SOCIAL POLICY

Canterbury
Are you interested in issues such as poverty, health, crime and education? As a Social Policy student, you examine social issues and the policy response to them. You gain an understanding of social justice, different approaches to public policy and welfare, and the impact of policy upon individuals.
# WHY STUDY SOCIAL POLICY AT KENT?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inspirational teaching</th>
<th>Academic support</th>
<th>Analytical skills</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great teachers inspire enthusiasm and provoke debate. Whether they are lecturing on crime or sparking discussion on social inequality, our staff are skilled at bringing their subject to life. They share their research and challenge you to contribute your ideas.</td>
<td>University is different from school. You need to be self-motivated and well organised to succeed. We help you by assigning you an academic adviser, running a peer mentoring programme and offering help with academic skills, such as essay writing.</td>
<td>Being confident in working with data and making sense of it is a great skill that appeals to employers. You can benefit from the expertise of the Q-Step Centre at Kent by studying social analytics and quantitative research skills as part of your degree.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>World-leading research</th>
<th>Student community</th>
<th>Lively campus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We are home to world experts in specialist areas across the social sciences, with one of the most dynamic research cultures in Europe. The books and articles we write and the debates we are involved in help to shape your course and the topics you are studying.</td>
<td>Kent Union is run by students, for students, to help you make the most of university life. As well as running clubs, societies and social events, the student union is there to support you with advice on a wide range of issues and to ensure your voice is heard.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excellent resources</th>
<th>Enhanced experience</th>
<th>Career success</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access more than 1 million books, ebooks, databases and journals at the University’s Templeman Library. Our expert subject librarians are on hand to help you find your way around and get the most from our specialist collections.</td>
<td>Our Employability Points scheme rewards you for getting involved in extra-curricular activities. Why not learn a new language, or become a student rep? You exchange your points for work experience and other activities that prepare you for the world of work.</td>
<td>Employability is a priority at the University of Kent. By studying, you sharpen skills that are useful in working life, such as time management and developing an argument. We help you to develop a great CV and present yourself effectively to potential employers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Stimulating programme

How can the challenges and concerns at the heart of society best be tackled? Studying Social Policy is about exploring these questions and, in trying to find answers, you learn about aspects of economics, law, history, politics, sociology and more. You use research findings to evaluate policy proposals and recommendations, and argue the case for change. We offer you a wide range of optional modules, so you can tailor your programme to your particular interests and career plans.

Independent rankings

The Guardian University Guide 2019
- Social Policy at Kent ranked 13th overall

Research Excellence Framework
- Based on the most recent Research Excellence Framework, Kent was ranked in the top 20 for research intensity by the Times Higher Education, outperforming 11 of the 24 Russell Group universities

Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE)
- Over 95% of Kent graduates who graduated in 2017 and responded to a national survey were in work or further study within six months

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
Isobel Holden is in the second year of her BA (Hons) degree in Social Policy. This is what she told us about her course.

What attracted you to studying at Kent?
I knew Kent had an amazing level of teaching; my mum was a student here and I knew how well it had treated her and how much she enjoyed being here. I also loved the campus from the start – it is so pretty and close to the city, I just felt at home.

Was it easy to settle in?
I felt very nervous when I first arrived, but also excited. My housemates and I were in Park Wood. We all became friends instantly and lived together again in my second year. I felt like part of a community in Park Wood.

How is your course going?
I’m really enjoying it. I like how open to debate everyone is – it makes seminars fun and interesting, so you look forward to going to them. The course develops everyone’s opinions in an encouraging environment.

How would you describe your lecturers?
I really like all my lecturers and you can tell that they really enjoy what they do, which helps me to be enthusiastic too. They are all very helpful and encourage students to develop their own beliefs and academic skills. I found my academic adviser helpful as well and she is always there if I need advice and guidance.

Which modules have you enjoyed most, and why?
I’m very interested in mental health services and the Mental Health module not only taught me about their role in the current health system, but also how services could be developed and improved. For Sociology of Religion, I enjoyed learning about how society is so shaped by religious processes. The module on poverty and inequality taught me about problems in society, the policies that are supposed to rectify them and how different policies are better. It made me more aware of the world I live in. My dissertation is going to be on whether the implementation of more mental health support into the education system would be beneficial for students. I chose this because the two topics of education and mental health are what I’m passionate about.

