Kent is one of the UK’s leading universities, ranked 23rd in *The Guardian University Guide 2017*. In the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014, Kent is ranked 17th* for research intensity, outperforming 11 of the 24 Russell Group universities.

Our Social Sciences degree, taught in the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR), gives you the opportunity to explore important questions about how society works and how social change happens from a number of different perspectives. The multidisciplinary nature of our degree enables you to tailor your studies to your own interests, choosing from sociology, social policy, psychology, social history, criminology and urban studies.

Studying the social sciences will give you specific knowledge and understanding of society, tools to analyse key issues such as class, poverty, inequality, health, crime, and urban change, as well as concrete skills, for instance, in giving presentations, analysing information and writing reports. Perhaps most importantly, our BSc in Social Sciences equips you to better understand the world we live in and gives you the capacity to apply your knowledge and skills in new contexts at work and in everyday life. Our students pursue careers in policymaking, teaching, research and management in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

**World-leading research**

SSPSSR is rated highly for both research and teaching. In the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014, the School was ranked 2nd in the UK for research power, with 99% of our research judged to be of international quality. We are home to world experts in specialist areas across the social sciences and pride ourselves on having one of the most dynamic research and publishing cultures in Europe. Members of the School regularly present their research findings to a range of governmental and non-governmental bodies.

**Outstanding teaching**

On the Social Sciences programme, you can choose from an ever-expanding range of modules that directly match your own interests. Our team of academic staff make use of a variety of teaching and learning methods, including lectures, case study analysis, discussion and debate, group projects and presentations, individual and group tutorials, and the opportunity for you to undertake an independent original research project. You are taught by academics who are research-active. This means that they are directly engaged in carrying out original research, writing books and articles, and taking part in conferences and debates that shape the very topics that you are studying.

*of 122 universities, not including specialist institutions.
Supportive academic community

The School provides a supportive and stimulating environment for students to study in, and we aim to maximise student participation, giving you the confidence to use your skills and knowledge in real situations. Each student has an Academic Adviser to help monitor academic progress and provide academic guidance throughout their studies. Your Academic Adviser is also able to help you with your own personal development plan and direct you to other sources of support if needed. All our academic staff hold regular, scheduled consultation hours, during which students can ask advice on the planning of essays and discuss feedback and assessed work.

The School also hosts events such as guest lectures and conferences, which you are invited to attend. These offer you the opportunity to discover new areas of research and develop your understanding of current issues and debates and to network with other students. These are just some of the reasons why Kent received the fifth highest score in the UK for overall student satisfaction in the 2015 National Student Survey.

Social analytics at Kent

Kent is one of only 15 institutions in the UK to offer additional quantitative research skills as part of your undergraduate degree through our Nuffield funded Q-Step Centre. Social analytics and quantitative skills are the ability to take data and scientific concepts and make sense of them. This involves gathering empirical information about real-world situations, understanding and working with the data, drawing conclusions and explaining findings.

You can choose to take advantage of the Centre’s expertise by taking Q-Step modules as part of your degree. By doing so, you will greatly enhance your employability as the ability to analyse and interpret data, is essential in many workplace situations. For more details, see www.kent.ac.uk/qstep

A global outlook

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A successful future

As well as providing a first-rate academic experience, we want you to be in a good position to face the demands of a challenging economic environment. During your studies, you develop key transferable skills considered essential for a successful graduate career. For more details on the careers help we provide at Kent, please see p8 or visit our employability web page at www.kent.ac.uk/employability

DID YOU KNOW?

Kent was ranked 4th in the UK for social policy in The Guardian University Guide 2017.
SUPERB STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Our modern, shared campus at Medway provides a stunning location for your studies. As well as outstanding teaching and learning facilities, the campus also has a real sense of community.

Excellent study resources
The University’s general study resources are excellent. The £8 million Drill Hall Library is well-stocked with books, journals and a range of electronic information, and you can also use the Templeman Library on the Canterbury campus. You have access to one-to-one support from expert librarians, and to a range of IT equipment, including public PCs and printers.

