WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Canterbury
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AT KENT

We know that wildlife and biodiversity are vital for human survival, yet the world is experiencing a conservation crisis because of threats such as habitat loss and climate change. On this degree you analyse the facts and gain an understanding of where we are now, putting you in a great position to offer innovative ways forward.
# Why Study Wildlife Conservation at Kent?

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<tr>
<th>Blend theory with practice</th>
<th>Academic support</th>
<th>Excellent resources</th>
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<tr>
<td>On this science-focused degree, you learn about the natural science aspects of conservation (including genetics, ecology, wildlife management and species reintroduction) and get training in the human dimensions of conservation.</td>
<td>University is different to school. You need to be self-motivated and well organised to succeed. We help by assigning you an academic tutor and organising peer mentoring. You can also get help with academic skills, such as essay writing, from the University’s dedicated service.</td>
<td>We have state-of-the-art facilities including conservation genetics labs, an ecology lab, and an on-campus field trials area. We also have a research vessel on the Peruvian Amazon.</td>
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<th>Research community</th>
<th>IDEAL location</th>
<th>Inspirational teaching</th>
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<td>You learn from leading experts in their field, and the world-renowned Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology is part of our School. We engage with local, national and international partners to produce high-quality research with a positive impact.</td>
<td>The campus is full of wild spaces, teeming with many species of wildlife, including protected great crested newts and rare species such as the nightingale and the heath fritillary butterfly.</td>
<td>Great teachers inspire enthusiasm and provoke debate. Whether they’re lecturing on biodiversity or sparking debate around wildlife conservation, our staff are skilled at bringing their subject to life.</td>
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<th>Career success</th>
<th>Influential speakers</th>
<th>Field trips</th>
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<td>Career paths for wildlife conservation graduates include ecological surveying, habitat management, species conservation and international consultancy. Potential employers include charities, government, NGOs and the private sector.</td>
<td>We organise extra events to expand your experience. We host the annual DICE lecture, open to the public and given by leading conservation figures. This event enables us to bring current ideas about conservation to a wider audience.</td>
<td>Our field courses in the UK and abroad allow you to apply what you’ve learned to real-world situations, develop field skills, practice your research skills and build friendships with staff and other students.</td>
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A year in professional practice

Gaining work experience as part of your degree helps consolidate your learning and makes you stand out to potential employers. You may even get a job offer from your placement employer. You have the opportunity to take your programme with a year in professional practice between Stages 2 and 3. We support you as you look for your placement, this includes help with your CV and interview skills. Many of our students have sourced their placement through our alumni network or through staff research partners.

The Times Good University Guide 2019
• Conservation at Kent, which is in the category of Agriculture and Forestry, was ranked 5th in the UK.

Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education
• Over 95% of Kent graduates who responded to the most recent national survey of graduate destinations were in work or further study within six months (DHLE 2017).

Research Excellence Framework
• In the most recent research rankings, 97% of research at Kent was found to be of international quality.

Teaching Excellence Framework
• Kent was awarded gold, the highest rating, in the UK government’s Teaching Excellence Framework*.

*The University of Kent’s Statement of Findings can be found at www.kent.ac.uk/tef-statement
Hannah Pepe is in the final year of Wildlife Conservation with a Year in Professional Practice.

Why did you choose to study this particular subject area?
I’ve been really interested in animals and nature since I was young. As I got older and became more aware of environmental issues, I became interested in what I could do to reduce the impact of humans on the environment.

What have you particularly enjoyed about the programme?
We’ve had quite a lot of freedom with modules, for example I’m doing an environmental politics module from another School this year. I’ve enjoyed having the scope to shape my course.

We also had a field trip to Borneo which was a big highlight, where we spent two weeks in the rainforest, staying in a small research centre.

What were you doing in Borneo?
We were comparing biodiversity in rainforests and in palm oil plantations. For example, we conducted bird counts and wildlife river surveys. In Borneo they have a lot of palm oil plantations, which is a big environmental issue because of deforestation.

We saw a wild orangutan which was fantastic. It was just swinging around our camp in the canopy above us. There was also a tree platform in the canopy you could climb up to as well.

What did you do in your year in professional practice?
I was working at the Wolf Science Centre in Austria, where they specialise in canine psychology. The placement was more animal behaviour related, but it is also something that interests me, and I believe it has an important link with conservation. I thought it would be a good opportunity to try out something new, while also trying out working with captive animals as it’s not something I was sure I’d feel comfortable with. However, I really loved working there.

