SOCIOMETRY
Canterbury
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.

Sociology is the study of modern human societies, seeking to explain how social relationships and cultural understandings shape the life chances, experiences, attitudes and actions of individuals and groups. The theories and methods that are central to this discipline enable us to examine the character and workings of the social institutions that govern people’s lives, and encourage us to critically question the social values we live by. Growing levels of inequality and economic crises, religious conflict and nationalist violence, and rapid transformations to work, media and people’s personal identities are just some of the issues explored by sociologists. Our task is to understand these challenges and identify the conditions that enable the creation of humane forms of society.

World-leading research
The School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research (SSPSSR) is multidisciplinary and is one of the largest schools of its type in the UK. In the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014, SSPSSR was ranked 2nd in the UK for research power and 5th for research quality and in the Times Higher Education, the School was ranked 3rd for research intensity. We are home to world-leading experts in specialist areas across the social sciences, and pride ourselves in having one of the most dynamic research and publishing cultures in Europe.

Outstanding teaching
Sociology has been taught at Kent since the University was founded at Canterbury in 1965 and has a distinguished history. Today, Kent sociologists are at the forefront of the development of their discipline both within and beyond the UK, with Sociology ranked 1st in the UK for research quality in The Times Good University Guide 2016. Our academics challenge you to develop your own opinions and ideas, encouraging you to become an independent thinker. We offer high levels of support both during teaching sessions and in one-to-one meetings, and our staff members are friendly and accessible. Teaching is through a variety of methods including lectures, seminars, group tasks and workshops. In the 2015 National Student Survey, Sociology was ranked 10th in the UK for student satisfaction.

Stimulating programme
We offer an impressive range of Sociology programmes and modules, which give you the flexibility to study the topics that really interest you, while also gaining a solid background in the key sociological concepts. Our modules span many countries (Britain, China, the USA, Europe, the developing world) and a range of topics such as the body, childhood, the city, digital cultures, education, emotion,
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.

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 competitive economic environment. During your studies, you develop key transferable skills considered essential for a successful career which is why according to Unistats, 93% of our graduates go on to work or further study within six months of graduation. For more information on the careers support we provide at Kent, please go to p8 or visit www.kent.ac.uk/employability.

Environmentalism, gender, globalisation, health, political change, the politics of food, popular culture, poverty, race, risk, social theory, terrorism, violence, and work. Our sociology programmes allow you to build your degree based on your interests and your career ambitions.

A global outlook

According to the Times Higher Education (THE), Kent is ranked in the top 10% of the world’s universities for international outlook. Kent is known as the UK’s European university and has developed international partnerships with prestigious institutions around the world. We have an international community on campus, with 37% of our academic staff coming from outside the UK and students representing 148 different nationalities. Our students come from a variety of backgrounds, ages and countries. This mix means you learn not only from your lecturers, but also from the experience of your peers and gain a truly global perspective.

A year abroad

The year abroad option available with this degree programme is an excellent opportunity to experience learning in a different cultural context and educational setting. It provides the opportunity to develop your skills, confidence and networks internationally. We work with a wide range of partner universities in many countries, including Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Finland, Spain and The Netherlands.

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.
SUPERB STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Our Canterbury campus provides a stunning location for your studies and offers first-class academic and leisure facilities. The campus benefits from a multicultural learning environment and is within easy reach of both London and mainland Europe.

Excellent study resources
The study resources on campus are excellent. The newly extended and refurbished Templeman Library’s extensive print and electronic collections are specifically aimed at supporting the courses and subject areas taught at Kent. As a long-established centre for social research, Kent also has many specialist collections in this area. Offering more than 500 study spaces as well as silent, quiet and social study space, plus a café, lecture theatre and exhibition area, the Templeman Library is an exceptional resource. As part of your degree, we guide you through these information sources, helping you to use them to the full.

IT facilities are generous too and teaching increasingly makes use of web-based materials. To help you work and study online, we provide student PCs and Wi-Fi-enabled study hubs across the campus. IT support is available if you need it.

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. See www.kent.ac.uk/learning for details.

Beautiful green campus
The campus is set in 300 acres of parkland offering plenty of green and tranquil spaces, both lawns and wooded areas. It is set on a hill with a view of the city, Canterbury Cathedral and the Stour Valley.

The campus has its own cinema, theatre, centre for music performance and a student nightclub. Kent has a reputation for being a very friendly university and there are restaurants, cafés and bars on campus, as well as a sports centre and gym.

