in the Sorbonne A level French grade B. Joint honours subjects may have special requirements.

Access and BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma/National Diploma applicants are assessed on an individual basis, please contact us for more information.

Year abroad
If you take Philosophy with an Approved Year Abroad, you spend your third year at the Paris-Sorbonne University. There are also opportunities to spend a year at other destinations. Those taking a joint honours with French or German also spend a year in Europe. For more information, see p9.

Scholarships and bursaries
See www.kent.ac.uk/ugfunding

Explore online
Find out more about the academic team, the course and events in the department and School at www.kent.ac.uk/secl/philosophy

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.

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

www.kent.ac.uk/secl/philosophy

FIND OUT MORE (CONT)
COME AND VISIT US

To find out more about visiting the University, see our website:
www.kent.ac.uk/visit