What are the facilities like on campus?
Great! I appreciated the study hubs in my first year and that every building has a vending machine! The library is also really good because of the café and the fact that it has social, quiet and silent sections, so you’re not stuck working in silence if you don’t want to be. My friends and I like the group rooms that we can book out when we have to work on a group project. Everything is modern and it’s good that there are accessible rooms so that everyone can come to uni and get involved.

What about the social life?
The social life at Kent is amazing! There are sports, fitness, academic and other societies. I’m a member and volunteer teacher at the Pole Fitness society and have made some of my best friends there.

What are your plans for the future?
I plan on doing a PhD and becoming an academic. I want to lecture in social policy and carry out my own research in education and mental health. My ambition is to be giving advice to charities, policy units and governments. I only decided on this when I came to Kent and it was the result of loving my degree so much! It has really made me want to make a difference and helped me to feel at home in academia and research.

Any advice for somebody thinking of coming to Kent?
Throw yourself completely into university life, join societies, ask people for help and keep up with your work. You need to find a balance between academia and fun in order to be happy and do well. When you look at universities, make sure you aren’t just looking at league tables, but also at whether you will feel at home and enjoy your course.
CHOOSING YOUR DEGREE

Not sure which programme to choose? You can study Social Policy as a single honours course, with another subject as joint honours, or with Quantitative Research. Here’s a guide to what’s available.

Note: Stage 1 of your degree is the first year for full-time students, Stage 2 is the second year and Stage 3 is the third year. Part-time students spend two years completing each stage. If you decide to spend a year studying abroad (see p9), you do this between Stages 2 and 3.

Social Policy
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/65
Social Policy is studied over three years full-time or six years part-time. Your degree involves the application of theory and research to the analysis of issues such as crime, unemployment, the care of older people, or social disadvantage arising from (for instance) class, race or gender. You explore policy and practice in welfare services including education, social care, employment services and housing management.

At the end of Stage 1 you may have the option to move on to the Social Policy with Quantitative Research programme. If you opt to do this, you participate in a two-week summer school to prepare you for Stage 2.

Social Policy with Quantitative Research
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/1375
On this degree you take advantage of the expertise on offer at our specialist Q-Step Centre, funded by the Nuffield Foundation. Alongside your Social Policy studies, you learn to think like a quantitative researcher, developing a critical eye for statistics and data analysis, both in academic research and the world around you. In Stage 3 you either choose a dissertation topic involving quantitative research or go on a work placement.

See www.kent.ac.uk/qstep for more details.

Joint honours
On a joint honours degree, your studies are split equally between two subjects. Joint honours degrees currently available are:
• Criminology and Social Policy (www.kent.ac.uk/ug/202)
• Social Anthropology and Social Policy (www.kent.ac.uk/ug/152)
• Social Policy and Politics (www.kent.ac.uk/ug/149)
• Social Policy and Sociology (www.kent.ac.uk/ug/359).

International students
If you are applying from outside the UK without the necessary English language qualifications, you may be able to take the Kent International Foundation Programme (IFP). The Kent IFP can provide progression to a Social Policy degree programme. For more details, see www.kent.ac.uk/ifp
YEAR ABROAD

At Kent, you have the opportunity to broaden your experience by spending a year studying overseas.

The year abroad usually takes place between Stages 2 and 3 of your degree course.

Year abroad

Going abroad as part of your degree 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 the ability to communicate effectively and to plan and organise your time. You also demonstrate that you are flexible in your outlook and have the enthusiasm and drive to succeed in a new environment.

For many students, their year abroad is a life-changing and rewarding experience. Having risen to the challenge of living in another country, they have a renewed belief in their ability to succeed.

We work with a wide range of partner universities in many countries, which currently include Belgium, Canada, Finland, China (Hong Kong), Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Singapore, Spain and the USA. At the majority of our partner universities you study in English.

You need to have reached certain academic standards in Stages 1 and 2 in order to participate. Your year abroad is assessed on a pass/fail basis and doesn’t count towards your final degree classification. See www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad/opportunities/az.html for more information.

Work placement

If you choose to study Social Policy with Quantitative Research, you have the opportunity to undertake a work placement module in Stage 3. The Q-Step Centre supports you in finding a suitable placement.

The work placement allows you to hone your skills in a practical setting, gain vital workplace or research experience and demonstrate to employers that you can apply your skills to real-life problems. You complete a portfolio reflecting on your experiences, which forms part of your assessment; the placement module counts towards your final degree classification.