Kent’s Student Learning Advisory Service also provides information and advice on all aspects of effective learning and study skills, and is available to all students from the time they arrive at the University. See www.kent.ac.uk/learning for more information.

Good location
The Medway campus is near The Historic Dockyard, Chatham, which was built at the start of the 20th century. The campus has award-winning buildings, atmospheric cafés and a new student hub, creating a lively social life and a great sense of community. Five minutes’ walk from campus, the Dockside retail outlet offers a range of shops and restaurants.

Nearby is the town of Rochester with its stunning Cathedral, which is the venue for Kent’s degree congregations. Bluewater shopping centre is within easy driving distance and there are good bus and train links. In addition, the Medway area offers a dry ski slope and toboggan run, an ice rink and a karting circuit. Kent students can use the state-of-the-art sports centre, Medway Park, at discounted rates.

There is a free regular shuttle bus between the Medway and Canterbury campuses, which operates seven days a week during term-time.

The Medway campus is quick and easy to reach from central London. Travel to London from stations at Gillingham or Chatham takes around 50 minutes. There is a high-speed train to London St Pancras from nearby Ebbsfleet International that takes under 20 minutes. You can take the Eurostar from Ebbsfleet and be in Paris in just two hours.

Kent Extra
Kent Extra is an excellent way to get more from your time at university. It provides opportunities to enhance your knowledge, learn new skills and improve your CV. You can do this in many ways, for example, by attending one of our summer schools; by volunteering; or by taking a Study Plus course in an area that interests you. For details, see www.kent.ac.uk/kentextra

Live by the riverside
If you join Kent as a full-time student, you could be living in an attractive ‘waterside village’ on the banks of the River Medway. Our student flats have fully fitted kitchens and en-suite study bedrooms linked to the University’s computer network. The development also has its own social area, convenience store and fast-food outlets. Cargo, our new bar and bistro, which won the ‘Best Bar’ concept in the UDine Awards 2015, is in Victory Pier, alongside the Liberty Quays accommodation, and provides the perfect social space to meet with friends. As well as a great lunch and dinner menu, the bistro has a variety of entertainment, such as live music and student events.
Kate Sparkes is in the final year of her Social Sciences degree.

What attracted you to studying at Kent?
Kent is the nearest university to where I live and, as a mature student with a family, I needed to be able to live at home.

How is your course going?
My course is going fine; I have one dissertation, an essay and three exams before I finish.

Which modules have you enjoyed the most, and why?
I have enjoyed most of the modules. The psychology modules help in providing reasons why I, and other people, behave in the way we do, which has been enlightening. The history modules have given me the space to undertake individual research.

How would you describe your lecturers? What do you think about the level of support in your studies?
My lecturers are enthusiastic about their subjects. I think the level of support has been just right; I am allowed to be independent, but if I want or need help, I only have to ask.

How would you describe your fellow students?
My fellow students are a mixture of different ages, genders and ethnicity. They are sociable and we have had a few laughs together. No one stands on ceremony; we collaborate and help each other.

What are the study facilities like on campus?
The library is open for studying from 8.30am until midnight and at certain times of the year is open 24 hours a day.

What about the social life?
Cargo, the new University of Kent bar, is a nice place to sit and relax with fellow students and is open to the general public. It is located next to the student accommodation at Liberty Quays so it is convenient for the students who live there.

Also, both Chatham and Gillingham are easily accessible from campus and have a range of bars, restaurants and nightclubs.

Have you used the University’s Careers and Employability Service?
I attended a talk about a PGCE course, which I was considering as a possible option when I finish my degree.

What kind of career do you hope to follow when you leave, and why?
Studying at university has opened up so many different areas of employment as well as the possibility of studying at postgraduate level that, at the moment, I am undecided as to which career path to follow.

Any advice to somebody thinking of coming to Kent?
Enjoy your time at university; it has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. Also, embrace all the opportunities on offer, as you may not have the opportunity again.
A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

Kent equips you with essential skills to give you a competitive advantage when it comes to getting a job; more than 95% of Kent students who graduated in 2015 were in work or further study within six months.

