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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

This booklet sets out the many ways in which the University of Kent’s engagement with European institutions and other European nations benefits our students, the university and the wider community.

The cathedral city of Canterbury has been connected to continental Europe for over 1400 years. The University of Kent has continued this tradition, with study centres now in Brussels, Paris, Athens and Rome. We value our internationalism. At a time when the United Kingdom is facing a referendum on its continued membership of the European Union we particularly welcome students, staff and collaborators from other member states of the European Union. And we celebrate the opportunities available under Erasmus and similar programmes that enable our students and staff to experience other countries.

The extension and dissemination of knowledge is at the core of a University. Our European heritage and European networks help us both to gain new perspectives and new insights and also to prepare our students to be the global citizens and global leaders of tomorrow. The University of Kent is proud to be European.

Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow
Vice-Chancellor
Kent is one of many leading UK Universities that embraces internationalism. This booklet focuses on one aspect of that internationalism: our vocation as the UK’s European university. At a time when there is a political debate about the nation’s future within the European Union, it is a reminder of the many rich and complex ways in which our University is engaged with our neighbours and why the University of Kent is proud to be European.

The UK has a higher education sector that many other countries aspire to emulate. Our universities contribute directly and indirectly to the economy and society, with an estimated £73bn in output. They also represent one of the country’s leading exports, worth some £11bn a year. There is no single reason for this success. But at least part of the answer lies in our international openness. Knowledge, famously, knows no borders.

Canterbury has been a centre of learning for over 1400 years, connected to continental Europe by the Via Francigena, the Lombard Way. The two-way traffic brought pilgrims and trade – and also learning. Geography does not change. Canterbury is still the cathedral city closest to continental Europe. We are now joined by high speed rail – to London, Paris and Brussels. This provides us with new opportunities within Europe.
We belong, in the European Union, to a common economic space within which talent can move freely. Around 23% of our academic staff are from other member states: our reputation allows us to recruit the best and allows our students to benefit from international excellence. Our students from Europe and around the world enrich both learning and teaching. We operate study centres within Europe: in Brussels, in Paris, in Athens and most recently Rome. The opportunity for studying at centres within other European institutions, together with a separate programme of worldwide placements, allows our students to gain a much wider perspective than they could within a single country. Increasingly businesses need leaders who have the cultural knowledge and sensitivity that comes from international experience.

The EU supports research. Over 80% of the UK’s internationally co-authored papers are written with EU partners. The UK secures a disproportionate amount of EU research, development and innovation funding, worth over €6 billion: the nature of EU research funding means that it complements and adds value to national structures, enabling projects individual member states could not undertake alone. And, because of the high reputation of UK researchers, we are able to influence the European agenda. The idea that we could outside the EU secure similar funding or influence is not viable. We are at Kent actively looking at ways in which we can engage more strongly with European research opportunities: both from the funding available under Horizon 2020 and with partnership arrangements with other European universities.

The EU provides structures for student mobility. Those educated in the UK by and large cherish that experience. They go on to be highly successful in their countries and continue to value their links with the UK. EU mobility programmes in turn represent the single biggest source of funding for UK students and staff hoping to pursue a study or work placement abroad. The direct financial gain to the UK as a whole from EU students in fees and living expenses has been estimated at £2 billion a year, with the indirect benefits being even higher. At Kent, our European students contribute greatly to the local economy, spending £29.3m outside the University. Typically, each year some 300 students and 30 staff take advantage of Erasmus scholarships to visit other European countries.

Partnership and cooperation with our neighbours also helps define our view of ourselves. We live in the world as it is not as we might want it to be. By turning our back on the most important institution in our region, we would be damaging not just ourselves but also, much more importantly, our children and young people.
STUDENTS

Kent’s cosmopolitan atmosphere is generated by a large number of international students, over 41% of them from Europe. The European community at Kent makes up a large and valued part of our annual student intake. In the academic year 2014-2015, there were over 2,200 non-UK European students from 43 different European countries. European students make up roughly 14% of new students and about 18% of postgraduate students.

