GO ABROAD!

Study or work abroad as part of your degree
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“Academically, the year abroad has been fantastic and I have really enjoyed both studying new things and learning a different approach to material I have studied at Kent. A great experience which I would recommend.”

**Georgia Kelly**  
History and Philosophy of Art with an Approved Year Abroad (now Art History)
WHY GO ABROAD?

Why not go abroad to study or work as part of your degree? Spending time abroad can benefit you in many ways, and there is a whole world of opportunities within your reach.

Whether you choose to study abroad or spend time on a work placement, you’ll develop personally, academically and professionally.

The skills and experience you gain are a great enhancement to your CV and a distinct advantage when you are looking for a job. For example, adapting to a new environment develops your problem-solving skills and boosts your confidence and self-reliance. Experiencing life in another country gives you greater cultural awareness and improves your communication skills; depending on where you spend your time abroad, you may also be able to improve your language skills.

A number of our undergraduate and postgraduate degrees offer an option to go abroad. But even if you haven’t registered on one of these specific programmes, going abroad may still be possible. Please contact our Go Abroad team for more details by emailing goabroad@kent.ac.uk

We make sure you receive excellent assistance in finding the right place, and we support you throughout your time abroad. For details of the types of placement you can choose and where you can go, see pp9-11.

DID YOU KNOW?
Students who take part in mobility* score highly in character traits including curiosity, confidence, serenity, decisiveness and vigour; 98% of employers in Northern Europe said that these traits were important in the recruitment and professional development of their employees.

Erasmus Impact Study Regional Analysis 2016
Source: European Commission

*studying or working abroad as part of a degree
Studying in Montreal, Canada

“I spent my year abroad at Concordia University in Montreal and I thoroughly enjoyed experiencing a different academic system. Some of the highlights include the wide variety of film modules available, from Cuban Cinema to Queer Cinema; film editing workshops and the film department facilities.

“Montreal is a bilingual city; you don’t need to speak French to live there or socialise, but it’s a good opportunity to practise without feeling too lost.

“I know that I feel more prepared for my final year at Kent, thanks to the experiences I’ve had. Going abroad helped me to see and understand another way of studying film while experiencing the excitement of being in a new place.”

Juliana Heras-Reyes
Film with an Approved Year Abroad

Language assistant in Poitiers, France

“My advice would be to enjoy every second that you are there because it goes by in a flash. Homesickness was something that I worried about before I arrived but, apart from my first day, I have felt so at home and comfortable in Poitiers and around the people I have met.

“Take every opportunity that comes your way and try to visit as many places as possible. As a language assistant, you get school holidays, which is great! Make the most of the free time and travel. There will always be someone around to help you if you are unsure of anything – don’t be afraid to ask! And have fun!”

Maria Perry
French and History

Studying in France and China

“I split my year abroad between France and China. It was challenging but fun and rewarding.

“In France, I studied some great French literature and culture modules and travelled around with friends. The culture in China is very different – very disciplined, which was good for getting things done. I saw how the culture and language differed from region to region; the dialects of Mandarin differ according to the area. It made me want to explore more of the country.

“My year abroad made me grow up quickly, I think. Socially and linguistically, you’re in at the deep end. So I’d say that I’m a bit more mature and better prepared for life after university.”

Vinay Joshi
Asian Studies and French
“Hong Kong’s location in Asia is perfect for travelling to other countries in the continent. I have already been to Beijing, Shenzhen and Macau. As the world is becoming increasingly globalised, I felt that it would be beneficial to come to Hong Kong as it is such a global hub, with a good mix of East and West. “The Santander Scholarship has been a blessing and has given me financial assistance to prepare for my year abroad. My time in Hong Kong has opened my eyes to another way of life. It has made me more confident and allowed me to step out of the box and live and work abroad; there are so many opportunities available – all I need to do is find them.”

April-Louise Pennant
Sociology with a Year in Hong Kong

“I think the year abroad is a highly rewarding experience that every student should try. I have become more culturally aware, and the experience I have gained will look amazing on my CV and be beneficial for my future career. I have deepened and enriched my knowledge outside the area of film, and really broadened my understanding of my main study subject. “To sum up, the whole study abroad experience is life-changing and provides academic, personal, career and social benefits. It is definitely worth doing.”

Kristina Juodisiute
Film with an Approved Year Abroad

“Quite frankly, this has been the most remarkable and interesting learning experience of my life. I can’t really put into words how much I have learnt, not just academically but also about myself and about Europe in general. I have taken great pains to travel as frequently as possible in order to soak up the rich culture offered by Europe as a whole. I cannot recommend this experience enough to all who have the opportunity.”

Jack Nicolau
European Legal Studies
If you want to spend time abroad, we have a wide range of degrees for you to choose from. Some of them offer you the opportunity to study abroad; others enable you to go on an international work placement.