Studying for a BSc in Social Sciences develops your key transferable skills in communication, report writing, teamwork, project management, leadership, problem solving and reflection. Graduates of this interdisciplinary programme are adaptable and flexible in their way of thinking, and approach tasks in a rigorous, ethical, yet creative and reflective, fashion. Our students learn to consider a range of perspectives on social issues, and as graduates have a strong awareness of the cultural contexts that can inform their work.

Our graduates can take on positions of leadership in addition to working effectively and considerately in teams. These skills and attributes are valued in a variety of professions, including teaching, research, policymaking, local government, civil service, management in the public, private or voluntary sectors, marketing, care and counselling, psychology and the police.

Gain transferable skills

Studying for a degree is not just about mastering your particular subject area. Employers are looking for a range of key skills and you are encouraged to develop employability skills throughout your degree programme. Dealing with challenging ideas, thinking critically, the ability to write well and communicate your ideas clearly are among the important skills that you gain at Kent.

Careers advice

The University of Kent’s award-winning Careers and Employability Service can give you advice on how to choose your future career, how to apply for jobs, how to write a good CV and how to perform well in interviews and aptitude tests. It also provides up-to-date information on graduate opportunities before and after you graduate.

For more details, see www.kent.ac.uk/employability

DID YOU KNOW?

Kent is ranked 2nd in the UK for social policy graduate prospects in The Complete University Guide 2017.
GRADUATE PROFILE

Aileen Coleman graduated with a First in Social Sciences in 2010.

Why did you choose Kent?
As a mature student with children, Kent was a matter of convenience. However, I was also advised by my college tutors that it was prestigious as well.

What attracted you to the course?
The course offered a diverse range of subjects that I felt would provide me with a broad range of knowledge. I could later specialise in one particular area that I felt of interest. It was also relevant and topical, so I could obtain a solid understanding of current affairs.

What were the lecturers like?
My lecturers were inspiring. They gave me the confidence to believe that I could graduate. Their belief in me, and advice throughout, enabled me not only to complete the course, but gain a First!

How did your degree course lay the foundations for your chosen career path?
I feel it was perfect, as it was fluid enough to allow room for manoeuvre into many areas of working in the public sector. This was essential as I was not entirely sure what I wanted to do once I left university. I did know that I loved working with people, so this provided the ideal springboard to allow for this and then later specialise in a particular area.

Could you describe your career path since leaving Kent?
After leaving Kent, I was still not sure what I wanted to do. I took a temporary job as a teaching assistant for three months, and then was lucky enough to be offered a place on a fast-track six-month graduate teacher programme at a local secondary school. They were impressed that my degree had covered so much ground and so I was able to work within several departments – a huge asset to schools these days! On a training day in a special needs school, I found my true calling. I loved it so much that I applied for a job there once qualified, and am currently just about to finish my NQT (Newly Qualified Teacher) programme and have never been happier in a job!

What are your future plans/aspirations?
I love my job and the school so much that I have no intention of leaving. I would ideally like to progress to being an excellent teacher so that I can share my best practice with other teachers borough-wide or even nationwide.

Do you have any other happy memories of Kent that you would like to share with us?
Kent has changed my life. Previously I had resigned myself to a clerical job in an office or a shop. However, with the advice and guidance of Kent professionals, my eyes have been opened to another world. I can now believe that I am a competent academic and can achieve anything I set my mind to. The memories of how positive and assertive lecturers were about how invaluable our education is will remain with me.

Finally, what advice would you give to someone thinking of coming to Kent?
Just do it! If you are planning a career working with people then this University provides the ideal stepping stones to a transition to the world of work. With such diverse people from all walks and all stages of life joining Kent, you get to mix with fellow students who show you another angle and spectrum of life. This has helped develop my empathy and understanding with members of the public that I now deal with at work and has proved beneficial in my working life and invaluable in everyday life.
CHOOSING YOUR PROGRAMME

On our BSc in Social Sciences, you explore how society works and how social change happens from interdisciplinary perspectives. These include sociology, social policy, psychology, social history, criminology and urban studies.

