GRADUATE SCHOOL /
GLOBAL SKILLS AWARD
PROGRAMME 2017-18

*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 the Global Skills Award Programme gives you the opportunity to take your career one step further.

The Global Skills Award Programme is designed to broaden your understanding of global issues and current affairs, as well as develop personal skills to enhance your employability. The Programme runs from November to April and is free of charge. All students registered for a taught Master’s Degree are eligible to enrol. Once enrolled for the programme you will undertake a personal development assessment, which will help you to reflect on your skills and identify any areas in need of 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 environment, culture, social changes, world politics and gender. 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 workplace, 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 AND EVENTS

At the heart of the Global Skills Award Programme is the series of lectures and events. Each lecture and event is chaired by either the Dean of the Graduate School or one of the Faculty Associate Deans for Graduate Studies.

Lectures and events take place in the evening from November to April at 18.00 in Woolf Lecture Theatre, on the Canterbury campus. Lectures and events will last approximately one and a quarter hours and will include discussions.

To be eligible for the award you will need to attend at least six lectures and record feedback for each using our online booking system.

The lecture series will begin with a welcome evening, on 6 November 2017 in Woolf College, hosted by Professor Paul Allain, Dean of the Graduate School.

This year's lecture series will feature the following topics:
- Politics
- Gender
- Global citizenship
- Culture
- Climate change

As part of the lecture and event series, we will hold a networking event, where you will have the opportunity to practice your networking skills.

These lectures are an ideal opportunity to network with other postgraduate students and discuss topics of interest from outside your own discipline.
Lecture examples
There will be over nine lectures available for you to attend. Examples include:

Exploring global cultures
There will also be two opportunities during the programme for you to volunteer to give a short presentation to the rest of the GSA cohort on your country and culture. This has proven extremely popular in the past, with many commenting on how this increased their cultural awareness.

The wisdom of psychopaths
This lecture is delivered by Dr Kevin Dutton, a research psychologist at the Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford. In this lecture 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.

“...brought with it such a diverse breadth of knowledge. Everything I attended left me wanting to find out more about that subject.”
Politics and International Relations postgraduate

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

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<tr>
<th>Category A</th>
<th>Category B</th>
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<tr>
<td>Careers management</td>
<td>Time management</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:1 CV review</td>
<td>Writing skills</td>
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<td>Interview skills</td>
<td>Digital communication skills</td>
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<td>Cover letters</td>
<td>Cross cultural communication</td>
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<td>Application forms</td>
<td>Networking</td>
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<td>Mock Assessment Centre</td>
<td>Team working</td>
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<td>Linkedin</td>
<td>Presentation skills</td>
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<td>Commercial awareness</td>
<td>Negotiation skills</td>
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<td>Leadership</td>
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* Students must attend at least one workshop from category A and one from category B.

“The best part of the programme was the opportunity to network in a broader range than just my study programme, which allowed me to meet people from all kinds of fields.”

School of Biosciences postgraduate

“The Global Skills Award gave me the chance to attend lectures on topics I was not familiar with at all and which I would not have necessarily been aware of otherwise. I have learnt a lot and I truly enjoyed the great diversity of topics offered.”

School of Anthropology and Conservation postgraduate

“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.”

School of Biosciences postgraduate
The Global Skills Award Programme is administered and run by the Graduate School. You can enrol onto the Global Skills Award programme via the online booking system after Monday 25 September.

To register with the online booking system you will need to know your Kent user ID (the first part of your Kent email address) and your Kent password. You can then register in following ways:

- 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.

How do I obtain the Award?

1. Register with the booking system and enrol onto the programme via the online booking system at https://bloom.kent.ac.uk
2. Attend the Introductory Evening 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 six 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 six lectures and six workshops attended
7. Complete a final GSA evaluation

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

Carla Doolan
Postgraduate Development Co-ordinator
T: +44 (0)1227 82(4896)
E: skills@kent.ac.uk
3rd floor, Cornwallis East (in the Graduate School, Canterbury campus)

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 Paul Allain (Dean of the Graduate School) 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

REWARD CEREMONY

Those who successfully obtain the Award will be invited to the reward ceremony in summer 2018.