Kent is an active participant in the Erasmus programme, exchanging some 300 students per year with over 100 European partner institutions including Paris Sorbonne University, the University of Amsterdam, the University of Copenhagen and Heidelberg University.

All the universities are chosen for their academic standards and for their courses, which complement studies at Kent. Kent’s partners include highly prestigious universities, several of which are ranked within the top 100 institutions in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

“In doing architecture at UKC has given me a great opportunity to travel across UK and Europe in the past three years. I’ve had the chance to visit Barcelona, Utrecht, Amsterdam, Belgium, and Paris from the school of architecture…”

Lakshmy Radhakrishnan, Bahrain

“As The UK’s European university”, and 25% international students, Kent has good experience at dealing with international and exchange students, and it shows…”

Tharald Bull Stromnes, Norway

In addition, there are a large number of European-focused clubs and societies available to Kent students and we celebrate the EU’s official Europe day every year.

Students do not need to speak another language in order to go abroad, and we offer placements at universities in, for example, Finland and the Netherlands, where tuition is in English.

European study destinations available to Kent students include:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey

CONTINUED OVERLEAF
STUDENTS (CONT)

“Having the gateway to Europe on one side and on the other London in just over an hour what more could you ask for?”

Zameer Verjee, Kenya

The benefits of study abroad

Such exchanges offer many benefits to students: the chance to experience a different culture, make new friends, develop their language skills, grow in self-confidence, gain a new academic perspective, establish international contacts and enhance their employability.

An international perspective is invaluable for students who intend to work for a global company. Kent students have undertaken work placements outside the UK for companies such as IBM, Microsoft, Intel, HSBC and British Airways. First-hand practical experience of a company’s systems and working practices can be a significant advantage for those who then apply for a job with that organisation after graduation.

Time overseas can also allow students to develop an international network of professional or academic contacts, which can help them throughout their careers.

Video interviews with recent Kent Erasmus students are available at www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad/video.html

Student stories

Shugo Iwasaki

Inspired by the European Union Shugo is studying current issues facing the EU in order to deepen his understanding and help explore the possibility of a future Asian Union.

Andre Lewis

Andre helped to organise a European exchange with students from the University of Kent and Erasmus University Rotterdam visiting one another’s respective institutions.

Jack Davies

Jack has taught both British and Belgian school children on the topic of the First World War and has organised an interdisciplinary conference at Kent’s Paris centre.

“Last year I came to the University of Kent as an Erasmus student and I really enjoyed the life here; for this reason I decided it was a very good progression for my studies to do my Master here in the UK.”

Anna De Pretto, Italy
“It was really scary at first because it was such an ‘unknown’. But after a while curiosity and excitement far outweighed the initial uncertainty. It wasn’t long before I felt completely settled and knew my way around the city. I miss Vienna so much; I fell completely in love with it.”

Emily Perkins, European Legal Studies
Studying in Vienna, Austria
STAFF

As a globally-focused institution, The University of Kent, ‘The UK’s European university’, attracts employees from all over the world. Currently almost half of Kent’s academic staff are from overseas and around 23% of those staff are from Europe.

This wide range of experience and culture benefits the University with an enriched opportunity for diversity across both our teaching and research portfolios.

Given the international make-up of our staffing, our human resources team work on improving the support and range of knowledge that we have in order to improve the overall experience for international staff who work here. Our experience now also extends to the support of the staff involved with the academic provision and support systems at our European centres in Brussels, Paris, Rome and Athens.

“As someone who really enjoys meeting new people, particularly those from other cultures and visiting different countries, it was a fantastic, rich experience which I’m very grateful to the University for giving me the opportunity to experience. It gave me renewed motivation for my work and enabled me to think with a fresh perspective about how we do things in my office and ways in which I could improve elements of the support that we offer. I would highly recommend all Kent staff to take part in this scheme.”