Please note: to ensure that our programmes reflect current thinking, we often review their content, please see www.kent.ac.uk/ug for the latest information.

BSc Social Sciences
Social Sciences is studied over three years full-time, although may be studied part-time. You can choose to keep your studies broad by taking the general BSc (Hons) Social Sciences, or concentrate your focus in a particular pathway.

Programme pathways
Choosing a pathway means that at least 50% of your modules are in the named subject areas. Alongside these, you can explore options in other areas. Our pathways offer a wider range of options than a joint honours degree, but allow you to focus in areas that most interest you.

Sociology and Psychology
This pathway offers distinct approaches to making sense of individuals and society. You take introductory modules on sociology and psychology, and also study research methods in sociology, and research methods and data analysis in psychology.

Sociology and Social Policy
Sociology and Social Policy are closely connected and knowledge of key sociological ideas will help you to understand the development and operation of social policy. You study social problems and social policy, and take an introductory module in sociology. You go on to study research methods in sociology, look at key welfare issues, and the principles and practice of social policy.

Sociology and Criminology
You develop your understanding of criminology in connection to key sociological ideas. You take introductory modules on sociology, and criminology and criminal justice. You go on to study research methods in sociology and issues in criminal justice.

Psychology and Criminology
You take introductory modules on psychology, and criminology and criminal justice. You go on to study research methods for psychology and sociology, as well as data analysis, issues in criminal justice, and forensic psychology.

It is possible to change pathways, provided you have covered the basics at Stage 1.

Check our website for other opportunities: www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr/studying/undergraduate

Social Sciences with a Year in Professional Practice
The option of a placement year is open to students with a good academic record at Stages 1 and 2. The placement year is taken between Stages 2 and 3 and is an opportunity to apply your social science learning in practice. You will learn about the pragmatic contexts in which voluntary and public sector organisations operate and develop your knowledge of employment opportunities in these areas. A placement year helps you to gain invaluable work experience and also gives you the chance to evaluate possible career options.

Flexible entry routes
We welcome international students and mature students who may not have conventional qualifications. We accept students who meet our entry criteria through comparable international qualifications or who demonstrate their potential through achievement on the Access to Higher Education Diploma. 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 the Social Sciences degree programme. For more details, see www.kent.ac.uk/ifp

For further details of our entry requirements, please see p19.
STUDYING AT STAGE 1

Stage 1 is the first year of a full-time programme. You are introduced to the core disciplines – sociology, social policy, psychology, social history and criminology – according to your preferences. You also engage with the key philosophical issues and technologies associated with social science research.

We use a variety of teaching methods, including lectures, case study analysis, group projects and presentations, and individual and group tutorials. Study groups are normally composed of no more than 15 to 20 students, and give you the opportunity to discuss a topic in detail. Assessment is by a mixture of coursework and examinations.

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.

All students take the compulsory module:
• Methods of Social Research.

You also take three modules from the range of options below, depending on your pathway:
• Introduction to Contemporary Britain: Economic and Social History from 1900

Modules: Stage 1

Introduction to Social Research
To begin your journey to become a social scientist, this module introduces you to the philosophy of social research from an interdisciplinary perspective, or how we know what we know. In the second term, you concentrate on technologies of social research for statistical and textual analysis.

Introduction to Contemporary Britain: Economic and Social History from 1900
The 20th century saw a profound shift in society. This module provides an understanding of the key political, economic and social changes in Britain in the 20th century and into the 21st that have shaped contemporary society. It also introduces you to the various approaches historians have used to investigate the period.

Introduction to Criminology and Criminal Justice
This module provides a comprehensive theoretical and applied understanding of some of the central issues, developments, and debates in criminology and criminal justice.

Introduction to Psychology
The discipline of psychology has a major impact on our understanding of individuals in society. This module provides you with an introduction to the science of psychology, including historical development, philosophical issues and the major theoretical schools of thought.

Introduction to Sociology
This module shows you the role that sociology has played in understanding modern society. You look at the schools of thought, concepts and debates, including the family, community, education, gender relations, mass media and markets.