Everything you need on campus is within walking distance, including a general store, a bookshop, banks, a medical centre and a pharmacy. From campus, it’s just a 25-minute walk or a short bus-ride into the city centre.

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

Attractive location
Canterbury is a lovely city with medieval buildings, lively bars and atmospheric pubs, as well as a wide range of shops. The attractive coastal town of Whitstable is close by and there are sandy beaches further down the coast. London is under an hour away from Canterbury by high-speed train, while the Eurostar service from Ashford and Ebbsfleet can take you to Brussels and Paris in just over two hours.
Jack Warner is in his second year studying for a BA (Hons) Sociology

What attracted you to Kent?
Student ambassadors from the University came to my school and spent a lot of time with us, encouraging us to apply to university. It was helpful because I am the first in my family to go to university. I came to an Open Day and loved it – I remember walking into Woolf lecture theatre and being very impressed, it was a sunny day and the campus looked lovely.

Why Sociology?
I had enjoyed it at GCSE and A level. I am very interested in people and increasing my understanding of why we behave the way we do and sociology helps with that. I see sociology as not just a subject, but as a way of seeing the world through a different lens.

What modules have you enjoyed so far?
In my first year, I liked studying the sociology ‘classics’ because my interest in those theories is what brought me here in the first place. Getting to grips with them at a deeper level and being taught by a professor who is well-known and respected has been a highlight.

Currently, I am doing a module called Modern Chinese Societies. It focuses on comparing life in China to our own experiences. I have learnt so much and it has really broadened my horizons. I am working on a presentation comparing our welfare state to the situation in China; it’s a fascinating piece of work to do.

When I speak to my friends, we all agree university is challenging but also that it is good to be in that kind of environment – you wouldn’t get the same level of gratification if it was easy.

What do you think of your lecturers?
In most of my lectures, I am hanging on to every word; you can feel the lecturer’s enthusiasm for their subject. One of my favourite things about Kent is that our lecturers enjoy being challenged, they encourage it, they want to know what you think. The academic staff all have office hours if you need to talk to them or you can just email. They provide extensive feedback on essays, which is invaluable in helping you to improve.

I enjoy seminars. Discussing an issue helps to fix it in your head.

Has university changed you?
I used to lack confidence but, when I came to Kent, I was placed in a house with a politics student and a law student and I had to learn to hold my ground in an argument – it’s made me quite articulate! I enjoy the freedom you have at university to discuss all subjects with people from different backgrounds. We learn a lot from each other.

Did you live on campus?
I did, it is a great experience. Although you have independence, there is help if you need it and it is easy to take advantage of all the campus has to offer. I have made friends for life and they are an excellent support structure.

What about the facilities on campus?
The library is amazing and there is a huge amount of online resources so that you can get the information whenever you want to. All the lecture theatres I have been in are good. There is lots of support in the School, and the Student Learning Advisory Service offers great workshops and help with essay writing. Also, the Careers and Employability Service arranges lots of events.

What do you want to do next?
At the moment, I am thinking of two possible paths. One is to work in the finance sector, and the other, which I am leaning towards, is to continue my studies and eventually become an academic so that I can further the discipline in some way and help to boost knowledge.

I think having the kind of transferable skills this degree develops will help me in the future because I will be able to adapt to changes in the working world.

What advice would you give to a potential student?
If you want to do social sciences, Kent is a very good place to come. Visit the campus if you can and speak to current students. Finally, don’t leave your essays to the last minute – it’s not worth it.
A degree from Kent equips you with essential skills to give you a competitive advantage when it comes to getting a job. According to recent employment statistics, our graduates are doing better than ever in the changeable job market; more than 95% of Kent students who graduated in 2015 were in work or further study within six months.

Good career prospects
Sociology is a discipline which develops your communication and analytical skills. Graduates do well in a wide range of positions, particularly those careers that require independent thinkers with a deep understanding of the forces at work in society.

In recent years, Kent Sociology graduates have gone into a wide range of professions. They have become teachers, social workers or probation officers. Others have joined commercial organisations, working in marketing or human resources, or joined voluntary or charitable organisations to become field officers, administrators or campaign organisers. Many of our students also go on to further study both at home and abroad.

Gain transferable skills
As part of your learning experience at Kent, we help you to acquire key transferable skills such as communication and presentation, IT, information-gathering, project-planning and teamworking that will equip you for future employment. Getting to grips with challenging ideas, writing well, gaining confidence and experience in expressing your ideas coherently and with sensitivity are all important skills and ones you acquire during your degree.