See www.kent.ac.uk/qstep for further information.

“\r
I love the fact that at university everyone loves what they are doing. We are quite a diverse group and have lively discussions. You have to back up your views with evidence – it certainly makes you think.”

Storm Guy
Social Policy
YOUR STUDY PROGRAMME

Our degrees are designed to ensure you develop a broad understanding of key aspects of social policy, before tailoring your programme to the areas that you find particularly interesting.

If you are studying Social Policy with Quantitative Research, you also develop your skills in the use of statistics and data analysis.

Joint honours
Joint honours students generally take some of the compulsory modules from each of their subjects; this may mean that you do fewer optional modules.

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

Social Policy
Stage 1
At the beginning of your programme, most of your modules are compulsory. You take the following:
• Critical Thinking (SO341)
• Fundamentals of Sociology (SO337)
• Health, Care and Well-being (SA301)
• Social Policy and Social Control (SA300)
• Sociology of Everyday Life (SO336).

You also choose either:
• Introduction to Criminology (SO305)
or:
• Modern Culture (SO334).

You then choose optional modules from a wide range available, for example:
• Contemporary Culture and Media (SO335)
• Crime and Society (SO333)
• Sociological Theory: The Classics (SO408).

Stage 2
At Stage 2 you take the following compulsory modules:
• Social Research Methods (SO602)
• Welfare in Modern Britain (SO601).

You choose optional modules from the wide range available. Examples include:
• The Care and Protection of Children and Families (SA531)
• Mental Health (SO532)
• Poverty, Inequality and Social Security (SO575)
• The Third Sector: Charities and Social Enterprises in Modern Societies (SO645).

Stage 3
At Stage 3 you have one compulsory module:

You choose the remainder of your modules from the wide range of options available.
Social Policy with Quantitative Research

Stage 1
You take the compulsory modules for Social Policy (see p10), plus:
• Doing Social Research with Numbers (SO410).

You also choose one optional module (see p10 for examples).

Stage 2
At Stage 2, you take the following compulsory modules:
• How to Win Arguments with Numbers (SO746)
• The Power and Limits of Causal Analysis (SO744)
• Qualitative Social Research Methods (SO546)
• Welfare in Modern Britain (SO601)

You also choose from the range of optional modules available (see p10 for examples).

Stage 3
You take the following compulsory modules:
• A Future for the Welfare State: Social Change, Challenge and Crisis (SA503)

and either:
• Placement Module – The Practice of Quantitative Social Research (SO748)
or:
• Quantitative Research Dissertation (SO756).

You choose the remainder of your modules from the wide range of options available.

Teaching and assessment
Our teaching methods include lectures and seminars. A full-time student receives at least eight hours of formal teaching per week, supplemented by meetings with their academic adviser. In addition to the formal teaching time, you also need to prepare for seminars and study independently.

Assessment is based on coursework essays, projects, group work and examinations. Some modules are assessed 50% by coursework and 50% by examination while others are 100% coursework. You have to pass Stage 1 in order to proceed to Stage 2. Your marks in Stages 2 and 3 count towards your final degree classification.
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 to 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.

The team is committed to improving access to learning for all students at Kent and can assist with many things, including:

• 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

“Peer mentoring is open to absolutely everyone. We’ve signed up to be peer mentors and we really do want to help, so take advantage of it.”

Evangeline Agyeman
Peer mentor
Experience work

Taken as part of your degree programme, the Kent Student Certificate for Volunteering Platinum Award allows you to develop transferable skills in leadership, mentoring, project management and working within teams and organisations. The Social Sciences in the Classroom module gives you experience of working in a professional environment and communicating ideas effectively.

Find a great job

Your degree can lead to a wide range of rewarding career paths in both the public and private sectors. For instance, our graduates have gone on to work in the voluntary sector, the NHS, housing management, the civil service, social care, youth work, advice work, the criminal justice system and human resources.

The School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR) supports you with tailored employability events, from exploring career options to presenting your skills and experience to employers.

Visit our careers fair to talk to potential employers and use our award-winning Careers and Employability Service for advice on preparing your CV. Our track record speaks for itself: just six months after graduating in 2017, over 95% of Kent graduates who responded to a national survey were in work or further study (DLHE, 2017).

A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

What do you hope to do once you have your degree? Whether you have a specific career path in mind or haven’t thought much beyond university, we can help you to achieve success in the future.