Social Problems and Social Policy
Here, you are introduced to the study of social policy by looking at social problems and issues, including poverty and social exclusion, truancy, homelessness, the ageing population, domestic violence, the changing family structure, the work/life balance, and the impact of migrants and asylum seekers.

DID YOU KNOW?
In the 2015 National Student Survey, 90% of social policy students at Kent were satisfied with the quality of their course.
STUDYING AT STAGES 2 AND 3

Stages 2 and 3 are the second and final years of full-time study. You will deepen your knowledge and specialise in areas of interest according to your programme pathway. During your second year, you can decide whether to take a year abroad between your second and final year.

Assessment is by a combination of coursework and examinations. Some modules, for instance research methods modules and the dissertation, are assessed entirely by coursework.

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.

At Stage 2, all students take two of the following compulsory modules:
- Psychology Research Methods and Data Analysis
- Research Methods in Sociology
- Historical Research Methods.

The following modules are optional over Stages 2 and 3.

Sociology, Social Policy and Social History
- Contested Cities
- Drugs: Production and Use in their Cultural Context
- Key Welfare Issues
- People, Politics and Participation
- Politics and Power
- Social Ethics
- Social Justice Practice
- Social Policy and Everyday Lives
- Visual Sociology
- Welfare Histories, Welfare Futures: Social History in Historical Context
- Women and Work: Britain 1850-1975

Criminology
- Contemporary Issues in Policing: Concepts, Theories, Debates
- Crime and Punishment in England: 1750-1900
- Drugs, Crime and the Criminal Justice System
- History of the Police and Policing
- The Politics of Criminal Justice
- Prisons, Probation and Offender Rehabilitation
- Restorative Justice: Concepts, Issues and Debates
- Social Justice Practice
- Women, Crime and Justice
- Youth, Crime and Criminal Justice

Psychology
- Applied Cognitive Psychology
- Development Psychology
- Forensic Psychology
- Human Cognition
- Psychology of Emotion and Motivation
- Psychology of Group Behaviour
- Psychology of Social Behaviour
- Psychology of Social Cognition
- Psychopathology

These optional modules are available to all students:
- Dissertation (Stage 3 only) – you can choose to undertake a dissertation; in order to do so, you need to have completed the Research Methods in Sociology module at Stage 2
- Kent Student Certificate for Volunteering, Platinum Award
- Social Sciences in the Classroom.
Compulsory modules

Psychology Research Methods and Data Analysis

This module introduces you to the major methodological approaches in psychology, and their theoretical and philosophical bases. It strengthens your skills in designing and conducting practical work, equips you with a range of descriptive and analytical statistical techniques, provides further experience in reporting research and prepares you for your dissertation.

Research Methods in Sociology

What techniques and approaches do social researchers draw upon to gather, organise and interpret research evidence? How do we judge the quality of research? What are the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches and methodologies? In this module, you explore the process and debates surrounding how researchers produce knowledge about the social world, and learn how to apply this knowledge to project design and analysis.

Historical Research Methods

Introducing you to the main theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of history, this module considers the development of historical research using primary sources (archives) from the 19th century. We also discuss the long-running debate over whether the discipline of history can be considered an art, a science or a craft. You gain the necessary skills to conduct and write up a piece of original historical research.

Options: Sociology, Social Policy and Social History

Contested Cities

Developing your understanding of the city as a context for social life, this module considers the historical development of cities and the contemporary city and the ways it is contested by different social and cultural groups. You focus on key questions of who belongs in – and who is excluded from – the public spaces of the city, and discuss the ways that marginal social groups – the homeless, ethnic minorities, sexual dissidents, the elderly and the young – find their presence in the city questioned by the social ‘majority’.

Drugs: Production and Use in their Cultural Context

This module explores the role of drug use in religion, ritual and social settings, to identify contrasts between integrated and dysfunctional patterns of use. Topics include methods of classification of substances, the association with economic expansion, political domination, social stratification and the emergence of a culture of consumption. By examining use and function in different cultural contexts, you learn about the social significance of drugs and the complexity of policymaking.