Language programmes
Spending time in another country is an integral part of some degree courses, such as French, German, Italian or Hispanic Studies. Your time abroad allows you to develop fluency in the language you are studying and gain first-hand knowledge of the country’s people and culture. Some students study at a partner university. Others choose to take a work placement: a popular option is to work as a language assistant, teaching English in a school.

‘Year Abroad’ programmes
Degrees with a ‘Year Abroad’ in the title allow you to spend a full academic year at one of our partner universities. All the universities are chosen for their academic standards and for their courses, which complement your studies at Kent. Our partners include highly prestigious universities, a number of which are ranked within the top 100 institutions in the *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings.

Faculty of Humanities programmes
Within the Faculty of Humanities, all undergraduate programmes include the option to apply to study abroad for a year or a term, or to spend a year on a work placement.

Postgraduate programmes
There are a number of opportunities for study and research abroad within postgraduate programmes. These include international double award programmes and options under the Erasmus+ programme.

Further information
For details of degrees that offer the option to work or study abroad and the eligibility criteria, see [www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad/opportunities/az.html](http://www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad/opportunities/az.html)

Even if you have not registered on one of the degree programmes listed on our website, it may still be possible to add a term or year of study or work abroad to your degree. Please email the Go Abroad team to discuss your options: goabroad@kent.ac.uk

**DID YOU KNOW?**
Another option open to some overseas students is to take a work placement in their home country. This allows them to work in their native language.
DO I NEED ANY LANGUAGE SKILLS?

The language skills you need depend on the kind of study or work placement you choose. Some placements only require English; others provide an opportunity for you to develop the language skills you have learnt during the first two years of your degree.

Study or work in English

You don't need to be able to speak another language to take advantage of the opportunity to go abroad. We have many study opportunities in English-speaking countries such as the USA or Canada, as well as destinations where tuition is in English, such as the Netherlands, China (including Hong Kong) or Japan.

English-speaking employees are in demand all over the world and some overseas employers offer work placements where English is the only language you will need.

Bear in mind that you often pick up quite a lot of the local language, even if you are studying or working in English. You may be able to take language classes at Kent before you take up the placement; alternatively, language classes may be available during the placement.

Work or study in another language

Degree programmes at Kent that include language studies allow you to reach a level of fluency that enables you to work or study abroad in the local language. Please bear in mind that to apply for such a degree at Kent, you need to have an A level, GCSE or equivalent in the chosen language or a related European language. Entry requirements vary; see www.kent.ac.uk/ug for details.

The choice of destinations available to you may be wider than you think. For example, students taking French have the option to go to Canada, not just Europe.

DID YOU KNOW?

Five to ten years after graduation, the rate of unemployment among mobile students* is lower than that of non-mobile students.

Erasmus Impact Study Regional Analysis 2016
Source: European Commission

*those who study or work abroad as part of a degree
WHERE CAN I GO?

We have many prestigious partners, both commercial and academic. They are based in Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa and Australia.

Studying abroad
We already have links with many partner universities and are continually adding new partnerships. We only choose universities that have excellent reputations, with courses that can complement your studies at Kent. The destinations available depend on your particular degree and language skills. Some are linked to specific subjects, or may be only for undergraduate or only for postgraduate students.

See our map (overleaf) or check www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad for the latest details.

Working abroad
If you are taking a work placement – usually called a ‘Year in Industry’, a ‘Placement Year’ or a ‘Sandwich Year’ – you may be able to take this placement outside the UK. Many of our academic schools have links with well-known and highly respected international companies. For language students, we can help you to find a placement as a teaching assistant.

It is possible to take a work placement anywhere in the world, providing you can fulfil the visa requirements and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office approves travel to the region. For more details, please contact your academic school. Alternatively, speak to a member of staff in the Go Abroad team based within International Partnerships, or email goabroad@kent.ac.uk

Erasmus+ programme
The Erasmus+ programme, funded by the European Union, can offer financial support to students participating in an Erasmus study or work placement. Under the current arrangements, Kent students can choose to study or work in the Erasmus+ countries marked on the map overleaf. See p15 for more details of the funding available.

The University of Kent is pleased to acknowledge the support of the European Commission under the Erasmus+ programme for its Erasmus activities.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF
WHERE CAN I GO? (CONT)
We have exchanges with universities in the highlighted countries:

- Study destinations covered by the Erasmus+ programme
- Study destinations outside of the Erasmus+ programme

*Subject to availability, work placements can be undertaken anywhere in the world*
WHAT SUPPORT DO I GET?

We offer lots of support to help you find a work or study placement. But our help doesn’t stop there. While you are away, you can stay in contact with your academic school at Kent and get practical support from the Go Abroad team.