Careers and employability
The award-winning Careers and Employability Service offers advice on how to choose and prepare for your future career, how to write a good CV and how to perform well in interviews and aptitude tests. It provides up-to-date information on graduate opportunities before and after you graduate.

The School also has its own employability team who work with businesses and graduates to maximise opportunities for our students. You are also encouraged to engage in the School’s Employability Month held every February and networking events, which occur throughout the year.

Further information
For more information on the careers help we provide at Kent, please see our Employability web page at www.kent.ac.uk/employability
Kyla Evans graduated with a degree in Sociology in 2014. She now works as a Human Resources Co-ordinator at Colonial Group International in Bermuda.

What attracted you to Kent and to this particular programme?
My original plan to study law is what attracted me to the University of Kent. Kent is widely recognised as a leading university for those wishing to study law. However, after my first term, I realised law was not for me and I decided to pursue an undergraduate degree in Sociology – one of the best decisions of my life.

How were your studies? Which areas did you find particularly inspiring or interesting?
There wasn’t one particular aspect of my studies I found more or less interesting or inspiring. My entire time at Kent was stimulating. I experienced key highlights of my life, as well as some lows, and I attribute much of my personal and professional growth to my time there.

What did you think of the teaching at Kent?
I found the teaching at Kent to be of exceptional quality. It’s something you appreciate during the actual lectures and seminars and definitely something you appreciate once you have experience of another university. (After my degree at Kent, I studied at another UK university for my postgraduate degree.) The professors were reputable scholars whose hard work and knowledge of their subject was always evident.

Was the course flexible enough to allow you to pursue your own passions?
Very much so.

How would you describe your fellow students?
Amazing, inspiring, crazy and educated professional students!

How do you think your course has changed you? What did you gain from it?
I can honestly say that I view the world, people and my society differently. I understand it more, in terms of why people/societies do what they do. I am also able to offer a unique perspective about things.

What were the facilities like at Kent?
The facilities were great. Some rooms during my time (2011-2014) could have used some renovations/revamping. I gather the School is now based in a new building, which must be great for current students.

How did you enjoy your time at Kent in general? What about the social life?
Amazing! The social life was great, there are a lot of things to do at Kent and lots of nice bars and restaurants.

What careers advice did you receive at Kent?
I got a lot of help with deciding what career I wanted and structuring my CV to make it look more appealing. More specifically, it was the career aptitude test which helped me to decide on the career I have today.

In what way has your degree helped you find work/further study?
I was accepted at three top universities in the UK to complete my Master’s degree, and I truly believe this can be attributed to Kent’s reputation for high-quality education.

What advice would you give to prospective students?
Work hard but play harder. Once your work is complete make sure you spend time socialising, meeting new people and taking advantage of all the activities and sports Kent has to offer you. I can’t explain how fast the three years went by. If I could do it all over again I would work smarter, harder and find ways to be more productive during the day/week, so that I could go out more in the evenings and at weekends! Enjoy every second of it.
CHOOSING YOUR PROGRAMME

Not sure which programme to choose?
Here’s a quick guide to the Sociology degrees we offer.

Sociology
Sociology is taught in the School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research. We offer a wide variety of modules, which allows you to graduate with both general and specialist knowledge of sociology. In your final year, you can choose to undertake a research project.

Year abroad programmes
All year abroad programmes are four-year degrees; your year abroad takes place between your second and final year.

In all of the following programmes, teaching in your year abroad is in English:
- Sociology with a Year in Finland
- Sociology with a Year in Hong Kong
- Sociology with a Year in the Netherlands.

It is possible to move on to this programme after your first year of study; your Academic Adviser will be able to help you decide if this is the right choice for you.

On the following programmes, teaching in your year abroad is in the local language:
- Sociology with Italian
- Sociology with a Year in Spain.

Joint honours
Joint honours are available with the following subjects:
- Criminology (LM39)
- Economics (LL13)
- English and American Literature (LQ33)
- Law (LM31)
- Philosophy (LVH5)
- Politics (LL32)
- Social Anthropology (LL36)
- Social Policy (LL34).

Study is divided 50:50 between your two honours subjects. For more information about your other subject area, please order the relevant subject leaflet from www.kent.ac.uk/courses/leaflets

Sociology with Quantitative Research
This programme allows you to take advantage of the expertise in social analytics on offer in our Q-Step Centre (see right). In addition to your sociology modules, you also take modules such as How to Win Arguments with Numbers.

