Mobility opportunities within postgraduate programmes at Kent
Introduction

Kent’s international links provide a range of opportunities for postgraduates to undertake part of their study or research abroad. International mobility within postgraduate programmes offers an experience that can enhance academic, personal and professional development. There are a number of mobility options that could be considered as part of postgraduate programmes at Kent. *NB, not all options are appropriate for all programmes.*

This document outlines the following mobility opportunities that may be available for postgraduate students at Kent:

- **Erasmus Student Mobility Programme**

- **PhD Programmes with integrated mobility**
  - Jointly supervised PhDs (Co-tutelles)
  - Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctoral Programmes

- **Master’s programmes with integrated mobility**

- **AHRC and ESRC funding opportunities for International Mobility**

- **Short-term/Informal Mobility**
Erasmus Student Mobility Programme

Postgraduate students (at both master’s and doctoral level) may have the opportunity to take part in the Erasmus Student Mobility Programme, which allows students to study or work abroad as part of their degree. Under the Erasmus scheme, students undertake a period of mobility at an Erasmus partner institution or a work placement in an ‘Erasmus’ country, of between three and twelve months. Eligible students receive an Erasmus grant.

Benefits of an Erasmus placement for postgraduate students:

- Access to specialised library resources
- Access to specialised modules
- Opportunity to work with a particular research group
- Access to specialised technical equipment or facilities
- Language skills development
- Development of network of research contacts
- CV enhancement

Further benefits of an Erasmus Work placement

- Enhancement of research
- Professional work experience
- Development of professional contacts
Types of Erasmus placement

- **Study Placement**
  Erasmus study placements involve undertaking a course of study or thesis preparation (approved by Kent in advance of placement) at one of Kent’s Erasmus partner universities. International Development will be able to advise on availability of places for PG students at partner institutions. Places are limited so it may be necessary for students to consider alternative host institutions.

- **Work placement**
  An Erasmus work placement can in principle take place at any organisation or enterprise in an ‘Erasmus’ country, which has been approved by the student’s home university. Students secure work placements themselves (some Schools have a dedicated placement officer who would be able to assist) but International Development would provide support and guidance. (Please note that any placement would need to be appropriate to the programme concerned and approved by the Head of School).
A number of Master’s programmes are offered at Kent with an integral Year/Semester Abroad. These include:

- Master of Drama & Theatre Studies (with an approved Year Abroad)
- Criminology MA with a Semester Abroad
- LLM Law (Erasmus Europe)
- MPharmacy
- MArch

It may be possible to integrate an Erasmus placement in other taught Master’s programmes. This would be subject to the following:

- Approval of School
- Availability of place on suitable exchange agreement
- Confirmation of School approval received by International Development by deadline
If a student has identified that a period of mobility in an ‘Erasmus’ country would be beneficial for his/her programme of study, and has the approval of his/her supervisor/academic tutor, he/she can apply to be considered as an Erasmus student.

See following section on Eligibility.
Erasmus Programme – Eligibility

General Criteria:

Grants can be awarded only for the following activities abroad:

- Full-time undergraduate or postgraduate studies, including thesis preparation (but excluding research activities not specifically forming part of a course of studies), leading to a recognised diploma or degree, at an approved partner institution.

- Combination of a period of study and work placement. It is possible to combine a period of work placement with a period of study in a single mobility period abroad. Single period means that: a) the placement must take place under the supervision of the receiving HEI where the student will carry out his/her study; b) the two activities must take place in consecutive periods.

- Erasmus study/work placement must be approved by relevant Kent School/Faculty.

Scholarship holders

Students who are in receipt of scholarships would need to check with their scholarship provider regarding restrictions on the participation in Erasmus or more general mobility. Scholarship holders with teaching commitments would also need to ensure that the Erasmus placement does not conflict with their teaching schedule.

- **ESRC Studentship holders** – Terms and conditions of award state that Studentship holders are encouraged to participate in mobility under Erasmus scheme but restrictions may apply.

- **AHRC Studentship holders** – If students are able to work on their thesis at the same time and do not foresee any problems submitting by the agreed date, then they do not need to suspend the award, but if they envisage suspension of their studies, they should suspend the award in accordance with the terms and conditions of their studentship.

Previous Erasmus mobility

Students who have previously received an Erasmus grant may still be eligible, however, total duration of all Erasmus grants received during a student’s higher education may not exceed 24 months.

Language requirements

Students may need to be confident in the language of the institution/entreprise where they are based. Depending on the nature of the placement, language requirements range from intermediate skills to near fluency. Some partner institutions, teach/operate in English, particularly at postgraduate level. International Development will be able to advise on recommended language skills.
Fees
Students would remain registered at Kent and would still pay full fees to Kent whilst at the host institution/entreprise; however, he/she would not have to pay fees to the host institution.

Funding
The value of the Erasmus grant varies slightly from year to year. In 2012-13, students can expect to receive, to contribute to the costs of being away from the University, the equivalent of between 270 and 370 Euros per month (grant is paid in two instalments) depending on the country in which they will carry out the study/work placement. Receipt of the grant is dependent on the satisfactory completion of confirmation of arrival certificate and other documents.

Priority Country Supplementary Funding, disability support and Widening Participation grants as well as extra funding to attend an Erasmus Intensive Language Course (EILC) may also available.

The current funding programme for Erasmus will end in December 2013. It is expected to be replaced with a very similar scheme from 2014; terms are expected to be confirmed in Autumn 2013.
Erasmus Programme – Kent procedures

- Students who are interested in undertaking Erasmus mobility are asked to contact the Erasmus team within the International Development office: Email: erasmus@kent.ac.uk Telephone: 01227 824108

- **Deadline:** End of February prior to academic year in which they wish to undertake the placement.

- In the case of a one year Research Master’s programme without an integrated Erasmus placement, students should inform International Development of interest prior to the start of their programme or at least three months before the intended mobility.

- Students need firstly to confirm their supervisor’s approval of their proposed mobility.

- Erasmus study placements can only take place at an institution with which Kent has an Erasmus Bilateral Agreement. (No Bilateral Agreement is required for Erasmus work placements). International Development will be able to advise whether Kent has a bilateral agreement with a particular institution and whether a place would be available. It is not possible to guarantee a place and students may need to be flexible in their placement destination.

- Students would need to have a Learning Agreement/Research Plan agreed and signed by Kent supervisor and host institution before departure from Kent.

- Students would also need to complete other documentation related to the Erasmus grant.

- For further information, please contact Erasmus@kent.ac.uk
PhD Programmes with integrated mobility (1)

Jointly supervised PhDs (Co-tutelles)
Kent has made it possible for any of its PhD programmes to be delivered jointly with an international partner institution. A co-tutelle might suit a promising student who has already been on an exchange, or students who wish to benefit from existing international research links. Candidates must apply ideally before they have enrolled at either institution or at the latest within the first 12 months of their registration period. Students must have supervisors in both institutions and spend a minimum of 12 months in each institution. Successful candidates receive dual awards. Any overseas HE partner is potentially eligible, but an existing partnership will speed up the agreement process.

Fees
Students pay Kent fees for the period they are in attendance at Kent and the relevant fee to the partner institution while resident there.

Funding
There are up to ten scholarships available for full-time EU (non UK) students who wish to be jointly supervised for a co-tutelle by Kent and a university in another EU member state or accession country. The scholarship provides a 50% reduction of the Kent tuition fees at the Home/EU rate for students registered for one year at Kent. [Further information on specific co-tutelle scholarships](#)

Kent Procedures
Students should firstly discuss interest in undertaking a jointly supervised PhD with relevant supervisor. Having approved, in principle, an approach from a potential candidate for joint research degree registration, Schools should contact International Development to check if Kent has an existing partnership with the institution in question. An approval process would then take place. If approved, the Graduate School and Quality Assurance and Validation Unit will work with the School involved to draw up the necessary agreements.
PhD Programmes with integrated mobility (2)

Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctoral Programmes

Kent offers two prestigious and highly competitive Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctoral programmes:

Text and Event in Early Modern Europe (TEEME) and

Doctorate in Cultural and Global Criminology (DCGC).

Candidates registered on these programme select two universities from partner institutions in the consortium as their main places of study and spend at least one year studying in each. Fellowships are available.
Double Master’s degrees

Kent offers a number of programmes offering dual UK and European qualifications (international double awards) at Master’s level. These involve studying at both Kent and the partner university and successful completion results in a degree awarded by each institution:

- MA in European Governance
- MA in Peace Conflict Studies
- MA in International Relations
- MA in Heritage Management
- MSc in Operational Research and Business

Kent also offer Master’s programmes that split between its Canterbury campus and centres on mainland Europe.

One-year postgraduate programmes based in England and France

The University of Kent at Paris has a range of unique and innovative cross-disciplinary postgraduate programmes in the Humanities. Combining taught programmes and a dissertation, they allow you to share your year between Canterbury and Paris. List of programmes available

One-year postgraduate programmes based in England and Italy

Kent’s specialist postgraduate centre in Rome has been designed to combine specialist teaching and research with the facilities of the American University in Rome and the cultural and learning opportunities that the City offers. List of programmes available

Full degree opportunities abroad

BSIS (Brussels School of International Studies) is a multidisciplinary postgraduate School of the University of Kent bringing together the disciplines of politics, international relations, law and economics. Further information
AHRC and ESRC Funding Opportunities for International Mobility

The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) has an International Placement Scheme (IPS) to support and encourage the placement of UK postgraduate students and early career researchers on short-term fellowships at a number of overseas research institutions.

All full-time ESRC studentship holders are eligible to apply for financial support for overseas institutional visits within their studentship period, to visit overseas universities or esteemed research organisations.
Short-term and informal mobility

Each academic year there will be opportunities to become involved in short-term/informal projects which will involve links with our Brussels and Paris campuses as well as with universities with which Kent has strategic partnerships. These opportunities will generally entail postgraduate research conferences or training events. These will be promoted via the Graduate School website.

Please also see the guide to Promoting and Supporting Short-term Mobility. For further details, please contact Primrose Paskins in International Development. (P.M.A.Paskins@kent.ac.uk)