Studying abroad
If you want to study abroad as part of your degree, the Go Abroad team within International Partnerships can provide information on partner universities and set up preparatory meetings. They can also advise you on how to apply for a place. You can email the team at goabroad@kent.ac.uk

Working abroad
If you want to work abroad, the placement officer within your academic school can help you to find a placement. Their input can range from putting you in touch with Kent’s industry contacts to helping you with the application process or suggesting how to improve your interview techniques. Your placement officer can also advise on how to make the most of your placement and other practical and financial matters. There is a lot of demand for work opportunities abroad and the support of your placement officer can really boost your chances of success.

Preparing to go
The Go Abroad team produces guidance that gives you basic information regarding your stay abroad. We can also advise you on practical matters, such as finance, accommodation and travel arrangements. We host briefings in the first and second years of your degree course to make sure you have detailed information and support as you make your plans. We also offer an online module to help prepare you culturally before your time abroad.

You often have the chance to meet and talk to students from your chosen destination before you travel. This gives you the chance to learn more about the country and, where relevant, to practise your language skills.

Visas and work permits
If you wish to study or work in a non-EU country, you may need a visa or a work permit. In order to apply for a visa, you may need to provide a financial guarantee. If you are not an EU national and wish to study in an EU country, you may need a visa or permit. The Go Abroad team can advise you on this process.
In addition, your academic school at Kent keeps in touch with you to ensure that you are gaining the maximum benefit from your time abroad, and that you have access to help and advice should you need it.

Assessment
The term/year abroad is currently assessed using a pass/fail system and does not count towards your final degree classification. For further information, contact your academic school.

If you are on a work placement, the way your year is assessed depends on your degree programme. The placement officer in your academic school can give you more details.

Employability skills
A study or work placement overseas is a great way of enhancing your personal development and boosting your employability skills. Take the time to prepare well for the overseas placement before you go, so that you can make the most of the opportunities that come along while you are there. If you use your time wisely, studying or working abroad will strengthen your CV and your employment prospects.

During your stay
Support is provided by staff at your host university, or by your supervisor if you are taking a work placement. You can also contact the Go Abroad team at Kent with any queries.

DID YOU KNOW?
You can watch video interviews with Go Abroad students at www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad/video.html
HOW TO APPLY

You can apply for direct entry to a four-year undergraduate degree course that includes study or work abroad. Alternatively, you might be able to arrange study or work abroad as an option once your course has started.

Undergraduate students
Some of our degrees include 'with a Year Abroad' in their title and they have their own UCAS code. You can apply via UCAS for these programmes before you come to Kent.

Alternatively, many degree programmes offer the chance to add a year or term abroad once your course has begun. Please contact your academic school to discuss your eligibility.

The Go Abroad team hosts information sessions for first-year students, giving guidance about potential destinations, finance and other practicalities for you to consider over the summer.

If you then decide you would like to study abroad, you submit an internal application to the Go Abroad team during the first term of your second year, in order to be allocated a place at a host university. Note that you have to make an application even if you are on a course that is designated 'with a Year Abroad'.

Postgraduate students
If you are a postgraduate student, please apply directly to Kent for the relevant degree programme. You should discuss appropriate study/research abroad activity with the Graduate School and the Go Abroad team.

Graduate School:
T: +44 (0)1227 824089
E: graduateschool@kent.ac.uk
www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool

Go Abroad team:
E: goabroad@kent.ac.uk
www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad

Requirements
Students must meet the criteria for attendance and academic progression set by their school in order to study or work abroad. For more information, visit www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad
FEES AND FUNDING

There are several funding options, including our own scholarship scheme, to finance your time spent abroad.

Kent’s Study Abroad Scholarship
The University’s undergraduate Study Abroad Scholarship is open to all UK and EU undergraduate students applying to Kent for a full-time degree course starting in September 2019 that includes a year abroad. The Scholarship is worth £2,000 during the year abroad (or pro rata for the period of time spent abroad).

To qualify, you must make your university application through UCAS, gain a minimum of 136 tariff points (from three A levels) or equivalent, fulfill the normal entry requirements for your subject and submit an essay. For further details, please search for ‘Study Abroad’ at www.kent.ac.uk/scholarships/search

For information on our other University scholarships for undergraduates, please see www.kent.ac.uk/scholarships/undergraduate

Tuition fees
If you are studying or working abroad for a full year, you pay tuition fees to Kent at a reduced rate. If you are spending a term abroad, you are expected to pay 100% of the normal fees to Kent. No tuition fees are payable to the host universities for any study placement, whether a full year or a term. Postgraduate students pay the normal tuition fee to Kent for the term or year abroad.

Erasmus+ programme
Erasmus+ is a programme funded by the European Union to promote student mobility across Europe. Under the current arrangements, eligible students spending a year or term abroad on a study or work placement may receive a top-up grant from the Erasmus+ programme, subject to availability.

Further information
Please note that all funding arrangements are subject to change. Information is correct at the time of going to press; for the latest details, speak to a member of staff in the Go Abroad team, email goabroad@kent.ac.uk or visit our website, www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad