GRADUATE SCHOOL/
GLOBAL SKILLS AWARD
PROGRAMME 2016-17

Designed to enhance global awareness
and improve your employability
INTRODUCTION

The Global Skills Award is a unique programme designed to enhance global awareness and improve your employability in a competitive job market, while you study for your Master’s Degree.

Studying for a taught Master’s Degree will improve your detailed knowledge of your academic subject; it may also provide preparation for a professional career. A postgraduate degree is highly likely to improve your employment prospects and at Kent we can provide you with the opportunity to take your career one step further with our Global Skills Award Programme.

The Global Skills Award Programme is designed to broaden your understanding of global issues and current affairs, as well as develop personal skills, which will enhance your employability. The programme runs from November to April. All students registered for a taught Master’s Degree are eligible to apply for a place, which is free of charge. Once accepted for the programme you will take part in a personal development assessment, which will help you to reflect on your past experience and future development.

You will attend a lecture series delivered by leading academics and specialists. This will give you the opportunity to participate in discussions about issues of global importance, such as the economy, the environment, the media, world politics and developments in science. A series of skills training workshops will offer you the chance to develop your career opportunities as well as acquire the skills you need to succeed in the work place, such as team working, networking and leadership.

The Global Skills Award Programme will give you the opportunity to broaden your experience and gain important skills whilst you are studying. It will also provide a fantastic opportunity to meet and network with other postgraduate students from a wide variety of backgrounds and disciplines.
LECTURES

At the heart of the Global Skills Award Programme is the series of lectures delivered by leading academics, business experts and current affairs specialists. Each lecture is chaired by either the Dean of the Graduate School or one of the Faculty Associate Deans for Graduate Studies. Lectures take place on Monday evenings from November to April at 18.00 in Woolf Lecture Theatre, on the Canterbury Campus. Lectures will last approximately one hour and are followed by a discussion.

To be eligible for the award you will need to attend at least eight lectures and record feedback on all of them using our online booking system. There will be a series of scheduled Global Skills Award lectures on offer plus selected University Open Lectures, which will be identified to you via the online booking system. These lectures are an ideal opportunity to network with other postgraduate students and discuss topics of interest from outside your own discipline.

The lecture series will begin with a welcome evening on 7 November 2016 hosted by Professor Diane Houston, Dean of the Graduate School. The welcome evening includes an induction which is compulsory for all those accepted onto the programme.

Academic Director: Professor Diane Houston

Professor Diane Houston, Dean of the Graduate School and Academic Director of the Global Skills Award Programme will chair the majority of the lecture series. Professor Houston was appointed Dean of the Graduate School in July 2008. Prior to this she was Professor and Head of the School of Psychology. Her research interests are within applied Social Psychology and its interface with Sociology and Social Policy. Between 2003 and 2006 she was an advisor to successive UK Ministers for Women and to Government Departments with responsibility for work-life balance, women’s work participation and gender and equality. Diane has held a variety of leadership roles within the British Psychological Society, and was elected a Fellow of the Society in 2011. She is also an Academician in the Academy of Social Sciences.
Lectures will cover a variety of topical and global issues including:

“How Can a State Control Swallowing?” Old Law and Modern Abortion Technologies

In summer 2015, more than 200 Northern Irish women wrote a letter, publically declaring that they had procured abortions using drugs obtained online.

In this lecture, I explore some of the challenges that medical abortion poses for law, ethics and meanings in this context. Does medical abortion blur the line between abortion and contraception (and what basis do we have for believing that there is a line between the two in any case)? How can existing laws be enforced in the context of these new technological realities? After all, as one commentator asks ‘[h]ow can a state control swallowing’?

Finally, in sourcing drugs from an unknown, online supplier, women may be clearly risking their health. What responsibility, if any, does a state have to help them guard against such risks when the drugs are sought with the intention of subverting existing domestic law?

Speaker: Professor Sally Sheldon

Sally Sheldon is a Professor of Law. Her research interests are primarily in health care law and ethics, and the legal regulation of gender. She has published widely in the area of medical ethics and law, including co-authoring the book Fragmenting Fatherhood (2008).

Rocks from Space and the holes they make

The talk will discuss the small bodies from the solar system (comets, asteroids and meteorites) discussing the differences between them and how each are studied before moving on a discussion of how impact craters form and the effect they have on the Earth's history.