Cathy Norman, Kent Law School visited La Sapienza University, Rome, June 2014

Kent has long-standing partnerships with over 100 universities in mainland Europe which require a range of staff interactions. Colleagues from the University also participate in a number of European initiatives, including the Framework Programme and the cross-border strand of Interreg within the European Regional Development Fund. Many academic schools and research staff are partners in innovative European projects at the cutting edge of research.

EU Partnership Fund

The University has always looked towards mainland Europe, and the new Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Research & Innovation, Philippe De Wilde (see opposite) is further encouraging staff to build on this through his newly launched EU Partnership Fund. The Fund supports a broad range of partnerships, including both purely academic collaborations and those with enterprise, government or charities. The Fund has already facilitated links with partners in Germany (including the University of Ulm, the Hannover Medical School, Schaubühne theatre, and HAU Hebbel am Ufer theatre), France (Théâtre du Radeau, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle), Denmark (Aarhus University), Sweden (Karolinska Institutet), Spain (Institut Mar d’Investigacio Medique, Universitat Autònoma, Barcelona), the Netherlands (Academisch Ziekenhuis Groningen (UMCG)) and the Czech Republic (Academy of Sciences).
Professor Philippe De Wilde was appointed as Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Research & Innovation in August 2014. Originally from Belgium, he studied at Ghent University before moving to Imperial College London where he worked on computational intelligence and cybernetics for sixteen years. As a committed European Philippe found Kent’s European profile and its location close to both continental Europe and London very attractive. His research and leadership have made him a well-known figure across Europe and as PVC, Research & Innovation he works hard to foster the University’s collaborative links across the continent and the wider world. He is a Laureate of the Royal Academy of Sciences, Letters and Fine Arts of Belgium, and has held the Vloeberghs Chair at the Free University Brussels, 2010.

Sophie Punt, Research Services visited Université Jean Moulin Lyon III, February 2014

“I had the opportunity to go back to Université Jean Moulin Lyon III … to shadow those in International Relations and also visit the Finance and Research departments there. …This week provided me with an excellent opportunity to learn about these departments and how they operate in a French Higher Education Institution and being surrounded by the French language allowed me to use and develop my French language skills. I returned to Kent more open minded and confident in my work.”
ERASMUS

The University of Kent has been awarded the European Commission’s Erasmus Charter for Higher Education for the duration of the Erasmus+ programme (2014-2020). Our Erasmus Policy Statement sets out our commitment to implementing the activities of the Erasmus+ programme.

Erasmus, as the EU’s flagship education and training programme, enables:

• Staff mobility for teaching, training and preparatory visits
• Co-operation actions between higher education institutions across Europe. International Development can help staff with applications covering a range of funding opportunities including intensive programmes and curriculum development

ERASMUS STAFF MOBILITY

International Development holds limited funding each year for Kent staff to carry out short visits to Erasmus partner universities or other organisations in Europe for the purpose of staff training or teaching. All members of staff are eligible and information sessions are given throughout the year. Members of teaching staff at the University of Kent are eligible to take part in Erasmus Teaching Mobility.

Throughout the year Kent welcomes visiting staff from our partner institutions, visits can be day trips or longer stays. These visiting staff may take part in the Erasmus Staff Training Week or job shadowing.

“THE ERASMUS STAFF TRAINING SESSION AFFORDED A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FROM, AND NETWORK WITH, A LEADING PROFESSOR IN THE AREA OF STATISTICAL ANALYSIS. THROUGH OUR ENGAGEMENT, NOT ONLY DID I LEARN NEW ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES, AND WORK DIRECTLY ON THE ANALYSIS OF MY OWN RESEARCH, I ALSO BUILT A VALUABLE FRIENDSHIP WITH SOMEONE WHO I VERY MUCH RESPECT. I WOULD THOROUGHLY RECOMMEND THE ERASMUS PROGRAMME TO ANYONE.”

