WHAT IS SOCIAL SCIENCES?

Studying Social Sciences gives you the skills to better understand the world you live in. You explore topics such as class, poverty, inequality, health, crime and urban change, and are encouraged to think of innovative ways to respond to the challenges that arise.
Inspirational teaching
Great teachers inspire enthusiasm and provoke debate. Whether they’re lecturing on criminal justice or discussing social exclusion, our staff are skilled at bringing their subject to life. They share their research and challenge you to contribute your own ideas.

Academic support
University is different from school. You need to be self-motivated and well organised to succeed. We help by assigning you an academic adviser and organising peer mentoring. You can also get help with academic skills, such as essay writing and referencing.

Analytical expertise
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.

World-leading research
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.

Student community
You benefit from access to the services and facilities run by both Kent Union and the Medway campus union, GK Unions. Societies and social events are run by students for students, to help you make the most of university life.

Friendly campus
Our Medway campus reinvents a former naval base as a 21st-century study space, with exceptional facilities and support. Close to the towns of Rochester and Chatham, with their fascinating histories, there is plenty to do both on and off campus.

Excellent resources
Access more than 1 million books, ebooks, databases and journals at the University’s Drill Hall and Templeman Libraries. Our expert subject librarians are on hand to help you find your way around and get the most from our collections.

Enhanced experience
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 the points you earn for work experience and other activities that prepare you for the world of work.

Career success
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 team work. Our programmes include opportunities to undertake professional practice work experience.
Flexible programme

Are you keen to develop a broad understanding of a wide range of issues? On our BSc in Social Sciences you explore how society works from different perspectives: sociology, social policy, psychology, social history, criminology and urban studies. If you develop a passion for a particular area, you can tailor your programme by picking a pathway: sociology with psychology, social policy or criminology, or psychology with criminology. You gain a firm foundation in social sciences, but choose half your modules from your favourite subject areas.

Independent rankings

The Times Good University Guide 2018
• Criminology at Kent ranked 9th overall

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
Evangelie Agyeman is in her second year studying Social Sciences. This is what she told us about her course.

What attracted you to Social Sciences?
I did Psychology, Biology and History for A level and I wasn’t sure where I wanted to go with my studies at uni. I liked the fact that Social Sciences is such a broad subject – there’s social policy, criminology, psychology and sociology all in one. And I knew I was interested in psychology, so I decided to do the psychology and criminology pathway.

And why did you choose Kent?
I looked at the league tables and saw that Kent is good. I also looked at the student community and thought that it would be a good place to study.

Did you find it easy to settle in?
I’m definitely glad I chose to live at Liberty Quays. Everyone’s in close proximity so if you want to meet your friends they’re only a two-minute walk away. I think you make friends quite easily in the first week anyway because everyone is in the same position.

How is your course going?
It’s very interesting and you have a good choice of topics you can pick. In our seminars, we often have debates – we are given a question and then we have to argue our points. You might not agree with everyone’s perspective but you find out what they think. I might look at an issue in a completely different way because I’ve learned something I wouldn’t necessarily have thought about. That comes from the lecturers too – we learn about the different theoretical approaches, especially in psychology, for instance the behaviourist approach, the biological approach. In the first year people were sometimes reluctant to speak in seminars but the lecturers allow for that by putting you in small groups. By the second year people were more confident about speaking.

What are your favourite modules?
For last term I’d probably say Psychology of Social Behaviour because our lecturer was really good. I think when the lecturers are passionate about the subject it makes it so much more enjoyable. I was interested in learning about the way people think when they’re in groups and about humans as social beings. This term my favourite module is Forensic Psychology. I chose it because it encompasses both psychology and criminology. Psychopathology is really interesting, too – how some mental disorders can result in criminal behaviour, and how they are diagnosed and treated. And I also enjoyed Issues in Criminal Justice, where we’re looking at the whole scope of the criminal justice system!

What do you think of the academic support available?
There’s a lot of help available here. The lecturers make it clear you can email them if you need help. The Student Learning and Advisory Service offers help in areas like referencing, which is really important, especially in first year because we’d never done it before. And then there’s the library, which is quite massive!

What activities are you involved in outside your studies?
I do peer mentoring and I think it’s really useful. We have academic advisers, but personally I think it’s good to be able to talk to someone who’s actually done the course. People don’t want to feel like they need help, especially in first year – you want to feel like you’ve got it all together when in actuality you probably haven’t. It’s open to absolutely everyone.

What are your plans for after graduation?
I volunteered for a year with Victim Support before I came to uni and I think I’d like to do something like that – something that involves offering emotional support and helping out families. But I’m not sure yet!

Any advice for future students?
Have an open mind – you’re going to learn a lot from the different perspectives of other students and lecturers. And if you feel like you need help, then take it. Our uni offers a lot.
On our Social Sciences degree you can choose to keep your studies broad or focus on a particular pathway.

The BSc (Hons) in Social Sciences (www.kent.ac.uk/ug/66) is studied over three years full-time, although you can study the course part-time.

You have the opportunity to spend a year abroad or in professional practice between Stages 2 and 3 (the second and third years of your course if you are a full-time student). See p10 for more information.

Programme pathways

In Stage 1 (the first year of your degree if you are a full-time student), all your modules are compulsory. This ensures you have a firm foundation in social sciences and the opportunity to explore areas that you might not have studied before.