Speaker: Dr Kathryn Harriss

Kathryn Harriss trained as a geoscientist before moving on to study planetary sciences and meteorites for her PhD. After her PhD she came to Kent to study impact cratering mechanisms in the laboratory using her knowledge and skills as both a geologist and planetary scientist. She is now at the start of her second post doc position at the University of Kent investigating impacts into ice targets and internally heated basalt.
Mapping the global system of rendition, secret detention and torture in the War on Terror

This lecture will explore the development and operation of a global system for the rendition, secret detention and torture of terror suspects, a system which has its origins in George Bush’s ‘War on Terror’. Contrary to popular understanding, the global rendition system outlived the Bush administration. The Obama administration has continued to rely on rendition and secret detention as key counter-terrorism tools. But the global rendition system is a system in flux. Various pressures beyond the US government’s control have forced the US Executive and intelligence and defence services to make major changes to the global rendition system at key moments, in desperate attempts to maintain an extra-legal space that the US believes it needs to thwart threats to its interests.

The lecture will outline some of those key moments and will explain their implications for US and UK foreign policy, for the global governance of human rights, and for the victims of rendition, secret detention and torture. Reference will be made throughout the lecture to a key datasets compiled by Dr Blakeley and her research team. The database contains all flights known to have been or suspected of being involved in rendition. This dataset is key to understanding how the global rendition system operates and has evolved over the last decade, and has been crucial in providing evidence for litigation on behalf of victims at the European Court of Human Rights, the African Commission and the Guantánamo Bay military tribunals.

Speaker: Professor Ruth Blakeley

Ruth Blakeley is a Professor of International Relations. Her research focuses on the use of state violence and state terrorism, particularly by liberal democratic states. She is behind The Rendition Project, which aims to bring together and analyse the huge amount of data that exists about rendition, secret detention and torture in the ‘War on Terror’. Described by the Guardian as a groundbreaking research project which sheds unprecedented light on one of the most controversial secret operations of recent years’, The Rendition Project has produced The Rendition Flights Database and Interactive Map which enables users to navigate their own way through the global rendition system.

She is author of State Terrorism and Neoliberalism: The North in the South (London: Routledge, 2009), and has published articles on state terrorism and torture in various academic journals.
Brexit: where are we?
The consequences of the UK public referendum decision to leave the European Union are on-going. This lecture will examine the current state of the Brexit process, assess the extent to which the government has embarked on a transition process out of the EU and identify likely internal and external impacts on the UK.

Speaker: Professor Richard Whitman
Richard Whitman is Professor of Politics and International Relations and Director of the Global Europe Centre. His current research interests include the external relations and foreign and security and defence policies of the EU, and the governance and future priorities of the EU.

The wisdom of psychopaths
Kevin’s groundbreaking research on psychopaths, discussed in his recent books The Wisdom of Psychopaths (2012), The Good Psychopath’s Guide to Success (2014) and Sorted: The Good Psychopath’s Guide To Bossing Your Life (2015), the latter both co-authored with Andy McNab, is explored in this lecture. In his work Kevin considers the ‘positive’ side of being a psychopath, challenging preconceptions that all psychopaths are violent and criminal, and asks his audience to reconsider the qualities and characteristics that might be considered ‘normal’ in human behaviour.

Speaker: Dr Kevin Dutton
Kevin Dutton is a research psychologist at the Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford. His principal research interests are persuasion and social influence, and the psychopathic personality.

The autumn and spring lecture timetables will be displayed on our website at www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool/skills/programmes/gsalectures.html

The UK’s Quality Assurance Agency recognised the value of the Global Skills Award Programme as a development and networking opportunity for postgraduate students during its 2015 Higher Education Review.
WORKSHOPS

You need to attend and provide feedback on a minimum of six workshops* to complete the programme. There are a variety of workshops on offer, which include:

### Workshop topics

Workshops will cover a variety of areas including:

**Cross cultural communication**

Globalisation and multiculturalism have increased our exposure to other cultures – their values, attitudes and traditions. Depending on how we interpret these 'cultural dimensions' when working and interacting with members of other cultures, misunderstandings can arise. This participatory, two-hour workshop aims to provide you with an introduction to cross cultural awareness.

**Networking**

Some people think of networking as a horrid activity and would rather stay in and count paperclips! Is that you? Ever heard the cliché 'it's not what you know but who'? Clichés are clichés because they're true. So come along to this workshop and take your first step towards networking with confidence.

**Being a leader – first lead myself**

Leadership is one of the most researched and written upon subjects – and probably still one of the least understood. All organisations need good leaders at every level. Developing leadership skills and starting the journey of 'Being a leader' will make me more attractive to employers – but where do I start?

In this session you will examine the areas in which you need to lead yourself in order to be able to lead others; your performance, what more you need to do, and commit to action.

**How to write a brilliant CV**

Having a great CV is the essential first step to securing your dream job.