Dr Simon Raby, Head of SME Partnerships, Kent Business School visited UA Barcelona, July 2014

ERASMUS STAFF TRAINING WEEK

This is an annual event with a different theme each year. The theme for Kent’s 5th annual Erasmus Staff Training Week in June 2015 was ‘Who is the Student Today? The challenges they and the institution face’ and participants explored the question using examples from Kent and across Europe. The topic was aimed at colleagues who have an interest in internationalisation and the student experience within their institutions. It provided opportunities for networking and sharing of best practice with colleagues from partner institutions, and where possible, was tailored to participants’ needs.

JOB SHADOWING

Kent welcomes staff from partner institutions who wish to participate in job shadowing opportunities with staff in similar roles.
Shan Morgan is the Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU and represents the UK in the Council Committee responsible for negotiating all policy and legislation covering employment, social policy, health and consumer affairs, competitiveness, transport, telecoms, energy, fisheries, environment, education, youth and culture. She was appointed Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George in the 2012 New Year Honours.

Shan studied French at the University of Kent, graduating in 1977, and her early career focussed on employment and social affairs policy. She was seconded to the European Commission in Brussels in 1984-1987 to work on long term unemployment policy and local economic development (the LEDA programme). She held a variety of posts in the Employment Department, dealing with labour market policy, including in the National Training Task Force and the Government Office for London. From 1994-97 she was the UK Government delegate to the International Labour Organisation’s Governing Body.

In 1997, Shan was posted to the British Embassy in Paris as Labour and Social Affairs Attaché, before taking up her first appointment to the UK Representation in Brussels as the Counsellor responsible for Social, Environmental and Regional affairs. Shan transferred to the Diplomatic Service in 2006 as Director European Union in the Foreign Office, responsible for negotiations on the Lisbon Treaty and management of the UK parliamentary process of ratification. In 2008, Shan took up post as HM Ambassador to Argentina and Paraguay.
The ERC starting grants aim to support up and coming research leaders with excellent research proposals. Dr Ferguson's grant was awarded for research aiming to systematically explore the cognitive basis of social communication and how this changes across the life-span. The aim is to open up new horizons in Theory of Mind research by developing an intervention programme to enhance the quality of social communication in older adults thus improving their mental health and well-being.

H2020 ICT Research & Innovation Action Grant, €3.8m

Dr Nathan Gomes (EDA)

Dr Nathan Gomes is one of the first of Kent's researchers to be recognised under H2020, the European research funding scheme, which has seen €80bn set aside for research for the period 2014-2020.

The project, 'intelligent Converged network consolidating Radio and optical access aRound USer equipment' (iCIRUSS), aims to examine the advantages and challenges of bringing an Ethernet based optical fibre fronthaul to fifth-generation (5G) mobile networks, considering the benefits of such an architecture and its effects on performance on key 5G service aims such as device-to-device (D2D) communications and mobile cloud networking.

The project started in January this year and is set to last 36 months and be carried out in conjunction with 10 partners including Orange, Telekom Slovenije, Primetel and the Heinrich-Hertz Institute.

Dr Nathan Gomes, the project’s coordinator, said “This is an exciting project which can help build the foundations for much future 5G network research and development. The ideas have already generated considerable interest in the research community – now the partners have to surmount the not inconsiderable challenges involved. It builds on other 5G research projects announced in October, NIRVANA, a £926,417 EPSRC project led by Kent, and RAPID, an EU-Japan H2020 project for which Kent receives €289,500 funding”.

European research income

Kent’s researchers have been highly successful in securing European funding, which has amounted to £13.8m over the last five years, an average of £2.75m each year. This figure represents almost 20% of the value of research awards received by the University over the period and as such is an important income source.