They have 18 wolves and 16 dogs that are raised and kept in identical situations for accurate comparisons. They are kept in large enclosures to form natural social structures, and all participation in behavioural tests is done on a voluntarily basis by the animals.

What were the highlights of your placement?
As a thank you to the interns we were allowed into the wolf enclosures once a week. If the wolves wanted to, they could interact with us which was really special.

What work did you do there?
My official title was scientific research assistant. Master’s students and PhD students did research there on comparing wolf and dog behaviour and cognition, looking at how domestication has influenced dogs. My role was assisting on research projects, as well as running the centre.

One of the Master’s students hadn’t managed to collect all her data before she had to go home to finish her degree. I ended up collecting the remaining data for her research project. It was quite a steep learning curve because I had to organise all the data collection and the training to be able to carry out the tests.

What did you gain from your year in professional practice?
I feel more confident applying for jobs abroad now, and I know that I could work with captive animals in the right conditions. I also enjoyed educating the public about animal behaviour; it was nice to see people’s perceptions of wolves change. I’d recommend doing a placement, as it’s a chance to try out something new and to gain experience before graduating.

What do you want to do in the future?
I’m considering a Master’s, but not straight away as I’d like some time to decide what I want to specialise in.

I definitely want to use my career to travel and live in different countries, but most importantly help conserve biodiversity around the world.
YOUR STUDY PROGRAMME

Our Wildlife Conservation programme offers you the opportunity to develop academic, practical and professional skills in the field of conservation.

Wildlife Conservation BSc (Hons)
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/30

Wildlife Conservation with a Year in Professional Practice BSc (Hons)
www.kent.ac.uk/ug/392

Studying Wildlife Conservation, you gain comprehensive training in natural science aspects of conservation (including genetics, ecology, wildlife management and species reintroductions), together with training in the human dimensions of conservation (for example, work with rural communities).

There is a significant lab and field-based component, as well as an opportunity to conduct a research project in the UK or abroad. Recent locations include South Africa, Malaysia, Mexico and the Peruvian Amazon.

Field trips
Due to the practical nature of this degree, there is a strong emphasis on fieldwork. We aim to undertake a minimum of two UK field trips per term including visits to Howletts Wild Animal Park, Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve, King’s Wood, Pegwell Bay, Brogdale – Home of the National Fruit Collection, Monks Risborough nature reserve, working farms and a residential trip to the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Jersey (otherwise known as Jersey Zoo).

On these trips, you meet conservation practitioners and work alongside academic staff and fellow students to develop your field skills, while applying what you have learnt in the classroom in the field.

In your first year you take a Survey and Monitoring for Biodiversity module, which consists almost entirely of fieldwork. You are
introduced to basic field techniques and develop your skills in the collection, analysis and presentation of field data in relation to a range of birds, amphibians, reptiles and plants.

Later in your degree, if you take our Tropical Ecology and Conservation module, you spend two weeks at a field centre in Borneo. In the first few days, you explore the beautiful, picturesque rainforest before venturing deeper into the jungle to the field studies site. The research centre is located in an area where huge swathes of forest have been replaced by plantations. You work on the front line between managing the needs of people and the impact on biodiversity.

Final-year students often conduct their research project in the field, both locally and globally. In recent years projects have included:

- visitor effect on the behaviour of captive European brown bears (Ursus arctos arctos) and its implication for welfare management
- geographic profiling as a tool to predict alien invasion from exotic pets traded over the internet in the UK
- transect surveys of three critically endangered diurnal lemur species in the Andriantantely lowland forest fragment in Madagascar
- a comparison of the avian composition, diversity and morphological radiation between habitats in the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, Peru
- a survey of the distribution and abundance of surface microplastics in the Pacific Ocean, covering hundreds of kilometres between Hawaii and Alaska
- a behavioural study into the use of space and dominance hierarchy of captive dholes (Cuon alpinus) in the UK.

Some students join the School’s annual expedition to our research vessel on the Peruvian Amazon for their final project fieldwork. They spend one or two months aboard the boat conducting their research. Previous research topics have included studies of:

- river dolphins
- bird sampling
- primates
- local people and resource use of forest products.

Note: trips are subject to availability and may require financial contributions from attendees.

**Professional practice opportunities**

If you want to stand out from other graduates in today’s global job market, spending time in the workplace in the UK or overseas as part of your degree can be invaluable.