It is also possible to spend a year abroad studying in Ireland; you should apply for the single honours Sociology programme in the first instance.

“Studying Sociology is life changing. It does not only help you understand society, it also makes you grow as person; you learn to understand your own thoughts and actions. This is exactly why I chose to study Sociology and my expectations of the subject have definitely been exceeded by my studies at Kent. When I graduate, I plan to take my new understanding of how society works and study the Graduate Diploma in Law.”

Katya Jarvis
Sociology student
Other degrees offered by the School
In addition to Sociology, the School offers the following undergraduate programmes:

- Autism Studies
- Criminal Justice and Criminology
- Criminology
- Cultural Studies and Media
- Health and Social Care
- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- Social Policy
- Social Sciences
- Social Work
- Statistical Social Research.

If you would like more information on any of these programmes, see www.kent.ac.uk/ug for details.

Part-time study
Our Sociology degree is available on a part-time basis. It allows an extended period of study – up to six years for a full degree. Students choosing the part-time route usually take half the modules each year that a full-time student would take, but other options may be available.

Kent International Foundation Programme
If you are applying from outside of the UK without the necessary English language qualifications, you may be able to take the Kent International Foundation Programme (IFP). Passing the Kent IFP with an overall average of 60% guarantees you entry to the first year of a Sociology degree programme. For more details, see www.kent.ac.uk/ifp

Social analytics at Kent
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.

The ability to analyse and interpret data is crucial in many workplace situations and Kent is one of only 15 institutions in the UK to provide quantitative research skills as part of your undergraduate degree through our Nuffield-funded Q-Step Centre. The Centre delivers modules on the Sociology programmes and in its drop-in 'Social Stats Clinic'.

For further information, see www.kent.ac.uk/qstep
STUDYING AT STAGE 1

Stage 1 is the first year of your degree programme and we encourage you to study as broadly as possible across the social sciences. You also develop the study skills needed for degree-level work.

Most modules involve individual study using library resources and, where relevant, computer-assisted learning packages. On average, you have four hours of lectures and up to four hours of seminars a week. Seminars involve discussion of lectures and reading assignments. If you are taking modules involving computing or learning a language, you have additional workshop time.

Stage 1 is continuously assessed, and the coursework marks combine with the results from end-of-year exams in each module. These marks do not count towards your final degree result.

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 four compulsory modules:
- Critical Thinking
- Fundamentals of Sociology
- Sociological Theory: The Classics
- Sociology of Everyday Life

Plus one of:
- Introduction to Criminology
- Modern Culture


Students taking Sociology with Italian or a Year in Spain, must also take 30 credits of either beginners’ Italian or Spanish as appropriate. Single honours students select further optional modules from a wide range, which may include:
- Contemporary Culture and Media
- Crime, Media and Culture
- Environmental Issues: Social Science Approaches
- Health, Care and Well-being

Further options are available from a wide range on offer in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

They also take the compulsory modules for their other subject.

Modules: Stage 1

Contemporary Culture and Media

Contemporary culture is ‘now-time’ culture, but when did ‘now’ begin – and, will it be over before the degree starts? In this module, you analyse contemporary culture and media, and discover the range of possible interpretations that mediated culture can be open to. You look at questions around how culture can be viewed from aesthetic, political, ethical and economic perspectives and ask other questions such as: what is culture for? Is it a product or a process? Who owns it? Is it for fun or is it deadly serious? In order to think through contemporary issues such as gender relations, sexuality, multiculturalism and otherness, and...
what they might imply about our changing perceptions of space, place, and belonging, we take a case study approach to a range of cultural products and objects, media and institutions, and postmodern practices of communication. You develop your understanding of the transformation of culture and media and the way it changes who we are.

**Crime, Media and Culture**
You are introduced to the various ways in which cultural dynamics intertwine with the practices of crime and crime control within contemporary society. Lectures cover subjects such as crime and everyday life, ‘reality’ crime television, surveillance and the culture of control, police culture, and the politics of crime control. You also look at other areas of criminological interest (such as the critical analysis of criminological theory and methods) via innovative teaching techniques, involving staff debates and the close textual reading and analysis of contemporary crime news stories.

**Critical Thinking**
You develop key research and critical skills, which you can build on throughout your degree. You complete two applied tasks, one is a study of sociological, criminological and policy issues in different areas in Kent, and the other is a study of stratification (class, gender, age, ethnicity, disability, sexuality etc) within the student body itself. You are taught about the practical issues involved in collecting relevant data. You then collect the data and reflect upon both your findings and the data collection process itself.

**Environmental Issues: Social Science Approaches**
You gain an understanding of the ways that sociology, anthropology, social policy, political science and law tackle environmental issues. Topics include: cultural conceptions of nature; biodiversity and trade; conservation and animal welfare; energy consumption and sustainability; waste management; and the growth of environmental activism. You discover how the environment is viewed by the different disciplines and why some situations are defined as problems while others are ignored. You also look at the role that local, national and international environmental measures play in resolving environmental problems and the main obstacles encountered.

**Fundamentals of Sociology**
This follows on from the Sociology of Everyday Life module (see p14). It provides a grounding in the basic history and assumptions of sociological thinking and research, and how they apply to key aspects of our society. Topics are more abstract than in the Sociology of Everyday Life module and include, for example, the state and globalisation. There is a lecture and seminar each week and you are encouraged to engage in informed discussion and debate.

**Health, Care and Well-being**
Health, care and well-being are central concerns in all our lives. In this module, you explore how we understand these areas and the potential role of policy interventions in support of them. You examine the social determinants of health, discussing the ways in which these reduplicate wider inequalities in society and look at how to best address changing health needs, particularly in relation to the growing proportion of older people. You also consider how matters of personal choice can be challenges for the health and well-being of the population. All of these issues are explored in the context of the new politics of the NHS. Finally, as governments increasingly declare that they are interested not simply in health or prosperity, but also in well-being, you look at what this means and ask why there is a new interest in this area.
STUDYING AT STAGE 1 (CONT)

Introduction to Criminology
Crime is a major social and political issue, and is the source of much academic and popular debate. You examine key criminological issues within a wider sociological and social policy context. Emphasis is placed on understanding the nature and extent of crime and victimisation, analysing public and media perceptions of crime, and exploring the relationship between key social divisions (age, gender and ethnicity) and patterns of offending and victimisation.

Modern Culture
In this module, you look at why culture has always been such a contested sphere and why it has a decisive impact on society at large. You explore culture in the widest sense, ranging from ‘the arts’ to the banalities of everyday life in our consumer society and examine how culture has expressed and organised the way people think and live, from the days of ‘protestantism’ to those of post-punk. Books, magazines, radio, TV, movies, cartoons, fashion, graffiti, the cult of celebrity, youth subcultures and pop music are used to understand class, history, sexuality, colonialism, revolution, conflict and globalisation.

Sociology of Everyday Life
Sociology offers insight into how society works. Sociologists question and look behind the accepted view of everything in the social world. We look at a range of aspects of society and discover how to make better sense of them by ‘thinking sociologically’. You are introduced to a range of contemporary topics and learn how social circumstances shape and influence our lives. This module is suitable for those who have not studied sociology at A level. There is an emphasis on interactive discussion, through weekly seminar groups.

Social Problems and Social Policy 1
This explores the ways in which phenomena are labelled as social problems, focusing on the ‘problem of youth’ and suggested solutions, particularly in terms of the balance between state and family responsibility. Topics include: young people’s changing relationship to the family; teenage pregnancy; youth homelessness and unemployment, transitions to work, and youth and crime.

Sociological Theory: The Classics
You are given an introduction to the major issues and controversies surrounding the definition, development and teaching of ‘classical’ social theory. You are introduced to the key problems that have set the agendas for sociological inquiry as well as the main concepts and theoretical traditions that have shaped sociological thought. You become familiar with the debate surrounding the meaning of ‘classical’ social theory and what should be associated with this term, and develop your understanding of the various approaches to understanding ‘classical’ social theory.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES
For details of scholarships and bursaries at Kent, see www.kent.ac.uk/ugfunding
Most Kent modules are assessed by 50% coursework and 50% examination, and your marks at Stages 2 and 3 count towards your final degree result. If you are taking a year abroad, this takes place between Stages 2 and 3.

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.

Students also take at least six optional modules. Here is a selection of what is typically available:

• The Care and Protection of Children and Families
• Childhood, Society and Children’s Rights
• Crime, Media and Culture
• Criminal Justice in Modern Britain: Development, Issues and Politics
• Cultures of Embodiment
• Digital Culture
• Drugs, Culture and Control
• Education, Training and Social Policy
• Emotion, Media and Culture
• Gender, Crime and Criminal Justice
• Health, Illness and Medicine
• Kent Student Certificate for Volunteering, Platinum Award
• Modern Chinese Societies
• Popular Culture, Media and Society
• Poverty, Inequality and Social Security
• Race and Racism
• Reproductive Health Policy in Britain
• Research Dissertation
• Risk and Society
• The Social Politics of Food
• Social Sciences in the Classroom
• Sociology of Crime and Deviance
• The Sociology of Work
• ‘Terrorism’ and Modern Society

Stages 2 and 3 represent the second and final years of your degree. You focus on more specialised topics and have the chance to complete a research project that reflects your interests.