Not only is EU funding important as a source of revenue but EU research grants demand and foster collaboration across borders, between European and international partners. The benefits of cross-border collaboration are widely recognised with such research bearing impactful and world-leading outputs, the following are two examples of such collaborative projects.

European Research Council Starting Grant, €1.5m

Dr Heather Ferguson (Psychology)

This year Kent’s Dr Heather Ferguson became just one of a handful of UK researchers to receive an ERC starting grant. The awards are prestigious, highly sought-after and competitive, with just 200 made available across the whole of Europe each year. The success rates are concomitantly low, at around 9%
EUROPEAN STUDY CENTRES

The University’s four European Centres in Brussels, Paris, Athens and Rome are the tangible evidence of the UK’s European university. Each Centre engages in postgraduate teaching and research that provide value-added to what could be achieved in Canterbury. Together they span a wide range of subjects that encompass the whole history of Europe and its culture from the earliest times to the present day. New programmes are being added each year to exploit these opportunities.

Brussels
Brussels, through the Brussels School of International Studies, delivers programmes in international relations, law and economics that benefit from proximity to the international institutions of the European Union and NATO. As well as Masters students it has a significant cohort of PhD students and is part of the major research initiative of the Global Europe Centre.

Paris
Paris focuses on the major Humanities cross-cutting interests in Arts, Culture and Heritage allowing the study of such subjects as literature, film, art, history and architecture with access to museums and galleries that bring these subjects to life.

Athens
Athens provides a unique programme in Heritage Management that is located at Eleusis, in an area of world-class archaeological significance.

Rome
Rome provides an opportunity for the study of Roman History and Archaeology or Art History structured around site or museum visits that offer a rich perspective of the treasures of the Eternal City.

“The Brussels campus gives students a unique opportunity to live and study in the heart of Europe, surrounded by international organisations, NGOs and lobbying groups. The programmes allow an in-depth study of the field of international relations, law and migration in a city where decisions are being made that shape our world within a school that understands them”

Nils Malskar, Danish
MA in International relations

Professor Roger Vickerman
Dean for Europe
A Professor of European Economics Roger is responsible for overseeing the development of the University’s four European centres.
SCHOOLS AND CENTRES

Centre for European and Comparative Law

Director: Simone Glanert

The Kent Centre for European and Comparative Law (KCECL) encourages and enables co-operation between academics whose research focuses on comparative law and European Union law whether in the UK or abroad. It offers a platform for critical and interdisciplinary discussion by way of guest lecture series, workshops and conferences on current issues arising from comparative law or European Union law. On 5-6 June 2015, the KCECL co-organized with the Maison Française d’Oxford a critical and interdisciplinary workshop entitled ‘Law’s Hermeneutics: Other Investigations’ in Oxford. The workshop brought together a dozen leading academics hailing from different scholarly and cultural horizons with a view to revisiting legal hermeneutics by making particular reference to philosophy, sociology and linguistics.

Centre for European, Regional and Transport Economics

Director: Professor Roger Vickerman

The Centre, in the School of Economics, has provided a focus for work on the economics of European integration, much of it funded by the European Commission, with a particular emphasis on the role of transport infrastructure and regional development.

European Theatre Research Network

Director: Professor Paul Allain

The European Theatre Research Network is a research centre established in drama in the School of Arts in 2007. In 2008, RAE feedback already noted that the school had ‘particular strength’ in this area. ETRN’s research is based on the premise that European theatre is not a coherent formula of aesthetic and artistic practices but is in fact a widespread landscape of many local contexts and discourses. We question what borders exist in the very mobile world of theatre practice and scholarship, how and where we might draw lines, and when do we cross them. ETRN members link non-English European theatre discourses and practices and the Anglophone world, working with many UK and overseas partners (including the Young Vic Theatre: London, Laboratoriet: Aarhus, Grotowski Institute: Wroclaw and the Schaubühne Theatre: Berlin). Current projects include research on Greek avant-garde theatre legacies, contemporary German directorial practices and participation in the EU-funded ‘Playing Identities’ project, based at the University of Siena, Italy. And from September 2015, an AHRC-funded Collaborative doctoral Award with London-based organization Theatre of Europe will begin.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF
Global Europe Centre
Directors: Professor Richard Whitman and Professor Elena Korosteleva

The Global Europe Centre (GEC) is a University research centre focusing on Europe, its member states, and its place in a changing world. The Centre brings together leading international academics from politics and international relations, economics, law, business, and European culture in order to explore the contemporary policy challenges to Europe and its nation states.