You spend up to a year on placement, between the second and final year of your programme. For more information, see page 11.

Many of our current placement students have sourced their placement through our alumni network or via staff research partners.

**Teaching and assessment**

Your studies are divided into three stages. At Stage 1 (your first year), your modules give you an introduction to biological, social and environmental sciences. At Stages 2 and 3 (your second and final year), you develop specialised knowledge and skills.

In addition to lectures, you have field trips and laboratory-based practicals. We make extensive use of small-group teaching formats, such as tutorials, seminars and problem-solving sessions.

Assessment is by a combination of coursework and examinations.

You are required to pass Stage 1 in order to progress to Stage 2. Stage 1 marks, however, do not contribute towards your final degree result. Both Stage 2 and 3 marks count towards your final degree result.
Module information

Please note: these module lists are not fixed as new modules are always in development and choices are updated yearly. The details are correct at the time of publication (June 2019). Please see www.kent.ac.uk/ug for the most up-to-date information.

In addition to the modules listed here, you may also be able to choose elective modules (modules offered by other Schools)

To read a full description of any of the modules listed, go to www.kent.ac.uk/courses/modules and search for the module code.

Stage 1

You take the following compulsory modules:
• Biodiversity (WCON3050)
• Environmental Sustainability (GEOG3004)
• Principles of Biogeography and Ecology (WCON3111)
• Academic Skills (ANTS3080)
• Skills for Wildlife Conservation and Management (WCON3101)
• Survey and Monitoring for Biodiversity (HECO3030).

You can also take optional modules, which may include the following:
• Animals, People and Plants: An introduction to Ethnobiology (HECO3060)
• Contested Environments (GEOG3001)
• Foundations of Biological Anthropology (ANTB3020)
• Geographical Patterns and Processes (GEOG3003)
• How Humans Evolved (ANTB3160).

Stage 2

You take the following compulsory modules:
• Conceptual Frameworks in Conservation Science (DI505)
• Conservation Social Science: Methods and Research Design (DI537)
• Data Analysis for Conservation Biologists (BI538)
• Spatial Analysis: Principles and Methods (GEOG5004).

Stage 3

You take the following compulsory modules:
• Contemporary Conservation Science (DI518)
• Research project (DI522).

Stage 2 and 3 optional modules

You can also choose from optional modules, which may include:
• Climate Change and Conservation (DI501)
• Comparative Perspectives in Primate Biology (SE582)
• Conservation and Communities (DI520)
• Creative Conservation (DI532)
• Environmental Law 1 (LW585)
• Evolutionary Genetics and Conservation (DI503)
• Global Biodiversity (DI510)
• Human Ecology: An Introduction to Social-Ecological Systems (SE610)
• Human Wildlife Conflict and Resource Competition (DI531)
• Kent Student Certificate for Volunteering (SO670)
• Practical Guiding and Interpretation (DI527)
• Primate Behaviour and Ecology (SE580)
• Species Conservation (DI521)
• Tropical Ecology and Conservation (DI535).

International students

If you are applying from outside the UK without the necessary English language qualifications, you may be able to take the Kent International Foundation Programme to gain access to our programmes. For details see: www.kent.ac.uk/ifp
A YEAR IN PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

At Kent, you have the opportunity to broaden your experience through a placement between Stages 2 and 3 of your degree.

If you want to stand out from other graduates in today’s global job market, spending time in the workplace can put you a step ahead in your career as well as helping you consolidate your studies.

You can take Wildlife Conservation with a year in professional practice, subject to certain conditions, such as your academic record.

You spend a minimum of 24 weeks between Stages 2 and 3 gaining experience of work in a professional environment relevant to your degree, whether at home or abroad. This can be in industry, government, or non-governmental organisations and can be paid work or an internship.

Previous placements have included:
• primate behaviour in protected areas of Uganda
• mammal monitoring in the national parks of Romania
• compiling a wildlife trafficking database for TRAFFIC International based in Cambridge
• preparations for climate change negotiations with the United Nations in Bonn.

During your placement, you work under the direction of a line manager within the host organisation, with additional support via a member of academic staff from the University.

You work on one or more tasks agreed in advance; for example, a management plan, a policy report, a consultation process, a piece of applied research, or the development of a set of educational materials.

As well as gaining useful work skills, you get the chance to increase your industry contacts so you can hit the ground running when you graduate.

The University supports you in your placement search with lectures, advice and help with applications and interviews. The year is assessed on a pass/fail basis through employer feedback and a written report that you submit. It does not count towards your final degree classification.
SUPERB STUDY SUPPORT

We’ll support you throughout your time at Kent, from helping you adjust to university study to discussing module choices and essay topics with you.

You are assigned an academic adviser in your first year, and they help you get the most from your degree programme. They meet with you regularly to discuss general academic issues or specific assignments. They 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 help you settle into 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:
• talking to your lecturers about any help you need in lectures or seminars
• arranging note-takers, signers and other support workers
• discussing exam access arrangements
• helping you with emotional, psychological or mental health issues
• applying for relevant funding to support you.

Find out more at: www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport
A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

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 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 within 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.

Experience work
As part of your degree programme, you can find work placements with a range of employers from charities and consultants to government agencies and NGOs. We have strong links with organisations around the world, giving you a range of exciting placement opportunities.

Find a great job
Potential employers in the conservation and environmental sector include local, regional and national UK government departments, voluntary organisations and the private sector, as well as international and environmental organisations.

Our recent graduates have found work in:
• community-based conservation projects
• conservation planning
• conservation policy
• ecological surveying
• environmental education
• habitat management
• international consultancy
• species conservation.

You can also visit the University’s award-winning Careers and Employability Service for advice. Throughout the year, the service delivers events on the recruitment process (such as CVs, interviews and assessment centres), as well as talks on developing awareness of the opportunities available.

For more information, see: www.kent.ac.uk/ces
COME AND FIND OUT MORE

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
These 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 or a taster session
- ask questions – talk to staff and students at the information stands
- find out about student finance, opportunities to study abroad and extracurricular activities such as those run by Kent Sport.

Explore the campus at your own pace on the self-guided walking tour. You can visit different types of accommodation, chat to current students and enjoy the stunning views over Canterbury.

Open Days are held in the summer and autumn. Book your place at www.kent.ac.uk/opendays

Applicant Days
If you apply to Kent and we offer you a place (or ask you to come for an interview), you will usually be invited to an Applicant Day. Applicant Days run in the spring term and are an opportunity to find out about the course in more detail. You spend time with your academic school, meeting staff and current students, and take part in activities that give you a flavour of your prospective course and university life.

Informal visits
If you can’t make it to an Open Day or Applicant Day, you can still visit us. We run tours of the campus throughout the year.

If you live outside Europe, we appreciate that you might find it difficult to attend our scheduled events, so we can arrange a personal campus tour for you and your family.

Let us know you’re coming
Scheduled tours and personal campus tours (for international students) need to be booked in advance – you can do this via www.kent.ac.uk/informal

Meet us in your country
Our staff regularly travel overseas to meet with students who are interested in coming to Kent. We also have strong links with agents in your home country who can offer guidance and information on studying at Kent. Find out more at www.kent.ac.uk/courses/international

CONTINUED OVERLEAF
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 and the course at www.kent.ac.uk/sac

Keep in touch with us via social media:
www.facebook.com/UniKentSAC
www.instagram.com/UniKentSAC
www.twitter.com/UniKentSAC

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

Location
Canterbury

Award
BSc (Hons)

Degree programmes
Single honours (BSc)
• Wildlife Conservation (CD14)
• Wildlife Conservation with a Year in Professional Practice (IT16)

Typical offer levels
A level: BBB including a natural science (Biology, Geography, Chemistry, Environmental Science, Psychology or Geology).
IB diploma: 34 points overall or 15 at higher, including a natural science (Biology, Geography, Environmental Systems and Society, Psychology, Geology or Chemistry) at 5 at HL or 6 at SL.

Required subjects
GCSE Mathematics at grade C/4.

Access to HE Diploma
Candidates assessed on an individual basis, please contact us.

BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma (formerly National Diploma)
DDM in Countryside Management, Animal Management or Applied Science. Other subjects will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Other qualifications and experience
We may consider candidates who do not have these entry requirements but have several years’ relevant experience or other qualifications in the subject area.

Please note: Offer levels and entry requirements are subject to change. See: www.kent.ac.uk/ug

This brochure was produced in June 2019. The University of Kent makes every effort to ensure that the information contained in its publicity materials is fair and accurate and to provide educational services as described. However, the courses, services and other matters may be subject to 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
COME AND VISIT US

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