Key Welfare Issues

This module provides an introduction to key issues in welfare. It adopts a comparative and historical perspective, taking a wide range of analytical approaches with particular emphasis on empirical analysis. You critically assess the ways in which welfare has been defined through time and how notions of the welfare state are constructed and represented. Please note that this module is offered at Stage 3 only.

People, Politics and Participation

You explore the nature of the public sphere in Britain. You look at how groups and individuals engage with the state, non-governmental actors/agencies and party politics. You examine topics including the role of the state and NGOs, citizenship, social capital, devolution and the ‘new localism’, and the internet and politics. The major schools of thought that theoretically represent the interrelationships between politics, social structures, ideologies and culture are also examined.

Politics and Power

This module explores the issues and perspectives on power distributions within and between Western and non-Western societies, and the social and political conflicts that lead to changes in the allocation of power. You examine the major schools of thought that theoretically represent the interrelationships between politics, social structures, ideologies and culture; the manifestation and regulation
of conflict, including: the causes of social protests, violence and revolutions; studies of political ideologies and public opinions; identity politics; protests and resistance; and post-communist revolutions.

**Social Ethics**
You develop an understanding of key concepts and theories in moral philosophy, particularly where they are relevant to contemporary ethical issues and social problems. You become familiar with competing ethical perspectives and learn to critically evaluate the relevance of ethical theory in understanding contemporary public life. Topics include abortion, capital punishment, euthanasia and lying.

**Social Justice Practice**
You gain an understanding of the voluntary or ‘third sector’, its historic development and its contemporary role in social policy in Britain and in the Medway area in particular. You combine practical experience of voluntary work with academic study of the ‘third sector’, ‘civil society’ and the concept of ‘social justice’.

**Social Policy and Everyday Lives**
You look at social policy from the perspective of everyday experience. You explore key issues, including health and social care, family, childhood and education, work and housing. You also look at conceptual concerns such as inequality and difference, the nature of care and the changing identities of welfare subjects and professionals. Through case studies, you explore lived experiences of welfare in a range of settings and develop the analytical skills to respond to empirical research data.

**Visual Sociology**
Visual sociology allows us to develop knowledge of sociological – and criminological – issues by analysing what we see. Using photography, you engage with the making, use and manipulation of images in project work, discovering first-hand the value of using visual methods. Classes are largely topic-based, including a focus on place, youth, work, home, family and mobility. You are encouraged to explore innovative forms of representation in order to use the visual as a way of communicating research-based knowledge.

**Welfare Histories, Welfare Futures: Social History in Historical Context**
You examine the changes and continuities in the provision of social welfare in Britain from the early 19th century to the present day, with an emphasis on the period after 1945. Using specific developments as a framework, such as the New Poor Law, the Second World War and reconstruction, and the rise of free market ideologies, you look at changes in claims to citizenship and the economy. You go on to assess how these changes impacted on policy. You also look at the mechanics of the policy process and, using historical case studies, assess policy and its application via various levels of analysis.

**Women and Work: Britain 1850-1975**
This module confronts many of the myths and mistaken assumptions concerning gender roles during the
development of the prison, violent crime and the treatment of victims.

**Drugs, Crime and the Criminal Justice System**
What is the relationship between drugs and crime? Recently, the prison has emerged as a site of delivery for the treatment of drug addiction. Here, we examine the evidence for the link between drug use and crime, look at definitions of drug and addiction, and track changes in policy. We explore the changing role of prison, drugs as a key factor in offending and the development of interventions as a key resettlement strategy.

**History of the Police and Policing**
With particular reference to the UK, this module examines the historical development of police forces from the late 18th century to the present. You look at the social and political context in which modern policing was introduced, and the conditions affecting policing in 19th- and 20th-century Britain. Topics discussed include accountability, centralisation and political control of the police, the role of gender in policing and the role of private policing.