Your CV needs to effectively demonstrate that you have all the right skills, attitude and experiences that your future employer is looking for. These skills are likely to be different for each role you want to apply for. Being able to talk about yourself and promote why you are suitable for a role is a crucial skill. This two hour workshop will help you review your CV and identify ways you can tailor it to different employers.

The autumn and spring workshop timetables will be displayed on our website at www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool/skills/programmes/gsaworkshops.html

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* Students must attend at least one workshop from category A and one from category B.

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**Category A**
- Career management
- How to write a brilliant CV
- Interview skills
- How to write a killer cover letter
- Mock assessment centre
- 1:1 Mock interview
- 1:1 CV

**Category B**
- Team working
- Being a leader:
  - First lead myself
  - It’s about the people I’m leading
- Networking
- Presentation skills
- Negotiation skills
- Myers Briggs

**Other workshops**
- Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the UK
- Cross cultural communication
Maria Mandourari
MSc Science, Communication and Society

The structure of the GSA programme is well-designed offering a multi-disciplinary and multi-cultural perspective. Its series of interactive and engaging lectures and workshops enabled me to enhance my employability and acquire knowledge and awareness of the wider world in an interesting, diverse and pleasurable way. Furthermore, the GSA programme gave me the opportunity to make friends from all over the world and to have a first-hand experience of different cultures.

The GSA programme was a great opportunity to learn and develop my skills and extend them far beyond my Master’s degree. I am confident that in an increasingly competitive job market, the GSA will help me to stand out from the crowd, providing well-prepared evidence of my skills to future employers.

Alexandros Bardoutsos
Combined Law LLM

I was fortunate enough to attend workshops which expanded my knowledge and widened my horizon. The GSA taught me how to lead others, but more importantly how to lead myself. The lectures were diverse, interesting and a pleasure to attend.

Diane Casha
MSc Reproductive Medicine: Science and Ethics

The Global Skills Award Programme has given me not just new knowledge but it has enhanced my perception on life, taught me tolerance to diversity and expanded my circle of good friendships and acquaintances. It has also increased my respect towards the young minds here who will be the leaders of tomorrow.

RECIPIENTS OF THE AWARD HAVE SAID....
HOW TO APPLY

The Global Skills Award Programme is administered and run by the Graduate School. The application process opens on Monday 19 September 2016. If you have registered with the online booking system prior to this date you will be able to apply by logging in and following the ‘apply now’ link after 19 September 2016.

To apply you will need to register with the online booking system. You will be asked for your Kent user ID (first part of your Kent email) and password. Below is a list of the different ways you can register:

• visit https://bloom.kent.ac.uk
• you can access this link on the Graduate School website, by following the link to Global Skills Award and then Online Booking System in the left hand menu www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool
• we will also be sending emails to all students with the link to register with the system.

Once you have registered you will be asked whether you wish to apply for the Global Skills Award. If you click yes, you will be taken to the application screen, which you can complete and submit.

If you are not asked whether you wish to apply, there should be an ‘apply now’ button visible once you log in to the booking system. This will only be visible whilst the application process is open (19 September – 7 November).

After you have submitted your application, it will be considered by the Graduate School. You will then receive an email in due course, to tell you whether or not your application has been successful. If you are successful you will be prompted to complete a personal development assessment.

Should you have any further queries about the Global Skills Award Programme or our booking system please contact:

Carla Doolan
Postgraduate Development Coordinator
T: +44 (0)1227 82(4896)
E: skills@kent.ac.uk
3rd floor, Cornwallis East (in the Graduate School, Canterbury Campus)
HOW DO I OBTAIN THE AWARD?

1. Apply using the online booking system at https://bloom.kent.ac.uk
2. Attend the Introductory Evening on 7 November 2016 in Woolf Lecture Theatre
3. Complete a personal development assessment via the online booking system at the start of the programme
4. Attend a minimum of eight lectures from the lecture series
5. Attend a minimum of six workshops from the workshop programme. These should include one from category A and one from category B
6. Provide feedback (via the online booking system) for all eight lectures and six workshops attended
7. Complete a final personal development assessment via the online booking system at the end of the programme

REWARD CEREMONY
Those who successfully obtain the Award will be invited to the reward ceremony in June 2017.

GSA RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

We have found that students who participate in the Global Skills Award Programme form a great sense of community and forge new friendships across the three Faculties in the University. In order that all students get the best out of the programme we would kindly ask students to observe the GSA Rules of Engagement which will be explained by Professor Diane Houston at the compulsory Introductory Evening.

Full details on the Rules of Engagement can be found at www.kent.ac.uk/graduateschool/skills/programmes/gsaengagement.html