At the end of your first year, you can choose to change your programme to Sociology with Quantitative Research. During your second year, you also have the opportunity to decide whether you want to take a year abroad in your third year before returning to Kent to complete your final year.

Single honours
Single honours students take the following compulsory modules:
• Contemporary Sociological Theory
• Social Research Methods.
STUDYING AT STAGES 2 AND 3 (CONT)

• The Third Sector: Charities and Social Enterprises in Modern Societies
• Violence and Society
• Welfare in Modern Britain
• Youth and Crime.

Modules may also be chosen from a wide range available within the School and beyond. See our online module catalogue for details: www.kent.ac.uk/courses/modules

Students taking Sociology with Italian are required to take modules in Italian; those taking Sociology with a Year in Spain are required to take modules in Spanish.

Joint honours
Generally joint honours students take the following compulsory modules:
• Contemporary Sociological Theory
• Social Research Methods.

Optional modules can be chosen from the list on p15. You also take the required modules for your other subject. For details of your other subject, please download the relevant subject leaflet at www.kent.ac.uk/courses/leaflets

Modules: Stages 2 and 3
The Care and Protection of Children and Families
This provides a broad introduction to social care services for children and families in the UK. It covers the major debates and challenges associated with childcare policy and practice. This includes the high-profile and complex issues associated with child abuse and protection, and the less well-known but equally important services to support families and prevent abuse and neglect.

Childhood, Society and Children’s Rights
Here, you look at the concept of childhood, its historical evolution and ‘social construction’. You examine different perspectives on children’s rights, such as the sanctity of the family, the state’s duty to protect, and children’s participation and empowerment. You also look at contemporary social problems such as child prostitution and child labour.

Contemporary Sociological Theory
You are introduced to the major issues and controversies that have shaped key developments in contemporary social theory, from the second half of the 20th century
have achieved unprecedented levels of control over the body. There are now few parts of the body which cannot be remoulded, supplemented or transplanted in one way or another. Here, you explore how culture represents and shapes bodies, and examine how embodied subjects are able to act on and influence the culture in which they live.

Digital Culture
You explore the so-called ‘information age’ from a cultural perspective, and concentrate on how the internet, in particular, has challenged some of our more traditional ideas of identity, relationships, community, space and culture. You discover how some of the basic components of culture have been complicated by the rise of virtuality and cyberspace, and look at how cyberspace has become its own cultural context.

Criminals, Media and Culture
You gain an understanding of the contested cultural meanings underpinning crime. Too often, criminology is satisfied by taking definitions of criminality at face value, when really it means different things to different people and in different contexts. You examine how media representations propagate particular perceptions of crime, criminality and justice. You discover cutting-edge research and theory in the fields of cultural criminology, visual criminology, and media and crime, placing issues such as music, photography, street gangs, extreme sports, newspapers and nights on the town in new and exciting contexts.

Criminal Justice in Modern Britain: Development, Issues and Politics
This module focuses on the history and development of the Criminal Justice System (CJS), looking at the impact of the (party) politicisation of crime and criminal justice issues. You study how the modern penal system emerged and look at recent developments that have led to the crisis of prison overcrowding. All aspects of the criminal justice system are considered: the police force and how it is responding to increasing demands to be more efficient, effective and economical; the probation service and how recent trends are bringing about fundamental changes in its role; the changing position of victims of crime; and the growth in alternatives to custody, particularly for young offenders.

Cultures of Embodiment
Images of ‘trim, taut and terrific’ bodies surround us in contemporary consumer culture. They look down on us from billboards, are increasingly central to advertisers’ attempts to sell us clothes, cosmetics, cars and other products, and pervade reality television programmes based on diet, exercise and ‘extreme’ makeovers. These trends have occurred at the same time that science, technology, genetic engineering and medicine have achieved unprecedented levels of control over the body.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF
Emotion, Media and Culture
You explore the critical links between emotion, media and culture in the context of contemporary cultural, socio-political and economic relations and discover what is meant by ‘the affective turn’ within the humanities and social sciences. Through various case studies and examples, you investigate how social, cultural and media theorists have addressed the relationships between emotion, affect, power and identity in the context of postcoloniality, multiculturalism, neoliberalism and various social justice movements. You look at how personal feelings are linked to social norms and power structure, and discuss the assumed division between ‘good’ and ‘bad’ emotions. You also explore how emotions, feelings and affects are produced and circulated through a range of cultural forms, such as film, television, news media, digital culture, literature and popular science.

Gender, Crime and Criminal Justice
In this module, you examine the theoretical approaches in criminology and the ways in which they impact on issues of gender. You discuss the differential treatment of men and women in the criminal justice system as victims, offenders and professionals, and develop an understanding of the main empirical and theoretical studies of gender, crime and criminal justice as well as key policy documents and legislation.

Health, Illness and Medicine
Health and illness are of major concern to most of us, irrespective of our cultural and social backgrounds. Yet perceptions of what constitutes health and illness vary greatly. Health is often defined by its opposite: we know what it means to be healthy when illness strikes, but health is not a state most people think about. This module explores how ideas surrounding health and illness are culturally constructed.

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 is a unique opportunity for you to build your skills and is particularly valuable to those planning to work in the public or voluntary sector.

Modern Chinese Societies
You gain a well-rounded assessment of modern China, looking at events since the 1978 Open Door Policy initiated by Deng Xiaoping. You are introduced to key sociological concepts related to Chinese traditional society, and consider the major events that have formed state-society relations in the past 30 years. You study a range of contemporary issues and are encouraged to connect China’s rise to your own life and to think comparatively.
Popular Culture, Media and Society

You are introduced to ideas in critical and cultural theory, and encouraged to apply them to debates and issues surrounding media and popular culture. In particular, you focus on themes such as cultural elitism, power and control, the politics of representation, racism, sexualities and consumption. Popular television, celebrity, rave and club culture, video games, drugs and hedonism are some of the cultural contexts and themes within which issues are identified and investigated.

Poverty, Inequality and Social Security

With special reference to contemporary issues in the UK, you consider the nature and extent of poverty and inequality. You also look at how social security policies impact upon vulnerable groups, such as the unemployed, the disabled, the elderly and lone parents.

Race and Racism

Charges of racism are seemingly everywhere – in the workplace, in the streets, in everyday interactions. But what exactly is racism? Is it beliefs about racial inferiority or superiority? Is it found in actions and consequences, whether people intend to be racist or not? You critically assess how changing conceptualisations of racism arise in specific, socio-political contexts and examine policies aimed at combating racism.

Reproductive Health Policy in Britain

Contraception, abortion and teenage pregnancy are subjects of public controversy in Britain. In this module, you consider why these aspects of ‘reproductive health’ became the focus of policymaking, and look at how such policies have changed over time.

Research Dissertation

You design and conduct your own piece of research. This can be primary research where you collect and analyse your own data, or it can be library-based, where you research existing literature or reanalyse data collected by others. The research can be about a particular policy or policy area, social problem, social development, or matter of sociological interest.

Risk and Society

You explore the relatively new ideas of living in a ‘risk society’ and the heightened sensitivity within Western societies to the numerous ‘risks’ which shape our lives. These range from grand meta hazards, such as global warming, to the more everyday dangers allegedly posed by mobile phones and contaminated food. You look at the strengths and limitations of the various theories that account for this development in a comparative and historical context.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF
The Social Politics of Food
In this module, you discover how gender, age and social class are linked to food and explore the meanings of food and food practices within the household and beyond. You investigate food as a political issue in the wake of food crises such as Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), looking at the role of producer interests in the form of farmers, manufacturers, supermarkets and the conflicts between them and consumer groups. You also look at changing patterns of eating: the growth of fast food, vegetarianism and dieting.

Social Research Methods
This introduces you to how social research is conducted and the way in which research is a multi-step and multi-dimensional process. You look at the kinds of data collection involved and what ethical and political issues may arise in the course of your research. You explore various techniques, such as interviewing and questionnaire design, and look at potential methodological and ethical difficulties which can arise through research.

Social Sciences in the Classroom
Following training sessions 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 convener). You keep a weekly log of your activities.

The Sociology of Crime and Deviance
You develop a critical understanding of the nature and extent of crime and deviance in contemporary society, and the main ways in which they can be explained and controlled. The focus is on contemporary sociological theories of crime against a background of classical ideas so you engage with the most up-to-date debates.