The research is policy-relevant and interdisciplinary. The GEC team has a strong track record of engagement with policy makers and informing decision making in London and in Brussels. Researchers from the Centre have been called to give evidence to UK Parliament Committees and its research cited in British Government reports including the recent audit of the EU’s competences and their impact on the UK. The GEC operates from Canterbury and Brussels and works regularly with the European Commission, European External Action Service (EEAS) and Brussels-based think tanks providing next generation ideas for adoption by the EU.

Centre for Modern European Literature
Directors: Dr Thomas Baldwin, Professor Ben Hutchinson and Professor Shane Weller

Founded on the shared research interests of staff in the School of European Culture and Languages and other schools in the Faculty of Humanities at Kent – and at the heart of one of the highest-ranked Modern Languages departments in the country (3rd in REF2014) – the Centre for Modern European Literature aims to promote and facilitate collaborative research across a broad spectrum of languages. Ranging over English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish literature, the Centre organizes conferences, convenes research seminars, hosts Visiting Fellows, provides graduate skills training, oversees an MA programme, and publishes a flourishing book series. Notable areas of strength include the European avant-garde, modernism and postmodernism, literary theory, the international reception of European writers, and the relations between modern European literature and the other arts, including painting, photography, film, music, and architecture. The Centre is directed by, and includes amongst its members, prize-winning scholars and critics, and it enjoys close links with a number of leading European research institutions. For more information on the Centre’s activities, see: www.kent.ac.uk/secl/researchcentres/eurLit/index.html

Centre for Research in European Architecture (CREAte)
Director: Dr David H Haney

As the title of our Centre suggests, we are committed to the study of European architectural culture, within individual countries and across trans-continental contexts. Most of our members regularly participate in European conferences, and belong to institutions such as the Tessenow Society, dedicated to German architecture of the twentieth century. We have just held an international symposium titled, ‘Parallel Motion: Modernism and Dystopia in European Planning ca 1935-1950, with speakers invited from Germany and France, to facilitate a group discussion on pan-European historiography. Two of our members recently received prestigious fellowships: Manolo Guerci, a Paul Mellon Mid-Career Fellowship to write a book on the Strand palaces of London and their conceptual roots on the Continent; David Haney, a Leverhulme Fellowship to write a book on landscape architecture and agriculture under National Socialism. The Centre also invites guest speakers such as Mark Wilson Jones, a specialist in Greek and Roman architecture, and Hans Ibelings, a Dutch architectural critic with a continental perspective.
PARTNERSHIPS

Engaging with the European Higher Education area

For many years the University has led the way in the UK in terms of European engagement, Kent was the first UK higher education institution to issue the European Diploma Supplement and was awarded the Diploma Supplement Label in 2009. The University has been part of the European Commission’s Erasmus programme since its inception in 1987; an engagement that has facilitated the University’s collaboration with a large number of prestigious Higher Education Institutions in mainland Europe.

Over the past thirty years, strong bilateral links with institutions across Europe, established through student and staff mobility agreements, have broadened to form consortia; close groupings of institutions with the common objective of opening up opportunities for inter-institutional cooperation: exchange of best practice; capacity building, internationalisation of the curricula, and joint initiatives covering both research and teaching.