From Stage 2, you can choose to follow a specific programme pathway if you wish to focus on the areas that most interest you. Choosing a pathway means that at least 50% of your modules are in the named subject areas. When you graduate, the programme pathway you have chosen is indicated on your degree certificate.

We offer the following pathways:
- Psychology and Criminology
- Sociology and Criminology
- Sociology and Psychology
- Sociology and Social Policy.

Please note: to ensure that our programmes reflect current thinking, we often review their content. 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.

Stage 1

In Stage 1 you are introduced to the core disciplines – sociology, social policy, psychology, social history and criminology. You also engage with the key philosophical issues and technologies associated with social science research.

Compulsory modules

All students take:
- Foundations of Social and Criminological Research 1 (SA313)
- Foundations in Social and Criminological Research 2 (SO344)
- Introduction to Criminology and Criminal Justice (SO329)
- Introduction to Psychology (SP312)
- The Politics of Social Policy (SA312)
- Social Practices and Institutions (SO346)
- Sociological Perspectives and Concepts (SO345)
- Understanding Contemporary Britain (SO343).

Stages 2 and 3

Stages 2 and 3 are the second and final years of full-time study.

Compulsory modules

At Stage 2, all students take the following compulsory modules:
- Quantitative Research and Data Analysis in Social and Psychological Sciences (SP646)
- Doing Quantitative Research (SO647).

There are no compulsory modules at Stage 3.

Optional modules

You choose from the following optional modules. If you are on a specific programme pathway, at least 50% of your optional modules must be from your pathway subject areas. You also have the opportunity to choose ‘wild modules’ offered by other departments across the University.

- Applied Cognitive Psychology (SP630)
- Contemporary Issues in Policing: Concepts, Theories, Debates (SA557)
- Crime and Punishment in England: 1750-1900 (SO706)
- Developmental Psychology (SP629)
- Dissertation (SO551)*
- Drugs, Crime and the Criminal Justice System (SO654)
- Emotions and Society (SO753)
- Human Cognition (SP625)
- Issues in Criminal Justice (SO651)

* Only available at Stage 3.
- The Politics of Criminal Justice (SO687)
- Prisons, Probation and Offender Rehabilitation (SO619)
- Psychology of Group Behaviour (SP626)
- Psychology of Social Cognition (SP631)
- Restorative Justice: Concepts, Issues, Debates (SO681)
- Social Ethics (SO556)
- Social Justice Practice (SO686)
- Social Policy and Everyday Lives (SO749)
- Social Policy in Global Contexts (SO757)
- Victims and Crime (SO754)
- Welfare Histories, Welfare Futures: Social Policy in Historical Context (SO545)
- Women and Work: Britain 1850-1975 (SO669)
- Women, Crime and Justice (SO618)
- Young People and Violence (SO751)
- Youth, Crime and Criminal Justice (SO650).

**Teaching and assessment**

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

**Improve your quantitative skills**

You can improve your statistical skills at Kent by attending the Quantitative Group Research Opportunity for Undergraduate Projects (GROUP) Summer School. The two-week intensive residential programme gives you core skills and experience in understanding and interpreting data, as well as an introduction to using industry-level analytics software.

**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. See www.kent.ac.uk/ifp for more details.
YEAR ABROAD/YEAR IN PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

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

The year abroad or on placement usually takes place between Stages 2 and 3 (your second and final years of study if you are a full-time student).

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.

Many students find that 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 for more information.

Year in professional practice

What happens when the ideas and approaches you learn during your degree programme are applied in practice? How does the context affect the appropriate responses? Taking a placement year in professional practice gives you the opportunity to find out.

As well as providing valuable work experience, spending a year in professional practice allows you to evaluate career options and increase your contacts and networks so that you can hit the ground running when you graduate.

If you decide to do a professional practice year, you will need to find a suitable placement and be interviewed, but we provide advice and support to help you. Tuition fees for the placement year are greatly reduced and employers may offer expenses or a salary. The year is assessed on a pass/fail basis through employer feedback and a written report that you submit.

There are many benefits to taking a placement year: it gives you the chance to gain some knowledge of the work environment, acquire new skills and develop your confidence.

For more information, see www.kent.ac.uk/ug
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 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 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.

They are 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
Social Sciences
A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

Experience work
As part of your degree programme, you can choose to spend a year in professional practice, developing your skills and contacts (see p10). If you take the Social Justice Practice module, you gain experience of working in the voluntary sector as part of the programme.

Find a great job
Your degree can lead to a wide range of fascinating careers. For instance, the skills and attributes you develop are valuable in teaching, research, policymaking, local government, the civil service, management in the public, private or voluntary sectors, marketing, care and counselling, psychology and the police.

The School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research supports you with employability events tailored to social sciences students, from exploring career options to presenting your skills and experience effectively 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).

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

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.
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 our student accommodation at Liberty Quays, chat to current students and discover the fascinating history of our Medway campus.

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. Find out more at 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 of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research 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

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**Location**
Medway

**Award**
BSc (Hons)

**Degree programme**
Social Sciences (L340:K)

**Programme type**
Full-time, part-time

**Offer levels**
BBC at A level, IB Diploma 34 points or 14 points at Higher.
BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma with Distinction, Merit, Merit

**Required subjects**
GCSE Mathematics at Grade C/Grade 4 or above

**Access to Higher Education Diploma**
Access applicants are assessed on an individual basis, please contact us for more information.

**Mature students**
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.

**Year abroad/year in professional practice**
For more information, see p10.

**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