**Crime and Punishment in England: 1750-1900**
You critically evaluate the sources of crime history and learn about change and continuity in the criminal justice system. You study historical perspectives on the history of crime and punishment including Whig, Marxist and revisionist. The module also includes a series of case studies on particular areas of policy, such as juvenile delinquency, transportation, the campaign against capital punishment, the

**Restorative Justice: Concepts, Issues and Debates**
At a time of record prison populations and chronic rates of recidivism, there is growing criticism of conventional methods of punishing offenders. The restorative justice movement provides a sharp critique of the ineffectiveness of conventional criminal justice and prisons, and has introduced new forms of disposal. You examine the critique and the claims for alternatives, looking at the role of victims and what benefits they get from conventional and alternative forms of punishment, the role of
emotions in affording closure and rehabilitation, and the significance of the community in reintegrating offenders.

Social Justice Practice
See module description, p14.

Women, Crime and Justice
Women’s relationship to the criminal justice system has become a matter of increasing social and academic interest. Here, you examine the subject from a historical and a contemporary perspective, focusing on the system within England and Wales, with some international comparisons. You examine the paradox that, while historically women have constituted a minority of offenders, mainstream criminology has tended to ignore questions of gender. You look at the historical role of the media in perpetuating stereotypical images of female offenders.

Youth, Crime and Criminal Justice
You critically assess the true prevalence and severity of crime committed by young people. First, we locate the fascination with youth and crime in its historical context, demonstrating that youth crime is not a new or novel phenomenon. We then examine the competing theories that seek to explain why young people commit crime.

Options: Psychology

Applied Cognitive Psychology
The practical application of psychological research upon cognitive processes is examined. The three main areas are: the relationships between brain processes and behaviour, using unusual neuropsychological syndromes and characteristics as examples; processes of reasoning and belief formation; and the relationship between cognition and emotion, for example, looking at the role of memory in depression. You develop a broad understanding of mind and behaviour that is useful for all areas of psychology.

Development Psychology
Developmental psychology examines changes that occur over a lifespan. Here, you focus on social, emotional and cognitive development from infancy to adolescence, with an emphasis on the interaction of biological and social factors throughout development. Topics include attachment of children to caregivers, the consequences of early neglect and deprivation, perceptual and cognitive abilities in infants, the acquisition of language, alternative theories of cognitive development, development of moral reasoning and pro-social behaviour, and theories of adolescent transition, stress and identity.

Forensic Psychology
Applying psychological theory and research to criminology and criminal justice, this module considers the origins of criminal behaviour, approaches to crime prevention, offender profiling, jury decision making and eyewitness testimony. You take a critical approach to assessing the validity of theories and applications, and gain a sound understanding of the potential and limitations of psychology’s contributions to criminal justice.

Human Cognition
Cognition is a key area of psychology, dealing with research into the mind and mental processes. Here, you examine the cognitive processes involved in perception, attention, memory, imagery and reasoning. You consider topics such as the nature of memory, the role of memory in constructing a sense of self, cognitive processes in insight, intuition and the errors and biases in everyday thinking.

Psychology of Emotion and Motivation
What is the underlying basis of emotions? Here, you consider the nature of positive and negative human emotions, their biological origin, the cultural variation in emotional expression and the relationship between mood, emotion and cognition. You also consider the role of emotions, drives and instincts in explaining human motivation, including the relationship between arousal and performance, and applied issues.

Psychology of Group Behaviour
People are social creatures. Indeed as a species, human survival has depended on living and working as a group, therefore, no study of behaviour would be complete without considering these interactions. Here, you examine people as social creatures and
question how group membership shapes our behaviour. Both within-group and between-group processes are examined, from stereotyping and prejudice to altruism and pro-social behaviour.

Psychology of Social Behaviour
This module deals with the aspects of human behaviour which are particularly affected by the presence of other people and the influences which they bring to bear. Topics include self-concept, social attribution, social influences on the individual, relationships, attitudes, and pro- and anti-social behaviour.

Psychology of Social Cognition
It is hypothesised that the human mind is specifically adapted to processing social information. Here, you examine the role of cognitive processes in forming beliefs and making decisions about ourselves and others, whether individually or in groups. Themes include the role of unconscious mental processes in social behaviour and biases in our perceptions of ourselves and others.