Erasmus Mundus

The University’s international double awards demonstrate the strength of the University’s close partnerships within consortia involving some of Europe’s highest ranking institutions: These include double Bachelor and Master’s degrees, jointly supervised PhDs and Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate programmes.

Success under the prestigious Erasmus Mundus scheme is of particular note: the University led a consortium formed of the University of Porto, Freie Universität Berlin and Charles University Prague, to establish an Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate in Text and Event in Early Modern Studies, the only successful Humanities application in the 2010 competition and the first Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctoral programme coordinated by a UK institution; In 2011, this success was repeated with the award of funding to support an Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate in Cultural and Global Criminology, coordinated by Kent with Universities of Utrecht, Hamburg and Eötvös Loránd, Budapest.

Also under the Erasmus Mundus umbrella, the University has been a partner in all five editions of the Lotus project, which promotes mobility through a consortium of nine universities from EU countries and ten from South East Asia.

Erasmus+

The University viewed the launch of the Erasmus+ programme in 2014 as an opportunity to deepen existing links with its partners on mainland Europe: Erasmus+ brings together seven existing EU programmes in the fields of Education, Training, and Youth with the aim of promoting international student and staff mobility; internationalisation of curricula and digital learning; strategic cooperation and partnerships and capacity building, and Internationalisation at home schemes.

Jean Monnet

Erasmus+ includes the Jean Monnet programme under which Kent has enjoyed considerable success. The University has been a major recipient of Jean Monnet (JM) funding to further research and understanding of Europe. Since the action began Kent has been a top recipient of Jean Monnet awards including modules, chairs, networks and centres of excellence. Current Jean Monnet Chairholders are Dr Tom Casier, focused on Europe and global change, and Professor Elena Korosteleva, to develop synergies and promote excellence across the Eastern Partnership region and Russia. The current JM Centre of Excellence, coordinated by Professor Whitman, brings the University together with partners in China, Japan, Thailand and New Zealand, to explore Europe’s influence in the Asia-Pacific region. The University coordinates a JM Multilateral International Research Group on EU-Russia relations intended to develop a transnational perspective between four institutions in the EU and Russia and is a member of the seven institution ANTERO JM Network designed to strengthen the interaction between research in the field of EU foreign policy and the translation of that research into research-led teaching and next-generation academics.

SGroup

The University’s commitment to work closely with European partners is further demonstrated by membership of the SGroup, a European network comprising over 30 members from 16 European countries. The SGroup was founded in May 1992 in Spain with the aim of establishing special academic, cultural and socio-economic ties and exchanging best practice, to enhance the development of European education and research policies.
ECONOMIC IMPACT

As well as the enhanced environment for collaboration and cultural enrichment our links with Europe bring, there is also an economic impact. This impact is felt in different ways across the University and the region, from large research grants and a loan to support capital investment, to accommodation fees paid by our European visitors and money spent locally by our European students.

European Investment Bank

In 2015 the European Investment Bank agreed a £75m loan to the University of Kent. The bank is the European Union’s bank, lending money in support of the EU’s objectives. The University of Kent is among just a handful of UK universities to be funded by the bank, which demands not only bankability but also strict economic, technical, environmental and social standards from the projects it funds. This investment will provide much needed capital investment at Kent, invigorating the estate and creating a better environment for our staff and students.

Innovation and enterprise partnerships

Kent Innovation & Enterprise formed a partnership with Trento University (Italy), Telecom & Management SudParis (France), Vienna University of Technology (Austria) and Ghent University (Belgium) to become the European preliminary judging panel for the Virginia Tech Global Student Challenge. The Challenge encourages students to develop entrepreneurial ideas and enhance their understanding of the requirements for a successful business venture. Each year students from around the world come together to pitch their business idea to a panel of judges. The University of Kent represents the UK in the scheme and each year takes the winner of The Big Ideas competition over to Virginia to compete and forms part of the University’s support for business start-up support and student enterprise.