The Sociology of Work
Work and economic life is one of the central themes of sociology. Work allows us to think about class, gender, race and issues of identity. Work defines how people live and is a major factor in identity formation. In recent years, work has been transformed with the rise of globalisation, deindustrialisation and the ending of old certainties which used to underpin working lives. You look at how sociologists have looked at the issue of work in the past as well as in contemporary societies, focusing on issues such as industrialisation, deindustrialisation, notions of career and identity, and places and spaces of work.
‘Terrorism’ and Modern Society
Following the events of 9/11, public concerns surrounding the threats associated with terrorism have deepened. This module is a general introduction to terrorism, the social, political and cultural, and in many cases, the religious dimensions of some of the main terrorist movements, both contemporary and historical. You examine the actual risk posed by international terrorism and whether or not the threat is enhanced by the fears and anxieties generated by a risk-averse culture.

The Third Sector: Charities and Social Enterprises in Modern Societies
The module provides an overview of the contribution of the third sector to social, economic and political life. It includes analysis of definitions and categorisations, exploration of the theories which underpin the study of the third sector, and an examination of theories and the current state of volunteering and charitable giving. You also look at the historical and current public policy agenda in relation to the third sector in the UK, the EU and more generally. You also gain an overview of current issues in the third sector and how social scientists go about studying them.

Violence and Society
Violence is receiving increasing attention within social science research. You look at the theoretical and research themes involved in the analysis of violence and consider issues of violence, aggression and masculinity, with particular reference to racist and homophobic crime and domestic violence. The module approaches violence from interpersonal and societal perspectives, and includes consideration of collective violence and genocide. You also look at conflict resolution and the effects of intervention strategies.

Welfare in Modern Britain
This module develops your understanding of the scope and scale of the British welfare system, the theoretical basis for its existence and growth, and its current organisation. You examine how policies are formulated and the processes through which they are implemented and revised. You also consider the impact that social policies have on social inequality and difference based on class, ethnicity, gender, disability or age.

Youth and Crime
You look at the social and historical contexts within which debates and anxieties surrounding youth and crime have arisen. You critically evaluate different theoretical explanations of youth crime, and study the main criminal justice initiatives, looking at them in the context of broader social policy and political responses to young people and their problems.
VISIT THE UNIVERSITY

Come to an Open Day or an Applicant Day and see for yourself what it’s like to be a student at the University of 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

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

For further information about the Sociology degree programme, contact:
Director of Undergraduate Recruitment and Admissions,
School of Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research,
University of Kent, Canterbury,
Kent CT2 7NF
T: +44 (0)1227 827782
E: SSPSSRadmissions@kent.ac.uk
www.kent.ac.uk/sspssr
Location
Canterbury

Award
BA (Hons)

Degree programme

Single honours
- Sociology (L300)
- Sociology with Quantitative Research (L3G3)
- Sociology with Italian (L373)
- Sociology with a Year in …
  - Finland (L301)
  - The Netherlands (L305)
  - Hong Kong (L304)
  - Spain (L303)

It also possible to spend a year abroad studying in Ireland; apply for the single honours Sociology programme in the first instance.

Joint honours
Sociology and...
- Criminology (LM39)
- Economics (LL13)
- English and American Literature (LQ33)
- Law (LM31)
- Philosophy (LVH5)
- Politics (LL32)
- Social Anthropology (LL36)
- Social Policy (LL34)

Offer levels

Single honours
BBB at A level; BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma Distinction, Distinction, Merit; IB 34 points or 15 points at HL.

Joint honours

- LM39, LL13, LL32, LL36, LL34: as for single honours
- LQ33: ABB at A level, IB 34 points or 17 points at HL
- LVH5: ABB at A level, IB 34 points or 16 points at HL
- LM31: AAA-AAB at A level, IB 34 points or 17 points at HL

Required subjects
- LL13: A level Mathematics grade B unless AS Mathematics at C or GCSE Mathematics grade A has been obtained; IB Mathematics 4 at HL or SL
- LQ33: A level in English Literature or English Language and Literature grade B; IB HL English A1/A2/B at 5/6/6 or English Literature A/English Language and Literature A (or Literature A/Language and Literature A of another country) 5 at HL or 6 at SL
- L373: GCSE grade B in a modern European language other than English; IB 5 at HL or SL in a modern European language other than English

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.

Study abroad
For more details see www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad

Offer levels and entry requirements are subject to change. For the latest 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