Psychopathology
Issues relating to mental health and psychopathology are discussed in this module, such as the problems in defining ‘abnormality’ and different theoretical accounts of psychopathology, including biological and social constructionist models. Personality disorders, developmental disorders and mental illness are discussed along with approaches to treatment. You gain an understanding of ethical and social issues relating to a diagnosis of abnormality, and the ability to critically evaluate the classification and diagnosis of mental disorders.

Additional optional modules

Dissertation
Your dissertation gives you the opportunity to undertake original, independent research in an area of interest to you. The topic is finalised after discussion with the relevant subject specialists and is supported by a designated supervisor.

Kent Student Certificate for Volunteering, Platinum Award
This module draws on active involvement in voluntary work within the community and the University. It seeks to develop this in a reflective way that will enhance its value and help you develop valuable transferable skills. The volunteering includes elements relating to training, leadership, mentoring, project management and working within teams and organisations. This unique opportunity is particularly valuable to those planning to work in the public or voluntary sector.

Social Sciences in the Classroom
After training in the autumn term, you spend a term on placement in a local school. Generally, you begin by observing lessons taught by your designated teacher, moving on to work with individual pupils or small groups, eventually leading an entire lesson. You create resources to aid in the delivery of your subject area within the curriculum and devise a special project (in consultation with the teacher and with the local module convenor). You keep a weekly log of your activities.
VISIT THE UNIVERSITY

Come along for an Open Day or an Applicant Day and see for yourself what it is like to be a student at Kent.

Open Days
Kent runs Open Days during the summer and autumn. These provide an excellent opportunity for you to discover what it is like to live and study at the University. You can meet academic staff and current students, find out about our courses and attend subject displays, workshops and informal lectures. We also offer tours around the campus to view our sports facilities, the library and University accommodation. For further information and details of how to book your place, see www.kent.ac.uk/opendays

Applicant Days
If you apply to study at Kent and we offer you a place (or invite you to attend an interview), you will usually be sent an invitation to one of our Applicant Days. You can book to attend through your online Kent Applicant Portal. The Applicant Day includes presentations in your subject area, guided tours of the campus, including University accommodation, and the opportunity to speak with both academic staff and current students about your chosen subject. For further information, see www.kent.ac.uk/visit

Informal visits
You are also welcome to make an informal visit to our campuses at any time. The University runs tours of the Canterbury and Medway campuses throughout the year for anyone who is unable to attend an Open Day or Applicant Day. It may also be possible to arrange meetings with academic staff, although we cannot guarantee this. For more details and to book your place, see www.kent.ac.uk/informal

Alternatively, we can provide you with a self-guided tour leaflet, which includes the main points of interest. For more details and to download a self-guided tour, go to www.kent.ac.uk/informal
Location
Medway

Award
BSc (Hons)

Degree programme
Social Sciences (L340:K)

Typical offer levels
BCC at A level, IB Diploma
34 points or IB Diploma with
13 points at Higher.
BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma
(formerly BTEC National
Diploma) with Distinction, Merit,
Merit.

Successful completion of an
Access course (considered
individually – most common offer
is obtain 50% of level 3 credits
at Merit).

Mature students may be
accepted on the basis of
motivation and experience. The
School is committed to widening
participation, and has a long
and successful tradition of
admitting mature students.

Required subjects
GCSE Mathematics at grade C.

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

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

More information
If you would like more information
on Kent’s courses, facilities or
services, or would like to order
another subject leaflet, please
contact us on:
T: +44 (0)1227 827272
Freephone (UK only):
0800 975 3777
www.kent.ac.uk/ug

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publicity materials is fair and accurate and
to provide educational services as
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change. For the most up-to-date
information, see www.kent.ac.uk/ug and for
full details of our terms and conditions, see
www.kent.ac.uk/termsandconditions

For the University to operate efficiently, it
needs to process information about you for
administrative, academic and health and
safety reasons. Any offer we make to you is
subject to your consent to process such
information and is a requirement in order for
you to be registered as a student. All
students must agree to abide by the
University rules and regulations at:
www.kent.ac.uk/regulations

You can also find us on Facebook
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To find out more about visiting the University, see our website:
www.kent.ac.uk/visit