European students

Each year the University welcomes around 2,200 students from across the EU and with this comes a significant economic impact. As well as paying tuition fees, which total around £11.5m annually, and on-campus accommodation fees of £3.4m, a recent report estimates that in a year these students spend a combined total of £29.3m off-campus, the majority of which is spent locally. The resultant output of this off-campus expenditure is thought to be in the region of £38.4m and amount to the creation of around 324 UK jobs, mainly in the Canterbury and wider Kent area.

European visitors

In addition to welcoming thousands of European students the University welcomes even more European visitors throughout the year, who come for shorter stays. In the 2015 spring and summer vacation periods the University of Kent hosted over 300 groups from across mainland Europe. The groups range from 50 to 450 people and cover various market sectors, including: summer and language schools; orchestras and choirs; and sport, leisure and special interest groups. Meaning in this period the University accommodated over 18,000 European individuals, totalling over 72,000 overnight stays and generating over £1.2m revenue.

£13.8m European research awards over 5 years equalling 20% of research awards

£75m EIB loan for capital investment

£11.5m paid in tuition fees by European students

£3.4m paid in on-campus accommodation fees by European students

£29.3m spent off-campus by European students creating 324 UK jobs

This year the University accommodate 18,000 European visitors for 72,000 overnight stays

£1.2m of accommodation revenue from European visitors
The University is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of its establishment in the academic year 2014-15. The anniversary is an opportunity to take pride in the past and inspire the future. Since its foundation in 1965, with students from other European nations counting among the ‘first 500’ students, to the present day, with four European centres having been established, Kent has always been European.

European celebrations

The 50th Anniversary has been widely celebrated, with launches and events being held across the continent and beyond, involving alumni, staff and students from across the world. Two particular highlights of the year were the Brussels and Rome launches.

On 5 November 2014 Vice-Chancellor, Julia Goodfellow welcomed over 100 guests to an anniversary celebration in Brussels. Speaking at the event Julia emphasised the importance of Europe for the University, and the advantages which the international nature of the University can provide to its students, staff and alumni.

On 1 April 2015 over 120 guests gathered to celebrate at the Galleria Borghese, a prestigious art gallery in Rome. Guests were welcomed by Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Keith Mander and Professor Tom Henry, Academic Director of Kent’s Rome centre and able to enjoy an important collection of works by Bernini, Raphael, Caravaggio and Canova throughout the evening.

Anniversary Projects

Staff, students and alumni have designed an exciting programme of special projects to mark this landmark year and many are distinctly European. The projects are all unique and encompass academia, arts, sports and more.

Projects included the challenging ‘Campus2Campus’ run taken on by Kent’s athletes, between the Canterbury campus and Kent’s Paris centre running over 26 miles a day.
50TH ANNIVERSARY AND THE FUTURE (CONT)

for 8 consecutive days and ‘A Portrait of Europe’ exhibition which was welcomed to campus and comprises a series of unique portraits of ordinary people from across Europe.

Beacon Projects

As part of the 50th celebration the University is undertaking twelve Beacon Projects which illustrate some of Kent’s distinctive strengths and leave a legacy, providing a platform for future activities and aspirations. Among these strengths are Kent’s European commitment and internationalism, qualities reflected in a different way by each project.

Among them Diplomacy@Kent has established Kent as a Beacon in Europe for the understanding of the practice of diplomacy. The project has featured the Turkey and Cyprus Regional Peace & Stability Conference in Ankara and a workshop on EU mediation and hosted senior diplomats including the Irish ambassador. The Beacon Institute will see parallel ‘lighthouse’ events take place across countries and times zones, in Medway, Genoa and Long Island. K-Moocs saw 500 students from over 50 countries take part in a Kent online course and Beacon for Endurance Research has included student exchange and collaborative research across Europe between six universities from five European countries.

Expanding European opportunities is an integral part of the University of Kent’s strategy for the next five years. We believe our future belongs within the largest block of knowledge in the world.