Build your CV

Your degree studies help you to develop skills such as analysing information, thinking critically, expressing yourself clearly, solving problems, and working independently and as part of a team. These transferable skills are widely valued by employers in all sectors.

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 in 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.
Keleisha Robinson graduated in 2017 with a first-class degree in Social Policy. Here’s what she told us about her studies and life after Kent.

I’ve always had an interest in real-world issues, such as poverty, immigration, health care and other social issues, so the Social Policy BA felt like a great fit for me. I loved that it would allow me to explore global societal issues further, understand their impact on the everyday person and make conclusions about what could be done to make a difference policy-wise.

I instantly knew I wanted to come to Kent after I visited the campus. Everyone I met was really welcoming. It sounds like a cliché, but I really enjoyed the whole course, from developing my understanding of the nature of social challenges, to exploring the policy responses to them.

Social Policy is a very varied subject, so it offers the chance to take up optional modules. This allowed me to explore other topics of interest, such as race and gender, which was extremely useful for me when doing my dissertation, as I chose to research the Black Lives Matter movement. I also enjoyed being able to choose a module on the third sector because it helped me to learn more about the sector I’ve always known I want a career in.

I had a health condition that meant I wasn’t always able to attend the lectures in person. However, the teaching style at Kent is so accessible and supportive that it didn’t really affect me or my grades negatively. I was able to catch up with lectures if I couldn’t make them in person, or if I just wanted to refresh my understanding, because the recordings and presentation slides were made available online, and my lecturers and seminar leaders were always happy to go over things with me. The lecturers were well informed about the latest developments in the subject area and were able to make the classes engaging and super-informative.

Kent offers a lot of work-related modules and workshops on CVs, interviews and assessment days that really help you to become more ‘employable’. The Careers and Employment Service also provides a lot of information about work opportunities, which helped me secure really cool work experience, such as a work placement at Channel 4.

I am currently interning at the British Red Cross in the Trust and Statutory team and working part-time for Citizens Advice as a researcher and fundraiser. In my second year I took a module on the third [voluntary] sector and in my third year I took a module in which you have to complete 100 hours of volunteering. These helped me get into the two roles I’m in now because they taught me about the third sector and the roles available within it, and confirmed my interest in pursuing a career in it.

In September, I hope to study for a Master’s degree in human rights. I would then like to go into campaigns or research work for a human rights organisation such as Amnesty International or the UN.

My advice to new students would be to try to keep on top of the work in first year as it will put you in a good position for second and third year and help you to secure internships in the summer, if that’s something you’re interested in doing. At the same time try to balance the work life and social life if you can (I know it’s hard!) – university is a good time to meet new people and have fun, and Kent has a lot to offer in that area. Lastly, try to prioritise your spending: spending all your money as soon as you get it means there’s none left for rent or bills!
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.

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

* Programme of events varies according to subject.
agents in your home country who can offer guidance and information on studying at Kent. To find out more, visit www.kent.ac.uk/courses/international

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/sspssr

Keep in touch with us via social media:
• www.facebook.com/Kentsspssr
• www.twitter.com/sspssr
• www.youtube.com/sspssr

Contact us
If you would like more information on Kent's courses, facilities or services, please contact us on: T: +44 (0)1227 768896
www.kent.ac.uk/ug

Location
Canterbury

Award
BA (Hons)

Programme type
Full-time and part-time

Degree programmes
Single honours
• Social Policy (L430)
• Social Policy with Quantitative Research (L4G3)

Joint honours
• Criminology and Social Policy (LM49)
• Social Anthropology and Social Policy (LL46)
• Social Policy and Politics (LL42)
• Social Policy and Sociology (LL34)

Offer levels
Single honours
BBB at A level, IB Diploma 34 points or 15 points at Higher.
BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma with Distinction, Distinction, Merit

Joint honours
LM49, LL34: as for single honours
LL46: ABB at A level, IB Diploma 34 points overall or 16 points at Higher, BTEC applicants assessed on individual basis
LL42: BBB at A level, IB Diploma 34 points or 15 points at Higher, BTEC applicants assessed on individual basis

Flexible entry
The School is committed to widening participation and has a successful tradition of admitting mature students. We welcome applications from students on accredited Access courses.

Year abroad
See p9.

Scholarships and bursaries
For details of scholarships and bursaries, please see www.kent.ac.uk/ugfunding

Offer levels and entry requirements are subject to change. For the latest course information, see: www.kent.ac.uk/ug
COME AND VISIT US

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